

## AUSTRALIAN HARNESS RACING RULES Rules Amendments - HRA approved 21 June 2018

### 9. DRIVERS

#### Whips

- **Amend Rule 156(1), (2), (4), (8), (9), (10)**

156. (1) (a) A driver shall only use and be in possession of a whip approved by the Controlling Body.

(b) A whip, once approved –

(i) shall not be modified in any manner;

(ii) shall be maintained in a satisfactory condition;

(c) A whip that does not comply with sub-paragraph (b) may be confiscated by the Stewards.

(2) A driver shall only apply the whip in a 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) A driver shall not use a whip in an unapproved manner.

(4) For the purposes of sub-rule (3) a driver shall be deemed to have used the whip in an unapproved manner in the following circumstances which are not exclusive:-

(a) If the whip is applied excessively, continuously and/or without allowing the horse time to respond.

(b) If the whip is applied when the horse:-

(i) is not visibly responding;

(ii) is not in contention;

(iii) cannot maintain or improve its position;

(iv) is clearly winning;

(v) has passed the winning post at the finish of a race.

(c) If the reins are lengthened so as to result in loose reining regardless of whether the whip is being used at the same time..

(5) A driver shall not use the whip in a manner which causes injury to a horse.

(6) A whip shall not be used so as to obstruct, strike or endanger another driver or horse.

- (7) A driver shall not allow a whip to project outside the sulky.
- (8) A person who fails to comply with any provision of this Rule is guilty of an offence.

Also refer to HRA's Press Release 21/06/2018:

[http://www.harness.org.au/media-room/news-article/?news\\_id=37518](http://www.harness.org.au/media-room/news-article/?news_id=37518)

### **Summary of Amendments – HRA approved 21 June 2018**

#### **RULES AMENDED**

156(1)(a), 156(2), 156(4)(a), (b), (c), (d), 156(8)

#### **NEW RULES / SUB-RULES**

--

#### **RULES REPEALED**

156(4)(a), (b), (c), (e), (h). 156(8), 156(9)

#### **RULES RENUMBERED**

156(4)(g) to 156(4)(b)

156(4)(d) to 156(4)(c)

156(4)(f) to 156(4)(a)

156(10) to 156(8)