

**QUESTION BANK FOR:  
DRIVER'S LICENCE APPLICANT  
(Incl. Advanced Amateur Drivers)**

- Q. What must a driver do when his horse breaks from its gait during any race?**  
**A.** The driver shall take all reasonable measures to return the horse to its proper gait and if a suitable clearance exists, take the horse clear of the field.
- Q. What may happen if a horse continues in its incorrect gait?**  
**A.** If the Judicial Committee find that the horse has failed to promptly regain its proper gait and/or gained an advantage through galloping then it may be disqualified or relegated. The driver may also face charges for failing to return the horse to its proper gait.
- Q. If a horse breaks free of interference at the start or during the running of a race how long does it have to regain its proper gait before being disqualified?**  
**A.** 150 metres.
- Q. If a horse breaks inside the final 200 metres how long does it have to regain its proper gait?**  
**A.** 50 metres.
- Q. What happens to a horse which gallops over the finishing line free of interference and is lapped on by other horses?**  
**A.** It may be relegated behind the horses it was deemed to have lapped on by the JCA.
- Q. Define 'lapped on'?**  
**A.** Lapped on means when a horse has its nose in line with any part of the breaking horse's body (excluding the tail). In effect, one length of that horse.
- Q. Who are the JCA and what is their function?**  
**A.** JCA stands for Judicial Control Authority. The JCA rule on any matter presented to them by the Stewards, or by any person with their permission. The JCA determine the outcome of all protests and charges and can be asked to rule over any matter associated with a raceday.
- Q. Explain what is expected of any driver carrying a whip during a race?**  
**A.** A driver may only apply the whip in a wrist only flicking motion whilst holding a rein in each hand with the tip of the whip pointed forward in an action which does not engage the shoulder.
- Q. What does "wrist only flicking motion" mean?**  
**A.** 1) Ensuring no force is generated by the use of the elbow or shoulder when applying the whip.  
2) The forearm is not raised beyond forty-five degrees relative to the racing surface.  
3) Not applying the whip with overt force.
- Q. Explain the "Whip and Rein Regulations"?**  
**A.** See attached document (last page)
- Q. If a driver has any reasonable chance of running first, second, third, fourth, or fifth, what must they do?**  
**A.** Continue to drive their horse out until the end of the race either with their whip or reins.

- Q. In any race, the leading driver entering the final straight must do what?**  
**A.** The leading driver shall ensure they maintain as straight a course as possible while allowing trailing horses full access to the inside passing or expanded lanes where applicable.
- Q. Under the home straight Regulations what must all drivers do in the run home?**  
**A.** Maintain as straight a course as possible to the finish line except when looking to shift ground to improve their position. If this does not happen then offenders may face relegation, disqualification or being charged.
- Q. Explain 'half carting'?**  
**A.** Half carting is when a driver fails to follow the sulky seat of the horse in front of them.
- Q. What must all drivers know regarding pylons?**  
**A.** That every driver who moves inwards shall ensure  
a) That contact is not made with any track marker  
b) That any part of the sulky does not protrude inside the marker line  
c) That the movement does not cause any other driver, horse or sulky to contact any track marker or protrude inside the marker line.
- Q. If any driver is forced inside the pylons what should they do?**  
**A.** Restrain their horse and with safety re-join the field in the first vacant position without causing interference.
- Q. What are a driver's obligations with regard to their barrier positions?**  
**A.** Every driver shall ensure they know their barrier position and ensure their horse starts from their correct position unless instructed by the Starter. In the case of starting from a handicap the driver shall ensure they are at the correct mark. If any driver feels they are at the incorrect point they should immediately inform the Starter.
- Q. What is the purpose of the candy pole?**  
**A.** To ensure that all drivers have their horse in position on the mobile gate at the candy pole which is 50 metres prior to the start point.
- Q. When a false start has been declared behind the mobile what should a driver do?**  
**A.** Follow the Starter's direction and pull up their horse with safety and return to the assembly point.
- Q. Where does an unruly horse start from?**  
**A.** Mobile – No closer in than position 5 on the second line.  
Standing Start – Extreme outside of the track and behind the front lines of horses.  
Handicapped Standing Start – On the outside of the track and clear of horses on the same handicap.
- Q. What may happen to any horse which misbehaves at the start?**  
**A.** The Starter may order that horse go to any position but not one which alters its handicap.
- Q. If a horse causes a false start behind the mobile what are the options available to the driver?**  
**A.** The driver can elect to either try again to start from his correct barrier position or they can go straight to the unruly position.
- Q. If that same horse immediately causes another false start what will happen?**  
**A.** It will be scratched by the Stewards.

