

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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Cynthia Alameda, Deputy Executive Director
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report for the Week of Wednesday, August 19, through Sunday, August 23, 2026.

WEDNESDAY8/19/26¹**DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward will be on the "early shift" this week, tending to entries, panel and changes. Minutes will also be on Ward's "to do" list. Hopefully things will be quiet and entries will be plentiful.

8/19/26²**OUT OF STATE SHIPPERS**

A contingent of eight horses shipped from New Mexico to this facility late last evening, stabling at the barn of trainer Jesus Nunez. Reports indicate they are owned by Samuel Valeriano (dba Valeriano Racing Stables LLC), who is currently under summary suspension in New Mexico. Details are sketchy at this point; Chief Investigator Vitto Racowschi and Safety Steward Paul Atkinson are on these grounds today sorting out the situation. More to come on this matter.

THURSDAY8/20/26¹**SATURDAY CARD AND PANEL / SUNDAY ENTRIES**

The Racing Office staff worked long and hard to pull an eight-race card together for Saturday, as the draw was not concluded until well into the dinner hour. Sunday's offering should be easier to finalize as there are trials on tap.

The Los Alamitos panel met this morning. While there were no recommended scratches, several horses are on the "hard watch" protocol.

There were no changes or corrections to the Saturday program.

8/20/26²**MEDICATION HEARING**

Jose Flores was in the Stewards' office this morning in response to complaints filed against him following adverse findings in two of his horses. On June 13, 2026, Cyber Dreams and Kissallthecowboys ran and were tested post-race; both tested positive for the NSAID Phenylbutazone, a Class 4, penalty C medication.

Mr. Flores testified that he uses his veterinarians to administer the drug pre-race as he does not want to take the chance of a mistake by his employees. As such, Dr. Cecilia Chaparro and Dr. Sophia Schmidt share the responsibility for pre-race treatments. The report from Investigator Barrett Halcromb detailed that Dr. Chaparro admitted fault for the test results. She said that she administered 200 mgs of Phenylbutazone to both horses on June 11th but failed to notify Dr. Schmidt of her actions. Dr. Schmidt then gave the same dosage to them on June 12th. It seems obvious that a double treatment led to the overages. We will discuss the case and render a decision shortly.

FRIDAY
8/21/26¹

SUNDAY CARD / PANEL AND CHANGES

This Sunday's nine-race card was drawn prior to three o'clock this afternoon. A total of eight trials for the PCQHRA Breeders' Futurity and the Grade I Go Man Go Handicap comprise the program. It should be a good night of racing.

The Los Alamitos panel went over entries for Sunday, resulting in two horses being placed on the "hard watch" list for lingering physical concerns. One blinker change completed scratch time.

SATURDAY
8/22/26¹

JOCKEYS EXCUSED

Ruben Lozano and Francisco Orduna Rojas were excused this evening due to illness. Replacement riders were named.

8/22/26²

JOCKEY PHYSICAL ISSUE

Apprentice jockey Salvador Vargas was removed from his mounts this evening as documentation he provided to confirm his physical was not accepted by the Stewards. He was instructed to go to a legitimate health clinic and have the physical completed. Replacement riders were announced.

8/22/26³

REFUND

A late refund took place in the fourth race as #6 Slews Joy was unsound as it approached the starting gate and was declared on the advice of Racing Veterinarian Becky Fitzgerald. The refund amounted to \$24,324.96.

