

**California Horse Racing Board**

1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 263 – 6000  
(916) 263 – 6042 Fax



**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS**  
**Pacific Racing Association**  
Golden Gate Fields, Berkeley, 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 Wendy Mitchell, Member  
Honorable Alex Solis, Member  
C. Scott Chaney, Executive Director  
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

**Report for the Week of Wednesday, April 7, 2021 through Sunday, April 11, 2021**

**WEDNESDAY**4/7/21<sup>1</sup>**ENTRY DAY**

The racing office was open today accepting entries for Saturday, April 10, 2021. Steward **Dennis Nevin** was on duty in the Stewards' office overseeing matters. Nine (9) races filled with sixty (60) horses scheduled to start.

**THURSDAY**4/8/21<sup>1</sup>**FERNANDO COUTINO COMPLAINT (CASE #20BM0006)**

A hearing was scheduled at 10:30 a.m. for Groom **Fernando Coutino**. The California Horse Racing Board alleges that **Mr. Coutino** has violated Rule #1874 (Disorderly Conduct), Rule #1930 (Obedience to Security and Public Safety Officials), Rule #1887 (a) (Trainer or Owner to Insure Condition of Horse) and Rule #1902 (c) (Conduct Detrimental to Racing). The thirty-five (35) page complaint in this case was prepared by California Horse Racing Board Investigator **Noe Longoria** and reads as follows.

*On July 11, 2020, Groom **Fernando Coutino** was observed by Alameda County Fair Racing Officials walking through the Winner's Circle after a race without a mandatory face mask. Upon being advised that he needed to wear a mask he became belligerent and cussed at racing officials in Spanish. His employer observed this and also advised him to put on a mask with Groom **Coutino** remaining belligerent. Because it was evident that he was intoxicated he was subsequently terminated by his employer shortly thereafter.*

*The next day, he was again intoxicated and was advised by his former employer that he needed to leave his tack room. Groom **Coutino** barricaded himself in his tack room refusing to leave. California Horse Racing Board Investigators became involved, and while interviewing witnesses, Groom **Coutino** was excited and approached them all the while cussing at everyone who attempted to talk to him. He refused to follow simple instructions from investigators at which time fair officials requested his removal from the premises per California Horse Racing Board Rule #1989. During the entire contact, Groom **Coutino** was uncooperative, belligerent and was constantly using profanity.*

A hearing was set in front of the Golden Gate Fields Board of Stewards on August 22, 2020 with Groom **Coutino** failing to appear (See Ruling #PRTG008).

**Fernando Coutino** also failed to appear for today's hearing. He remains suspended.

4/8/21<sup>2</sup>

**JOSE AGUILA RULING (REF: 4/2/21 (3))**

The following ruling was issued after deliberation following a formal hearing utilizing the 'Microsoft Teams' format, that was held on April 2, 2021. The decision was unanimous.

**Ruling #48**

Trainer **Jose Aguila** is suspended thirty (30) days, April 9 thru May 8, 2021 (inclusive) and fined One Thousand-Five Hundred Dollars \*(\$1,500.00) pursuant to California Horse Racing Board Rule #1887 (Trainer or Owner to Insure Condition of Horse) for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1866.1 (a) (3) (Presence of Clenbuterol-out of competition testing positive for Clenbuterol on the horse **Thirty Six Curls**).

Further **Jose Aguila** is placed on probation for one year from the date of this ruling.

4/8/21<sup>3</sup>

**CHIEF STEWARD VISIT**

California Horse Racing Board Chief Steward **Darrel McHargue** paid a visit to the Stewards office this morning. We went over recent rule changes and other current California racing matters.

4/8/21<sup>4</sup>

**JUAN ARRIAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (CASE #20BM0012)**

The California Horse Racing Board reached a Settlement Agreement with Trainer **Juan Arriaga**. The original complaint in this matter was prepared by California Horse Racing Board Supervising Special Investigator **Louis Quezada**. It involves a horse that raced at the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton last summer and reads as follows.

