



NZTR DIRECTIVE

Acceptable Use of the Whip

Effective 1 August 2017

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing have considered and issued the following guidelines with respect to acceptable use of the whip.

Rule 638(3) A Rider shall not:

[...]

(b) strike a horse with a whip in a manner or to an extent which is:

- (i) unnecessary*
- (ii) or excessive*
- (iii) or improper*

Without affecting the generality of Rule 638(3)(b), a rider may be penalised if their whip use is outside of the following guidelines:

Inside the final 600 metres of a race, official trial or jump-out a horse may be struck with the drawn whip up to five times after which the rider must cease their use of the whip for a minimum of five strides before striking the horse again with the drawn whip, with this restriction to apply prior to the final 100 metres. The whip may then be used at the rider's discretion until the winning post is reached.

Prior to the final 600 metres of a race, official trial or jump-out the use of the drawn whip is acceptable if used in moderation and not continually.

Notwithstanding the above, it will also be deemed to be unacceptable where a rider uses the drawn whip:

- when a horse is out of contention
- when a horse is showing no response

- when a horse has no reasonable prospect of improving or losing its position
- after its chance of winning or being placed is clearly gone
- when a horse is clearly winning
- after passing the winning post
- using the whip with the arm above shoulder height.

A rider may at their discretion use the whip with a slapping motion down the shoulder, with the whip hand remaining on the reins, at any time.

Rule of Rule Relating to Directives:

106(b)

Every person commits a breach of these Rules who:

[...]

acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any provision of these Rules or any Regulations made thereunder, or any notice, direction, instruction, requirement or condition given, made or imposed under these Rules;