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Whips

Summary:

Racing Australia will amend the rules governing the use of the whip from 1 December, 2015.

In respect of Australian Rule of Racing AR.137A, the Board has decided:

1. To remove the distinction between forehand and backhand whip strikes so that there is a limit of five forehand or backhand whip strikes prior to the 100 metres.
2. To introduce stronger penalties for whip offences including greater emphasis on suspensions for serious breaches and for breaches in Group and Listed races.

The rule changes are largely an extension of the whip reforms of 2009. The changes to the whip rules in 2009 introduced limits on the number and manner of whip strikes which in conjunction with a padded whip has ensured the welfare of the horse.

However, too great a reliance on the backhand application of the whip has developed in response to the limits imposed on the forehand application.

After careful consideration, the Board decided that backhand strikes should be treated in the same way as forehand strikes so as to leave no room for misinterpretation of the rules against excessive use.

Amend AR.137A(5) as follows:

“(5) Subject to the other requirements of this rule:

- (a) In a race, official trial or jump-out prior to the 100 metre mark;
 - (i) The whip shall not be used ~~in a forehand manner~~ in consecutive strides.
 - (ii) The whip shall not be used ~~in a forehand manner~~ on more than ~~on~~ 5 occasions.
 - (iii) The rider may at his discretion use the whip with a slapping motion down the shoulder, with the whip hand remaining on the reins, ~~or alternatively in a backhand manner.~~
- (b) In the final 100 metres of a race, official trial or jump-out a rider may use his whip at his discretion.”

Date of Effect: 1 December, 2015