

**California Horse Racing Board**

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**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS  
LOS ALAMITOS QUARTER HORSE RACING ASSOCIATION  
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 Wendy Mitchell, Member  
Honorable Alex Solis, Member  
C. Scott Chaney, Executive Director  
Cynthia Alameda, Assistant Executive Director  
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report of the Board of Stewards for the week of October 22, 2020 through October 25, 2020.

**Thursday**  
10/22/2020

**(1) DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward was in the office this week for entries, scratches, and changes. The entry process went well, with all cards being drawn by 4:30 P.M. Ward will be writing minutes for this week.

**Friday**  
10/23/2020

**(1) EARLY DECLARATION**

2<sup>nd</sup> Race #7 Lydia O Lydia (Vet-Unsound) Refund \$223.38  
7<sup>th</sup> Race #5 Five Star Rocket (Vet-Sick) Refund \$447.96  
8<sup>th</sup> Race #3 College Scandal (Stewards – entered back) Refund \$197.30

**(2) RIDERS EXCUSED**

Christian Aragon was removed from his mounts as he went to Oregon to ride over the weekend and did not have a negative COVID-19 test upon his return. Juan Pablo Leon was excused due to illness/weight. Replacement riders were named.

**(3) RULINGS #231- #237**

Ruling #231

JOCKEY EDUARDO NICASIO IS FINED ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)\* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (B) (8) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN SIX TIMES DURING THE RACE- FIRST OFFENSE WITHIN THE PAST SIXTY DAY PERIOD), DURING THE SECOND RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON OCTOBER 18, 2020.

Ruling #232

JOCKEY RAUL RAMIREZ JR. IS FINED ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)\* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (B) (8) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN SIX TIMES DURING THE RACE- FIRST OFFENSE WITHIN THE PAST SIXTY DAY PERIOD), DURING THE SECOND RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON OCTOBER 18, 2020.

Ruling #233

JOCKEY RAUL A. VALENZUELA IS FINED ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)\* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (B) (7) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN TWO TIMES IN SUCCESSION WITHOUT GIVING THE HORSE A CHANCE TO RESPOND), DURING THE SIXTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON OCTOBER 18, 2020.

Ruling #234

JOCKEY JAIRO RANGEL IS FINED THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00)\* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (B) (7) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN TWO TIMES IN SUCCESSION WITHOUT GIVING THE HORSE A CHANCE TO RESPOND), DURING THE SEVENTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON OCTOBER 18, 2020.

Ruling #235

JOCKEY OSCAR ANDRADE JR. IS FINED ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)\* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (B) (8) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN SIX TIMES DURING THE RACE- FIRST OFFENSE WITHIN THE PAST SIXTY DAY PERIOD), DURING THE EIGHTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON OCTOBER 18, 2020.

Ruling #236

JOCKEY MARK A. JASSO IS FINED ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)\* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (B) (7) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN TWO TIMES IN SUCCESSION WITHOUT GIVING THE HORSE A CHANCE TO RESPOND), DURING THE NINTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON OCTOBER 18, 2020.

Ruling #237

JOCKEY CRUZ MENDEZ IS FINED TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)\* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (B) (8) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN SIX TIMES DURING THE RACE- FIRST OFFENSE WITHIN THE PAST SIXTY DAY PERIOD), DURING THE TWELFTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON OCTOBER 18, 2020.

All of these rulings were issued for “crop” violations from Trials Night, Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**(4) DISORDERLY CONDUCT HEARING**

Trainer Dan Azcarate participated by telephone in a formal hearing into a complaint filed against him by Board investigators for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1874 (Disorderly Conduct). At issue was his conduct toward and interaction with Racing Veterinarian Rebecca Fitzgerald after she scratched one of his horses for soundness reasons. In addition to Mr. Azcarate, the Board of Stewards, Dr. Fitzgerald and Senior Investigator Thomas Blake were in attendance. Court reporter Michelle Derieg recorded the proceedings.

The incident took place on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, when Dr. Fitzgerald was doing pre-race inspections for that evening's card. She determined that Mr. Azcarate's horse, “Call From Above”, was exhibiting soundness issues and told him that she was going to file a scratch card to that effect. Mr. Azcarate became extremely irate, directing profanities and gender related invectives toward Dr. Fitzgerald. He also threatened to get her terminated from her position. He did this in the presence of other licenses. Mr. Azcarate did not dispute Dr. Fitzgerald's testimony. He was very contrite and apologized to her. He also said that he was willing to accept any penalty determined by the Stewards. Decision to follow.

