



Industry Notice

29 August 2018

NOTICE TO HARNESS RACING PARTICIPANTS

NEW WHIP RULE EFFECTIVE 1 SEPTEMBER 2018

Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards provide the following information to inform participants the manner in which the new 'whip rules' will be interpreted and applied from 1 September 2018.

Relevant Rules and QRIC Stewards Interpretation

AHRR 156(2) states:

"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."

QRIC Stewards Interpretation includes but is not limited to:

Drivers must maintain a rein in either hand at all times when applying the whip.

Once a driver's forearm is not pointing forward Stewards will deem the tip of the whip not to be pointed forward.

Should the drivers whip hand be raised above shoulder height when the whip is applied it will be deemed to be engaging the shoulder.

The whip should only be applied with a flicking motion.

AHRR 156(3) states:

"A driver shall not use a whip in an unapproved manner."

QRIC Stewards Interpretation:

Drivers will be deemed to have used the whip in an unapproved manner, including but not limited to when the whip is used in a manner contrary to any provision of AHRR 156(4).

AHRR 156(4) (a) states:

"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."

QRIC Stewards Interpretation:

Drivers must demonstrate a pause in their use of the whip, continuous use without a pause will be considered to be a breach of the rules.

AHRR 156(4) (c) states:

"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:-"

(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."

QRIC Stewards Interpretation:

Loose reining will be interpreted as follows:

- Loopy shaking of the reins;
- Lengthening of the reins which allows the driver to apply the whip with more force;
- The reins and drivers hands being lifted above the drivers shoulders.

Stewards will continue to counsel any driver identified whose whip action requires modification to comply with the new rule.

Minimum Penalties Guidelines (within a 56 day period)

- 1st offence \$200 suspended for 56 days
- 2nd offence \$400 plus \$200 previously suspended fine
- 3rd offence – 14 day drivers licence suspension

Penalties which are not suspended -

Feature Races

- Where a breach occurs in a feature race fines will not be suspended. Feature races will be defined as those with total stake money of \$20,000 or more,

Whip used with a free hand -

- Where a driver crosses their reins and applies the whip with a free hand

Serious breach of the whip rule

- Where the Stewards determine a blatant serious breach of rule 156 has occurred, a penalty may be imposed which is greater than the minimum penalty guideline which will not be suspended.

For queries in relation to the interpretation or implementation of these rules participants are encouraged to contact QRIC Stewards for clarification. Stewards@qric.qld.gov.au