*The official urine sample #F17952 taken at the Alameda County Fair was reported by **Ben Moeller, PHD** of UC Davis Laboratories to contain Zilpaterol. This sample was obtained from the horse **Fastrak Required** which ran in the 1<sup>ST</sup> race at the Alameda County Fair finishing 1<sup>ST</sup>. The trainer of record is **Mr. Juan Arriaga** with **Mr. Ramon Esquivex** being the owner of record. A split sample test was conducted by Texas Veterinary Medical Laboratory which confirmed the presence of Zilpaterol in the horse's system. Zilpaterol is a [Class 2 Penalty] [Class A Violation].*

The Stewards are in receipt of an agreement, issued on March 23, 2021 which is signed by Trainer **Juan Arriaga**, California Horse Racing Board Executive Director **C. Scott Chaney**, and California Horse Racing Board Chairman **Dr. Greg Ferraro**. The Stewards issued the following ruling which includes the penalty portion of that agreement.

**Ruling #49**

In accordance with a Settlement Agreement with the California Horse Racing Board Owner/Trainer **Juan R. Arriaga** who started the horse **Fastrack Required**, first place finisher in the first race at the Alameda County Fair (Pleasanton) on July 17, 2020, is suspended ninety (90) days, April 10, 2021 through July 8, 2021, fined the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00)\* and placed on probation for one year from the date of the Ruling pursuant to California Horse Racing Board Rule #1887 (a) (Trainer or Owner to Insure Condition of a Horse) for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rules #1843 (a, b & d) (Medication, Drugs and Other Substances) and #1843.1 (a) (Prohibited Drug Substances Zilpaterol [Class 2] [Penalty Class A]).

In accordance with the Settlement Agreement Two Thousand-Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) and forty five (45) days of the suspension shall be stayed and the suspension shall be served from April 10, 2021 to May 24, 2021 inclusive. During the term of probation ( April 8, 2021 through April 7, 2022), **Mr. Arriaga** must not be in violation of California Horse Racing Board Rules and Regulations #1843, #1843.6 and #1887 regarding class 1, 2 or 3 drug substances. If **Mr. Arriaga** violates a condition of his probation the above referenced forty five (45) days stayed of suspension and Two Thousand-Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) fine shall be lifted and the remaining actual suspension and fine shall be imposed after hearing and notice of the new violation in addition to any penalty imposed as a result of the new violation.

4/8/21<sup>5</sup>

**SMOOTH RACING**

Today's seven (7) race card went well as it was free of Stewards inquiries and/or jockey objections.

4/8/21<sup>6</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS**

1<sup>ST</sup> Race Jockey Change #4 **El Comando J. Rodriquez** for **A. Espinosa** – Injured Refund \$175.72

2<sup>ND</sup> Race Declaration #3 **Dee Gee** (Tr. **I. Tamayo**) Sick – **Casille Batten DVM** Refund \$295.02

5<sup>TH</sup> Race Jockey Change #4 **Flashy Pass C. Herrera** for **A. Espinoza** - Injured

6<sup>TH</sup> Race #6 **Top Executive** should read 'First Time Gelding'

7<sup>TH</sup> Race Declaration #8 **American Buddha** (Tr. **Blaine Wright**) Sick – **Casille Batten DVM** Refund \$351.06

7<sup>TH</sup> Race Jockey Change #4 **They're Grrreat E. Roman** for **A. Espinoza** – Injured

4/8/21<sup>7</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

Off Track	123	\$54,096.80
Out of State + ADW	n/a	\$999,302.86
SCOTWinc	n/a	\$71,800.86
Total	123	\$1,125,200.52

**FRIDAY**

4/9/21<sup>1</sup>

**ALFONSO SOLIS LOPEZ HEARING (CASE #20GG0119)**

A formal hearing was heard by the Stewards today using the 'Microsoft Teams format. Investigators **Louis Quezada** and **Noe Longoria** represented the California Horse Racing Board. **Christine Niccoli** transcribed the proceedings from an undisclosed location. The complaint in this matter was filed against Stable Foreman **Alfonso Solis Lopez** for alleged violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1890 (Possession of Contraband), Rule #1874 (Disorderly Conduct), Rule #1489 (8) (Grounds for Denial or Refusal of License), Rule #1928 (c) (Fire Regulations and Rule #1900 (Grounds for Suspension or Revocation). This was for an alleged incident that occurred at Golden Gate Fields on September 22, 2021. This hearing was scheduled to be heard on four (4) previous dates. They were the following.

- A. November 19, 2020 (Cancelled – COVID-19 Related)
- B. February 26, 2021 (Postponed)
- C. March 5, 2021 (Respondent Requested Attorney)
- D. March 27, 2021 (Time Constraint Delay)

Assistant Starter **Mario Munoz** sat next to **Mr. Solis Lopez** and served as an interpreter. No representative appeared. The complaint in this matter reads as follows.