**(5) REFUND**

A refund was ordered in the fifth race as two horses were scratched following a starting gate incident. #2 “In Deep Thought” and #3 “Sweet Dalila” were declared on the advice of Racing Veterinarian Fitzgerald as both suffered injuries while breaking through the stall doors of the starting gate. The total refund amounted to \$24,346.32. Neither rider was injured.

**(6) STEWARDS' INQUIRY AND DISQUALIFICATION**

The inquiry sign was posted following the sixth race as the Stewards reviewed an incident at the start involving the third place finisher, #5 “Hesa Grave Digger” (M. Jasso). After reviewing video of the incident, the Stewards voted unanimously to disqualify “Hesa Grave Digger” from third to eighth

position. Video showed the horse breaking in rather sharply, making solid contact with #4 "Run Don Duck Run" and bumping that horse into #3 "El Aracada". While "El Aracada" finished ahead of the offending horse, the Stewards felt that "Run Don Duck Run's" finish position was compromised by the interference.

**(7) DELAY TO START OF THE SEVENTH RACE**

There was a ten minute delay in the start of the seventh race as an emergency situation arose in the Receiving Barn and both human ambulances were needed at the scene. One of the detention barn personnel suffered a serious medical problem which required immediate intervention by emergency medical staff. We have no information as to the individual's condition at this juncture, but hopefully he will survive.

**(8) DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	0	\$0.00
Off track	0	\$0.00
Out of state	N/A	\$1,091,432.00
Total	0	\$1,244,762.20

**Saturday**  
10/24/2020

**(1) EARLY DECLARATIONS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Race #3 Grey Tsunami (Panel scratch)  
#8 Myra's Beauty (Vet-Injured) Refund of \$272.36
- 4<sup>th</sup> Race #3 Irish Ballad (Vet-Sick)  
#6 See Through It (Vet-Injured) Refund \$322.15

**(2) RIDER EXCUSED**

Alejandro Luna was excused from his engagement in the eighth race this evening as he was ill from trying to reduce and could not do justice to his mount. A replacement rider was named.

**(3) RULING #238**

Ruling #238

TRAINER DAN AZCARATE IS FINED ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000\*) FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1874 (DISORDERLY CONDUCT).

IN ADDITION, TRAINER AZCARATE SHALL CONTACT THE WINNERS FOUNDATION AND ARRANGE TO ATTEND ANGER MANAGEMENT COUNSELLING AND COMPLETE A COURSE ACCEPTABLE TO THE STEWARDS.

This ruling was issued after the Stewards discussed the merits of the case against Mr. Azcarate. While a trainer might be frustrated with the veterinarian's decision, to take those frustrations out in the manner Mr. Azcarate did is totally unacceptable. The ruling mirrored a decision rendered against another trainer for a similar violation.

**(4) RULING #239 AND #240**

Ruling #239

JOCKEY ARMANDO CERVANTES IS FINED TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)\* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (B) (8) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN SIX TIMES DURING THE RACE- SECOND OFFENSE WITHIN THE PAST SIXTY DAY PERIOD), DURING THE FIFTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON OCTOBER 23, 2020.

Ruling #240

JOCKEY CRUZ MENDEZ IS FINED TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)\* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (B) (8) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN SIX TIMES DURING THE RACE- SECOND OFFENSE WITHIN THE PAST SIXTY DAY PERIOD), DURING THE FIFTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON OCTOBER 23, 2020.

These rulings were issued for "crop" violations from Friday evening.

**(5) RULING #241**

Ruling #241

JOCKEY MARK A. JASSO, WHO RODE "HESA GRAVE DIGGER" IN THE SIXTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON OCTOBER 23, 2020, IS SUSPENDED FOR TWO RACING DAYS (OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup> AND NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2020) FOR FAILURE TO MAKE THE PROPER EFFORT TO MAINTAIN A STRAIGHT COURSE, CAUSING INTERFERENCE WHICH RESULTED IN THE DISQUALIFICATION OF HIS MOUNT FROM THIRD TO EIGHTH POSITION. THIS CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1699 (RIDING RULES- CARELESS RIDING). PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1766 (DESIGNATED RACES), THE TERM OF SUSPENSION SHALL NOT PROHIBIT PARTICIPATION IN DESIGNATED RACES.

