CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 263-6000
www.chrb.ca.gov

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS
LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE
Cypress, California

TO THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report for the Week of Wednesday, September 30, through Sunday, October 4, 2026.

WEDNESDAY

9/30/26[1] **DUTY STEWARD**

Tom Ward is in the office this week. Ward will be overseeing entries, scratches and changes. He will also be documenting the happenings of the week. The Saturday racing card should be an easy fill, as trials for the Golden State Futurity are on tap.

THURSDAY

10/1/26[1] **LARGE TRIALS PROGRAM**

The entry box for Saturday was overflowing as horsemen and women entered 112 horses for the Golden State Futurity Trials. There will be fourteen races with eight head in each division. Starter Gary Brinson will have a busy evening, but once those stall doors open, responsibility shifts to the Stewards. We hope that all starters have a clean trip.

10/1/26[2] **SUNDAY ENTRIES/SATURDAY PANEL AND CHANGES**

Entries are being accepted for the Sunday program this morning. It seems unlikely that it will fill as easily as yesterday. The Los Alamitos panel met this morning to go over entries for Saturday. Three “hard watch” horses were noted during the discussion. As an aside, there are thirty-five horses shipping in from out of state which used Lasix in their last start and will not be able to receive the medication on Saturday. There was one equipment change on the program.

10/1/26[3] **OBJECTION TO DRAW NOTED**

Leonardo Gomez, assistant trainer for his father, Jaime Gomez, was in the office this morning to lodge an objection on behalf of owner Daniel Reynoso. Due to an oversight during the draw, two of Mr. Reynoso’s horses were drawn into the race going as the eighth trial. Normally, to accommodate owners, horses owned by the same racing interest are split away from one another, allowing one owner to run for two winning purses. There is no rule which requires this “split”.

The oversight was brought to light after eight trials had been drawn for post positions. The question was whether sixty-four horses should be possibly inconvenienced by a re-draw to accommodate one owner. The Stewards felt that the best course of action was to leave everything "status quo" and complete the draw.
Mr. Gomez ended his remarks by saying that he did not think a re-draw would occur at this point but had to note the objection to "protect" his owner. Objection so noted.

10/1/26[4] **POSITIVE TEST HEARINGS**

The Stewards conducted hearings this morning regarding positive tests for Ethanol Glucuronide found in two horses trained by Ramiro Zuazo. Val Bamby, winner of the sixth race at Los Alamitos on May 16, 2026, and Brownie Foose, third place finisher in the sixth race at Los Alamitos on May 24, 2026, were positive for the drug in their post-race tests.
None of the parties involved – owners, jockeys or trainer – appeared for the hearing although all had been notified.
Rulings disqualifying the horses and re-distributing purses will be forthcoming. A hearing regarding culpability for the findings will be held later.

FRIDAY

10/2/26[1] **SUNDAY PANEL AND CHANGES/FATALITY REVIEW**

The Sunday card ultimately filled with eight races, but the Racing Office staff had to work overtime to pull things together. The draw did not take place until late afternoon.

The Los Alamitos panel met once again, resulting in one hard watch horse. Two rider changes and two blinker additions completed scratch time.

Ward participated in a fatality review this morning with Dr. Jocelyn Lorbeicki, Dr. Jeff Blea, Safety Steward Eddie Rich and Trainer Doug O'Neill. One of Mr. O'Neill's horses, Hero or Zero, suffered a fractured shoulder while training at Santa Anita earlier in the year. Despite having numerous horses under his care, Mr. O'Neill had almost total recall of circumstances regarding his horse. A good discussion took place between the trainer and the veterinarians.

SATURDAY

10/3/26[1] **VIDEO REVIEW**

Damian Diaz Cruz was in the office to review the third race from last Sunday, during which he was responsible for interference on the backstretch. He allowed his mount to alter course slightly and forced a trailing rider to check briefly.
Following a thorough video review, Mr. Cruz was issued a warning by virtue of a majority decision. Steward Church felt that Cruz could have made a better effort to prevent interference, while Stewards Nuesch and Ward felt that his effort was sufficient to avoid a sanction.

10/3/26[2] **REFUND**

A refund was ordered in the sixth race as #5 AJ Majesty, which had been fractious after being loaded, broke through the stall doors, unseated the rider and ran off. The resulting scratch caused a refund of $10,380.84.

10/3/26[3] **GOOD NIGHT OF RACING**

The fourteen-race program was completed with no major incidents; there were no inquiries or rider objections. Starter Gary Brinson and his excellent crew of assistant starters should be commended for their work tonight – and every night, for that matter. Every horse had the opportunity to run their best race and that is all owners and trainers can ask of the starter and crew.

