

Jockeys' Benefit Association of Canada

J.B.A.C. c/o Thoroughbred Race Office
555 Rexdale Boulevard, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M9W 5L2

September 2, 2008

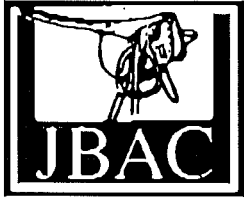
Attention: Ms. Wendy Hoogveen
Director of Industry Development and Support
Ontario Racing Commission
Suite 400
10 Carlson Court
Toronto, Ontario
M9W 6L2

Re: Jockeys' Whip

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Robert King Jr. and I am the recently appointed National Secretary-Manager of the Jockeys' Benefit Association of Canada (JBAC). The JBAC represent jockeys as a group, and is the official spokesperson for thoroughbred jockeys across Canada. I personally have held a thoroughbred jockeys license from 1982 until 2007, primarily based in Canada, but also having ridden internationally in Hong Kong, South Africa and throughout North America. During an interim from 1997-2004, I temporarily retired from riding to hold both that of a public trainers license as well as an owner, before returning to riding.

On behalf of the members of the Jockeys of the JBAC, I submit this letter in response to Mr. John Blakney's Ontario Racing Commissions (ORC) industry initiative on the use of the whip. First and foremost the JBAC would like to convey that our association welcomes addressing the "whip issue" in light of its recent focus south of the 49th parallel. The transparency of horse racing as a sport is imperative to maintain the highest integrity level, and be held accountable to both racing fans and the public as a whole.

Imperative as to its purposes, allow me to give an overview as to the necessity and uses of whips in horse racing. The average Thoroughbred weighing upward of 1000 lbs, and having the physical attributes of being an extremely powerful and explosive animal. A human's ability to safely handle and ride a thoroughbred requires responses to cues from the rider to the animal. Horses being of the herd animal mentality, instinctively respond from pressures, so be it physical (body language) or with aids to cue them to react accordingly. When mounted, these pressures come from equipment aids being bits, reins, bridles, which allow a rider the ability to steer and halt, and leg pressure applied to the flank area cueing a horse to move forward, as well as laterally. Jockeys being in a tight ball like crouched positions, balance on their toes in short stirrups, cannot apply



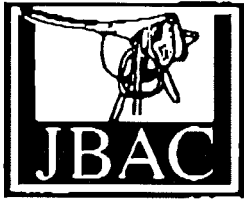
Jockeys' Benefit Association of Canada

J.B.A.C. c/o Thoroughbred Race Office
555 Rexdale Boulevard, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M9W 5L2

such leg pressure to a horses flank, due to their respective stance. Therefore they are forced to rely solely on a whip to facilitate and assimilate such a cue to move forward and or alter their course. The ability to move forward on cue, and maintain a straight course is paramount for the safety of any rider, fellow riders and their respective mounts, and the whip is that tool, not to punish but to persuade. Thoroughbreds can also be aggressive in nature towards each other. The whip allows a jockey for safety sake, the ability of course correction and an ability to maintain a straight course, for all horses and riders involved in that race.

North American racing primarily being run on one mile or smaller dirt ovals, is much more speed orientated than our foreign counterparts sweeping turf courses. The quickest fractions are early in a race. Hence, in North America, a jockeys ability of getting an early ground saving position is key to maximize a horses opportunity to win or place. The use of a whip early in a race allows a jockey the ability of cueing a horse to move forward and gain a prime position. The use of a whip later in a race, cues the horse that it is time to maximize speed and to leave and lead the herd, which is contrary to their herd instincts.

It is fully understood and of the JBAC, that rules and regulations are absolutely necessary, and in need of enforcement to maintain the integrity and transparency of our sport. The JBAC position as to abuse of whips is clear, in that it should not be tolerated and rules should be enforced in that matter. Having said that, we feel that particularly these recent years jockeys in Ontario have not been without scrutiny in this area either. Myself recently being privy to all the rules, fines and rulings imposed across Canada, Ontario horse racing by far is the most highly scrutinized and advanced racing jurisdiction in this whip area. I say this not in defense to the rulings levied by ORC Stewards, but solely as an observation as to the due diligence already in place under the ORC. Due to these ever increasing imposed fines and suspensions as well as public perception, the JBAC acting proactive to whip issues, recently has taken steps by purchasing and voluntarily trying the new "LITE TOUCH" cushion crops. Used by JBAC jockeys at both Fort Erie and Woodbine racetracks recently, both in workouts and during races. This crop has a much larger cushioned end, that when contact is made with the horse it is much kinder. This crop seemingly will alleviate the area of possibly and inadvertently the striking of the stifle area wrong, causing a welt or cut. Still in need of some fine-tuning development this "LITE TOUCH" crop has been overall seemingly well received so far by most jockeys.



Jockeys' Benefit Association of Canada

J.B.A.C. c/o Thoroughbred Race Office
555 Rexdale Boulevard, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M9W 5L2

Being the National Secretary Manager of the JBAC affords and requires me to watch races from all racing jurisdictions across North America. I do question to myself as to the contradiction in acceptable whip behavior from our simulcasting American counterparts. I firmly believe that the Ontario Racing Commission has already stepped up to the plate by firmly enforcing whip rules, and that jockeys have taken great strides to abide to these rules. Thank you for your time and should you have any further questions pertaining to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectively yours,

Robert King Jr.
National Secretary Manager
Jockeys' Benefit Association of Canada