

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS
LOS ALAMITOS RACECOURSE
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 Wednesday, December 17, through Sunday 21, 2025.

WEDNESDAY12/17/25¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Steward Ron Church was present to supervise entries for Saturday, December 20, 2025, and will record the minutes for this reporting period.

12/17/15²**JOCKEY JOSE NICASIO HEARING – (CASE #25LA0001)**

A formal hearing was conducted today to address the complaint filed by the California Horse Racing Board against Jockey Jose M. Nicasio alleging a violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1902(d) (Conduct Detrimental to Horse Racing). Present at the hearing were the Board of Stewards, Tom Ward, Richard Lewis, and Ron Church. Representing the California Horse Board was Deputy Attorney General Ida Rechdouni, Respondent Jose M. Nicasio, Attorney Andres Bustamante representing Mr. Nicasio and Court Reporter Michelle Derieg who recorded the proceedings. Once the hearing commenced and the charges were formally read into the record, Ms. Rechdouni informed the Stewards that a settlement agreement had been reached that was mutually agreeable to both parties. The final terms of the agreement will be submitted to the California Horse Racing Board for approval. At that time the hearing was adjourned, and the Stewards will await the Board's response. More to come.

THURSDAY12/18/25¹**ENTRIES AND SCRATCHES**

Steward Ron Church was once again present to supervise entries for Sunday, December 21, 2025, and changes to Saturday's program.

12/18/25²**ENTRY PANEL**

The entry panel met this morning to review the entries for Saturday's program. Following the review there were no recommended panel changes.

12/18/25³

STEWARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

Los Alamitos Stewards Tom Ward, Richard Lewis, Ron Church, Safety Stewards Eddie Rich and George Yniguez were online for the Microsoft Teams meeting chaired by Chief Steward Darrel McHargue. There were several items on the agenda that were discussed that were very informative for all.

FRIDAY

12/19/25¹

ENTRY PANEL

The entry panel met this morning to review the entries for Sunday's program. Following the review there was one recommended panel scratch and three entries designated as hard watches.

12/19/25²

SCRATCHES AND CHANGES

Steward Ron Church was present to supervise scratches and changes to Sunday's program.

SATURDAY

12/20/25¹

RULING #175

Ruling #175

Trainer JESUS NUNEZ is fined ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00)* for violation of Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority rule #2230 (e) (Treatment Restrictions – possession of hypodermic needles and syringes, and injectable medication) on June 8, 2025, at Los Alamitos Racecourse.

The foregoing ruling was issued after the Stewards considered the evidence and testimony presented at the formal hearing held on Thursday December 11, 2025. The decision was unanimous.

12/20/25²

RULING #176

Ruling #176

Jockey EDUARDO NICASIO is suspended three (3) racing days (January 3, 4 and 10, 2026) for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (c) (2) (Use of Crop - striking mount with crop in overhand position) while riding UNRELENTLESS in the eighth race at Los Alamitos Racecourse on December 13, 2025

The above ruling was issued after Mr. Nicasio, and the Stewards reviewed the eighth race (Grade 1 Los Alamitos Champion of Champions) from Saturday December 13, 2025. Mr. Nicasio acknowledged he used his crop in the overhand position and accepted the penalty imposed. The decision was unanimous.

12/20/25³

RULING #177

Ruling #177

Jockey RICARDO S. RAMIREZ, who rode JESS IM WORTH IT in the eighth race at Los Alamitos Racecourse on December 14, 2025, is suspended three (3) racing days (January 3, 4 and 10, 2026) for failure to make the proper effort to maintain a straight course, causing interference resulting in the disqualification of his mount from third to ninth. This constitutes a violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1699 (Riding Rules – Careless Riding).

Jockey Ricardo Ramirez, accompanied by trainer Jesus Nunez, who served as an interpreter, met with the Stewards to review Mr. Ramirez's, ride in the eighth race (Grade 1 Los Alamitos Two Million Futurity), held on Sunday December 14, 2025. Mr. Ramirez acknowledged the incident, attributing the contact to his horse taking a bad step. He also stated that he made the best effort he could in the moment to control his mount. While we acknowledged his effort, it was noted that the corrective action came only after the initial contact had occurred. In the majority decision, Steward Ward dissenting, we issued the above ruling.

12/20/25⁴

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st Race #4 Renzo (Jockey Cristobal Herrera) – Replaced by Cesar Ortega
#7 Elempresario (Tr. J. Nunez) – Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$847.11

- 2nd Race #3 San Jac (Tr. S. Rivera) – Stewards – Refund: \$200.36
- 3rd Race #1 Lord Dunmore (Tr. R. Hanson) – Claimed by Tr. Adain Farias
#2 Bet The Om (Tr. S. Paldanius) – Claimed by Tr. Jorge Farias
- 4th Race #5 Coach Randy B (M. Stortz) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$198.03
- 5th Race No Changes
- 6th Race No Changes
- 7th Race No Changes
- 8th Race No Changes

12/20/25⁵

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	816	\$78,808.80
SCOTWINC	1,171	\$204,933.30
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$718,060.02
TOTAL	1,987	\$1,001,802.12

SUNDAY
12/21/25¹

RULING #178

Ruling #178

Jockey CESAR FRANCO is fined ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (b) (8) (Use of Riding Crop – more than six times during the running of the race) while riding Jess Being A Friend in the eighth race at Los Alamitos Racecourse on December 20, 2025.

The above ruling was issued after jockey Cesar Franco came to the office to review his crop use during the eighth race last night. Mr. Franco agreed that he violated the crop rule and accepted the penalty imposed. The decision was unanimous.

12/21/25²

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

- 1st Race No Changes
- 2nd Race #2 C'Mon Lets Switch (Tr. R. Lucas) – Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$354.01
- 3rd Race #4 Nomad Too (Tr. S. Morfin) – Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$1,126.17
#5 Bravery (Tr. S. Willoughby) – Claimed by Tr. S. Morfin
- 4th Race No Changes
- 5th Race #1 La Solita (Tr. F. Gonzalez) – Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$435.25
7 She Is Real (Tr. S. Willoughby) – Claimed by S. Morfin
- 6th Race No Changes
- 7th Race No Changes
- 8th Race No Changes

12/21/25³

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	607	\$80,807.00
SCOTWINC	897	\$179,586.90
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$1,084,754.85
TOTAL	1,504	\$1,345,148.75

SUMMARY

	Fri 12/19	Sat 12/20	Sun 12/21	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	0	0	0	13
Cal-Bred Races	A	0	0	0	12
Claims	R	2	2	4	112
Disqualifications	K	0	0	0	21
Inquiries	D	0	0	0	34
Refunds	A	3	3	6	361
Rulings	Y	3	1	4	168
Voided Claims		0	0	0	27

Ron Church, Steward

Tom Ward, Steward

Richard Lewis, Steward

BOS:RC:dj