- Q. What is the procedure to be followed if a race is Stopped by the Stipendiary Stewards?**  
**A.** If the horses have run more than 1000 metres the race will not be re-run on the day of the race meeting due to animal welfare considerations.  
 If the race is stopped within 1000 metres of the start of the race, the Stipendiary Stewards have the discretion to have the race re-run. Prior to this all horses will be checked by the Veterinarian.
- Q. Does the trainer or driver have the option to scratch their horse?**  
**A.** Yes – Drivers are given the option of having their horse late scratched if they believe it is not in a fit condition to race and its performance would be impaired. Likewise any trainer who does not wish their horse to take part in the re-run should immediately inform a Stipendiary Steward.
- Q. What is the push out rule?**  
**A.** Prior to the 1000 metres a horse shall not be forced to race wider on the track and no driver shall shift outwards once the nose of a wider runner progressing forward is in line with or past their sulky wheel until that horse is fully past. Inside the final 1000 metres drivers can improve their position outwards if they ensure their move does not cause interference.
- Q. Explain shifting ground?**  
**A.** Subject to Rule 869(3) Careless Driving and Rule 869(4) Causing Interference, drivers are permitted to shift ground inwards or outwards during the race provided they have sufficient advantage and the move is made with safety by conducting it in a gradual and acceptable manner thereby enabling the driver of the runner being moved to be able to take the necessary action to accommodate the manoeuvre.
- Q. How should a horse be shifted down?**  
**A.** Must have sufficient advantage over the horse about to be shifted inwards and that horse must be clear of other horses to its inside so it can be moved in.
- Q. Can a driver be charged for contesting a position?**  
**A.** Yes – a driver who fails to concede when not in a position to maintain his/her place, may be charged with careless driving, Rule 869(3)(b).
- Q. If any horse's gear is lost, broken, damaged, malfunctions or is tampered with during any race what must that driver do?**  
**A.** Report the matter to the Stipendiary Stewards immediately.
- Q. If your horse wears removable gear which is not activated or your hopple shorteners do not release, what are you required to do?**  
**A.** Immediately notify a Stipendiary Steward.
- Q. If anything becomes apparent with a horse that may affect or may have affected its performance in a race what are all Licence Holders obliged to do?**  
**A.** Notify a Stipendiary Steward as soon as practicable.
- Q. Are drivers required to keep their feet in the footrests throughout the race?**  
**A.** Yes - however an allowance is given in the early stages of a standing start or when activating removable gear.
- Q. What is a driver's correct attire?**  
**A.** Durable white trousers, a white stock or skivvy and black boots or shoes.

- Q. What safety gear must a driver wear when in the sulky?**  
**A.** An approved safety vest and a securely fastened and approved safety helmet.
- Q. If a driver is involved in an accident can the Stewards confiscate their safety helmet?**  
**A.** Yes
- Q. Can Stewards stand down a driver until they produce a Medical clearance?**  
**A.** Yes
- Q. If a driver is found guilty by the JCA of a charge what rights do they have following this?**  
**A.** Lodge an appeal against the decision.  
This must be accompanied by a \$250 filing fee with the Registrar of the appeals tribunal.  
The forms can be found on the JCA website ([www.jca.org.nz](http://www.jca.org.nz)).  
This must be done by 4.00pm on the third working day following the decision being posted on their website.
- Q. Can a driver request a deferment of their penalty?**  
**A.** Yes – a suspension can be deferred for up to 7 days if a driver has confirmed driving engagements.
- Q. How many winners must a driver have driven to drive in a Group or Listed race or at a Premier meeting?**  
**A.** 15
- Q. What limitations are placed upon a driver regarding betting?**  
**A.** A driver in a race shall not bet, or have another person bet on their behalf, on any horse or combination of horses in a race, in which he or she is driving. This includes all multi horse bets such as quinellas, trifectas, first fours etc. This includes a drivers challenge bet which drivers are prohibited from betting on.
- Q. What constitutes being denied a fair start?**  
**A.** When a false start should have been declared but was not.
- Mobile –**  
A horse starts ahead of the barrier arm  
There is interference  
A horse has broken equipment  
A horse falls before the word RIGHT is given  
An emergency occurs  
A horse is in the wrong position
- Stand**  
Interference prior to the barrier strand(s) being released  
A barrier strand fails to release, or its release interferes with a horse  
A Starter's assistant impedes the progress of a horse
- Q. What should you do if you believe you have been denied a fair start?**  
**A.** Immediately approach the Stewards. This must be done prior to the payment of dividends.
- Q. For what reason can Stewards late scratch a horse following a race?**  
**A.** If that horse was denied a fair start. If the horse refused to score up and took no part in the race.
- Q. How long before their first drive must a driver be available on course?**  
**A.** 30 minutes.
- Q. How long after their last drive must a driver remain on course?**  
**A.** 15 minutes.

