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## **Notice to the Industry**

### **Refinements to the Penalty Guidelines for Inappropriate Urging of a Horse**

Minor refinements to the penalty and enforcement guidelines on urging a horse were released today by the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC). To enable participants every opportunity to adjust their riding and driving styles to the urging rules, as of January 1, 2011, there will be a 'reset of the calendar' for rule violations for all breeds. This adjustment period will apply to the 2011 racing season only.

The goal of these refinements to the rules and the subsequent review represent the ORC's commitment to making the policy, rules, and practice work better, and not to significantly modify the rules.

After a year-long consultation, new rules on urging the horse came into effect on September 1, 2009. The rules – which apply to Standardbred, Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse racing – focus on the safety of the participants, the welfare of the horse and the perception of the product. The ORC believes these new rules are fair, enforceable and appropriate for today's racing industry.

As well, the ORC remains committed to continued communication with the racing community so that it can adjust to the changes. This commitment includes minor refinements to these rules, so that consistency, fairness and the integrity of racing will be maintained.

John L. Blakney  
Executive Director