

**Anthony, Sandy (ORC)**

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**From:** Biz [biz@ezlink.ca]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2008 2:14 PM  
**To:** Anthony, Sandy (ORC)  
**Subject:** whipping suggestion

Regards,

I am submitting some suggestions regarding the usage of whips in horse racing. I am a participant of the sport and own trotting standardbreds. As the trotting gait is somewhat more fragile than a hopped pacer and going of stride can occur more frequently, I think it is a wonderful suggestion by Dr. Ted Clark of Grand River raceway that a whip should stay inside the boundaries of the cart. The flash of a whip can send a trotters head off, and in past experience my dads' trotter was once hit in the face by a sly and quick movement by another driver that brought his whip through a slingshot rebound that came from underneath his shaft. It can be so subtle and quick that a judge is hard pressed to see it, however after replaying the race several times we did see his flash of white whip come into contact with the horses face. It takes time to regain confidence for a horse who has encountered this.

From here, I would like to suggest that drivers keep their whips to themselves, carry a black whip instead of a flashing white one, and I do agree with drivers keeping their lines in both hands for the entire race. Horses do not steer through neck-reining their hindquarters with one hand, they steer through their mouth. I cannot imagine how this ever was allowed in the first place. The safety of the course is essential when there are so many lives travelling at such speed. Control of the animal is imperative. A driver can hold the lines correctly while giving the urging that is needed by a whip, and have good contact with a horses mouth at all times. I figure our equine athletes are giving us all they can, and being fair to the betting public, I am strongly in favour of whipping rules which provide decency and sportsmanlike behavior at all times. Newcomers to the sport would be more inclined to participate if there was more benevolent consideration for the animal and a respect for the life out there. The horses who belong to people who feel that they need their hide ripped off, hearts and respiratory interrupted while they receive their lashes, is one of the prime reasons why this sport is declining and one of the disgraces we as a whole should be ashamed of. I am in favor of using whips, believe me. I just think they should be used in a sportmanlike manner, with respect and consideration for fellow competitors.

Both hands on the lines should solve this issue, and no loose lining (keeping contact with horses mouth at all times). Like a rollercoaster ride, keep your hands in the car at all times (no whips flailing about outside the perimeter of the cart). Maybe like a hockey game, no high sticking! Keep the whips down, away from fellow competitors who may be travelling behind. Black whips only. Hopefully the trainer has provided the driver with an honest, fit, sound, and willing equine that doesn't need a beating to go ahead. Just good communication and encouragement. Some of us love our horses.

Sorry about the length of my venting, best of luck in the changing of the rules!

Sincerely, Tracy Bisback