

**Anthony, Sandy (ORC)**

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**From:** Island Heat [islandheatstable@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 09, 2008 1:03 PM  
**To:** Anthony, Sandy (ORC)  
**Subject:** Industry Forum- Whip Rules

**Ontario Racing Commission**  
**Suite 400**  
**10 Carlson Court**  
**Toronto, Ontario**  
**M9W 6L2**

September 9.2008

**Mr. John L. Blakney**  
Executive Director

**Re: Industry Forum to Examine the Use of the Whip**

Dear Mr. Blakney:

I thank you for your letter and invitation to attend the working forum on Sept. 10. 2008. I applaud the O.R.C for leading this initiative and allowing an unbiased strategy to contribute ideas to the issue at hand seeking a Democratic solution. Having read all of the " view points " from contributors thus far, there seems to be several elements shared among those contributors.

- a) horse racing is a business and should be treated as such, business is paramount as thousands of lives depend on the industry.
- b) control and guidance of the horse , without proper, secure regulated , enforced methods we have no viable product to offer.
- c) the whip needs to re- designed and or modified IE. length, material and the components of the whip itself.
- d) the area in which the driver or jockey can affect with the whip, on the race bike or body parts of the horse and the maximum times in which it can be used through the entire race not just the " home stretch "
- e) the number of hands in which the driver must use to guide the horse effectively around the race course to ensure both human and animal safety.
- f) two breed rules as reflected by WEG
- g) "perception"" of the movement of the whip

Everyone agrees that excessive whipping or winding up the whip is cruel and unnecessary. These horses

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are like our children . Care and love must be present at all times.Rules are only good if enforced and enforcers need to be consistent , if not, we will have inconsistent driver habits. We as owners, trainers and racing fans we trust that the " jockeys and drivers " are performing the best job possible in each race. If we have given them the license and authority to manage our horse then let them do their job. If the judges see any infraction then they must enforce the rules. The greater majority of drivers and jockeys use sensible actions or else we would have a driver shortage due to suspensions. As Bob McIntosh , I would not use a driver who abuses my horse in any fashion ! We need to be direct with all persons who negate from the integrity of racing, not send polite messages or "water cooler talk " .

Why do I have to pay a driver 5 % to brutalize my horse ? Who made that law up ? As owners we should be able to set our own fee percentage and if I want to pay 2% I can, and conversely 10 % to drivers who deserve a premium. Talk about even more parity in the sport! Quickly the abusers will be weeded out . Being a " jockey or driver " is a privilege not a "right " .

As mentioned in many of the " view points " there are much larger issues that concern the welfare of our horses and the future of Harness Racing in particular. It makes zero sense to " police " whipping rules at **all** race tracks , yet blind to " enhanced medications " at **some tracks!** If our concern is to attract new customers.

I challenge all concerned Owners, Trainers, Drivers, Caretakers,Associations ,Publications, and Sr. Racing Officials to form unity now and save our sport. The O.R.C has given us the opportunity to come forward as individuals in order to unite for **one cause**. Lets show the World why Ontario is the leader in our sport and has the best product . The actual race track ownerships/corporations and are deliberately not mentioned as it is not there duty to ensure Harness racing profitability.... it is **our duty** as Horse people.

My final thought.... Lets be very Clear about our " new customer base " It is not people who gamble **ON** the races but rather Slot Machine players who gamble **AT** the races!!!

I fully support certain proposed rule changes and support stronger fines and penalties. I thank and respect all of my fellow Horsemen and Horsewomen who have made their voice heard.Special thank you to the Ontario Racing Commission for allowing me contribute.

Best Regards,

Allan Pootoolal  
Island Heat Stable  
Guelph, ON