

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS
LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE
Cypress, 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 the week of September 16, 2026, through September 20, 2026.

WEDNESDAY9/16/26¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Steward Dave Nuesch was present to oversee entries for Saturday night's program. Additionally, he will be drafting the Stewards' minutes for this reporting period.

9/16/26²**THE DRAW**

The racing office compiled an eight-race card for Saturday, consisting of three HISA regulated thoroughbred races, all going four and one-half furlongs.

9/16/26³**CAL-BRED REPORT**

Once the first race in the book for California bred two-year-old maidens was opened to all runners, the race filled and was used as the seventh race on the eight-race program.

THURSDAY9/17/26¹**ENTRIES, SCRATCHES AND PANEL**

Steward Nuesch was present to oversee entries for Sunday and approve scratches and changes for Saturday evening's card. Additionally, the entry panel met to review and discuss all the runners on Saturday's eight-race program. No scratches were submitted.

9/17/26²**CONTRERAS HEARING (Ref: 8/13/26³)**

For the second time in as many months, exercise rider Jose Contreras has been in our office to discuss his use of unapproved safety vests. Mr. Contreras stated that he owns an approved vest but recently purchased a second vest from his friend and assumed that it was compliant, even though it did not have any of the required labeling stating its safety ratings. The Stewards will decide on an appropriate penalty and issue a ruling over the coming days.

9/17/26³**CITATION HEARING**

Exercise rider Carlos Huerta was cited by track security when Safety Steward Paul Atkinson witnessed him, along with exercise rider Ernesto Velasquez, galloping their mounts the wrong

way prior to a timed workout. Mr. Huerta stated that the horses were inexperienced two-year-olds but agreed that he could do a better job going forward. Mr. Velasquez did not appear before the Board of Stewards to address his citation. The Stewards will discuss and reach a decision soon.

9/17/26⁴

THE DRAW

The racing office worked diligently to compile another eight-race card for Saturday, consisting of three around-the-turn races.

FRIDAY

9/18/26¹

SCRATCHES AND PANEL

Steward Nuesch was present to approve scratches and changes for Sunday's card. The Entry Panel met once again to review and discuss all the runners on the eight-race program. No scratches were submitted following the panel's review.

SATURDAY

9/19/26¹

CONTRERAS RULING (Ref: 9/17/26²)

After deliberating the facts heard on Thursday and considering the number of times Mr. Contreras has been cited over safety vest issues, the following ruling was handed down.

Ruling # 76

Exercise Rider Jose M. Contreras is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1689.1 (c) (Safety Vest Required – wearing unapproved vest – second offense).

9/19/26²

VOIDED CLAIM – Race 1

Following the post-race veterinarian exam, the claim submitted by Kristen Watanabe for the horse James J. Braddock was voided by the Stewards, as the runner was found to be unsound by Official Veterinarian Dr. Gary Beck. The horse returned to the Jesus Nunez barn.

9/19/26³

INQUIRY/DISQUALIFICATION – RACE 4

Following the running of the fourth race, the Stewards posted the inquiry sign to review an incident shortly after the start where #2 Gunz Loaded (J. Ayala) took up sharply. After review, the Stewards unanimously agreed that #1 The Red Boy (D. Cruz) shifted outward crossing the chute, taking the path of Gunz Loaded and costing that runner a chance at a better placing. As a result, The Red Boy was disqualified from fourth position and placed fifth. His rider was held blameless.

Original order of finish: 4-5-3-**1**-2

Official order of finish: 4-5-3-2-**1**

9/19/26⁴

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, CLAIMS AND REFUNDS

1 st Race	#2 James J. Braddock (Tr. J. Nunez) Claimed by K. Watanabe - Voided
	#3 The Key Is Unity (Tr. S. Perez) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald - Refund: \$288.50
2 nd Race	#5 Lady Victoria (Tr. A. Aquino) Jockey changed to J. Klaiber
3 rd Race	#1 Idiot Straits (Tr. A. Ruvalcaba) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald - Refund: \$75.30
	#4 Rousing Rhythm (Tr. C. DeAlba) Claimed by trainer R. Lucas
4 th Race	#6 Fire Candy (Tr. J. Aleman) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald - Refund: \$102.20
5 th Race	#4 Corona Spaid (Tr. J. Uranga) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald - Refund: \$327.27
6 th Race	#6 Gifted Diva (Tr. L. Diaz) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald - Refund: \$148.30

9/19/26⁵

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	670	\$59,393.50
SCOTWINC	908	\$159,354.50
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$508,788.79
TOTAL	1,578	\$727,536.79

SUNDAY

9/20/26¹

CITATION RULINGS (Ref: 9/17/26³)

As a result of Thursday's informal hearing, the following two rulings were issued.

