

**CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

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



**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS**  
**Golden Gate Fields**  
**Berkeley, 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 Wendy Mitchell, Member  
C. Scott Chaney, Executive Director  
Cynthia Alameda, Deputy Executive Director  
Marc Shaw, Chief, Enforcement Division  
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

**Report for the Week of Wednesday April 8, 2024, through Sunday, April 14, 2024.**

**WEDNESDAY**4/10/24<sup>1</sup>**ENTRY DUTY**

**Mr. George Yniguez** was present to assist the Racing Office producing an overnight for Saturday. Eight races with fifty entrants was published.

An Entry Panel consisting of **Drs. Grande** and **Franklin** with Steward **Yniguez** examined Friday's races.

**THURSDAY**4/11/24<sup>1</sup>**STEWARD LINE UP**

The full Board of Stewards were present this day, for a hearing. **George Yniguez** doubled as duty Steward. **Richard Lewis** once again was acting Safety Steward. **Mr. Nevin** was chair for today's hearing.

4/11/24<sup>2</sup>**RAMIRO BENITEZ HEARING**

California Horse Racing Board Case #24GG0012 involving violations of California Horse Racing Board Rules #1489 (a)(8), #1874, #1900 & #1902 did not take place as Groom **Benitez** failed to appear.

4/11/24<sup>3</sup>**TEAM MEETINGS**

There were three team meetings held this morning. A Golden Gate Fields Safety meeting was attended by Steward **Lewis**. A San Luis Rey meeting was part of Steward **Yniguez's** duty. Steward **Nevin** was part of an Entry Panel with **Dr. Jocelynn Lorbiecki**, **Dr. Forrest Franklin**, and **Dr. Tim Grande**.

4/11/24<sup>4</sup>**GREG BROUS – CASE #23GG0074**

Owner **GREG Brous (DBA: Rio Del Sol Stables)** has now been restored to good standing per the following ruling.

## GGF RULING #54

### AMENDED

Owner **GREG BROUS (RIO DEL SOL STABLES)**, having satisfied the outstanding financial obligation to San Francisco Equine (\$2,826.40), his license privileges are restored to good standing and Pacific Racing Association Ruling #18 dated September 25,2023, is hereby set aside.

4/11/24<sup>5</sup>

### MISTY CAT – DISQUALIFICATION

Having received notice from Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit (HIWU) that the “Time to Appeal” has expired for ECM2024 – 13/ecm, a class B (Caffeine) violation the following disqualification is now memorialized.

## GGF RULING #55

Acting upon notice from Horseracing Integrity and Welfare Unit (HIWU), that the post-race sample obtained from the horse, MISTY CAT, who finished First in the eighth race at the Golden Gate Fields, on December 1, 2023, contained the Controlled Medication Substance, CAFFEINE (Class B), it is hereby ordered that HORSE be disqualified and deemed unplaced.

The Consequences of Disqualification includes forfeiture of all purses and other compensation, prizes, trophies, points and rankings and repayment or surrender (as applicable) of such to the Race Organizer (ADMC Program Rule 3321 – Disqualification of the Covered Horse’s Results).

As directed it is further ordered that all purse monies earned or awarded to Owner DANIEL FRANKO (\$10,044.00), and Jockey LUIS JIMENEZ (\$951.00) be returned to the Paymaster of Purses at GOLDEN GATE FIELDS on or before May 11, 2024, for redistribution pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1760 (Purse Award or Prize to Be Withheld).

Revised Order of Finish:

1<sup>ST</sup> HOLLYWOOD MISTRESS 2<sup>ND</sup> GRIGORO 3<sup>RD</sup> KITTEN’S KID

4<sup>TH</sup> BUSKER ALLIE 5<sup>TH</sup> BANDEENA 6<sup>TH</sup> LIGHT UP 7<sup>TH</sup> LIAM’S SECRET

All records are ordered changed 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.

