

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**

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C. Scott Chaney, Executive Director
Cynthia Alameda, Deputy Executive Director
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report for the Week of Wednesday, January 14, through Sunday January 18, 2026.

WEDNESDAY1/14/26¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward will be on "dawn patrol" this week and will also be writing minutes. With good weather ahead, everyone is hopeful that entries go well.

THURSDAY1/15/26¹**SATURDAY CARD/SUNDAY ENTRIES/SATURDAY SCRATCHES AND PANEL**

The Racing Office put together an eight-race card for Saturday, with six Thoroughbred or Mixed Breed races along with two Quarter Horse sprints. The entry process for Sunday is under way. The Los Alamitos panel met this morning, resulting in one horse being scratched due to nagging veterinary concerns. The rest of scratch time business was completed with only purse corrections and parimutuel wagering option changes.

1/15/26²**HEARING DAY**

Possible HISA Violation Heard; Trainer Jesus Uranga was in our office this in response to a complaint generated by HISA but filed by Board investigators for violation of rule #2271 (a)(6)(Prohibited Practices).

The complaint alleged that one of Mr. Uranga's horses, Abadon, was observed in its stall by Dr. Becky Fitzgerald with what was termed as a "blister" on both front legs.

Trainer Uranga was adamant that the horse had not been "blistered". He said that the horse was in the care of a new groom, who had put a Furacin "sweat" on the horse and did not properly remove the remnants. He produced photos of the horse taken after the "sweat" was removed and the legs of the horse were clean. He said that he does not blister his horses as a treatment for lameness. We will take his testimony into consideration before issuing a decision in the matter.

1/15/26³**FINANCIAL SETTLED**

There were three financial complaints settled this morning, either by payment in full or financial agreements reached.

1/15/26⁴

FINANCIAL AGREEMENT RE-VISTED

The continuing saga of Gordon Feed vs Adan Farias was heard again this morning. The complaint goes back to late 2024, when Ms. Robyn Gordon filed a complaint against Mr. Farias for a feed bill well in excess of \$100,000.00. The original agreement was that Mr. Farias would pay \$1,500.00 per month on the bill and 50% of any stake's earnings. At the time there was no discussion regarding the addition of a 1.5% interest charge on the outstanding balance. Unfortunately, the interest charge per month is more than what Mr. Farias is paying. This is a "no win" situation for all involved, including the Stewards. Unless Ms. Gordon eliminates finance charges or Mr. Farias increases his monthly payment, the original amount will never be paid off.

1/15/26⁵

SUNDAY CARD IN TROUBLE

Entries for this coming Sunday, January 18th, did not fill as of 9:00 PM this evening only four races had sufficient entries to be used. The Racing Office is open this morning in the hope that more horses will be entered.

FRIDAY

1/16/26¹

IT'S A MIRACLE

The Sunday card was somehow filled and drawn at 8:30 this morning. What caused the sudden influx of entries remains unknown, but the main thing is that we will race.

1/16/26²

SCRATCHES AND PANEL FOR SUNDAY

Fields for the Sunday racing program are short; consequently, there were no scratches or rider changes for Sunday. The panel did not meet this morning due to time constraints. Any problems will be handled on an individual basis.

SATURDAY

1/17/26¹

ELEVATOR PROBLEM IS ONGOING

Due to the "Press" elevator being inoperable for the second week in a row, the Stewards and Placing Judges, along with a number of people whose positions require them to be on the roof level for the racing program, are being forced to make the five-story hike from the Vessel's Club level to the roof. The elevator, which has been used for decades, is unreliable at best, and recently has been showing its age even more so.

Parts are hard to find for an elevator this old. As an example, the last time a major part was needed, it was found at a building in Chicago, Illinois, which was being demolished. In the meantime, we will be "hoofing it to the crow's nest".

1/17/26²

RULING #8

Ruling #8

Jockey HENRY REYNOSO LOPEZ is fined SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$750.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (b) (8) (Use of Riding Crop – more than six times during the race) while riding Rockin With Energy in the tenth race at Los Alamitos Racecourse on January 11, 2026.

