

Hoogeveen, Wendy (ORC)

From: Jamie Martin [JHM@woodbineentertainment.com]
Sent: July 30, 2008 3:38 PM
To: Blakney, John (ORC); Hoogeveen, Wendy (ORC)
Subject: Whipping

I read with interest the ORCs intent to form a committee to review whipping rules within the Province. I applaud the decision. I would strongly recommend that you have two separate committees that are breed specific. You could have vets and such on both committees but there is no value in having standardbred horsemen participate in discussing a thoroughbred rule change, or vise versa. While the overriding issue is the same, the application of rules to each breed will be very different.

As you may know, there is progress on this issue with the JBA. Due to the smaller size of the thoroughbred community, two tracks and an organized group of riders, it will be easier to build consensus and ultimately move forward on the whipping issue. Further, US activities in respect to this issue are moving quickly. I am attending Industry meetings in Saratoga in mid August, and I expect consensus to flow from that on this issue. The thoroughbred racing community in Ontario will not be left behind on this issue, and it is simpler for WEG, the JBA, and the HBPA to take similar positions with respect to the type of whip used....which is the main thrust. ORC involvement with this initiative or not, to the credit of the JBA, there will be change on whipping in Ontario in thoroughbred racing.

The issue is not so simple on the standardbred side. I was involved the last time. I don't expect you will reach a consensus with the Industry on this issue. It will take much longer to implement change on the standardbred side, if at all. For that reason, as with the Working Groups for the rule changes, I would suggest breed specific Working Groups on this question.

Thanks. Jamie.

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