



NZTR DIRECTIVE

Acceptable Use of the Whip

Effective 7th October 2019

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing has considered and issued the following guidelines with respect to acceptable use of the whip.

Rule 638(3) A Rider shall not: [...] (b) strike a horse with a whip in a manner or to an extent which is:

- i (i) unnecessary, or
- ii (ii) excessive, or
- iii (iii) improper

Without affecting the generality of Rule 638(3)(b), a rider may be penalised if their whip use is outside of the following guidelines:

Flat Races

Prior to the 100-metre mark in a race, official trial or jump out:

- i (i) The whip should not be used on more than 5 occasions.
- ii (ii) The whip should not be used in consecutive strides.
- iii (iii) The rider may at their discretion use the whip with a slapping motion down the shoulder, with the whip hand remaining on the reins.

In the final 100 metres, the whip may be used at the Rider's discretion.

Hurdle and Steeplechase Races

Prior to the 100-metre mark in a race, official trial or schooling event:

- i (i) The whip should not be used on more than 10 occasions.
- ii (ii) The whip should not be used in consecutive strides.
- iii (iii) The rider may at their discretion use the whip with a slapping motion down the shoulder, with the whip hand remaining on the reins.

In the final 100 metres, the whip may be used at the Rider's discretion, but not in consecutive strides.

Notwithstanding the above, it will also be deemed to be unacceptable where a rider uses the drawn whip:

- i (i) when a horse is out of contention.
- ii (ii) when a horse is showing no response.
- iii (iii) when a horse has no reasonable prospect of improving or losing its position.
- iv (iv) when a horse is clearly winning.
- v (v) after passing the winning post.
- vi (vi) using the whip with the arm above shoulder height.
- vii (vii) causing injury to the horse.

Amateur Races

In races for Amateur Riders only, the whip may not be used in the drawn position. It may only be used in a slapping motion down the shoulder with the whip hand remaining on the reins.

Other Persons

A trainer, owner or their authorised agent must not give instructions to a rider regarding the use of the whip which, if carried out, might result in a breach of the whip guidelines [Rule 802(1) applies].

Rule Relating to Directives:

- 802 (1) A person commits a breach of these Rules who:
- (a) acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any provision of these Rules or any Regulations made thereunder, or any policy, notice, direction, instruction, guideline, restriction, requirement or condition given, made or imposed under these Rules;

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