

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS
LOS ANGELES TURF CLUB, INC.
Arcadia, 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 Monday, February 9, 2026, through Monday, February 16, 2026.

MONDAY
02/09/26¹

ENTRY DAY

The racing office was open today accepting entries for Sunday February 15, 2026. Grant Baker was on duty in the Stewards Office for the CHRB. Racing Secretary Jason Egan and his staff drew a total of nine (9) races. Eighty horses (80) are scheduled to start.

TUESDAY
02/10/26¹

ENTRY DAY

The racing office was open today accepting entries for Sunday February 16, 2026. This President's Day card will have eight (8) races. Fifty-eight (58) horses are scheduled to start. Steward Grant Baker was on duty for the CHRB.

THURSDAY
02/12/26¹

JAMEY THOMAS HEARINGS (CASE # 25SR0030, CASE #25SR0028 & CASE #25SR0029)

Three (3) former employees of Trainer Jamey Thomas have filed individual complaints against Trainer Thomas for delinquent payment of wages. The participants in this hearing were at San Luis Rey Downs and Santa Anita Park. All three (3) hearings were chaired by Steward Luis Jauregui and conducted on the Microsoft Teams computer format. The cover page of the three (3) hearings are listed below.

02/12/26²

JOSE RODRIGUEZ VS. JAMEY THOMAS (CASE #25SR0028)

The complaint cover page reads as follows:

Jose Rodriguez states he worked as a groom for Trainer Jamey Thomas during October 16th through December 22, 2025. Rodriguez states Thomas still owes him \$4,170 for grooming services during that period.

CHRB Investigator Steve Manila was sitting alongside Groom Jose Rodriguez at San Luis Rey Downs. Jessica Zeichner served as an interpreter for all three hearings.

CHRB Octavio Vergara Jr. assisted Stewards on the technology side here at Santa Anita Park. The current balance past due is \$3,670. Trainer Thomas and Mr. Rodriguez signed a CHRB Financial Agreement whereby \$500 every two weeks will be paid until the monies owed have been paid in full.

02/12/26³

ANGEL LARA VS JAMEY THOMAS (CASE #25SR0030)

The complaint cover page reads as follows:

Angel Lara states he worked as a groom and hotwalker for Trainer Jamey Thomas during November 11th through December 23, 2025. Lara states that Thomas still owes him \$3,212.85 for grooming and hot walking services during that period.

The individuals that participated in this hearing were the same that participated in the previous hearing. A CHRB Financial Complaint Agreement was signed by both Trainer Thomas and Groom Lara. The current balance in this matter is \$2,712.85. Mr. Thomas has agreed to pay Mr. Lara \$500 every two weeks until these wages have been paid in full.

02/12/26⁴

BELTER ORELLANA VS. JAMEY THOMAS (CASE #25SR0029)

The cover page of this complaint reads as follows:

Belter Orellana declares that Jamey Thomas owes him the amount of \$4000 for services rendered as an Exercise Rider.

CHRB Investigator Victor Ibarra-Coda put together a fourteen (14) page complaint packet and presented it at this hearing. All the other participants in this hearing were involved with the two prior hearings. The current balance due in this matter is \$3500. A CHRB Financial Complaint Agreement has been signed whereby Trainer Thomas agrees to pay \$500 every two weeks until these wages have been paid in full.

FRIDAY

02/13/26¹

NEW CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

Newly hired Chief Investigator Vittorio Racowschi paid a visit to our Stewards' Office today. This is at least the fourth time this month that Mr. Racowschi has paid a visit to the Stewards Office. Later in the day, during the races, Chief Racowschi and Supervising Investigator (Santa Anita) Mike Barker visited the Judges' Stand high upon the rooftop of the Santa Anita grandstand.

02/13/26²

Yael Rivera Hearing

The Stewards held an informal hearing for Exercise Rider Yael Rivera today. CHRB Safety Steward George Yniguez was alongside Mr. Rivera in the CHRB Investigators office at San Luis Rey Downs. This hearing was held on the Microsoft Teams format. Safety Steward Yniguez witnessed Exercise Rider Rivera use his riding crop during a morning workout at this San Diego County training center. This is not allowed for non-safety reasons. More to follow.

02/13/26³

SMOOTH RACING

Today's eight (8) race card went well, as it was free of Steward Inquiries and/or Jockey Objections.

