

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS
Pacific Racing Association
Golden Gate Fields, Berkeley, California
TO THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report for the Week of Wednesday, April 12, Through Sunday, April 16, 2023.**WEDNESDAY**4/12/23¹**ENTRY DAY**

Dennis Nevin was on duty to oversee the entry process for Saturday. A nine race program was drawn.

THURSDAY4/13/23¹**ENTRY-CHANGE DUTY**

Steward **Nevin** was available to approve changes to Saturday's race card. Entries for Sunday are on the agenda for today as well as three hearings. The full Board of Stewards, **Baker**, **Lewis** and **Nevin** will comprise the panel for hearings.

4/13/23²**HUMBERTO GONZALEZ (23GG0038)**

A "Disorderly Conduct" (#1874) Hearing along with CHRB #1530 and #1930 violations was scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Presenting the case is CHRB Investigator **Noe Longoria**. Licensee **Humberto Gonzalez** failed to appear, and a decision will be forthcoming.

4/13/23³**MONROY HEARING (23GG0032)**

Jockey **Francisco Monroy** was present to answer to complaint 23GG0032 which was produced due to positive test result for marijuana during a random test for jockeys. CHRB Investigator **Jennifer Tolman** prepared and presented the complaint. Court Recorder **Kelly McDonald** transcribed the proceedings. After taking testimony and reviewing evidence presented this forty five minutes hearing was closed.

4/13/23⁴**SOLARES (22GG0012)**

CHRB complaint 22GG0012 accusing groom **Melvin Solares** of being under the influence of a stimulant along with possession of crystal methamphetamine. The complaint was presented by CHRB Investigator **Louis Quezada**, Assistant Chaplain **Robert Cochran** aided **Mr. Solares** as a translator. **Kelly McDonald** recorded the events of the hearing. Present in the Stewards position are **Richard Lewis, Dennis Nevin** and **Grant Baker**.

This was a continuation of a hearing scheduled for March 23, 2023. The delay was to allow the respondent to study the complaint, which he saw for the first time the morning of the original hearing. Four exhibits were put into evidence for the State. The respondent asked to submit two items. After forty minutes of testimony this session was closed with a decision to follow.

FRIDAY
4/14/23¹

LATE CHANGES

Race 6 #2 **Way Too Hot** (Tr. **Tim McCanna**) Sick – **Dr. Hassan**
Race 6 #6 **Bruno B** (Tr. **Reid France**) Unsound – **Dr. Hassan**
Race 8 # **Harper Zee** (Tr. **Marcia Stortz**) Sick – **Dr. Batten**

4/14/23²

CHIEF STEWARD – SAFETY STEWARD

Darrel McHargue stepped into the Stewards' office prior to performing his substitute Safety Steward duties to discuss a possible Workmen's Compensation Issue. Within that meeting there were conversations with Golden Gate Fields V.P. General Manager **David Duggan** and Asst. Secretary & General Counsel, California Racing Operations for 1/ST Racing, **Eric Sindler**, joined by phone.

4/14/23³

TRAINER TIM McCANNA VISIT

Tim McCanna stepped in to discuss a situation surrounding one of his Exercise Riders. Prior to his visit CHRB Investigator **Louis Quezada** informed this panel he had concerns of an incident he witnessed involving **McCanna's** Exercise Rider's interaction with a horse. **Mr. Quezada** was told if he was going to file a complaint any talk will have to cease, he agreed.

Mr. McCanna started to give us the reason he and his Exercise Rider were in the office. He was stopped midsentence and told for the time being we cannot discuss this issue due to a complaint possibly being produced.

4/14/23⁴

DR. HASSAN VS. TRAINER REID FRANCE

A verbal altercation between examining Vet **Karen Hassan** and Trainer **Reid France** was rehashed in the Stewards office. When **Dr. Hassan** informed Trainer **France**, she was submitting a scratch for one of his runners as unsound, he got verbally loud. **Dr. Hassan** contacted us by phone, and we indicated they both should be in our office.

