



The whip: A tool, not a method of inducement!

Animal welfare is an important, determining factor in trotting and flat racing. The welfare of our horses and the safety of humans and animals must never be inferior to economic interests.

These are the starting points for the chain of thought behind the regulation changes planned by the SNDR for January 1st 2023. They regard the carrying and use of the whip during the trotting- and flat-races in the Netherlands. We hope that these new rules will give a positive impulse to further improve the social licence for our racing-industry to operate.

From January 1st 2023, the use of a whip for encouraging the horse will be prohibited.

From this date, the whip may only be carried for correction of the horse and may only be used if a situation arises in which the safety of animals and humans are at stake. These new regulations will be reviewed in 6 months' time. Then it will have to show whether the regulations are sufficiently clear, whether the punishment is sufficient and whether the effect of the measures have had a positive effect on the image of our sport in general and the well-being of the horse within our sector in particular.

The new regulations will be as followed:

TROTting RACES

DRAFSPORT WEDSTRIJDREGLEMENT

Artikel 36

- I. The use of the whip is only permitted to correct the horse in a situation where the safety of humans and animals is endangered. Both hands of the driver must remain on the individual reins to direct the horse. Any other use of the whip is prohibited and will be penalized. While being carried and used for correcting, the whip may not be taken outside of the sulky.

It is prohibited to:

- a. make corrections using hand(s), touching the horse;
- b. make corrections using legs/feet, making contact with the horse;
- c. using the reins to move the bit roughly into/through the mouth;
- d. encourage the horse with the reins, including pulling it under the tail;
- e. to engage in any behaviour that could be considered animal-unfriendly;
- f. use or carry the whip in any other way than described in the preamble of this paragraph 1.

TROTting RACES, MONTÉ

DRAFSPORT WEDSTRIJDREGLEMENT

Artikel 17

- III In the monté races, carrying of the whip is permitted in accordance with the provisions of Article 29, paragraphs I to III of the Rensport Wedstrijd Reglement (Flatracing regulations).
- IV The length of the whip may not exceed 70 cm including the flap, the minimum diameter 10 mm, maximum flap length 10 cm from the end of the shaft, maximum flap width 4 cm with a minimum of 2 cm.

The part where the whip that makes contact with the horse must be made of shock-absorbing material. The compression factor of this should be at least 6 millimeters.

This part of the whip must be flat, protrusions, extensions or weights are prohibited.



FLATRACING

RENSPORT WEDSTRIJD REGLEMENT

Article 3

- I The application or use of implements or devices which, in the opinion of the Stewards, are considered to be unfriendly to animals, is liable to punishment.
- II During the race, the use of the whip is permitted in accordance with the provisions of Article 29, paragraphs I to III.
The length of the whip may not exceed 70 cm including the flap, the minimum diameter 10 mm, maximum flap length 10 cm from the end of the shaft, maximum flap width 4 cm with a minimum of 2 cm.
The part where the whip that makes contact with the horse must be made of shock-absorbing material. The compression factor of this should be at least 6 millimetres.
This part of the whip must be flat, protrusions, extensions or weights are prohibited.

Article 29

- I The use of the whip is only permitted to correct the horse in a situation where the safety of humans and animals is endangered. Both hands of the rider must remain on the individual reins to direct the horse. Any other use of the whip is prohibited and will be penalized.
- II During the race, the whip must be kept in such a way that other participants cannot be hindered.
- III While carrying the whip, it may not be held or handled in a sideways direction.
Only the backhand use of the whip, for correction, is allowed. When using the whip, both hands of the rider must remain on the individual reins and the arm should not exceed shoulder height.
When incorrect handling or carrying of the whip causes a disadvantage for another participant and the rider is found to have demonstrated intent or gross negligence, the horse will be disqualified and the rider penalized.

The penalties are as follows:

Penalties for violations with the whip and inappropriate behavior towards a horse:

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| 1 st Offence: | €200 fine and 3 days suspension of the license, minimum; |
| 2 nd Offence | €400 and 6 days suspension of the license, minimum; |
| 3 rd Offence: | €600 and 10 days suspension of the license, minimum; |
| 4 th Offence | referral to the disciplinary committee. |

- When imposing punishments, the Disciplinary Committee and the Stewards will take into account the punishments imposed on the person concerned, which have taken place in a period of maximum three months prior to the time when the last violation was committed.
- If the prizemoney of the relevant race amounts to € 15.000,- or more, the minimum penalty will be doubled