02/13/26⁴

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES & REFUNDS

1st Race Spun Not Stirred (Tr. P. Eurton) claimed, G. Vallejo, trainer
3rd Race Declaration #5 Faithful Truth (Tr. S. Knapp) Sick—Jay Deluhery DVM

REFUND: \$107.10
 3rd Race #3 Perfect Life (Tr. R. Gomez) claimed, L. Campuzano, trainer
 5th Race #4 Unwritten (Tr. J. Periban) claimed, R. Hanson, trainer
 7th Race #5 Lovin' On the Run (Tr. I. Tamayo) claimed, L. Powell, trainer

02/13/26⁵

ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	2,427	\$389,738.03
SCOTWINC	2,398	\$840,829.72
OUT OF STATE + ADW	n/a	\$3,789,466.58
TOTAL	4,825	\$5,430,360.89

SATURDAY Yael Rivera Ruling

02/14/26¹

The Stewards deliberated on this matter following an informal hearing that was held in our office yesterday. Safety Steward George Yniguez presented a Violation Notice and a video of the incident that the Stewards determined was a rule violation. In a unanimous decision the following ruling was issued.

RULING #37

Exercise Rider Yael Rivera is fined THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1688(b)(1) (Use of Riding Crop - use of crop during a.m. training) on February 7, 2026, at San Luis Rey Training Center.

02/14/26²

Epifanio Garcia Hearing/Ruling

Jockey Epifanio Garcia appeared in the Stewards' Office to address a Safety Vest matter that was brought to the attention of the Stewards by Santa Anita Safety Steward Paul Atkinson. Trainer D. Wayne Baker accompanied Jockey Garcia to the Stewards' Office. Safety Steward Atkinson was also present for today's informal hearing. The Stewards were informed that Jockey Garcia has been wearing a vest, in the morning, that is not compliant with CHRB regulations. Testimony today indicated Jockey Garcia had received at least two (2) warnings. In a unanimous decision the following ruling was issued.

RULING #38

Jockey Epifanio Garcia is fined ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1689.1 (Safety Vest Required - use of non-approved vest) on February 13, 2026, at Santa Anita Park.

02/14/26³

Cristobal Herrera Film Review

Jockey Cristobal Herrera was called into the Stewards' Office to review his winning ride in the fifth race yesterday February 13. Jockey Herrera was victorious aboard #11 Outrageous in this 5 ½ furlong main track event. At first glance, the Stewards felt Jockey Herrera used his riding crop seven times. Upon further review, before the ¼ pole location, one of the alleged strikes was questionable as it was possible that he 'flagged' (no contact) his mount. Jockey Herrera was cautioned to employ his riding crop no more than six (6) times in a race. Warning issued.

02/14/26⁴

Kyle Frey Film Review/HISA Penalty

Jockey Kyle Frey appeared in our office to review his ride in yesterday's (February 13) seventh race. In this six (6) furlong main track event Jockey Frey was aboard second place finisher #8 Artisma. The Stewards observed Jockey Frey using his riding crop seven (7) times in this race. Steward Luis Jauregui chaired an informal

film review in our office. Jockey Frey agreed with the Stewards analysis that he used his riding crop seven (7) times, which is a HISA violation.

Earlier this week Chief Steward Darrel McHargue informed this Board of Stewards that jockeys that are issued HISA crop violations will no longer receive their penalty on a CHRB ruling form. This Stewards Ruling will be issued on a HISA Stewards Ruling form only. Jockey Frey was suspended one (1) day (February 28, 2026). He was also fined \$500.00. Our decision in this matter was unanimous.

02/14/26⁵

ARMANDO AYUSO FILM REVIEW

Jockey Armando Ayuso appeared in the Stewards' Office to review his ride in the eighth race yesterday, February 13. In this one (1) mile turf race Ayuso was aboard third place finisher #4 Robin Olds. In mid-stretch #4 Robin Olds closes strongly when he shifts out and contacts sixth place finisher #5 Desert Hawk (Kazushi Kimura). Jockey Kimura checked his horse to avoid the heels of #4 Robin Olds. There was only one mitigating factor in Jockey Ayuso's behalf. A tiring horse in front of him, fifth place finisher #9 Beeblebrox (Welfin Orantes) drifted out somewhat into the path of Jockey Armando Ayuso. In a close call Jockey Aysuso did **not** receive a riding suspension. Warning issued.

02/14/26⁶

GOOD RACING

Today's nine (9) race card went well, as it was free of Steward Inquiries and/or Jockey Objections.

