

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 263-6000
www.chrb.ca.gov



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS

Los Alamitos Racing Association

Los Alamitos, California

TO THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

Honorable Gregory L. Ferraro, DVM, Chairman
Honorable Oscar Gonzales, Vice Chairman
Honorable Dennis V. Alfieri, Member
Honorable Damascus Castellanos, Member
Honorable Brenda Washington Davis, Member
Honorable Thomas C. Hudnut, Member
Honorable Peter Stern, Member
C. Scott Chaney, Executive Director
Cynthia Alameda, Deputy Executive Director
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report for Monday, September 14, through Sunday, September 20, 2026.

TUESDAY09/15/26¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Kim Sawyer was available to oversee entries for Friday (8 races) and was present to adjudicate any issues that might surface.

WEDNESDAY09/16/26¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Luis Jauregui was present to supervise entries for Saturday (9 races) and to resolve matters of concern that may occur.

09/16/26²**JOCKEY APPEAL HEARINGS**

Three different jockey appeal hearings were heard today in the Stewards' Office at Los Alamitos Race Course. Present were Hearing Officer John Tyre, Court Reporter Michelle Derieg, CHRB Staff Counsel Jacquelyn Loyd, expert witness CHRB Chief Steward Darrel McHargue, and witnesses Steward Luis Jauregui and Steward Kim Sawyer. Via Microsoft Teams, witness Steward Grant Baker, jockey Antonio Fresu (two appeals) and his counsel Bing Bush. Mr. Bush also represented jockey Joel Rosario who did not appear. Due to technical difficulties, the first appeal was delayed approximately forty-five minutes. The hearings were finalized just in time for evening rush hour.

There was a fourth appeal that was dropped prior to these hearings.

THURSDAY09/17/26¹**CASTILLO HEARING 26SA0149**

Present before the BOS were CHRB Staff Counsel Jacquelyn Loyd, who substituted for the author of the complaint CHRB Investigator Anne Dillon, and court reporter Michele Derieg to record the proceedings.

The complaint read as follows:

Santa Anita Security found Victor Castillo in his personal quarters on the backside apparently under the influence of drugs. There were lines of white powder residue on a surface in the room that Castillo admitted to security were his 'crystal'. Castillo told security he had recently consumed the substance by snorting it into his nose. Castillo was escorted out of the barn area by security and subsequently barred from the property by the Racing Association.

This hearing was scheduled for 10:00 am. At 10:20, the record was opened and Ms. Loyd submitted the contents of the complaint. As Mr. Castillo did not appear, a ruling will be forthcoming.

09/17/26²

MENDEZ HEARING CASE 26DM0004

Present before the BOS were CHRB Staff Counsel Jacquelyn Loyd, who substituted for CHRB Investigator Octavio Vergara, Jr. who penned the complaint, trainer Luis Mendez and Court Reporter Michele Derieg. CHRB Investigator Hiroshi Yokoyama arranged the Microsoft Teams connection. Via Microsoft Teams: owner Alison Fournogerakis, her husband Mike Fournogerakis, Del Mar VP/Racing Secretary David Jerkens and owner Ryan Exline.

The complaint read as follows:

On July 17, 2026, the horse "IT'S A CINCH", raced in the 9th race at Del Mar and placed 3rd. The horse was ridden by Jockey Edwin Maldonado, trained by Trainer Luis Mendez and owned by Alison Fournogerakis. Daily Racing Form and Equibase confirmed that the horse IT'S A CINCH won two Allowance Optional Claiming races prior to racing on July 17, 2026. The horse did not run for a claiming price therefore making the horse ineligible to race in Race 9 on July 17, 2026.

Other licenses:

Owner	304557
Exercise Rider	318713

Testimony was given, documents were submitted into evidence and the hearing was closed. Decision to follow.

FRIDAY

09/18/26¹

CASTILLO RULING ref-09-17-26¹

The following ruling was issued after Mr. Castillo failed to appear for the scheduled hearing.

LATL RULING #05

Stable Worker VICTOR CASTILLO, having failed to respond to written notice to appear before the Board of Stewards at Los Alamitos Race Course on or before September 17, 2026, is suspended for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1547 (Failure to Appear) pending an appearance at a hearing before the Board of Stewards to answer to charges alleging violation of CHRB rule #1874 (Disorderly Conduct - under the influence of drugs while performing his duties).

During the term of this suspension, all licenses and license privileges of VICTOR CASTILLO are suspended, and pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1528 (Jurisdiction of Stewards), subject is denied access to all premises in this jurisdiction.

09/18/26²

JOCKEY FILM REVIEW

Epifanio Garcia met with the Stewards to discuss the use of his crop in the fifth race on Sunday, September 13. Mr. Garcia stated it was not necessary to review his ride as he admitted he violated the rule. The HISA ruling is listed below.