*While conducting barn inspections, Stable Foreman **Alfonso Solis** was found to be smoking inside his tack room. Upon contact, he displayed several objective symptoms of stimulant influence which was later confirmed via a **Quest Diagnostic Laboratory** urine analysis. During a search of his tack room, methamphetamine was located inside.*

Steward **Will Meyers** chaired this hearing. Documents were marked as exhibits and received into evidence. After hearing testimony was completed, the hearing was brought to a close. Decision to follow.

4/9/21<sup>2</sup>

**BLAINE WRIGHT RULING**

Racing Secretary **Patrick Mackey** was informed on Wednesday, April 7 that Trainer **Blaine Wright** forgot to enter the horse '**Top Executive**' as a first time gelding for his race on Thursday, April 8. The Stewards in a unanimous decision, issued the following ruling.

**Ruling #50**

Trainer **Blaine Wright** is fined the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00)\* for failure to properly report the gelding of the horse "**Top Executive**" which started in the sixth race on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at Golden Gate Fields. A violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1865 (Altering Sex of Horse).

4/9/21<sup>3</sup>

**GOOD CARD**

Today's eight (8) race program went well as it was free of Stewards inquiries' and/or jockey objections.

4/9/21<sup>4</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS**

1<sup>ST</sup> Race #4 **River Kai, K. Frey** for **A. Espinoza** – Alternate Rider

3<sup>RD</sup> Race Declarations #1 **Mergie Troid** (Tr. **G. Greiner**) Sick – Casille Batten DVM

#4 **Surely A Smile** (Tr. **V. Trujillo**) Unsound – Casille Batten DVM

Refund Total: \$610.86

3<sup>RD</sup> Race #7 **Bee Einstein** (Tr. **J. Ramos**) Claimed, **J. Wong**, trainer

3<sup>RD</sup> Race Wagering Canceled \$1 Rolling Super High Five Wagering

4<sup>TH</sup> Race #3 **Fort York** (Tr. **D. Wayne Baker**) Claimed, **T. McCanna**, trainer

5<sup>TH</sup> Race Declaration #5 **Zephyr Cat** (Tr. **Q. Howey**) Late on track-Casille Batten DVM

Refund \$21,204.71

6<sup>TH</sup> Race #2 **Empressive Cat** (Tr. **C. DeLima**) Claimed, **J. Wong**, trainer

6<sup>TH</sup> Race #4 **Raiderette** (Tr. **V. Trujillo**) Claimed, **J. Wong**, trainer

7<sup>TH</sup> Race Declaration #6 **Trash Talkin Cat** (Tr. **J. Puentes**) Sick – Casille Batten DVM

Refund: \$351.06

8<sup>TH</sup> Race Declaration #6 **Dealers Hand** (Tr. **J. Batista**) Injured – Casille Batten DVM

Refund: \$138.60

4/9/21<sup>5</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

Off Track	532	\$249,401.90
Out of State + ADW	n/a	\$886,715.23
SCOTWinc	n/a	\$109,500.08
Total	532	\$1,245,617.21

**SATURDAY**

4/10/21<sup>1</sup>

**EVIN ROMAN FILM REVIEW**

Jockey **Evin Roman** appeared in the Stewards office to review his ride his ride aboard #2 **Soberano** (FR) who was narrowly beaten (finished 2<sup>ND</sup>) in yesterday's (April 9) second race which was contested at 1 1/16 mile on the infield turf course. It was the unanimous opinion of the Stewards that Jockey **Roman** used his riding crop past the finish line aboard the fast closing #2 **Soberano** (FR). The following ruling was issued.

**Ruling #51**

Jockey **Evin Roman** who rode "**Soberano** (FR)" in the second race at Golden Gate Fields on Friday, April 9, 2021 is fined the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)\* for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (Use of Riding Crop – striking horse after finish line).

4/10/21<sup>2</sup>

**CRISTOBAL HERRERA INFORMAL MEETING**

Safety Steward **Richard Lewis** reported an incident that took place during training hours this morning. The Golden Gate Fields human ambulance was on the race track tending to an unseated jockey at around the five (5) furlong marker. The tracks warning light system was activated during this time. Jockey **Cristobal Herrera** was in the early stages of a seven (7) furlong workout and continued urging his mount while the warning lights were flashing. He was accompanied by Exercise Rider **Jose Aguilar** who assisted with English /Spanish interpretation. The Stewards made it very clear to **Mr. Herrera** that all riders should immediately pull up their horses and take them to the outside during these situations. The following ruling was issued.