4/12/24<sup>1</sup>

### DECLARATIONS, CHANGES & REFUNDS

2<sup>ND</sup> Race Declaration #2 **Harry’s Big Dream** (Tr. **S. Specht**) Unsound – **Dr. Bazely, DVM**  
Refund: \$206.99

3<sup>RD</sup> Race #3 **Champagne Pegasus** (Tr. **R. France**) claimed, **C. O’Hagan**, trainer

3<sup>RD</sup> Race #4 **Regulation Dazed** (Tr. **J. Nunnally**) injured starting gate – **Dr. Cloninger, DVM**  
Refund: \$ 8,610.72

5<sup>TH</sup> Race Declaration #3 **Harbor Outlaw** (Tr. **D. Markle**) Sick – **Dr. Cassidy, DVM**  
Refund: \$187.75

6<sup>TH</sup> Race Declaration #8 **Villa Nova** (Tr. **R. Cone**) Sick – **Dr. Bazely, DVM**  
Refund: \$168.44

6<sup>TH</sup> Race #7 **Super Caro** (Tr. **C. O’Hagan**) claimed, **C. Essex**, trainer

4/12/24<sup>2</sup>

### RULING #56 – RAMIRO BENITEZ (CASE #24GG0012)

The following ruling was issued as **Mr. Benitez** failed to appear for the scheduled hearing.

## GGF RULING #56

Groom **RAMIRO BENITEZ**, having failed to respond to written notice to appear before the Board of Stewards at Golden Gate Fields on April 11, 2024, is hereby 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 charges alleging violations of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1489 (a)(8) (Grounds for Denial or Refusal of License), #1874 (Disorderly Conduct), #1900 (Grounds for Suspension or Revocation) & #1902 (Conduct Detrimental to Racing).

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

4/12/24<sup>3</sup>

**RULING #57 – SANTOS RIVERA**

**GGF RULING #57**

Jockey **SANTOS RIVERA** who rode **ACHROMATIC** in the sixth race at Golden Gate Fields on April 7, 2024, is suspended one (1) racing day Friday, April 19, 2024 and fined TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00) pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) Rule #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties – Class 3, one strike over the limit), for violation of HISA Rule #2280 (Use of Riding Crop).

The above ruling was issued after Jockey **Santos Rivera** met with the Stewards and acknowledged he used his riding crop seven times during sixth race on April 7, 2024.

4/12/24<sup>4</sup>

**RULING #58 – ADRIAN CASTELLANOS**

Jockey **Adrian Castellanos** along with Assistant Starter **Manny Trujillo** (interpreter) joined the Stewards for a review of his ride on **Wingback** (Tr. **Steve Sherman**) in the second race on Sunday, April 7, 2024.

**Mr. Castellanos** realized he erred using his riding crop left-handed as his mount was drifting out causing a rival to check sharply in the stretch. Unfortunately, this was his second offense within the last sixty days for a similar infraction and a five-day suspension was issued by unanimous decision.

**GGF RULING #58**

Jockey **ADRIAN CASTELLANOS** who rode **WINGBACK** in the second race at Golden Gate Fields on April 7, 2024, is suspended five (5) racing days, April 19, 20, 21, 26, and 27, 2024 for failure to maintain a straight course in the stretch and causing interference – a violation of California Horse Racing Board #1699 (b) (Riding Rules – Careless Riding, second offense in sixty days).

4/12/24<sup>5</sup>

**RULING #59 – HUGO HERRERA**

Jockey **Hugo Herrera** and the Board of Stewards reviewed the video of the fifth race from Sunday April 7, 2024, and all agreed he used his riding crop seven times during the race. **Mr. Herrera** accepted the penalty imposed.

**GGF RULING #59**

Jockey **HUGO HERRERA** who rode **EMBRACEABLE YOU** in the fifth race at Golden Gate Fields on April 7, 2024, is suspended one (1) racing day Friday April 19, 2024, and fined TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00) pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) Rule #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties – Class 3, one strike over the limit), for violation of HISA Rule #2280 (Use of Riding Crop).