02/14/26⁷

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, AND REFUNDS

2nd Race #5 Love Our Family (Tr. S. Knapp) claimed, R. Ellis, trainer
7th Race Declaration #2 Smooth Salute (Tr. A. Marquez) Stake-Stewards REFUND: \$755.30
8th Race Declaration #8 Go Trigger Cut (Tr. B. McLean) Fell in Paddock—Jay Deluhery DVM. REFUND: \$10,321.23
9th Race Declaration #2 Convo (Tr. J. Sadler) Injured—Nolton Pattio VMD REFUND: \$1,986.73

02/14/26⁸

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	8,012	\$1,101,509.34
SCOTWINC	3,963	\$1,555,617.93
OUT OF STATE + ADW	n/a	\$5,700,873.13
TOTAL	11,975	\$9,144,377.20

SUNDAY

02/15/26¹

MORNING WORK

The Stewards addressed routine matters in our office today. Steward Kim Sawyer oversaw all 'changes' off today's racing program. All scratches were activated shortly after 9:30 a.m. scratch time.

02/15/26²

VOIDED CLAIM—RACE 3

Trainer Steve Knapp claimed #9 Cloudy Women for \$25,000 in today's third race. Following this race CHRB Veterinarian Nolton Pattio informed the Stewards that this horse was unsound after his examination. Stewards officially voided this claim and this second-place finisher returned to the barn of original trainer John Sadler.

02/15/26³

FIFTH RACE INQUIRY/JOCKEY'S OBJECTION

Following the running of this one (1) mile turf race the Stewards posted the Inquiry sign. There was also a Jockey's Objection lodged. Jockey Kazushi Kimura, who rode third place finisher #6 Hardtobebetternow claimed foul against first place finisher #3 Zagreus (Diego Herrera) for alleged interference in the stretch. There was contact between these two rivals in the final 100 yards of this race. #6 Hardtobebetternow was beaten by a neck for second place. Film review of this race shows that neither horse ran perfectly straight before there was contact. The Stewards spoke to both Jockeys involved, received a Patrol Judge report and reviewed all available camera angles of the incident. It was determined that the actions of these two (2) horses offset each other. In a unanimous decision, the Stewards allowed the original placings to stand. No Change.

02/15/26⁴

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES & REFUNDS

1st Race Declaration #6 Bad Reputation (Tr. K. Headley) Injured-Jay Deluhery DVM. REFUND: \$670.60
5th Race #9 Going Nowhere (Tr. R. Hanson) Injured-Nolton Pattio VMD REFUND: \$1,050.48
8th Race #6 Madakat Road (Tr. B. Baffert) Unsound- Jay Deluhery DVM REFUND: \$3,283.00

02/15/26⁵

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	10,654	\$896,821.17
SCOTWINC	3,251	\$1,100,447.27
OUT OF STATE + ADW	n/a	\$7,522,007.81
TOTAL	13,905	\$10,051,676.32

MONDAY

02/16/26¹

RACING CANCELLED

Yesterday, Sunday February 15 at 7:08 a.m., Santa Anita Director of Racing Jason Eagan sent out a Mass Text Message to all local horsemen. The text message reads in part as follows:

ATTENTION HORSEMEN: Monday's race card has been cancelled due to the incoming rainstorm. The cancelled races are now back as late extras #10-17 and offered in the order which they were carded for Monday. You will need to re-enter this morning. Every effort will be made to use the cancelled races over the next weekend.

Steward Grant Baker was the Duty Steward today. Stewards Jauregui and Sawyer were on duty for a partial day handling routine matters. Entries were taken in the Racing Office for Saturday, February 21. Ten (10) races will be contested. Ninety-five (95) horses are scheduled to start.

VETERINARIAN REPORT – WEEK OF 02/09/26 TO 02/015/26

Horses on Vet List	14
Horses off Vet List	7
Shock Wave Therapy	3
Fatalities	0
Medication	0

SUMMARY

	Fri 02/13	Sat 02/14	Sun 02/15	Mon 02/16	Week	Meet
Accidents	0	0	0	No	0	5
Cal-Bred Races	1	3	2	racing	6	45
Claims	4	1	0	No	5	43
Disqualifications	0	0	0	racing	0	1
Inquiries	0	0	1	No	1	9
Refunds	7	5	7	racing	19	112
Rulings	0	2	0	No	2	38
Voided Claims	0	0	1	racing	1	5

Grant Baker, Steward

Luis Jauregui, Steward

Kim Sawyer, Steward

BOS:GB:sh