



December 15th, 2025

HORACIO ESPÓSITO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD'S BEST JOCKEY AWARDS GALA AND ACTIVITIES HONG KONG, DECEMBER 2025

On Friday, December 12th, the Gala dinner for the 2025 Longines and IFHA World's Best Jockey Awards was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, with the participation of Mr. Horacio Espósito, Vice Chairman of IFHA and OSAF Advisor on International Affairs.



During the event held as part of the Longines Hong Kong International Races Festival, James McDonald was awarded the title of World's Best Jockey by Longines for the second consecutive year and the third time overall. The New Zealand-born, Australian-based jockey was recognized for his achievements during 2025.



During the week of the LONGINES Hong Kong International Races, from the 8th to the 17th, the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) also carried out the last meetings of 2025, for the international technical committees.

OSAF General Manager Oscar Bertolotti participated on behalf of South America in the meetings of the ***International Movement of Horses Committee*** – chaired by Dr. Brian Stewart of The Hong Kong Jockey Club – where current health issues and the containment of outbreaks of contagious equine diseases were discussed.

Mr. Horacio Espósito, for his part, attended the IFHA Executive Committee meeting, and together with Bertolotti, both participated in the meetings of:

- ***The International Conference of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Equine Welfare Research Foundation*** – which promotes research activities that impact the health and welfare of Thoroughbred racehorses during their racing careers and after retirement, with topics including:
 - ✓ Identifying key challenges to the welfare of the racehorse and prioritising research needs
 - ✓ The impact scientific research has had on the safety and sustainability of other global sports
 - ✓ Latest findings from studies relating to the prevention, or early diagnosis, of injuries and disease that commonly affect the racing Thoroughbred
 - ✓ How to transform scientific findings into practical improvements
 - ✓ Helping researchers to appreciate the research priorities of the industry

- ***International Conference for the Health, Safety and Welfare of Jockeys.*** – The biennial meeting of this committee was held on December 11 and 12, with the central theme being “*Performance Medicine in Racing – Developing and Protecting the Jockey,*” focusing on issues of mental health, nutrition, concussion, accident prevention, rehabilitation after an accident, and support for the professional jockey in their transition after retiring from racing, amongst others.

On the other hand, Argentine handicapper Nahuel Mazzeo took part in the meetings of the ***International Handicappers Committee (Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings Committee)*** representing South America, where the performance of Thoroughbreds worldwide during 2025 was assessed, and their final ratings for the year were approved. The list of approved horses with rating of 115 and above will be published by the IFHA in January 2026.

For more information about the activities of the Hong Kong Jockey Club's Equine Welfare Research Foundation, we invite you to visit its official website: <https://www.hkcequinewelfare.org.hk/en/>

For more information about the Hong Kong Jockey Club Equine Welfare Research Foundation International Conference, we invite you to visit: <https://www.hkcewrfconference2025.com/>

For more information about the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities, its Committees, and the publications of the Longines World's Best Racehorse Rankings, we invite you to visit the official IFHA website: <https://www.ifhaonline.org/>