The players involved were given the opportunity to tell what took place. **Mr. France** admitted to raising the decibel levels in his voice but not directly aimed at **Dr. Hassan**. He also apologized to the Vet saying he just lost it, and it was not directed at her. **Dr. Hassan** accepted the apology and **Mr. France** was warned should there be a next time...Let's not have a next time.

4/14/23⁵

MONROY RULING

GGF RULING #44

Jockey **FRANCISCO MONROY** is suspended seven (7) days, April 15,16,17,18,19,20 & 21, 2023 pursuant to California Horse Racing Board #1500.1(Random Drug Testing) for violation of Rule #1874 (Disorderly Conduct – Positive Marijuana Test) – third offense.

Further **FRANCISCO MONROY** remains on a Testing Agreement with the California Horse Racing Board and is now referred to the Winners Foundation for counseling.

The above ruling was published after considering testimony and evidence presented in CHRB Case #23GG0032 (REF 4/13/23³). **Mr. Monroy** is currently on a testing agreement and shall remain along with a referral to Winners Foundation.

4/14/23⁶

RACE 1 – INQUIRY/OBJECTION/DQ

Immediately after the running of this race the Stewards ordered the inquiry sign be posted. Actions between the top two finishers, #2 **Barbera** with **Alexander Chavez** aboard, and #5 **Endless Dream, Evin Roman** in the irons, from the eighth pole to the wire were being looked into. While that was happening Assistant Trainer **Francisco Rodriguez** filed an objection on behalf of Trainer **Jonathan Wong** for the same reasons as the Steward's Inquiry.

Video shows #2 on the inside in front starting to drift out at the eighth pole packing #5 to the middle of the track. At the start of this incident there was less than three quarters of a length separating the two runners with the margin at the finish being half a length.

In a unanimous decision this panel Ruled #5, **Endless Dream** was cost a better placing due to the actions of #2 **Barbera**. A change in the order of finish was called for with the top two positions being reversed.

ORIGINAL ORDER OF FINISH: 2 – 5 – 3 – 4 – 1 – 6
OFFICIAL ORDER OF FINISH: 5 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 1 – 6

4/14/23⁷

RACE 8 – LATE SCRATCH

During the Post Parade #8 **My Man Stan**, reared tossing Jockey **Epifanio Garcia** to the track surface. The three year old gelding also fell, quickly got up and ran the wrong way but was caught by the Outrider. Neither horse nor rider were injured. The horse was scratched by the stewards on recommendation of Track Veterinarian **Casille Batten**.

4/14/23⁸

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	342	\$131,055.90
SCOTWinc	0,000	\$1,633,323.82
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$162,465.11
Total	1,059	\$2,245,669.23

SATURDAY

4/15/23¹

PROGRAM CHANGES

Race 3 #5 **Windribbon** (Tr. I. Tamayo) Sick – **Batten**
Race 5 #4 **Boundforjamaica** (Tr. Miguel Ramirez) Sick – **Hassan**
Race 7 #6 **Theyreminisceoveru** (Tr. Matthew Troy) Sick – **Batten**
Race 7 #7 **Should Be Illegal** (Tr. Steve Sherman) Unsound – **Hassan**
Race 8 #9 **Wellswort (IRE)** (Tr. Simon Hobson) Full Field – **Stewards**
Race 9 #3 **Chirag** (Tr. Michael McCarthy) Full Field – **Stewards**

4/15/23²

CHAVEZ RULING

GGF RULING # 45

Jockey **ALEXANDER CHAVEZ** who rode **BARBERA** in the first race on Friday, April 14, 2023, at Golden Gate Fields is suspended five (5) racing days, April 22, 23, 28, 29 & 30, 2023 for failure to maintain a straight course in the stretch causing interference resulting in the disqualification of his mount from first to second; a violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1699 (Riding Rules – Careless Riding - second offense in sixty (60) days).

The prior ruling was issued after Jockey **Alexander Chavez** viewed replays of yesterday's first race (REF: 4/14/2023¹). Jockey **Irving Orozco** was present to interpret for **Chavez**. Also in attendance was Jockey's Guide Rep **Darrel Haire**.

