

1 June 2009

Rule 869(2) – USE OF THE WHIP

No horseman shall during any race: -

- (a) use his whip in an unnecessary, excessive or improper manner;***
 - (b) use his whip in such a way that it baulks, inconveniences, impedes or strikes another horse or horseman;***
 - (c) project his whip outside the sulky or draw his whip further back than the sulky seat***
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The Stipendiary Stewards have set the following guidelines which apply to Rule 869(2): -

Excessive use of the whip simply means “too much” and relates to the number of times and /or the force with which the whip is used.

Applies whether striking the horse, harness or sulky.

A horse does not need to be marked for an excessive charge to be preferred.

Unnecessary use of the whip includes –

- i) Striking an obviously beaten runner
- ii) Using whip after the winning post

Improper use of the whip includes –

- i) Using the whip as a prod
- ii) Using the whip butt end up
- iii) Using the whip below the level of the sulky shafts

Subject to the provisions of Rule 869(2), no horseman shall use the whip continuously at any time during a race and there must be distinct pauses between the whip being used or the use of the whip shall be interrupted by acceptable alternative actions.

These actions include: -

- i) Running the rein(s) over the horse’s rump
- ii) Touching or holding the whip on the top of the horse’s tail or rump
- iii) Running the whip through the horse’s tail

Drivers please note that these actions are a direction in Relation to Rule 869(2) only, excessive use of the whip, and shall not be a defence to a breach of Rule 868(3), failing to drive a horse out.

It shall not be a defence to a charge for excessive use of the whip by claiming that you are in a stake bearing place. All drivers are bound to drive within the provisions of the rules.

The whip shall only be used –

- (A) Within the confines of the sulky
- (B) Forward of the shoulder with an up and down arm action only
- (C) “Back handers” -wrist action only

N R ESCOTT
CHIEF STIPENDIARY STEWARD