

USE OF THE WHIP GUIDELINES

Effective from 1 December 2016

Rule 869(2)

No horseman shall during any race:

- (a) use his whip in an unnecessary, excessive or improper manner*
- (b) use his whip in such a way that it baulks, inconveniences, impedes or strikes another horse or horseman*
- (c) project his whip outside the sulky or draw his whip further back than the sulky seat*

THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES APPLY TO RULE 869(2)(a):

Stewards deem the 'use of the whip' throughout the race as listed below:

- Free of the rein
- On the horse itself
- On the sulky or dust sheet
- Back handers

Excessive use of the whip simply means “too much” and relates to the number of times and/or the force with which the whip is used. **The whip shall not be used more than 10 times in the last 400 metres of a race, otherwise this will be deemed excessive use pursuant to these Guidelines.**

At no stage of a race will Stewards permit continuous use of the whip. Horseman must show distinct pauses between the whip being used. The horseman shall interrupt the use of his/her whip by using any of the suggested following alternative actions:

- Running the reins over the horse's rump
- Running the whip through the horse's tail
- Holding the whip on the horse's tail or rump
- A rein in each hand while using the whip - not continuous.

Unnecessary use of the whip includes:

- Striking a horse that is not responding or cannot maintain its position in the race
- Striking a runner that has no reasonable chance of finishing in a stake or dividend bearing place
- Striking a runner after the finishing post

Improper use of the whip includes:-

- Using the whip with the handle end up
- Using the whip below the level of the sulky shafts
- Using the whip while having a foot out of the footrest. (in conjunction with Rule 867)

869(2)(c) - project his whip outside the sulky or draw his whip further back than the sulky seat.

- This includes the horseman striking the wheel discs

Drivers please note that the above actions are a direction relating strictly to Rule 869(2) only and shall not be a defence to a breach of Rule 868(3) - driving a horse out.

*These guidelines were set in consultation with the
Racing Integrity Unit and NZ Harness Racing Trainers & Drivers' Association*