4/12/24<sup>6</sup>

**CLAIM VOIDED – 5<sup>TH</sup> RACE**

The Stewards voided the claim submitted by trainer **Bill McLean** in the fifth race for the five-year-old gelding “**Wodeton**” (Tr. **Ruby Thomas**). California Horse Racing Board Veterinarian **Forrest Franklin, DVM** notified the Stewards that the gelding was unsound in the right hindleg. **Wodeton** was returned to the **Ruby Thomas** barn.

4/12/24<sup>7</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

<b>ON TRACK</b>	240	\$125,285.50
<b>SCOTWINC</b>		\$1,134,317.53
<b>OUT OF STATE + ADW</b>	N/A	\$125,231.28
<b>TOTAL</b>	895	\$1,685,740.41

**SATURDAY**

4/13/24<sup>1</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES & REFUNDS**

2<sup>ND</sup> Race Declaration #2 **Berry Valley** (Tr. **C. DeLima**) Sick – **Dr. Bazely, DVM**

Refund: \$420.47

The foregoing declarations reduced the field to four wagering interests and in accordance with CHRB #1954 (Parimutuel Pools), no show wagering was offered.

3<sup>RD</sup> Race Declaration #4 **Honos Man** (Tr. **R. France**) Off Turf – **Stewards**

3<sup>RD</sup> Race Declaration #6 **America Great** (Tr. **M. Meier**) Off Turf – **Stewards**

Refund: \$398.77

4<sup>TH</sup> Race #1 **Lying Ghost** (Tr. **Isidro Tamayo**) claimed, **Gary Greiner**, trainer

5<sup>TH</sup> Race Declaration #2 **Union Express** (Tr. **S. Sherman**) Post Parade – **Stewards**

5<sup>TH</sup> Race Declaration #3 **J D’s Rude Boy** (Tr. **B. McLean**) Off Turf – **Stewards**

5<sup>TH</sup> Race Declaration #6 **Proof of Jazz** (Tr. **M. Trujillo**) Off Turf – **Stewards**

Refunds: \$5,185.39

The foregoing declarations reduced the field to four wagering interests and in accordance with CHRB Rule #1954 (Parimutuel Pools), no show wagering was offered.

4/13/24<sup>2</sup>

**OFF TURF**

With the heavy early morning rain today, management has decided to move the four scheduled turf races to the main (tapeta) track.

4/13/24<sup>3</sup>

**CHIEF STEWARD**

Chief Steward **Darrel McHargue** met with Stewards for his weekly visit and advised us of some minor procedural changes in HISA and HIWA notifications.

4/13/24<sup>4</sup>

**POST PARADE ACCIDENT – 5<sup>TH</sup> RACE**

As the field for the fifth race was coming on the track #2 **Union Express** became fractious, unseated Jockey **Chavez** and ran off. The four-year-old gelding was elusive and circled the track before being captured.

**Union Express** was scratched by the Stewards and reduced the field to four wagering interests necessitating the cancellation of show wagering.

4/13/24<sup>5</sup>

**INQUIRY – NO CHANGE- 7<sup>TH</sup> RACE**

The Stewards posted the inquiry sign following the seventh race for a review of an incident in the stretch involving #6 **Egomania** (**Alexander Chavez**) second and #5 **Robie** (**Assael Espinoza**) who finished third.

After considering the patrol judges report, talking with the riders involved and reviewing the video, the Stewards decided unanimously to make the original order of finish official.

The video shows the two geldings make contact near the 1/8 pole, but the Stewards determined that the mutual contact did not affect the order of finish.

