

DRAFT MEASURES

CONTROLS ON USE OF THE WHIP

General

1. The following are not changes to the controls on the use of the whip that the Australian Racing Board has yet decided to make. These draft measures are put forward for the purposes of obtaining submissions on whether some or all of them should be adopted by the Australian Racing Board.
2. These draft measures do not frame the limits of any submissions to the Australian Racing Board. Parties making submissions are invited to address any matters they consider relevant to the issue of the use of the whip in Australian Racing, whether or not they are matters contained in these exposure recommendations.
3. It will be proposed that all necessary rules, regulatory, policy and administrative changes be made to give effect to such decisions as the Australian Racing Board ultimately makes.

Draft measures identified for consideration

- (i) Only padded whips permitted (design to be approved by Stewards) to be considered (**NEW REQUIREMENT**)
- (ii) Stewards may punish use of the whip which is “excessive, unnecessary or improper” (**EXISTING PROVISION**)
- (iii) Specific proscription of use of the whip:
 - Forward of horses shoulder or in the vicinity of its head (**EXISTING PROVISION**)
 - Using an action that raises arm above shoulder height (**NEW REQUIREMENT**)
 - Horse is out of contention (**EXISTING PROVISION**)
 - Horse is showing no response (**EXISTING PROVISION**)
 - Past winning post (**EXISTING PROVISION**)
 - So as to cause injury (**NEW REQUIREMENT**)
 - When horse is clearly winning (**NEW REQUIREMENT**)
 - No reasonable prospect of improving its placing (**NEW REQUIREMENT**)
- (iv) Horse must be given time to respond to whip and whip not to be used in consecutive strides other than in a slapping motion down the shoulder with the whip hand remaining on the reins. (**NEW REQUIREMENT**)
- (v) Whip not to be used more than 5 times prior to 200 metres other than slapping motion down shoulder with whip hand on reins. (**NEW REQUIREMENT**)

- (vi) Whip not to be drawn on 2yos – only used in a slapping motion down the shoulder with the whip hand remaining on reins. **(NEW REQUIREMENT)**
- (vii) Stewards may punish trainer or other person party to whip misuse. **(EXISTING PROVISION)**
- (viii) Higher penalties for improper use of the whip.

Timetable

- Deadline for submissions: 30th January, 2009.
- Report by Australian Racing Board Chief Executive to Principal Racing Authorities: 16th February, 2009.
- Adoption of amendments to Australian Rules of Racing implementing new controls on use of whip: Australian Racing Board meeting March, 2009. (Date of effect of rule changes to be decided on having regard to period determined for educating riders in respect of new controls.)