This ruling was issued after the Stewards reviewed the sixth race from Friday, after which Mr. Jasso's mount was disqualified for interference at the start. The rider did make an attempt to straighten his horse, but it was well after the damage had already taken place.

**(6) CLAIM VOIDED**

A claim deposited in the first race by Trainer Eric Berman for #4 "For My Brother" was voided as the horse exhibited signs of lameness in the right foreleg while cooling out in the detention barn. It was returned to the barn of trainer Sergio Morfin.

**(7) REFUND – WIN WAGERING ONLY**

A refund was ordered in the fourth race as #2 "Stay Legendary" failed to warm up to the satisfaction of Racing Veterinarian Fitzgerald and was declared on her recommendation. The field, already depleted by early scratches, was reduced to three wagering interests. The refund was \$8,490.39.

**(8) DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	0	\$0.00
Off track	0	\$0.00
Out of state	N/A	\$920,533.78
Total	0	\$1,072,245.78

**Sunday**  
10/25/2020

**(1) EARLY DECLARATIONS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Race #1 Successful Bluff (Panel) Refund \$77.40
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Race # Royal Song (Vet-Unsound)  
#2 Ballycastle (Vet-Injured) Refund \$140.16
- 4<sup>th</sup> Race #3 Cut A Swell (Vet-Injured) Refund \$195.16
- 6<sup>th</sup> Race #5 A Better Reason (Vet-Injured) Refund \$64.70
- 6<sup>th</sup> Race #5 Leaving Now (Ineligible-Injection) Refund \$464.86

**(2) RULING #242**

Ruling #242

JOCKEY EDGAR PAYERAS IS FINED ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)\* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (B) (8) (USE OF RIDING CROP – MORE THAN SIX TIMES DURING THE RACE- FIRST OFFENSE WITHIN THE PAST SIXTY DAY PERIOD), DURING THE SECOND RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON OCTOBER 24, 2020.

This ruling was issued as the rider chose not to defend his actions regarding "crop" usage.

**(3) STEWARDS' INQUIRY AND DISQUALIFICATION**

The inquiry sign was posted after the first race as the Stewards reviewed an incident entering the far turn involving the fourth and sixth place finishers, #5 "Eddie Eagle" (E. Hernandez), and #2 "Fancy Terrace" (R. Guce). After speaking with the riders and reviewing video of the incident the Stewards voted unanimously to disqualify "Eddie Eagle" from fourth to sixth position. Video showed the horse stepping in at the point of the turn, despite the effort of the rider, placing Mr. Guce and his mount in tight quarters along the inside rail. The interference, in the Stewards' opinion, cost horse and rider the chance for a better placing.

**(4) DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	0	\$0.00
Off track	0	\$0.00
Out of state	N/A	\$902,215.17
Total	0	\$1,016,419.77

**TRACK SAFETY REPORT**

The weekly inspection was conducted on October 25, 2020. There were no equine deaths to report this week. During this reporting period, 17 horses were added to the Veterinarian's List as follows: 6 for soundness, 8 for injury, 2 for sickness and 1 for bleeding. Fourteen horses previously on the Veterinarian's list were examined and removed from the list. This report was submitted by Steward Tom Ward.

**SUMMARY**

	Wed	Thurs	Fri 10/23	Sat 10/24	Sun 10/25	Week	Meet
<b>Accidents</b>	D		0	0	0	0	4
<b>Cal-Bred Races</b>	A		0	0	0	0	8
<b>Claims</b>	R		2	1	3	6	244
<b>Disqualifications</b>	K		1	0	1	2	31
<b>Inquiries</b>		D	1	0	1	2	36
<b>Refunds</b>		A	4	3	5	12	388
<b>Rulings</b>		Y	7	4	1	12	242
<b>Voided Claims</b>		S	0	1	0	1	36

Stewards' Attendance: Stewards Tom Ward, Richard Williams, James Dreyer, and Safety Steward Paul Atkinson were in attendance during this reporting period.

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Tom Ward, Steward

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Richard Williams, Steward

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James Dreyer, Steward

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Paul Atkinson, Safety Steward