4/13/24<sup>4</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

<b>ON TRACK</b>	652	\$251,616.70
<b>SCOTWINC</b>		\$780,211.88
<b>OUT OF STATE + ADW</b>	N/A	\$161,188.82
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,825	\$1,898,442.57

**SUNDAY**

4/14/24<sup>1</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES & REFUNDS**

2<sup>ND</sup> Race #5 **Reserve Proof** (Tr. **T. McCanna**) claimed, **M. Badilla**, trainer

3<sup>RD</sup> Race Declaration #2 **Hydro Frost** (Tr. **J. Thomas**) Off Turf – **Stewards**

3<sup>RD</sup> Race Declaration #5 **Cardinal Trick** (Tr. **R. Hansen**) Off Turf – **Stewards**

Refunds: \$606.86

5<sup>TH</sup> Race Declaration #2 **Bobby's Genie** (Tr. **R. France**) Sick – **Dr. Cox, DVM**

Refund: \$579.33

6<sup>TH</sup> Race #4 **Redstirlingdancer** (Tr. **G. Greiner**) claimed, **A. Williams**

6<sup>TH</sup> Race #6 **The Great Haynes** (Tr. **A. Mathis**) claimed, **I. Tamayo**, trainer

7<sup>TH</sup> Race #2 **Strait of Georgia** (Tr. **R. France**) claimed, **B. Wright**, trainer

4/14/24<sup>2</sup>

**RULING #60 – ALEXIS ESPINOZA**

**RULING #61 – EPIFANIO GARCIA**

The following rulings were issued after both riders met with the Stewards and acknowledged they violated the HISA crop rule.

**RULING #60**

Jockey **ALEXIS ESPINOZA** who rode **SUNNY SPOT** in the fourth race at Golden Gate Fields on April 13, 2024, is suspended one (1) racing day Sunday, April 21, 2024, and fined TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00) pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) Rule #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties – Class 3, one strike over the limit), for violation of HISA Rule #2280 (Use of Riding Crop).

**RULING #61**

Jockey **EPIFANIO GARCIA** who rode **BABY KRISTEN** in the second race at Golden Gate Fields on April 13, 2024, is suspended one (1) racing day Sunday April 21, 2024, and fined TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00) pursuant to Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) Rule #2282 (Riding Crop Violations and Penalties – Class 3, one strike over the limit), for violation of HISA Rule #2280 (Use of Riding Crop).

4/14/24<sup>3</sup>

**JOE BROOK**

Trainer **Joe Brook**, who passed away last December, graciously left a twenty-five-thousand-dollar donation in his will with instructions that the funds be used for an appreciation dinner for all backside personnel, to be held in the Golden Gate Fields Turf Club. The Grooms, Hotwalkers, Exercise Riders and their families are looking forward to Sunday, April 21<sup>ST</sup>, where they will enjoy dinner, music, and raffles throughout the evening. As of this writing, three hundred RSVP's have been received.

4/14/24<sup>4</sup>

**CLAIM VOIDED – 4<sup>TH</sup> RACE**

The Stewards voided the claim submitted by trainer **Blaine Wright** for the four-year-old gelding “**Tiger Attack**”, in the fourth race. The Stewards were notified by the Official Veterinarian **Forrest Franklin, DVM** that “**Tiger Attack**” was unsound in the right foreleg. “**Tiger Attack**” was returned to the barn of Trainer **Andy Mathis**.

4/14/24<sup>5</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

<b>ON TRACK</b>	611	\$197,237.40
<b>SCOTWINC</b>		\$1,207,518.53
<b>OUT OF STATE + ADW</b>	N/A	\$171,416.64
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,463	\$2,006,153.73

**SUMMARY**

	<b>Fri 4/12</b>	<b>Sat 4/13</b>	<b>Sun 4/14</b>	<b>Week</b>	<b>Meet</b>
<b>Accidents</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Cal-Bred Races</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Claims</b>	2	1	5	8	105
<b>Disqualifications</b>	0	0	0	0	6
<b>Inquiries</b>	0	0	1	1	10
<b>Refunds</b>	3	3	2	8	119
<b>Rulings</b>	5	0	2	7	61
<b>Voided Claims</b>	1	0	1	2	25

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Dennis Nevin Steward

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Richard Lewis, Steward

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George Yniguez, Steward

BOS:DN:lw