

IHRA Proposed New Whip Ruling

1. Total permitted strikes = 12 per race with a total of 7 strikes in the last 500m and a total of 3 last 200m
2. Drivers shall only use an approved whip. This being flexible, of standard construction either black or tan, with a fiberglass core covered in linen with a handle and snapper. The whip shall not exceed 48 inches/ 125 cm in length and the snapper shall not exceed 7 inches / 17cm in length and must be made of standard construction NOT knotted. No whip shall be modified in any way and damaged whips must not be used under any circumstances. No other device is to be used.
3. List of currently approved whip manufacturers:
 - Walsh,
 - Finntack,
 - Yonies,
 - Westfield.

This list is non exhaustive and subject to change at any time.
4. No rawhide whips to be used.
5. For saddle / monte races then any whip used must be one approved for use by the HRI either for national hunt or flat racing.
6. Any whip deemed by the stewards unsatisfactory shall be confiscated by the stewards.
7. The driver shall only use the whip by means of a motion of the wrist, whilst keeping one rein in each hand keeping a good contact with the horse's bit. A force generated by a wrist only motion is permitted during a race, allowing you to tip up a horse.
8. The force generated by an elbow motion shall be considered a strike and will be counted.
9. The whip must not be used with excessive, abusive force (shoulder generated force).
10. Should a driver be guilty of "one handing" during a race, please see the below sanctions specifically for this breach.
11. The following is a list of unapproved uses of the whip, these are not exclusive and may be added to or changed:
 - Using the whip excessively,
 - continuously without giving the horse time to respond,
 - Using the whip on a horse that is:
 - a) Not responding
 - b) Is not in contention
 - c) Cannot maintain or improve its position
 - d) Is clearly winning
 - e) Has passed the winning line
 - f) Lengthening the reins i.e. loose-lining, regardless of whether whip is being used
 - g) Using the butt end of the whip in a prodding or jabbing fashion
12. A driver shall not use a whip which causes injury to a horse.
13. The whip shall not be used outside the confines of the shafts and wheel discs shall not be hit.
14. No person shall offer inducement to; or instruct a driver to use the whip contrary to the above rules.

Penalties

Mild Infringement (1-3 Strikes over)		
Offence Number	Sanction	Demerit Points
1st	Warning	1
2nd	€50	1
3rd	€100	1
4th	€150	1
5th	€200 + 1 Day Driving Suspension	1

Moderate Infringement (4-6 Strikes over)		
Offence Number	Sanction	Demerit Points
1st	€50	1
2nd	€100	1
3rd	€200 + 1 Day Driving Suspension	2
4th	€300 + 2 Day Driving Suspension	2
5th	€400 + 3 Day Driving Suspension	2

Major Infringement (7+ Strikes over or Shoulder Action)		
Offence Number	Sanction	Demerit Points
1st	€100 + 1 Day Driving Suspension	2
2nd	€200 + 2 Day Driving Suspension	2
3rd	€300 + 3 Day Driving Suspension	2
4th	€400 + 7 Day Driving Suspension	3
5th	€500 + 10 Day Driving Suspension	3

"One Handing" Breach		
Offence Number	Sanction	Demerit Points
1st	€300 + 3 Day Driving Suspension	4
2nd	€400 + 7 Day Driving Suspension	4
3rd	€500 + 10 Day Driving Suspension	4

Abusive Infringement	
Offence Number	Sanction
Upon Reaching 12 Demerit Points	€1000 + 20 Day Suspension

- A day suspension is defined as an IHRA fixture and will be come into effect on meetings whereby the entries for which have not yet closed, on the day the suspension is issued.
- A driver who has no whip offence for a period of 42 days will revert to the first offence i.e. return to the first offence.
- The grace period of 42 calendar days will come into effect from the date of the last suspension served or monetary penalty whichever was the last offence.
- In cases where it is deemed that the whip has been used with severe / extreme force, for example shoulder action has been used or the horse has weal's or whip marks or blood has been drawn or the reins are found to be under the horses tail; then the horse shall be examined by the track vet who shall report their findings directly to the stewards. If found guilty of this offence, the penalty – the penalty will be deemed as a major infringement.
- Any driver committing an offence in moderate and/or major and subsequently an offence in mild offence will receive a penalty of a fine and no warning.
- The start point for the stewarding of the use of the whip shall begin at the point of no return, which will be located 200m ahead of the start line.
- This rule and all whip rules would also come under a retrospective stewarding process whereby the footage of the days racing must be made available to an independent IHRA steward within 24 hours to be reviewed and any infringements reported to the IHRA office within 72 hours of the race meeting, whereby the name of the offender, rule breached, and the penalty is to be published on the IHRA website, any appeals will be heard the following week.
- The whip rules will be reviewed in 6 weeks to determine its progress.