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May 29, 2009

## **Notice to the Industry**

### **New Standardbred Use of the Whip Rules released for comment**

Deadline for comments is June 8<sup>th</sup>

The Board of the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) is circulating rules received from the industry consultation group, formed to review the use of the whip in Ontario horseracing. Industry participants and associations are encouraged to provide any new and material comments by end of day – June 8<sup>th</sup>.

At its meeting of May 28<sup>th</sup> the Board reviewed and considered the proposed rules, and are satisfied. Due to the far reaching implications for the changes, the Board determined that a final circulation of the rules should take place prior to implementation, to ensure an opportunity is provided for anything new or material to be brought to their attention.

The rules were submitted by the Standardbred Working Group on the Use of the Whip Initiative, and are a result of a major effort and time commitment to develop a new approach for the appropriate urging of the horse. This new approach takes into consideration the safety of the participants, the welfare of the horse and the perception of the product.

Attached are the rule changes and the policy document. In an effort to ensure clear rules while encouraging understanding for enforcement and application, the rules were simplified and a policy document was created to provide clarity.

**To be considered, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 2009 as follows:**

By Website: Use the "Opportunity for Input" form

By Email: [inquiry@ontarioracingcommission.ca](mailto:inquiry@ontarioracingcommission.ca)

By Fax: 416-213-7827

John L. Blakney  
Executive Director