



PA HARNESS RACING COMMISSION

EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2014

Use of the Whip Policy

The Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission Rules and Regulations provide directions to the racing regulatory community whereas under certain conditions a whip may be permitted. For clarification and for the purpose of edification on this matter the following is the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission's explanation as it relates to the circumstances surrounding the use of the whip:

- (A) All drivers must keep a line in each hand, for the purpose of whipping, beginning when the horse is behind the starting gate and continuing through the finish of the race.
- (B) Whipping shall be restricted to elbow and wrist action only and the whipping arm shall not be raised above shoulder height.
- (C) There shall not be exaggerated movement of the whipping arm and the lines must remain reasonably taut during the entire race.
- (D) There will be no whipping below the level of the shaft.
- (E) There will be no striking the shaft.
- (F) There will be no placing the whip between the horse's legs.
- (G) Whips shall be no longer than 48 inches in length with a cracker (snapper) no longer than 6 inches in length. Only a conventional cracker (snapper) will be permitted. No leather or unusual materials may be used. The conventional cracker (snapper) will not be knotted and tape is only permitted on the handle of the whip.
- (H) All modifications to a whip are prohibited.
- (I) Excessive, indiscriminate, and/or abusive use of the whip is prohibited.

Chairman Jonathan Newman
Commissioner Noah Wenger
Commissioner Edward Rogers Jr.

Executive Secretary George Crawford



(J) Whip use on a horse that is out of contention and/or not responding (going forward) is prohibited.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Crawford". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name and title below it.

George Crawford
Executive Secretary
PA Harness Racing Commission

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Commissioner Noah Wenger
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