**Ruling #52**

Jockey **Cristobal Herrera** is fined One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)\*; for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1437 (Conditions of a Race Meeting-exercising while emergency lights are on) at Golden Gate Fields on April 10, 2021.

4/10/21<sup>3</sup>

**DECLARATIONS, CHANGES AND REFUNDS**

2<sup>ND</sup> Race Declaration #5 **Mr. Artistic** (Tr. **O.J. Jauregui**) Sick – **Casille Batten DVM**

Refund: \$742.91

5<sup>TH</sup> Race Declaration #5 **Toro De Toro** (Tr. **J. Wong**) Sick - **Michael Parker DVM**

Refund: \$251.81

6<sup>TH</sup> Race Declaration #3 **Perfect Stories** (Tr. **C. DeLima**) Injured – **Casille Batten DVM**

Refund: \$207.60

6<sup>TH</sup> Race Cancel \$1 Rolling Super High Five Wagering

7<sup>TH</sup> Race Ownership #2 **Shout It Out**, should read, **Manlius Stage LLC, David Aurelio, Nick Aurelio, Abe Malek Homeloan, Ed Muchlbaur or Phillip Studi**

7<sup>TH</sup> Race #5 **The Great Haynes** should read 'No Hind Shoes'

8<sup>TH</sup> Race Declarations #1 **Marilyn's Smile** (Tr. **T. McCanna**) Sick – **Casille Batten DVM**

#2 **Promote** (Tr. **M. Badilla**) Sick, **Casille Batten DVM**

Refund Total \$914.61

#7 **My Legal Bet** (Tr. **J. Thomas**) Sick - **Casille Batten DVM**

Refund Total \$166.70

8<sup>TH</sup> Race No Show Wagering

8<sup>TH</sup> Race Cancel \$1 Rolling Super High Five

4/10/21<sup>4</sup>

**JOSE RODRIGUEZ INFORMAL MEETING**

Apprentice Jockey **Jose Rodriguez** appeared in the Stewards office at the request of Safety Steward **Richard Lewis**. Safety Steward **Lewis** reported that Apprentice **Rodriguez** was working a horse out while the track warning lights were on. Apprentice **Rodriguez** was told that no matter what stage of a workout to pull his mount up and take it to the outside, the goal of this action is due to safety concerns. In a unanimous decision the following ruling was issued.

**Ruling #53**

Apprentice Jockey **Jose Elias Rodriguez** is fined One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)\*; for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1437 (Conditions of a Race Meeting -exercising while emergency lights are on) at Golden Gate Fields on April 10, 2021.

4/10/21<sup>5</sup>

**PHOTO FINISH**

**Jim Anderson**, who manages operations for **Plusmic Corp. Inc.**, paid a visit to the Judges' stand this afternoon. **Plusmic Corp. Inc.** is the California Horse Racing Board licensed vendor that operates all of the photo finish equipment where racing is conducted in the state.

4/10/21<sup>6</sup>

**GOOD CARD**

Today's nine (9) race card went well as it was free of Stewards inquiries and/or jockey objections.

4/10/21<sup>7</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

Off Track	849	\$515,284.89
Out of State + ADW	n/a	\$1,222,638.75
SCOTWinc	n/a	\$202,184.73
Total	849	\$1,940,108.37

**SUNDAY**  
4/11/21<sup>1</sup>

**JULIEN COUTON RULING REVIEW**

Jockey **Julien Couton** appeared in the Stewards' Office to review his winning ride aboard #7 **Warm Summer** in this 5 ½ furlong main track event. Film review today shows Jockey **Couton** use his riding crop more than six (6) times in this race. The Stewards issued the following Ruling.

**Ruling #54**

Jockey **Julien Couton** who rode **Warm Summer** in the sixth race at Golden Gate Fields on Saturday, April 10, 2021 is suspended three (3) racing days April 18, 23 & 24, 2021 for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rule #1688 (Use of Riding Crop-used more than six (6) times during a race).

4/11/21<sup>2</sup>

**ALFONSO SOLIS LOPEZ RULING (REF: 4/9/21 (1))**

The Stewards' contacted Winners' Foundation Director **Darrin Scharer** today regarding Stable Foreman **Alfonso Solis Lopez**, who participated in a formal hearing on April 9, 2021.