4/15/23³ **TRAINER BELLASIS FILM REQUEST**

Tim Bellasis stopped by with a request to see the replay of the start of yesterday's eighth race. He was looking into why his horse was last leaving the chute of this six furlong event. He agreed after observing replay that his horse, a first time starter, broke greenly and then took a couple of strides to get running.

4/15/23⁴ **INSURANCE DISCUSSION**

An information gathering conversation was held among **Lori Bailey** GGF Paymaster, **Michael Lyons** of Finish Line Self Insurance Group, and the Board of Stewards. The topic revolved around owners' fees with regard to Jockey Coverage. Also present were GGF Vice President and General Manager **David Duggan** along with Jockeys Guild Representative **Darrell Haire**.

We asked for this meeting to learn the "ins and outs" of how Jockey coverage is applied. Through this conversation it became our understanding that the Paymaster would do "Business as Usual," meaning fees would continue to be deducted from Owners' account to provide Jockey coverage.

The Stewards came out of this with a clearer understanding of what transpires in the insurance world.

4/15/23⁵ **FIRST RACE POST PARADE DELAY**

Horses started to leave the paddock and were ordered to return when Steward **Grant Baker's** radio check failed to raise a response from the Human Ambulance. Two minutes after the riders dismounted the ambulance was seen at the "on/off" gap and made radio contact. Riders remounted and an abbreviated post parade took place.

4/15/23⁶ **RACE 1 – VOIDED CLAIM**

The claim of #1 **Indianera**, by trainer **Jorge Maravilla** was voided by the Stewards. **Dr. Franklin** reported that the seven-year-old has issues with his right front leg and was being added to the Vet's list. The horse was ordered to remain in the care of **Roger Hansen**.

4/15/23⁷ **RACE 4 – VOIDED CLAIM**

Dr. Franklin notified the Stewards that he had examined **Miss Maia**, a claim out of the fourth race, and found her to be unsound in the left fore limb. The claim submitted by trainer **Manny Badilla** was voided by the Stewards with the horse remaining in the stable of **Steve Sherman** after her name was submitted to the Vet's list.

4/15/23⁸ **RACE 6 - VOIDED CLAIM**

Thirty-five minutes after this race ran Clerk of Course **Tina Bryant** notified the Clerk of Scales of an error on the claim certificate. There was no claiming price written in the appropriate boxes, \$12,500.00. We voided the claim after receiving a photo of the claim certificate verifying the absence of the designated claiming price per CHRB Rule #1656.

A call was made to the test barn asking if the horse, **Thread Count**, had been released. When the answer was "NO" we instructed CHRB Veterinarian **Forrest Franklin** not to release **Thread Count** to trainer **Tim Bellasis** but have the horse remain in the custody of trainer **Patrick Gallagher**. An investigation of the details will continue tomorrow.

4/15/23⁹ **DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	662	\$248,087.20
SCOTWinc	0,000	\$1,517,434.48
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$279,193.16
Total	1,757	\$2,688,688.88

SUNDAY
4/16/23¹

PROGRAM CHANGES

- 3RD Race #6 **Kitten Calls** (Tr. **M. Badilla**) No Insurance Coverage - **Stewards**
- 5TH Race #3 **Moonlite in Heaven** (Tr. **Steve Miyadi**) Sick – **Dr. Hassan**
- 7TH Race #1 **Light in the Darkness** (Tr. **D. Wayne Baker**) Sick – **Dr. Parker**
- 8TH Race #1 **Bea Mischief** (Tr. **Daniel Dunham**) Sick – **Dr. Parker**
- 8TH Race #2 **Soo Brooklyn** (Tr. **Howey Rubin**) Injured – **Dr. Hassan**

4/16/23²

CRISTOBAL HERRERA FILM REVIEW

Jockey **Herrera** appeared as requested by the Stewards to review Saturday's second race. Replays show **Herrera**, on #2 **Effective Gig**, the runner drifting out in the stretch brushing with the eventual winner #3 **Gross Profit**, ridden by **Alexander Chavez**.