HISA Ruling 2026-20666

Having violated the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2280 (Use of Riding Crop) and pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2282 (Ruling Crop Violations and Penalties - Class 3), Jockey EPIFANIO GARCIA, who rode SEAVER WAY in the first race (Purse \$15,000) at Los Alamitos Race Course on September 13, 2026, is suspended for ONE (1) day (October 2, 2026) and fined TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00) for ONE (1) strike over the limit.

Pursuant to California Horse Racing Board #1766 (Designated Races), the term of suspension shall not prohibit participation in designated races.

09/18/26³

GOOD RACING

Today's eight race card was conducted without notable incident. Changes made are listed below.

09/18/26⁴

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st race	NO SHOW WAGER #4 Curlin Tornado (Tr. S. Morfin) E. Garcia replaced F. Monroy (transportation)
2nd race	No Changes. Refund \$0.00
3rd race	#2 Shady Gem (Tr. J. Bonde) claimed by Tr. T. Dial #7 Proud Racer (Tr. P. Miller) Veterinarian-sick-Dr. Pattio Refund \$1,518.54
4th race	#5 Golf Drama (Tr. A. Aquino) Veterinarian-sick-Dr. Austgen Refund \$786.70
5th race	#4 Here On Business (Tr. D. Pederson) claimed by Tr. D. Wayne Baker. Refund \$0.00
6th race	#1 Breville (Tr. G. Haley) Veterinarian-injured-Dr. Austgen #6 Countess Vronsky (Tr. J. Bautista) Veterinarian-sick-Dr. Austgen Refund \$547.80
7th race	No Changes. Refund \$0.00
8th race	No Changes. Refund \$0.00

09/18/26⁵

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	653	\$70,791.46
SCOTWINC	1,982	\$151,300.72
OUT OF STATE + ADW	n/a	\$1,523,699.32
TOTAL	2,635	\$1,745,791.50

SATURDAY

09/19/26¹

"IT'S A CINCH" DISQUALIFICATION RULING ref-09-17-26²

The following ruling was issued after a decision was arbitrated by the BOS post hearing.

LATL RULING #06

Following a formal hearing held on September 17, 2026, it is ordered that ITS A CINCH, who finished third in the ninth race at Del Mar Race Track on July 17, 2026, be disqualified and deemed unplaced pursuant to CHRB Rule #1759 (Horse to be Disqualified on Valid Protest)

and in accordance with CHRB Rule #1592 (Ineligible Horse to be Disqualified – Did not meet conditions of race).

It is further ordered that the purse money awarded to Owner ALISON M. FOURNOGERAKIS, Trainer LUIS MENDEZ and Jockey EDWIN MALDONADO be redistributed in accordance with the revised order of finish, by the Paymaster of Purses at Del Mar Race Track by October 19, 2026, for redistribution pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1760 (Purse Award or Prize to be Withheld).

Revised order of finish:

- 3rd – Moment of Valor
- 4th – Rodrigoknows
- 5th – Curlin Command
- 6th – Clever Clover
- 7th – Kerry Gold

All records are ordered to reflect this ruling. In accordance with California Horse Racing Board rule #1956 (Race Declared Official) neither pari-mutuel payoffs nor the distribution of any pari-mutuel pool shall be affected.

09/19/26²

VOIDED CLAIM

Upon a physical examination by Official Veterinarian Nolton Pattio of #1 Shapoval who performed in the fifth race the horse was placed on the Veterinarian's List. The Stewards voided the claim and the horse returned to the stable of trainer Peter Miller.

09/19/26³

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, CLAIMS AND REFUNDS

1st race	#4 Please Behave (Tr. F. Gonzalez) Veterinarian-sick-Dr. Austgen Refund \$714.56
2nd race	No Changes. Refund \$0.00
3rd race	No Changes. Refund \$0.00
4th race	No Changes. Refund \$0.00
5th race	#1 Shapoval (Tr. P. Miller) claimed by Tr. A. Harris VOID
6th race	#1 Baby T (Tr. A. Garcia) Veterinarian-unsound-Dr. Austgen #8 Bottiglia Di Vino (Tr. B. Koriner) Veterinarian-sick-Dr. Bohannon Refund \$19,353.04
7th race	No Changes. Refund \$0.00
8th race	NO SHOW WAGER #5 Lavender Love (Tr. R. Baltas) Steward-stake. Refund \$455.60
9th race	No Changes. Refund \$0.00

09/19/26⁴

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	1,204	\$116,706.80
SCOTWINC	3,178	\$259,670.25
OUT OF STATE + ADW	n/a	\$1,971,108.44
TOTAL	4,382	\$2,347,485.49

SUNDAY

09/20/26¹

MENA RULING ref-09-17-26¹

The following ruling was issued after the BOS searched for mitigating factors that were hard to locate; in truth the extent of aggravating evidence outweighed anything less. His CHRB history was included in the complaint package (October 16, 2016, Ruling FDFD #6, March 11, 2017, LAQL Ruling #60 and April 29, 2023, Ruling LAQL #39).

