

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 RACECOURSE
Cypress, California.**

TO THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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Report for the Week of Wednesday, November 12, through Sunday, November 16, 2025.

WEDNESDAY11/12/25¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward will be in the office this week to oversee entries, scratches and changes. The weather report for the rest of the week is not especially favorable for racing, but the Racing Office staff will be hard at work to fill the weekend cards.

11/12/15²**SATURDAY ENTRIES**

The entry process took quite some time, however Racing Secretary George Yniguez and his crew managed to fill eight races for the Saturday program. The draw was finalized in the neighborhood of 5:00 PM.

THURSDAY11/13/25¹**SUNDAY ENTRIES/SATUDAY CHANGES AND PANEL**

The Los Alamitos Racing Office staff are diligently working to fill a card for Sunday. We are hearing rumors that the Saturday program here may be in jeopardy as Del Mar has already issued a press release noting the cancellation of their Saturday card.

There were no scratch cards submitted for Saturday, and changes were limited to one jockey switch and two equipment changes.

The Los Alamitos entry panel convened this morning, resulting in one horse being placed on the "Hard Watch" list.

FRIDAY11/14/25¹**SUNDAY SCRATCHES/CHANGES/PANEL**

The Racing Office staff "pulled a rabbit out of a hat" late this afternoon as they somehow managed to fill an eight-race card in the face of impending storms. At 4:00 PM there were two races; at 5:00 PM this writer called regarding the status of the card and was informed that eight races had just been finalized.

Kudos to Mr. Yniguez and his determined crew.

Scratch time for the Sunday program came and went with nothing significant to report. Two equipment changes and one rider change completed the process. The Los Alamitos panel met this morning to discuss entries for Sunday. The result of the conference call was one horse being listed as a "hard watch".

11/14/25²

FATALITY REVIEW

There were two fatality reviews scheduled this morning. The first was for a pony horse from the Jim Anderson stable who had been released from its stall in the middle of the night by an unknown individual. The horse suffered a shoulder fracture during the time it was loose in the barn area and was euthanized the next morning by Dr. Troncatty. There were no witnesses to this most unfortunate event. Present, via Teams audio/video, were Tom Ward, Safety Steward Paul Atkinson, Jim Anderson and the horse's owner and breeder, Ms. Merilene Zdarstek. Veterinarian Jocelyn Lorbiecki moderated this review.

The second review was for a filly from the Patrick Gallagher barn who was fatally injured (fractured shoulder) while jogging on the training track at Santa Anita. She had been given some time off and was in the process of getting fit when the incident took place. Dr. Lorbiecki also chaired this review. Trainer Gallagher was present, as was Tom Ward and Safety Steward Brice Blanc. A good exchange of opinions and ideas going forward took place during the review.

SATURDAY

11/15/25¹

THE RAINS CAME AND RACING WAS CANCELLED

Word was received from Safety Steward Paul Atkinson mid-morning that management at Los Alamitos, in an abundance of caution for all concerned, was requesting to cancel the racing card scheduled for this evening. While the Stewards were never officially contacted by anyone in management prior to a decision being made, we wholeheartedly agree with the cancellation. Hopefully we can race tomorrow.

SUNDAY

11/16/25¹

RULING #155

Ruling #155

Jockey CESAR ORTEGA is suspended for THREE (3) Racing Days (November 30, December 6 & 7, 2025) for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (c) (2) (Use of Crop – striking mount with crop in the overhand position) while riding BIG CITY MISS in the fifth race at Los Alamitos Racecourse on November 9, 2025.

The preceding ruling was issued after Mr. Ortega looked at video of the fifth race from last Sunday, during which he used his crop in the overhand position. He was candid, stating that he knew he had violated the rule when he was told to see the Stewards.

11/16/25²

MUTUEL SNAFU

The Stewards received a call from Parimutuel Manager John Ferrero following the second race relating that Superfecta wagering was accepted on the second race in error. The field had been carded with only five runners, while the rule called for a minimum of six when wagering opened. Mr. Ferrero said that announcements were going to be made regarding the refund. The pool was small, fortunately, with the refund amounting to \$6,763.22. A letter of explanation will accompany these minutes.

11/16/25³

JOCKEY OBJECTION/NO CHANGE

The objection sign was posted following the sixth race as Ricardo Ramirez (4th, 5 Leticia) lodged a claim of foul against Damian Cruz (1st, 6 Spectacular Foose) for inference during the 110-yard event. After speaking with the riders involved and reviewing video of the race the Stewards

unanimously voted to dismiss Ramirez' claim of foul. While he did steady for an instant, his mount was running fourth when the incident took place and ultimately finished fourth.

11/16/25⁴

CHAMPIONS FIELD FILLED

The final two spots in the Champion of Champions field were filled this evening as old foes Jeriko and Empressum finished first and second, respectively, in the Z Wayne Griffin Directors Trials. Time was of the essence as openings in the field went to the two fastest times of the fifteen horses attempting to qualify. Jeriko's winning time for the 400 yards was 19.493., with Empressum a few thousandths slower.

11/16/25⁵

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

- 1st Race #2 Don't Get Me Wrong (Tr. G. Ruffu) Track Condition – Stewards – Refund: \$335.84
- 2nd Race No Changes
- 3rd Race #6 Bucky's Boy (Tr. R. Lucas) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$183.10
- 4th Race #2 Funky Grey (Tr. A. Aquino) Track Condition – Stewards – Refund: \$538.60
- 5th Race No Changes
- 6th Race No Changes
- 7th Race No Changes
- 8th Race No Changes

11/16/25⁶

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	717	\$99,547.60
SCOTWINC	890	\$228,188.40
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,098,664.21
TOTAL	1,607	\$1,426,400.21

SUMMARY

	Fri 11/14	Sat 11/15	Sun 11/16	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	C	0	0	10
Cal-Bred Races	A	A	0	0	12
Claims	R	N	1	1	104
Disqualifications	K	C	0	0	18
Inquiries	D	E	1	1	30
Refunds	A	L	4	4	323
Rulings	Y	E	1	1	155
Voided Claims	!	D	0	0	24

Tom Ward, Steward

Richard Lewis, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

BOS:TW:dj