**Q. What is the criteria for lodging a protest against another horse?**

**A.** Firstly, your horse must have finished in the first five placings for you to be eligible to lodge a protest. Secondly you must be able to prove to the JCA that had it not been for the interference you received from the horse you are protesting against you would have beaten that runner home. Your intention to lodge a protest or review the films must be notified to a Stipendiary Steward immediately following the race. Generally a Stipendiary Steward will be present as you leave the track however if not you must not leave the area until you have notified one.

**Q. What date is your licence valid to each season?**

**A.** 31 July.

**Q. By what date must your licence renewal be lodged and paid for to avoid late penalties?**

**A.** 30 June.

**Q. How do you apply to renew your licence?**

**A.** Online via your personal My HRNZ login on the HRNZ Website.

**Q. What is required before driving in Australia?**

**A.** A Clearance must be issued by Harness Racing NZ to the Australian State Controlling Body. All NZ Trainers, Drivers and Stablehands must pay for insurance direct to Harness Racing Australia before being able to undertake any harness racing activities there – refer to Australian Insurance form on HRNZ website.

# WHIP AND REIN REGULATIONS

Effective 1 October 2020

## 1. NAME AND COMMENCEMENT

- 1.1 These regulations are the Whip and Rein Regulations made by the Board under rule 866 of the New Zealand Rules of Harness Racing and Rules and clause 14.4 of the Constitution of Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated.
- 1.2 These regulations come into force on 1 October 2020.

## 2. APPROVAL OF WHIP

- 2.1 A Stipendiary Steward may approve for use a whip that:
  - 2.1.1 has a maximum overall length of 1200 mm or less;
  - 2.1.2 is flexible with a core of fiberglass with a handle base and shaft;
  - 2.1.3 has a leather keeper to a maximum 60 millimetres in length and 20 millimetres in width; and
  - 2.1.4 is coloured black or dark tan.
- 2.2 A list of approved whips is set out in the First Schedule.
- 2.3 A driver may only use an approved whip.
- 2.4 A driver shall not use or carry a metal lined whip.
- 2.5 A whip may not be modified other than any whip sold with a cracker or tassel must have these removed prior to use.
- 2.6 A driver may only use a whip that is maintained in good condition and complies with the requirements of this regulation.

## 3. USE OF THE WHIP

- 3.1 A driver may only apply the whip in a wrist only flicking motion whilst holding a rein in each hand with the tip of the whip pointed forward in an action which does not engage the shoulder.
- 3.2 For the purposes of clause 3.1, “wrist only flicking motion” means:
  - 3.2.1 Ensuring no force is generated by the use of the elbow or shoulder when applying the whip.
  - 3.2.2 The forearm is not raised beyond forty-five degrees relative to the racing surface.
  - 3.2.3 Not applying the whip with overt force.
- 3.3 A driver shall not use a whip in an unapproved manner.
- 3.4 For the purposes clause 3.3 a driver shall be deemed to have used the whip in an unapproved manner in the following circumstances which are not exclusive:
  - 3.4.1 If the whip is applied other than as permitted in clause 3.1.
  - 3.4.2 If the whip is applied excessively, continuously, or without allowing the horse time to respond.
  - 3.4.3 If the whip is applied when the horse:
    - 3.4.3.1 is not visibly responding.
    - 3.4.3.2 is not in contention.
    - 3.4.3.3 cannot maintain or improve its position.
    - 3.4.3.4 is clearly winning.
    - 3.4.3.5 has passed the winning post at the finish of a race.

3.4.4 If the whip is used when the reins are lengthened so as to result in loose reining.

3.4.5 If the whip is used in a prodding or jabbing fashion.

3.5 A driver must not use the whip in a manner which causes injury to a horse.

3.6 A whip shall not be used in a manner that may obstruct, strike or endanger another driver or horse.

3.7 A driver must ensure a whip does not project outside his or her sulky.

**4. USE OF THE REINS**

4.1 A driver may not use the ends of a rein as a whip.

4.2 A driver must drive throughout the race with a hand on each rein (subject to 4.4 below).

4.3 A driver must not extend either hand on the rein in a manner which results in excessively lengthening or loosening the rein.

4.4 A driver may not cross the reins except:

4.4.1 when activating gear; or

4.4.2 for safety reasons.

**FIRST SCHEDULE – APPROVED WHIPS**

<b>Whip Name or Brand</b>
Westfield diamond weave
Blue Tag dressage whip - non-slip grip
Finntack trotting training whip 48 inch
Jacks
Racingtack.it
Zilco
Walsh
Yonie's