LATL Ruling #07

Outrider GUMARO MENA is suspended for THIRTY (30) days (September 28, 2026, through October 27, 2026) for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1874 (Disorderly Conduct – Intoxication) (Fourth Alcohol Related Offense) at Del Mar Race Track on July 17, 2026.

During the term of suspension, all licenses and license privileges of GUMARO MENA are suspended and pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1528 (Jurisdiction of Stewards to Suspend and Fine) GUMARO MENA is denied access to all premises in this jurisdiction.

Furthermore, GUMARO MENA must be evaluated by the Winners Foundation, abide by the terms set by their recommendations, and sign and remain on a testing agreement while holding a license with the California Horse Racing Board.

Failure to do so will result in a suspension of all licenses held by GUMARO MENA.

09/20/26²

MENA DECISION CASE 26DM0021 ref-09-10-26²

In a unanimous decision, this complaint was dismissed as it did not reach the standard for issuance of a penalty.

09/20/26³

JOCKEY FILM REVIEW

Armando Aguilar and Kazushi Kimura at different times met with the BOS in regard to their crop usage yesterday.

After a review of the eighth race (E.B. Johnston Stakes), Mr. Kimura believed his first strike (under hand) hit his boot instead of the horse. The BOS could not agree with his opinion and his penalty is listed below. This is Mr. Kimura's second offense in the last 180 days.

HISA RULING 2026-20810

Having violated the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2280 (Use of Riding Crop) and pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties – Class 3 - second offense), Jockey KAZUSHI KIMURA, who rode SPEEDY WILSON in the eighth race (Purse \$75,000) at Los Alamitos Race Course on September 19, 2026, is suspended for TWO (2) days (October 4 and 9, 2026), and fined ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00)* for ONE (1) strike over the limit.

Pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1766 (Designated Races), the term of suspension shall not prohibit participation in designated races.

(HISA #2026-01571, 04/11/2026)

Mr. Aguilar also reviewed the video with the BOS and agreed he went one usage over the limit in the fourth race. This is his third offence in the last 180 days, as listed in the following HISA ruling.

HISA RULING

Having violated the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2280 (Use of Riding Crop) and pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority Rule #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties – Class 3 - third offense), Jockey ARMANDO

AGUILAR, who rode MAJESTIC PALISADES in the fourth race (Purse \$51,000) at Los Alamitos Race Course on September 19, 2026, is suspended for THREE (3) days (October 4, 9 and 10, 2026), and fined ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,5000.00)* for ONE (1) strike over the limit.

Pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1766 (Designated Races), the term of suspension shall not prohibit participation in designated races.

(HISA #2026-15302, 06/26/2026)

(HISA #2026-17195, 07/05/2026)

09/20/26⁴

VOIDED CLAIM

Following the running of the sixth race claimed horse #7 See Through It was physically examined by Official Veterinarian Noltan Pattio and the horse was placed on the Veterinarian's List. The Stewards voided the claim and the horse returned to the stable of trainer Genaro Vallejo.

09/20/26⁵

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, CLAIMS AND REFUNDS

1st race	No Changes. Refund \$0.00
2nd race	#6 Elite Heat (GB) (Tr. P. Miller) claimed by Tr. S. Knapp
3rd race	No Changes. Refund \$0.00
4th race	#5 Autism Puzzle (Tr. G. Vallejo) Veterinarian-unsound-Dr. Austgen Refund \$385.56
5th race	#7 Silvercross (Tr. J. Bautista) Veterinarian-unsound-Dr. Austgen Refund \$378.00
6th race	#6 Alpine Thunder (Tr. J. Hernandez, Jr.) Veterinarian-sick-Dr. Austgen #7 See Through It (Tr. P. Miller) claimed by Tr. P. Aguirre VOID Refund \$548.90
7th race	#5 For You Bud (Tr. M. Valenzuela, Jr.) Refund \$306.10
8th race	#4 Mr. Machupicchu (Tr. J. Bonde) claimed by Tr. S. Knapp Refund \$634.28
9th race	No Changes. Refund \$0.00

09/20/26⁶

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	979	\$113,041.31
SCOTWINC	2,762	\$278,499.94
OUT OF STATE + ADW	n/a	\$2,568,387.79
TOTAL	3,741	\$2,959,929.04

VETERINARIAN REPORT – WEEK OF 09/14/26 TO 09/20/26

Horses on Vet List	16
Horses off Vet List	10
Shock Wave Therapy	0
Fatalities	0
Medication	0

SUMMARY

	Fri 09/18	Sat 09/19	Sun 09/20	Week	Meet
Accidents	0	0	0	0	0
Cal-Bred Races	0	5	3	8	15
Claims	2	0	2	4	12
Disqualifications	0	0	0	0	0
Inquiries	0	0	0	0	0
Refunds	3	3	5	11	18
Rulings	1	1	1	3	7
Voided Claims	0	1	1	2	2

Kim Sawyer, Steward

Luis Jauregui, Steward

Grant Baker, Steward

BOS:KS:sh