

# DAVE DREW ASSOCIATES INC.

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Subject:        **Use of the whip**

The use of the whip is an important issue to the future of horse racing and I want to express my full support for a change in the use of the whip in harness racing in Ontario.

In terms of a specific change, the best wording that I have seen has been published in the media, suggested by Dr. Ted Clark of Grand River Raceway, and is as follows:

- During a race a driver shall hold one line in each hand at all times until the finish line is reached and the event is complete.
- During a race the driver shall maintain a steady hold on each line at all times to ensure adequate control of the horse in order to maintain its established course, or to make changes of direction safely.
- There shall be no exaggerated movement by the driver to apply the whip either from the side or over the back of the horse.
- Any contact of the whip to the horse must be above the level of the shafts of the sulky.
- A driver may launch an objection against another driver in the same race regarding violations of these limitations.

The most important reason to make this change is to improve the horse racing product for the betting public and the public in general. I believe that a large percentage of people do not support the existing use of the whip in racing where drivers can put the driving lines in one hand and pull back with the other hand and arm to whip a horse.

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In addition, I believe it to be safer for racing in the stretch because drivers will have a line in each hand and can better control their horses, particularly if a horse tires and starts to bear-out or bear-in during the stretch drive. Also, most horses will respond better in the long run from not being whipped as hard.

By way of background, I have been a Standardbred horse owner and part-time caretaker for more than 30 years, have been a licensed trainer for the last 10 years, and a licensed driver for the last seven years. Most of my driving has been in the CKG Billings races through the Delvin Miller Amateur Driving Association events held across the Canada and the United States. I do drive in Ontario regular Para mutual races with horses that I own as well as a few others.

In 2007, the Delvin Miller Amateur Driving Association established the rule that all drivers in its amateur races keep two hands on the reins for the entire race. I feel that the Association conducted safer and equally competitive races and improved the racing product for the public by its rule change.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts and good luck in your discussion and decision on this important issue.

Yours truly,

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