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KSP

SCHEDULE "A"

SUBMISSION RE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE RULES OF RACING

RE: WHIPPING RULE REVIEWS

The regulator is becoming a "micro-manager" of the conduct of the race. The vast majority of our drivers and jockeys are skilled and have some real knowledge as to when the whip would be appropriate or even helpful to the horse and its longevity as a viable racing animal.

Our race horses are intelligent animals. Many, especially older horses with some years of experience, learn very quickly when and where under the latest version of the Rules of Racing they may be touched by their driver or rider. They then, and very naturally, become a little complacent at or during the prohibited portions of the race with the result that the owners, trainers and drivers soon get the same perhaps restrained effort from their horse in these portions of the race. Very soon the laws of economics come into play and the industry has more candidates for the Maritime circuit or, even worse, the real dark side of racing, the disposable horse phenomena and our slaughter industry.

Please have the regulator deal with real and substantive issues such as the way our old race horses are treated.

Many of our best drivers in the past fifty years are recorded on tape as having cracked saddle pad, shaft, or a wheel with a solid one-hander as the gate pulled away or as they took their horse first over a half mile pole. The whip was very often with these professionals unnecessary thereafter and put back under the arm for the rest of the race.

I know rules relating to whipping are needed. Clare Smith, some 40 years ago, could judge what was excessive and appropriate with a tool we have incorrectly and entirely abandoned, a Judge's discretion. Judge Smith's adjudications and punishment for inappropriate use of the whip were fair and appropriate. Please remember in those days there were twenty thousand people in the seats on Saturday nights. Discretion works.

Respectfully, no more micromanagement. We have too much already.

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AUG 7 2008
ONTARIO RACING
COMMISSION

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