

**CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

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**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS  
LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE  
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 March 4, 2026, through March 8, 2026.**

**WEDNESDAY**3/04/26<sup>1</sup>**DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward will be on the early shift this week for entries, scratches and panel duties. Ward will also be writing minutes for the coming week.

3/04/26<sup>2</sup>**SATURDAY ENTRIES**

The Racing Office crew is hard at work this morning, hoping to fill an eight-race program for Saturday in a reasonable amount of time.

3/04/26<sup>3</sup>**FATALITY REVIEW**

There were two fatality reviews conducted this morning. Mike Marlow, assistant trainer for Bob Baffert, along with Safety Steward Brice Blanc and Tom Ward, were at Los Alamitos during the reviews. Mr. Baffert and Regulatory Veterinarian Jocelyn Lorbiecki participated remotely.

The horses involved were Non Compliant, a Graded Stakes winning three-year-old filly, and Willy, a non-starting four-year-old colt. Both horses suffered shoulder fractures during training following a return from layoffs. Mr. Baffert and Mr. Marlow both had excellent recall of the horses despite the fact that the incidents took place approximately ten months ago.

This writer feels that it would be helpful if the reviews could be conducted in a more expeditious manner. That way, memories would be fresher and perhaps lead to increased information being exchanged.

3/04/26<sup>4</sup>**JOCKEY PHYSICALS ISSUE**

Early this morning there were approximately a dozen jockeys who had not completed their yearly physical examinations. Following a discussion last weekend, it was agreed that they could not be named on horses until we had assurance that they were in compliance with the rule. Amazingly, the non-complaint riders produced physical cards signed by local physicians

before entries were drawn. Osvaldo Rivera and other Racing Office staff were extremely helpful in getting the needed paperwork.

## **THURSDAY**

3/05/26<sup>1</sup>

### **SUNDAY ENTRIES / SATURDAY CHANGES AND PANEL**

Entries for the Sunday card are under way, with Derby trials and the Brad McKinzie Winter Championship on tap. There was only one change for Saturday, that being a Lasix correction. The Los Alamitos panel met this morning, resulting in one horse being declared as it was not eligible to enter, and three horses being designated as "hard watch".

3/05/26<sup>2</sup>

### **HEARING DAY**

Since hearings scheduled did not go forward, the Stewards spent the morning dealing with jockey physicals and old business. Owner Joe Cody, who was suspended for a failure to appear at a financial hearing at Golden Gate Fields, took care of his delinquent vet bill to San Francisco Equine and is eligible to be re-licensed. The ruling will be issued this weekend.

Also, several riders still have been reluctant to have their yearly physicals completed. We alerted their agents that they would not be participating without proof of an examination. There are riders coming in from out of town for trials this weekend, so we are attempting to contact them regarding the issue.

## **FRIDAY**

3/06/26<sup>1</sup>

### **SUNDAY SCRATCHES AND PANEL**

Scratch time was uneventful, as "No Show" wagering was added onto two races. The panel met for an extended conference this morning, resulting in six "hard watch" horses; two of them are in the Grade I Brad McKinzie Winter Championship.

## **SATURDAY**

3/07/26<sup>1</sup>

### **RULING #20**

This ruling was issued as Mr. Herrera rode a late race at Santa Anita and could not get here in time to fulfill his commitment.

#### Ruling #20

Jockey CRISTOBAL HERRERA is fined ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)\* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1872 (Failure to Fulfill Jockey Agreement), causing a late rider change in the first race at Los Alamitos Race Course on March 1, 2026.

3/07/26<sup>2</sup>

### **RULING #21**

This ruling was issued against Mr. Gonzalez as he was seen using his riding crop on a fractious two-year-old coming back from the track. His excuse did not absolve him of culpability.

#### Ruling # 21

Jockey JESSE P. GONZALEZ is fined THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00)\* and placed on probation until September 1, 2026, for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (b)(1) (Use of Riding Crop – in an excessive manner during training when not necessary for safety of horse or rider).

3/07/26<sup>3</sup>

### **RULING #22**

#### Ruling #22

Owner JOSEPH CODY, having appeared and complied with the provisions of California Horse Racing Board rule #1876 (Financial Responsibility – San Francisco Equine) is restored to good standing and is eligible to be re-licensed. Ruling #ACFA006, issued at Alameda County Fair on July 5, 2007, is set aside

The foregoing ruling was put in print as Mr. Cody has resolved his indebtedness to San Francisco Equine.