Mr. Herrera was told had the outcome been reversed an inquiry would have been called. He was given a warning to make a better effort.

4/16/23³

JOCKEY AGENT – TRAINER DISPUTE

Trainer **Manny Badilla** and Jockey Agent **Fernando Navarro** came before this panel to solve a “**First Call**” situation. Trainer **Badilla** stated he was given the call with Jockey **Irving Orozco** but when the overnight was published an “**Alternate Rider**” was assigned to his entrant. Agent **Navarro** agreed that **Badilla** was given the call but hinted his rider wanted to ride another horse that may enter the race.

Both **Badilla** and **Navarro** left the room in an attempt to come to an amiable solution. When they re-entered our chambers, it was clear that they agreed to disagree. We had them leave the room so we could make a decision for them.

4/16/23⁴

NAVARRO RULING # 46

GGF RULING #46

Jockey Agent **FERNANDO NAVARRO** is fined Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) for failure to conduct his business in a proper manner on April 15, 2023, at Golden Gate Fields; a violation of CHRB Rule #1530 (Cases not Covered by Rules and Regulations).

After a brief discussion with regard to the agent trainer dispute (REF 4/16/23³) and looking into the ruling history of **Mr. Navarro** the above Ruling was written. This as stated above, is The third time within a year **Mr. Navarro** has had problems honoring calls.

4/16/23⁵

APPENTICE INTERVIEW

Exercise Rider **Matilda Burnham** presented herself in order to apply for an Apprentice Jockey license. She has re-located from San Luis Rey Training Center where she had been working for Trainer **Peter Miller**. Her application was in order, needing only a physical and the concussion protocol completed.

Steward **Grant Baker** explained to her the basics we expect from a jockey. Crop rules, placement going into turns and leaving the starting barrier were discussed at greater length.

4/16/23⁶

CAMACHO – FLORES RULING

GGF RULING #47

Jockey **LEONEL CAMACHO-FLORES** who rode **DOS VICIOS** in the second race at Golden Gate Fields on Saturday, April 15, 2023 is suspended three (3) racing days April 23, 28 & 29, 2023 and fined Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)* pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) Rule #2282 (Riding Crop

Violations and Penalties – Class 2, seven (7) strikes over limit) for violation of HISA Rule #2280 (Use of Riding Crop).

Furthermore, Jockey **LEONEL CAMACHO-FLORES** is assigned five (5) violation points that will expire on October 16, 2023, six months from the date of final adjudication pursuant to HISA #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties). Jockey **LEONEL CAMACHO- FLORES** has now accumulated eight (8) points.

Ruling #28 Pacific Racing Association – March 25, 2023

Leonel Camacho – Flores was before us to explain his use of the riding crop in Race 2 while aboard #6 **Dos Vicios**. Video shows the crop being used thirteen times during the race, seven more strikes than stated in the rule. The only thing **Camacho – Flores** could say was that he was trying for a better placing.

4/16/23⁷

JAMGOTCHIAN PHONE CALL

Owner **Jerry Jamgotchian** and the full board of Stewards spoke on the phone late morning to discuss “**Jockey Insurance**” issues that he does not support. He wanted to know what our decision was going to be with regards to his entrant today in the third race, **Kitten Calls**.

We informed him we had not decided and were looking into the information we had gathered in conversation and written communication. He wanted to make sure we had all the documents he had been circulating. We provided a CHRB e-mail and within fifteen minutes had received thirteen pages, one Overnight for Saturday, April 15, listed as “A”, three pages of insurance documents listed as “B”, two pages of CHRB Rules “C” and seven pages of Post Time Self-Insurance Group literature listed as “D”.

4/16/23⁸

WORKMEN’S COMP INSURANCE ISSUE

For the second day in a row, the issue of how Jockey’s receive coverage in a race became a topic of discussion. At question is, who is responsible for the cost of the “**Premium**.” The best we can understand is that a fee is drawn from each owners’ account which covers the rider from scale to scale. This holds true for **Finish Line Self Insured Policy Holders**. Should that premium not be met then the jockey would not be covered. An owner opting to not pay the “**Fee**” would leave the rider without coverage.