10/3/26[4] **DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS**

1st Race #1 Talker (Tr. J. Glenn, Jr.) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: $512.82
2nd Race No Changes
3rd Race No Changes
4th Race #4 Lethal Heiress (Tr. M. Rodriguez) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: $611.00
#6 Train Of Gold B (Tr. J. Aleman) Unsound – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: $531.28
5th Race No Changes
6th Race #5 Aj Majesty (Tr. J. Aleman) Broke through gate – Stewards – Refund: $10,380.84
#8 Mr Shelby (Tr. F. Gonzalez) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: $479.40
7th Race No Changes
8th Race No Changes
9th Race No Changes
10th Race #1 De Sills Story (Tr. E. Willis) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: $97.34
11th Race No Changes
12th Race No Changes
13th Race No Changes
14th Race #4 Golden Warfighter (Tr. S. Willoughby) Injured – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: $79.64

10/3/26[5] **DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

ON TRACK	1,304	$133,637.00
SCOTWINC	882	$257,771.00
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	$1,125,462.71
TOTAL	2,186	$1,516,870.71

SUNDAY

10/4/26[1] **RULINGS #81 & #82**

These rulings were issued following Thursday morning hearings into Ethanol Glucuronide found in trainer Ramiro Zuazo's horses.

Ruling #81

Acting on a report from the Ken Maddy Laboratory at the University of California Davis, the official testing laboratory for the California Horse Racing Board, that urine sample #PR05341, taken from the horse VAL BAMBY, the first place finisher in the sixth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on May 16, 2026, tested positive for Ethanol Glucuronide (Class 2/A), it is ordered that VAL BAMBY be disqualified from all purse monies earned in said race, in accordance with California Horse Racing Board rule #1859.5 (Disqualification Upon Positive Test Finding).

It is further ordered that all purse monies earned or awarded ($4,285.00) to Owner Jose Luis Valdez, Trainer Ramiro Zuazo, and Jockey Salvador Vargas be returned to the Paymaster of Purses at Los Alamitos Race Course within thirty (30) days of this ruling for redistribution, pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1760 (Purse Award or Prize to be Withheld).

Ruling #82

Acting on a report from the Ken Maddy Laboratory at the University of California Davis, the official testing laboratory for the California Horse Racing Board, that urine sample #PR06336, taken from the horse BROWNIE FOOSE, the third place finisher in the sixth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on May 24, 2026, tested positive for Ethanol Glucuronide (Class 2/A), it is ordered that BROWNIE FOOSE be disqualified from all purse monies earned in said race, in accordance with California Horse Racing Board rule #1859.5 (Disqualification Upon Positive Test Finding).

It is further ordered that all purse monies earned or awarded ($950.00) to Owner Pedro Rangel, Trainer Ramiro Zuazo, and Jockey Cristofer Ochoa be returned to the Paymaster of Purses at Los Alamitos Race Course within thirty (30) days of this ruling for redistribution, pursuant to California Horse Racing Board rule #1760 (Purse Award or Prize to be Withheld).

10/4/26[2] **CROP VIOLATION RULING**

Ruling #83

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 Faultless in the fourth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on October 3, 2026.

This preceding ruling was issued as Mr. Lara was observed violating the crop limits during the fourth race last evening. He did not appear to defend his actions.

10/4/26[3] **STEWARDS' INQUIRY AND DISQUALIFCATION**

The inquiry sign was posted following the sixth race as the Stewards reviewed two incidents in the last furlong of the race involving the first and second place finishers, #8 Twisted Humor (R. Ramirez) and #6 Stars Hollow (F. Rojas). An objection was also lodged by jockey Rojas. After a review of both incidents from all pertinent angles, the Stewards unanimously voted to disqualify Twisted Humor from first to second position. The first incident, which took place coming out of the turn, showed the original winner drifting out and forcing its rival to lose ground. The second point of interference occurred in the final stages of the race as Twisted Humor drifted out and caused Stars Hollow to alter its path once again. The combined incidents, in the Stewards' opinion, cost Stars Hollow the Win. Mr. Ramirez will review the race next Saturday.

10/4/26[4] **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 #7 Skillee (Tr. J. Gonzales, II) Unsounded – Dr. Fitzgerald – Refund: $302.00
8th Race No Changes

10/4/26[5] **DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

ON TRACK	511	$51,853.80
SCOTWINC	772	$171,965.60
OUT OF STATE + ADW	N/A	$846,105.16
TOTAL	1,283	$1,069,924.56

SUMMARY

	Fri 10/2	Sat 10/3	Sun 10/4	Week	Meet
Accidents	0	0	0	0	9
Cal-Bred Races	0	0	0	0	16
Claims	0	0	0	0	65
Disqualifications	0	0	1	1	16
Inquiries	0	0	1	1	38
Refunds	0	7	1	8	265
Rulings	0	0	3	3	83
Voided Claims	0	0	0	0	21

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Tom Ward, Steward

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David Nuesch, Steward

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Ron Church, Steward

BOS:TW:dj