3/07/26<sup>4</sup>

**GATE INCIDENT - REFUND**

#2 Checkn Eagle was a late declaration from tonight's seventh race as the filly flipped in her stall and became wedged under the starting gate. Starter Gary Brinson and his crew worked quickly to free her and, fortunately, she emerged from the harrowing incident with minor injuries. The rider, Armando Viramontes, was not hurt. The refund from the scratch amounted to \$9,975.14.

3/07/26<sup>5</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, CLAIMS AND REFUNDS**

1<sup>st</sup> Race #5 Toddmichael (Tr. S. Paldanius) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$352.90  
2<sup>nd</sup> Race #6 Elegant Sway (Tr. A. Aquino) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$345.50  
6<sup>th</sup> Race #7 Where Is Queen (Tr. J. Gonzales) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald - Refund: \$243.65  
8<sup>th</sup> Race #1 Energy Six (Tr. S. Morfin) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald - Refund: \$608.52

3/07/26<sup>6</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

<b>ON TRACK</b>	791	\$85,848.90
<b>SCOTWINC</b>	1,068	\$244,385.40
<b>OUT OF STATE + ADW</b>	N/A	\$941,231.51
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,859	\$1,271,465.81

**SUNDAY**

3/08/26<sup>1</sup>

**RULING #23**

Ruling #23

Jockey CRISTOBAL HERRERA is fined ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)\* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1872 (Failure to Fulfill Jockey Agreement), causing a late rider change in the first race at Los Alamitos Race Course on March 7, 2026.

The foregoing ruling was issued as Mr. Herrera chose to ride a late race at Santa Anita, preventing him from honing his call in the first race at this venue.

3/08/26<sup>2</sup>

**QUIET EVENING**

The eight-race program was conducted without incident. Three trials for the El Primero Del Ano Derby were clean and the Grade I Brad McKinzie Winter Championship was trouble free.

3/08/26<sup>3</sup>

**ODDS AND ENDS**

Field size so far this year has continued to be a major concern as the Racing Office staff has been working long hours to fill races. The yearly shortage of older horses seems to be worse this year and will be a problem until the two-year-old program kicks in.

The problem with the "Press" elevator, which is used to travel from the ground floor to the roof, has not been rectified. The situation started on the weekend of January 3, 2026, and we are now in the second week of March. Management has not been forthcoming as to when the problem will be solved; or if it will be solved.

3/08/26<sup>4</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES, CLAIMS AND REFUNDS**

1<sup>st</sup> Race #4 Bottom Dollar (Tr. F. Rodriguez) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$1,304.81  
#5 Keychain Girl (Tr. J. Nunez) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$565.20  
#6 Crazy About You (Tr. J. Nunez) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald. Refund: \$1,101.17

\*These scratches reduced the field to three racing interests. Consequently, there was Win wagering only\*

5<sup>th</sup> Race #6 Revolutionary V (Tr. J. Nunez) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald - Refund: \$748.83  
6<sup>th</sup> Race #5 Warmly (Tr. S. Willoughby) Lasix Registration – Dr. Beck – Refund: \$748.44  
7<sup>th</sup> Race #4 Go North (Tr. S. Willoughby) No shed row exam – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$463.77

3/08/26<sup>5</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

<b>ON TRACK</b>	743	\$83,955.50
<b>SCOTWINC</b>	909	\$242,435.20
<b>OUT OF STATE + ADW</b>	N/A	\$1,053,129.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,652	\$1,379,520.10

**SUMMARY**

	<b>Fri 03/06</b>	<b>Sat 03/07</b>	<b>Sun 03/08</b>	<b>Week</b>	<b>Meet</b>
<b>Accidents</b>	D	0	0	0	3
<b>Cal-Bred Races</b>	A	0	0	0	0
<b>Claims</b>	R	1	0	1	15
<b>Disqualifications</b>	K	0	0	0	2
<b>Inquiries</b>	-	0	0	0	12
<b>Refunds</b>	D	5	6	11	65
<b>Rulings</b>	A	3	1	4	23
<b>Voided Claims</b>	Y	0	0	0	6

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Tom Ward, Steward

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Ron Church, Steward

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David Nuesch, Steward

BOS:TW:dj