

To whom it may concern-

Whipping changes:

Watching drivers on the track & the way they drive is so important to the way the public see our sport. Our sport has turned into chariot racing.

Drivers have their handholds back so far there is no possible way they have complete control of the horse they are driving. WEG where most of the top drivers in the sport are, give each other all kinds of room on the track so the handholds way back isn't such a big deal. The trouble with that is drivers without the room or talent are doing the same thing. When they reach up to prompt their horse the first thing they lose is control because the hand holds are so far back that when they lean forward the lines get a big wow in them thus no control. Nothing looks worse than someone pounding on a horse with the lines down around it's hocks.

As far as use of the whip goes we need to have a "target zone" where the horses can be prompted.

- The target zone should be on top of the horse & in between the withers of the horse.(hip bones)  
The horse is protected the most on his back (i.e.- saddle pad, harness, back pad)
- Drivers have to keep both hands in the handhold at all times. No more "one handers"
- The whip must stay in front of driver at all times (no further back than a 90' angle) & prompting must be done only on the top of the horse. If the horse is hit any place else a penalty would be accessed. No more loose lining. This would stop the "throwing of the lines" Fine the drivers that do it and it will stop. Control of the horse at all times is important, not to mention it might keep the horse brave. Just because the horse isn't grabbing a hold of you does not mean you have to loose line him.
- Take the snapper off the whip & shorten the whip by at least 6 inches.
- No more full swings at our loved ones. We are supposed to adore these animals not punish them.
- We still will have penalties for excessive & the other whipping violations.
- Our drivers should get back to driving the horse not herding & hitting the horse. I believe if they drive like that there is no reason for them to drive at all.

Respectfully Yours  
Larry Hughes

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