This ruling was issued after Mr. Lopez had viewed the tenth race from last Sunday evening (Grade I, Charger Bar), during which he violated the crop rule. He readily agreed that he was in violation, stating that he just got excited nearing the wire and lost track of the count. Mr. Church dissented, feeling that the violation was worthy of a more stringent penalty.

1/17/26³

VIDEO REVIEW

Jockey Armando Aguilar was in the office to review the third race from last Sunday during which he contributed to interference in the far turn. He was on the outside of a four-horse spread when his mount came in slightly. The only thing which led to a warning was that there was a horse to

his outside which prevented him from relieving the pressure. Steward Nuesch dissented, as he felt that days were in order.

1/17/26⁴

CLAIM VOIDED

A claim deposited prior to the eighth race by trainer Cesar DeAlba for #2 Noisy Kid was voided as the horse was unsound during its time in the detention barn. The horse was returned to the barn of trainer Sergio Morfin.

1/17/26⁵

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st Race No Changes
2nd Race No Changes
3rd Race #7 Gentle Julia (Tr. M. Stortz) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$170.24
4th Race #6 Mo Pearls Please (Tr. J. Hollendorfer) Unsound–Dr. Fitzgerald–Refund: \$641.35.
5th Race No Changes
6th Race #1Formidable Threat (Tr. J. Ramos) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$186.32
7th Race #3 Above (Tr. S. Morfin) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$217.43
#5 Plea Deal (Tr. E. Andrade) Injured on way to paddock – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$2,107.83
8th Race #3 Corazon Agavero (Tr. A. Farias) Unseated rider/ran off – Stewards – Refund: \$2,895.58
#5 Singing Along (Tr. S. Willoughby) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$165.59

1/17/26⁶

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	796	\$98,017.90
SCOTWINC	1,022	\$202,214.20
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$878,998.55
TOTAL	1,818	\$1,179,230.65

SUNDAY

1/18/26¹

REFUND

A refund was ordered in the eighth race as #4 Leticia became fractious in the starting gate during the loading process and suffered an injury. Racing Veterinarian Rebecca Fitzgerald recommended the horse be declared, with the refund amounting to \$14,376.66

1/18/26²

ACCIDENT/INQUIRY/NO CHANGE

The Inquiry sign was posted following the eighth race as the Stewards reviewed the circumstances which resulted in jockey Irving Lara being unseated from his mount, #6 Bar R Dashin Rain, shortly after the start.

After reviewing video of the race, the Stewards determined that Bar R Dashin Rain broke stride and attempted to buck, causing Lara to lose his balance and fall. Fortunately, neither horse nor rider showed any ill effects from the incident. The horse will be placed on the Stewards' List and must re-qualify.

1/18/26³

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st Race No Changes
2nd Race #2 C Plum Run (Tr. M. Stortz) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$288.00
3rd Race #6 Shake N Fries (Tr. R. Lucas) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$166.46
#7 My Man Bags (Tr. G. Lopez) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$508.43
4th Race #4 Mia Forza (Tr. L. Campuzano) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$553.39
5th Race No Changes
6th Race #3 Sensational (Tr. F. Rodriguez) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$323.04
7th Race No Changes
8th Race #4 Leticia (Tr. J. Nunez) Gate Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$14,376.66

1/18/26⁴

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	534	\$55096.70
SCOTWINC	914	\$179948.60
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$879,603.97
TOTAL	1,448	\$1,114,649.27

SUMMARY

	Fri 1/16	Sat 1/17	Sun 1/18	Week	Meet
Accidents	D	0	1	1	1
Cal-Bred Races	A	0	0	0	0
Claims	R	4	1	5	7
Disqualifications	K	0	0	0	0
Inquiries	D	0	1	1	5
Refunds	A	7	5	12	23
Rulings	Y	1	0	1	8
Voided Claims		1	0	1	3

Tom Ward, Steward

David Nuesch, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

BOS:TW:dj