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**DIRECTIVE NO. 1-2012**

**Experimental Policy Regarding Use of the Whip**

The New Jersey Racing Commission (the Commission) is charged with the responsibility to advance the best interest of horse racing, to curtail activities or circumstances inimical to the integrity and safe conduct of racing and to advance the public's confidence in the sport. To facilitate the Commission's ability to carry out these responsibilities, the Legislature granted it broad regulatory authority which includes implementation of policies and the issuance of directives designed to protect the integrity of horse racing, to guard the health of horses and humans who compete, and to safeguard the interest of the public and all racing participants.

In an effort to safeguard the welfare of horses, the New Meadowlands Racing, LLC (NMRLLC) has requested the assistance of the Commission by implementing a new and expansive policy concerning the use of the whip by licensed drivers of standardbred horses during races conducted at the Meadowlands Racetrack under the jurisdiction the Commission. The new policy clarifies provisions contained in the current rule, N.J.A.C. 13:71-20.15, which prohibit the brutal and indiscriminate use of the whip upon any horse.

After considering this request and in the interest of ensuring that the welfare of all horses is safeguarded to the greatest extent possible, the Commission concludes that, consistent with its authority and jurisdiction over all matters related to horse racing, the following Directive concerning the use of the whip by licensed drivers of standardbred horses, shall become effective immediately on an experimental basis through December 31, 2012 and apply to standardbred races conducted at all New Jersey standardbred racetracks:

**The brutal and indiscriminate use of the whip is prohibited by N.J.A.C. 13:71-20.15. Through this Directive, licensed standardbred race horse drivers are being provided notice of the Commission's interpretation of this regulation.**

The use of the whip shall be confined to the areas above and between the sulky shafts. The one handed use of the whip shall be limited to the striking of the shafts of the sulky or the saddle pad.



Using the whip in a one handed striking motion when, in the opinion of the judges, it does not appear that the horse is advancing its position in the race or is not in contention.

Any blatant or exaggerated movements of the whipping arm which will result from raising the elbow above the driver's shoulder height or allowing the hand holding the whip to reach behind the driver while striking with the whip.

Whipping under the arch or shafts of the sulky, using the whip as a goading or poking device, or placing the whip between the legs of the horse.

Whipping after the finish of the race.

Causing visible injury to the horse by leaving welts, cuts or other marks resulting from the use of the whip.

Using the whip in such a manner as to cause interference or confusion to any other horse or driver in the race.

Excessive use of the whip is prohibited and one handed whipping is restricted as follows:

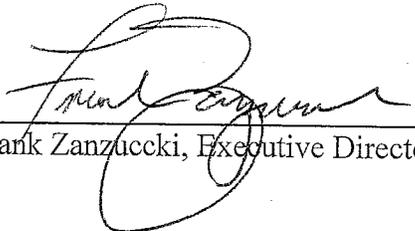
- Drivers are prohibited from using the whip in a one handed striking motion from the start of the race until the horse reaches the 1/4 mile pole.
- From the 1/4 mile pole until the horse reaches the 7/8 mile pole, the driver may strike the shaft of the sulky or saddle pad in a one handed motion for a maximum of 3 strikes, but must pause after each strike (NO REPETITIVE WHIPPING)
- Once the horse has reached the 7/8 mile pole, the driver may, in a one handed motion, strike the shaft of the sulky or the saddle pad in a reasonable and responsible manner (approximately 6 to 8 strikes) but must pause after 2 strikes (NO REPETITIVE WHIPPING FOR MORE THAN 2 STRIKES)

(The terms "striking the horse" or "one handed striking motion" shall **not** be construed as to mean a light tapping with the whip, at any point in the race, while maintaining a line in each hand.)

Any person found in violation of this Directive will be subject to penalties as contained in and authorized by the New Jersey Administrative Code.

During the experimental period, the presiding judge at each standardbred racetrack shall maintain records of all violations of this Directive which shall include, but not be limited to, the identity of the licensed driver, the identity of the horse, the date of the race and race number, a description of the violation and the disposition of the matter. At the conclusion of the experimental period, the presiding judge at each standardbred racetrack shall issue a report to the Executive Director containing an evaluation of the policy. The report shall also include the opinion of the presiding judge at each race track as to whether the policy should be continued and, if so, recommendations for further improvement. All licensees and members of the general public are also encouraged to submit written comments by December 31, 2012 to the New Jersey Racing Commission.

**BY ORDER OF THE NEW JERSEY RACING COMMISSION  
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

  
Frank Zanzuccki, Executive Director

Dated: May 3, 2012