

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**

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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 Thursday, July 8, 2026, through Sunday, July 12, 2026.

WEDNESDAY7/8/26¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward is in the office this week for entries, panel, fatality review, etc. Since the world-famous Wiener Dog Nationals are scheduled for Saturday, it is about certain that management will put together a reasonable racing program. The Thoroughbreds having left for Del Mar should certainly help.

THURSDAY7/9/26¹**SATURDAY PROGRAM FILLED/SUNDAY ENTRIES**

The Racing Office staff put together an eight-race program, which will be spliced between the numerous Wiener Dog trials and finals. Traditionally, Wiener Dog night has the highest attendance of the year. Wagering not so much, as the dog owners and their fans are more concerned about the short-legged runners.

Entries are under way for Sunday, with the hope of a repeat from yesterday.

The Los Alamitos entry panel met this morning, resulting in two "Hard Watch" horses for the Saturday program. No report on the other four-legged runners performing on Saturday.

7/9/26²**HEARING DAY**

The Stewards acted as arbitrators this morning as we attempted to settle a complaint filed by trainer Francisco Rodriguez against owner Steven Skorpanich for unpaid training bills in the amount of \$7,504.00. The original hearing date was this past May, but Mr. Skorpanich did not appear at that time and was suspended.

Today's hearing was rather long and contentious at times, but ultimately the parties agreed to disagree with Mr. Skorpanich paying \$3,000.00 to finalize the complaint.

7/9/26³**RULING #57****Ruling #57**

Owner STEVEN J. SKORPANICH (SJS STABLES), having appeared before the Board of Stewards and addressed the financial complaint filed against him, is restored to good standing.

Ruling #40, issued at Los Alamitos Quarter Horse Racing Association on May 23, 2026, is set aside.

The ruling was issued as the complaint which led to the suspension was settled this morning.

7/9/26⁴

SECURITY CITATIONS ADDRESSED

Owner Jorge Reyes and Stable Employee Carolina Mendez were in the Stewards' office in response to citations issued for their actions in the stable area on the evening of July 5th. According to the security report, the couple had been drinking while at the barn of trainer Jesus Nunez. Reyes was by far the most culpable, as the report indicated that he engaged in an argument with Ms. Mendez, got into his vehicle with her, and proceeded to drive recklessly in the stable area. Fortunately, no horses or pedestrians were injured by Mr. Reyes, antics. Ms. Mendez denied that she had consumed alcohol and her statement was backed up by Mr. Reyes. She said that she became upset that Mr. Reyes was inebriated and this caused the reaction by Reyes. We will discuss the situation and issue a ruling or rulings this weekend.

FRIDAY

7/10/26¹

SUNDAY ENTRIES/PANEL/CHANGES

The Los Alamitos entry panel met this morning to discuss/dissect entries for Sunday. There were two horses designated as "hard watch". One weight correction completed scratch time.

7/10/26²

FATALITY REVIEW

A fatality review was held this morning into the history of the Champions Run, a two-year-old trained by Ramiro Castillo. Those in attendance, including the trainer, were Equine Medical Director Dr. Jeffrey Blea, Dr. Jocelyn Lorbiecki, Safety Steward Eddie Rich and Steward Tom Ward. Mr. Castillo was very open and forthcoming during the interview and a good dialog was shared by all.

SATURDAY

7/11/26¹

RULING #58

Ruling #58

Owner JORGE REYES is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* for violation of California Horse Racing Board rule #1874 (Disorderly Conduct – driving a vehicle in the stable area while intoxicated). Furthermore, Jorge Reyes must be evaluated by the Winners Foundation, abide by the terms set by their recommendations, and sign and remain on a testing agreement while holding a license with the California Horse Racing Board. Failure to do so will result in suspension of all licenses held by Jorge Reyes.

The foregoing ruling was issued after the Stewards reviewed facts contained in the security report. Ms. Mendez, the passenger in the car, received a warning.

7/11/26²

RULING #59 & #60

Ruling #59

Jockey MARTIN ARRIAGA 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 Cattail Cove in the tenth race, the Vessels Maturity at Los Alamitos Race Course on June 28, 2026.

Ruling #60

Jockey GABRIEL LARA is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* 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 Dice Game in the eighth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on July 5, 2026.

These rulings were issued for recent crop violations. Mr. Arriaga's penalty was increased as his actions occurred in a Grade I Stakes event.

7/11/26³

STARTING GATE INCIDENT / LATE DECLARATION

A refund was ordered in the second race as #4 Lucky and Gone reared in the starting gate stall and got both front legs over the stall doors. Racing Veterinarian Becky Fitzgerald recommended the horse be declared, resulting in a refund of \$17,899.48. The horse's rider, Cristobal Herrera, was not injured.

7/11/26⁴

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st Race #7 Details Matter (Tr. A. Aquino) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$651.41
 2nd Race #4 Lucky and Gone (Tr. R. Lucas) Late Gate – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$17,899.48
 3rd Race #4 Despite (Tr. G. Haley) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$218.90
 #7 Turkey Bird (Tr. A. Vega) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$210.50
 #10 Miss Chardonnay (Tr. J. Wallace) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$132.71
 4th Race #6 Brownie Foote (Jockey Cesar Franco) Replaced by Erasmo Gasca
 5th Race No Changes
 6th Race No Changes
 7th Race #4 Celtic Cowboy (Tr. J. Flores) Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$546.42
 8th Race No Changes

7/11/26⁵

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	6,436	\$157,738.90
SCOTWINC	922	\$257,917.50
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$845,780.49
TOTAL	7,358	\$1,261,436.89

SUNDAY

7/12/26¹

RULING #61

Ruling #61

Jockey EDUARDO NICASIO 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 running of the race) and rule #1688 (b)(7) (Use of Riding Crop – more than two times in succession, without giving the horse a chance to respond) while riding Rational in the ninth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on July 5, 2026.

This ruling was issued as Mr. Nicasio opted not to appear to defend his actions in the race.

7/12/26²

QUIET EVENING

There were no scratches from this evening's card, nor was there anything to report from the eight-race program.

7/12/26³

OWNER HAS SECOND THOUGHTS

Steven Skorpanich, who was just put back in good standing last Thursday, called to say that he reviewed his records and now does not want to pay the \$3,000.00 he agreed to pay his former trainer. He was told that he had the opportunity to present his case last Thursday and we felt the case was closed.

7/12/26⁴

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st Race No Changes
 2nd Race No Changes
 3rd Race No Changes
 4th Race No Changes
 5th Race No Changes
 6th Race No Changes
 7th Race No Changes
 8th Race No Changes

7/12/26⁵

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	601	\$74,527.80
SCOTWINC	872	\$189,793.60
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$836,018.15
TOTAL	1,473	\$1,100,339.55

SUMMARY

	Fri 7/10	Sat 7/11	Sun 7/12	Week	Meet
Accidents	0	0	0	0	9
Cal-Bred Races	0	0	0	0	8
Claims	0	0	0	0	38
Disqualifications	0	0	0	0	10
Inquiries	0	0	0	0	28
Refunds	0	6	0	6	182
Rulings	0	4	1	5	61
Voided Claims	0	0	0	0	14

Tom Ward, Steward

John Herbuveaux, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

BOS:TW:dj