

**THE JOCKEY CLUB
THOROUGHBRED SAFETY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION
August 14, 2016**

Recommendation: Use of the Crop and Penalties for Misuse of the Crop

Use of the riding crop during the race has been the subject of intense debate among racing fans, stakeholders and regulatory authorities. International racing jurisdictions have amended rules to more strictly regulate the use of the riding crop via alternative regulatory approaches, including metering use of the crop over set distances and by number of times the riding crop can be applied during a race.

Survey results from the Racing Officials Accreditation Program (ROAP) concluded that a majority of racing stewards indicated use of the riding crop is a significant issue in horse racing today.

Based upon review of international and domestic rules of racing regulating the use of the riding crop and responses to the ROAP survey, The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee calls for:

“The Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) Model Rules Committee amends, and all regulatory authorities immediately adopt, ARCI Rule 010-035, Articles (E)(7) to include new penalty guidelines for misuse of the riding crop. The new guidelines prohibit raising the arm above shoulder height when applying the riding crop and limiting its use to provide opportunity for the horse to respond. Progressive penalty guidelines incorporate stewards’ review, fines and possible suspensions for repeat offenders.

ARCI-010-035 Running of the Race

E. Post to Finish

(7) Use of Riding Crop

- (a) Although the use of a riding crop is not required, any jockey who uses a riding crop during a race shall do so only in a manner consistent with exerting his/her best efforts to win.
- (b) In all races where a jockey will ride without a riding crop, an announcement of such fact shall be made over the public address system.
- (c) No electrical or mechanical device or other expedient designed to increase or retard the speed of a horse, other than the riding crop approved by the stewards, shall be possessed by anyone, or applied by anyone to the horse at

any time on the grounds of the association during the meeting, whether in a race or otherwise.

- (d) Riding crops shall not be used on two-year-old horses before April 1 of each year.
- (e) The riding crop shall only be used for safety, correction and encouragement.
- (f) All riders should comply with the following when using a riding crop:
 - (A) Showing the horse the riding crop and giving it time to respond before hitting it;
 - (B) Having used the riding crop no more than three times in succession, giving the horse a chance to respond (a minimum of two strides) before using it again;
 - (C) Using the riding crop in rhythm with the horse's stride.
- (g) Prohibited use of the riding crop includes but is not limited to striking a horse:
 - (A) on the head, flanks or on any other part of its body other than the shoulders or hind quarters except when necessary to control a horse;
 - (B) with the arm above shoulder height (of the rider)
 - (C) with the handle of the riding crop
 - (D) during the post parade or after the finish of the race except when necessary to control the horse;
 - (E) excessively or brutally causing welts or breaks in the skin;
 - (F) when the horse is clearly out of the race or has obtained its maximum placing;
 - (G) persistently even though the horse is showing no response under the riding crop; or
 - (H) striking another rider or horse.
- (h) After the race, horses will be subject to inspection by a racing or official veterinarian looking for cuts, welts or bruises in the skin. Any adverse findings shall be reported to the stewards.
- (i) The giving of instructions by any licensee that if obeyed would lead to a violation of this rule may result in disciplinary action also being taken against the licensee who gave such instructions

Races with a purse of under \$100,000							
Inappropriate urging of the horse				Cutting or Welting the horse			
	Min. Fine	Min. Riding Suspension	Other Penalty		Min. Fine	Min. Riding Suspension	Other Penalty
1st offence	\$250	0 days	Mandatory meeting with the stewards for regulation review and race replay instruction	1st offence	\$500 or race day		Mandatory meeting with the stewards for regulation review and race replay instruction
2nd offence within one year of the 1st offence	\$500	1 race day	Mandatory meeting with the stewards for regulation review and race replay instruction	2nd offence within one year of the 1st offence	\$1,000	3 race days	Mandatory meeting with the stewards for regulation review and race replay instruction
3rd offence within one year of the 1st offence	\$1,500	3 race days	Mandatory meeting with the stewards for regulation review and race replay instruction	3rd offence within one year of the 1st offence		immediate suspension	Referral to Commission
4th offence within one year of the 1st offence			Referral to Commission				

Races with a purse of \$100,000 and over
For any offence that takes place in a race where the purse is \$100,000 or more, the penalty shall be a minimum fine of 20% of the jockey's earnings or the minimum fine listed above (whichever is greater).