**Mr. Scharer** told us he will assist **Mr. Solis Lopez** regarding the potential compliance on the follow ruling.

**Ruling #55**

Stable Foreman **Alfonso Solis Lopez** is hereby suspended sixty (60) days April 16, 2021 through and including June 14, 2021 and placed on probation for the term of his license (11/30/2022); for violation of California Horse Racing Board Rules #1928 (c) (Fire Regulations-smoking in tack room), #1874 (Disorderly Conduct-use of Methamphetamine) and #1890 (a) (Possession of Contraband-Methamphetamine) on September 22, 2020 on the grounds of Golden Gate Fields.

Further, prior to the reinstatement of his license privileges, **Mr. Solis Lopez** must show proof of completion of an in-house rehabilitation program acceptable to the Board of Stewards. Conditions of probation include signing a contract with the **Winners Foundation** and abiding by the terms of a Testing Agreement with the California Horse Racing Board.

4/11/21<sup>3</sup>

**SMOOTH CARD**

Today's nine (9) race card went well as it was free of Stewards inquiries and/or jockey objections. This was the case for the entire four (4) day race week.

4/11/21<sup>4</sup>

**DECLARATIONS:**

4<sup>TH</sup> Race #3 **My Sunshine** (Tr. **M. Ramirez**) Claimed, **J. Wong**, trainer

5<sup>TH</sup> Race #1 **Colormemoney** (Tr. **R. France**) Sick - **Casille Batten DVM**

Refund \$314.50

7<sup>TH</sup> Race #4 **Southern Venture** (Tr. **F. Taylor**) Claimed, **D. Franko**, trainer

9<sup>TH</sup> Race #9 **Another Champ** (Tr. **V. Trujillo**) Sick – **Casille Batten DVM**

Refund \$208.40

4/11/21<sup>5</sup>

**DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE**

Off Track	646	\$410,137.30
Out of State + ADW	n/a	\$1,655,532.45
SCOTWinc	n/a	\$259,800.35
Total	646	\$2,325,470.10

**VETERINARIAN RECOMMENDED SCRATCHES**

Date	Race	No.	Horse	Trainer	Reason	Vet	Refund
8-Apr	2	3	Dee Gee	I. Tamayo	Sick	Dr. Batten	\$295.02
8-Apr	7	8	American Buddha	B. Wright	Sick	Dr. Batten	\$351.06
9-Apr	3	1	Mergie Troid	G. Greiner	Sick	Dr. Batten	\$610.86
9-Apr	3	4	Surely A Smile	V. Trujillo	Unsound	Dr. Batten	\$See Above
9-Apr	7	6	Trash Talkin Cat	J. Puentes	Sick	Dr. Batten	\$351.06
9-Apr	8	6	Dealers Hand	J. Batista	Injured	Dr. Batten	\$See Above
10-Apr	2	5	Mr. Artistic	OJ Jauregui	Sick	Dr. Batten	\$742.91
10-Apr	5	4	Toro De Toro	J. Wong	Sick	Dr. Parker	\$251.81
10-Apr	6	3	Perfect Stories	C. DeLima	Injured	Dr. Batten	\$207.60
10-Apr	8	1	Marilyn's Smile	T. McCanna	Sick	Dr. Batten	\$914.61
10-Apr	8	2	Promote	M. Badilla	Sick	Dr. Batten	\$See Above
10-Apr	8	7	My Legal Bet	J. Thomas	Sick	Dr. Batten	\$See Above
11-Apr	5	1	Colormemoney	R. France	Sick	Dr. Batten	\$314.50
11-Apr	9	9	Another Champ	V. Trujillo	Sick	Dr. Batten	\$208.40

**SUMMARY**

	Thurs 4/8	Fri 4/9	Sat 4/10	Sun 4/11	Week	Meet
<b>Accidents</b>	0	0	0	0	0	8
<b>Cal-Bred Races</b>	0	0	1	1	2	20
<b>Claims</b>	0	4	0	2	6	119
<b>Disqualifications</b>	0	0	0	0	0	8
<b>Inquiries</b>	0	0	0	0	0	15
<b>Refunds</b>	5	7	8	6	26	277
<b>Rulings</b>	2	1	3	2	8	56
<b>Voided Claims</b>	0	0	0	0	0	17

Respectfully submitted,

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Grant Baker, Steward

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Will Meyers, Steward

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Dennis Nevin, Steward