David Duggan, General Manager of GGF, was also in the office to discuss this matter. He stated that they, GGF, would not be withholding any funds from Mr. Jamgotchian’s account therefore leaving the Jockey without coverage. At 9:25 we were copied on an e-mail to Jerry Jamgotchian part of which stated, “we (GGF) have not heard from you...we will inform the Stewards that you will not be paying the Jockey’s Workers Compensation premium for today’s race.”

We contacted Ms. Bailey, Paymaster, and she confirmed that fees would not be deducted from the account of Jerry Jamgotchian.

This panel felt that by not paying that fee, thus leaving the Jockey uninsured, would be a violation of CHRB Rule #1501 (Worker’s Compensation Insurance Required). The Stewards unanimously felt that there should be no doubt that all jockeys have proper insurance coverage while riding in a horse race.

This was the impetus of submitting a scratch in today’s third race for number #6 **Kitten Call** whose owner informed the Paymaster not to debit his account the insurance money. Once the decision to scratch the horse was made, Trainer **Manny Badilla** was informed. He indicated that he would contact the owner with the information of the scratch.

4/16/23⁹

EACE 8 – LATE RIDER CHANGE

In the eighth race #3 **Paper Tiger**, will be ridden by **Jose Rodriguez**. Jockey **Irving Orozco** was originally assigned the mount but due to a sore ankle **Dr. Seftel** requested that the Stewards excuse the Jockey from fulfilling his remaining mounts.

4/16/23¹⁰ **DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

On track	784	\$215,175.10
SCOTWinc	0,000	\$1,869,789.79
Out of state + ADW	N/A	\$297,809.99
Total	1,646	\$2,799,573.27

SUMMARY

	Wed 4/12	Thurs 4/13	Fri 4/14	Sat 4/15	Sun 4/16	Week	Meet
Accidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Cal-Bred Races	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Claims	0	0	8	5	6	19	139
Disqualifications	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
Inquiries	0	0	1	1	0	2	10
Refunds	0	0	5	9	8	22	182
Rulings	0	0	1	1	2	4	43
Voided Claims	0	0	0	2	2	4	28

VETERINARIAN RECOMMENDED SCRATCHES

Date	Race	No.	Horse	Trainer	Reason	Vet	Refund
14-Apr	6	2	Way too Hot	T.McCanna	Sick	Hassan	See Below
14-Apr	6	6	Bruno B	R. France	Unsound	Hassan	\$574.64
14-Apr	8	2	Harper Zee	M. Stortz	Sick	Batten	\$17,488.41
15-Apr	3	5	Windribbon	I.Tamayo	Sick	Batten	\$316.60
15-Apr	5	4	Boundforjamaica	M. Ramirez	Sick	Hassan	\$216.50
15-Apr	7	6	Theyreminisceoveru	M. Troy	Sick	Batten	See Below
15-Apr	7	7	Should be Illegal	S. Sherman	Sick	Hassan	\$619.75
15-Apr	8	9	Wellswort (IRE)	S. Hobson	Full Field	Stewards	\$229.85
15-Apr	9	3	Chirag	M.McCarthy	Full Field	Stewards	\$488.70
16-Apr	3	6	Kitten Call	M. Badilla	Stewards	Stewards	\$1,257.91
16-Apr	5	3	Moonlite in Heaven	S. Miyadi	Unsound	Hassan	\$282.45
16-Apr	7	1	Lightinthedarkness	D.W. Baker	Sick	Parker	\$278.05
16-Apr	8	1	Bea Mischief	D. Durham	Sick	Parker	See Below
16-Apr	8	2	Soo Brooklyn	H. Rubin	Injured	Hassan	See Below
16-Apr	8	8	Sweet Layla Rae	I.Tamayo	Sick	Batten	\$588.39

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Lewis, Steward

Grant Baker, Steward

Dennis Nevin, Steward

BOS:RL:lw