8/22/26⁴

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1ST Race No Changes
 2nd Race No Changes
 3rd Race No Changes
 4th Race #5 Shady Appeal (Tr. F. Rodriguez) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$184.50
 #6 Slew's Joy (Tr. J. Uranga) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$24,324.96
 5th Race #1 Goddessofthemoon (Tr. J. Raudales) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$78.70
 #3 Comanche Gal (Tr. V. Belvoir) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$188.95
 6th Race No Changes
 7th Race No Changes
 8th Race #6 Accuzation (Tr. E. Andrade) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$68.40

8/22/26⁵

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	805	\$76,102.10
SCOTWINC	923	\$190,958.80
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$720,814.05
TOTAL	1,737	\$987,874.95

SUNDAY

8/23/26¹

RULING #71

Ruling #71

Pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1887 (Trainer or Owner to Insure Condition of Horse), trainer JOSE FLORES who started Kissallthecowboys, winner of the fifth race at Los Alamitos Race Course and Cyber Dreams, who ran third in the seventh race at Los Alamitos Race Course both on June 13, 2026 is fined FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* for violation of CHRB rules #1843 (a) & (d) (Medication Drugs and Other Substances) and #1843.1 (Prohibited Drug Substances – Phenylbutazone – Class IV, Penalty level C). In accordance with CHRB rule #1843.4 (Multiple Medication Violations), Mr. Flores is assessed ½ point.

The foregoing ruling was issued after the Stewards considered Mr. Flores' case. While Dr. Chaparro's actions were certainly a mitigating factor, we felt that Mr. Flores was ultimately responsible for the findings.

8/23/26²

REFUND

A refund was ordered in the fourth race as #5 Like To Shine became fractious during the loading procedure, broke through the stall doors and ran off without the rider. The Stewards scratched the horse, with the refund amounting to \$7,505.67.

8/23/26³

MURPHY'S LAW STRIKES-TIMER MALFUNCTION IN 5TH TRIAL HEAT

Photo Finish Operator Jim Anderson alerted the Stewards just after the race was run that the automatic timing system on the photo finish camera failed to record times for the competing horses. He had no explanation. We had done a pre-race timer check for the race, just as we do for every trial heat, and all was in order.

We will try to sort out our options in the interest of fairness to all competitors.

As an aside, the final three trials were run without incident – timer or otherwise.

8/23/26⁴

TIMER MALFUNCTION-CHAPTER TWO

The Stewards met with Racing Secretary Smokie Rivera following the conclusion of the racing program to sort out what could be done in lieu of time for runners in the fifth race. Steward John Herbuveaux contacted Jim Porep, our resident genius on all matters dealing with video and electronic issues, to see if he could unscramble the mess. Mr. Porep indicated that he could scan the video frame by frame to extract a time, but that his margin of error could not get closer than 0.016 of a second. Since one one-thousandth of a second (0.001) could make a difference between a qualifier and non-qualifier, we did not feel that this would be proper.

The verbiage on the back of the Nomination blank for the race did give us another option. It states that "all horses shall be selected on a time trial basis; however, should variable exist which would prevent this from being feasible, the Stewards may then select the finalists on their order of finish in the trials".

More to come.

8/23/26⁵

DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS

1st Race No Changes

2nd Race #6 Mp Jess Rockin (Tr. S. Morfin) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$1,126.16

3rd Race No Changes

4th Race #4 Jessforlyndsie (Tr. J. Flores) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$123.68

#5 Like To Shine (Tr. M. Casselman) Fractious Gate – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: \$7,505.67

5th Race No Changes

6th Race No Changes

7th Race No Changes

8th Race No Changes

8/23/26⁶

DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

ON TRACK	719	\$89,860.70
SCOTWINC	871	\$175,734.30
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	\$946,824.86
TOTAL	1,590	\$1,212,419.86

SUMMARY

	Fri 8/21	Sat 8/22	Sun 8/23	Week	Meet
Accidents	0	0	0	0	9
Cal-Bred Races	0	0	0	0	16
Claims	0	1	0	1	53
Disqualifications	0	0	0	0	12
Inquiries	0	0	0	0	34
Refunds		5	3	8	226
Rulings	0	0	1	1	71
Voided Claims	0	0	0	0	18

Tom Ward, Steward

John Herbuveaux, Steward

Ron Church, Steward

BOS:TW:dj