Ruling # 77

Exercise Rider Carlos Huerta is fined ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1437 (Conditions of a Race Meeting – galloping the wrong way during a.m. training) at Los Alamitos Race Course on September 13, 2026.

Ruling # 78

Exercise Rider Ernesto Velazquez, having failed to appear to answer charges alleging violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1437 (Conditions of a Race Meeting – galloping the wrong way during a.m. training) at Los Alamitos Race Course, is fined ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1547 (Failure to Appear), for failing to appear before the Board of Stewards.

9/20/26²

ALCALA RULING

Jockey Jose Alcala exceeded the maximum allowed overweight in yesterday's second race, resulting in a late jockey change, so the following ruling was issued.

Ruling # 79

Jockey JOSE ROSARIO ALCALA is fined ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1683 (Maximum Overweight), causing a late rider change in the second race at Los Alamitos Racing Course on September 19, 2026.

9/20/26³

INQUIRY/DISQUALIFICATION – RACE 4

Following the running of the fourth race, the Stewards posted the inquiry sign to review the run approaching the far turn where two riders steadied their mounts. The Stewards' review of the race showed #5 No More Ding Dongs (R. Ramirez) moving into the path of #4 Disko Tribute (E. Payeras), bumping that runner, knocking him off stride, and forcing jockey Payeras to take up. Additionally, No More Ding Dongs continued to cross over entering the turn, putting pressure on #1 Gunnin For Gold. After viewing all angles, including both drone shots, the Stewards unanimously agreed that Disko Tribute was cost an opportunity at a better placing. However, Gunnin For Gold bore out entering the far turn, contributing to the incident, so No More Ding Dongs was disqualified from first and placed second, behind Disko Tribute. Jockey Ricardo Ramirez was ordered to meet the Stewards next week to review his ride. More to follow...

Original order of finish: 5-4-2-1

Official order of finish: 4-5-2-1

9/20/26⁴

LATE SCRATCH – Race 8

During the loading process of tonight's final race on the card, #6 On The Sky Is Cash (E. Gasca) and #7 Bear Down (J. Klaiber) both broke through the front doors of the starting gate. On The Sky Is Cash ran down the track and into the clubhouse turn before jockey Gasca could bring the horse to a stop, so the Stewards ordered that runner to be withdrawn. The assistant starter handling Bear Down was able to hold-on to that runner, and following a quick examination, Racing Veterinarian Dr. Rebecca Fitzgerald deemed Bear Down fit to race.

9/20/26⁵

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, CLAIMS AND REFUNDS

1st Race #3 Crypto Craze (Tr. S. Perez) Claimed by trainer J. Uranga
 3rd Race #2 Magilligan (Tr. J. Bautista) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald - Refund: \$74.05
 #4 Readytoboard (Tr. S. Knapp) Claimed by trainer R. Lucas
 #6 She's Back (Tr. J. Thomas) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald - Refund: \$180.15
 4th Race #3 Legal Fiction (Tr. R. Lucas) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald - Refund: \$108.00
 6th Race #2 Go Go Ki Ki Go (Tr. F. Gonzalez) Claimed by trainer J. Farias
 8th Race #4 Muscle Max (Tr. E. Andrade) Jockey changed to G. Vera
 #6 On The Sky Is Cash (Tr. F. Gonzalez) Stewards - Refund: \$7,986.45

9/20/26⁶

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	570	\$65,481.40
SCOTWINC	793	\$159,121.80
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$625,211.38
TOTAL	1,363	\$849,814.58

SUMMARY

	Fri 09/18	Sat 09/19	Sun 09/20	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	0	0	0	9
Cal-Bred Races	A	0	0	0	16
Claims	R	1	3	4	62
Disqualifications	K	1	1	2	15
Inquiries	-	1	1	2	37
Refunds	D	5	4	9	249
Rulings	A	1	3	4	79
Voided Claims	Y	1	0	1	21

David Nuesch, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

Tom Ward, Steward

BOS:DN:dj