

## **Standardbred Rules Changes pertaining to the acceptable urging of a horse in a race**

May 29, 2009

**Rule 22.19** Delete ~~Loud shouting or other improper conduct in a race is forbidden.~~

**Rule 22.20** Whips shall:

- a) be no more than 48 inches in length, not including the snapper;
- b) be made of a material other than rawhide;
- c) include a snapper that is no less than 6 inches and no more than 12 inches in length; and
- d) not include a snapper that is altered from original manufacture or knotted.

**Rule 22.21** The possession or use on a horse of any goading device, or chain, or spur, or mechanical or electrical device other than a whip used in the manner prescribed by the rules upon a horse shall constitute a violation.

**Rule 22.22** The Judges shall have the authority to disallow the use of any equipment or harness that they feel is unsafe or not in the best interests of racing.

**Rule 22.23.01** At any time while on the grounds of a association, it is an offence for a driver, or the person in control of the horse, to engage in any of the following actions with respect to their-driving conduct:

- a) Indiscriminate action, which is characterized by unrestrained or careless activity;
- b) Excessive action, which is characterized by unreasonable quantity or degree;
- c) Aggressive action, which is characterized by inhumane, severe or brutal activity.

**Rule 22.23.02** The whip shall not be used on a horse in a race

- a) where the horse is not visibly responding; or
- b) where the horse is not in contention for a meaningful position.

**Rule 22.23.03** At any time while on the grounds of a association, it is an offence for a driver, or the person in control of the horse, to use the whip to hit or make contact with the horse as follows:

- a) To raise their hand(s) above their head;
- b) To cause the whip to move back beyond a 90-degree angle relative to the track;
- c) To cause any portion of the whip to be outside the confines of the wheels of the race bike;
- d) To strike the shaft of the race bike, or the horse below the level of the shaft of the race bike;
- e) To cut or severely welt a horse.

**Rule 22.23.04** A driver, or the person in control of the horse, is required to:

- a) keep a line in each hand for the entire race, from the starter's call to the gate until the finish of the race, except for the purpose of adjusting equipment;
- b) keep both hands in front of their body;
- c) keep their hands below their head; and
- d) have control of their horse at all times when on the racetrack.

**Rule 22.23.05** Violation of any of the provisions in Rule 22.23.01 to 22.23.04 may result in any of the following penalties:

- a) Fine;
- b) Suspension;
- c) Placement;
- d) Disqualification; and/or
- e) Any other penalty as ordered.

Items c) and d) will be for both purse and pari-mutuel purposes.

Further particulars in respect to the penalties are provided in *Policy Directive xxx – 2009*, which also provides principles which serve as a guide for interpretation. The directive may be modified from time to time by the Commission.