

Australian Harness Racing Rule 156 Whip amendments 1 September 2020

Rule 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; and,
- (ii) shall be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

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

(2) (a) A driver shall 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.

(b) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (a), "*wrist only flicking motion*" means:-

(i) Ensuring no force is generated by the use of the elbow or shoulder when applying the whip.

(ii) The forearm is not raised beyond forty-five degrees relative to the racing surface.

(iii) Not applying the whip with overt force.

(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.

- (d) If the whip is used in a prodding or jabbing fashion.
- (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.

Rule 156A

The amendments involve deletion of the word “either” and the words “or a non-rigid tip” and will read:-

“The approved whip is a flexible whip of black or dark tan colour with a core of fibreglass with a handle base and shaft and a leather keeper to a maximum of 60 millimetres in length and 20 millimetres in width amounting to a maximum overall length of 1600 millimetres”.