

The whip: A tool, not a method of inducement!

Animal welfare is an important, determining factor in trotting and flat racing. The welfare of our horses and the safety of humans and animals must never be inferior to economic interests.

These are the starting points for the chain of thought behind the regulation changes made by the SNDR from January 1st 2023. They regard the carrying and use of the whip during the trotting- and flat- races in the Netherlands. We hope that these new rules will give a positive impulse to further improve the social licence for our racing-industry to operate.

From January 1st 2023, the use of a whip for encouraging the horse is prohibited.

The whip may only be carried for correction of the horse and may only be used if a situation arises in which the safety of animals and humans are at stake.

The regulations are as follows:

TROTTING RACES

DRAFSPORT WEDSTRIJDREGLEMENT

Artikel 36

- I. The use of the whip is only permitted to correct the horse in a situation where the safety of humans and animals is endangered. Both hands of the driver must remain on the individual reins to direct the horse. Any other use of the whip is prohibited and will be penalized. While being carried and used for correcting, the whip may not be taken outside of the sulky.

It is prohibited to:

- a. make corrections using hand(s), touching the horse;
- b. make corrections using legs/feet, making contact with the horse;
- c. using the reins to move the bit roughly into/through the mouth;
- d. encourage the horse with the reins, including pulling it under the tail;
- e. to engage in any behaviour that could be considered animal-unfriendly;
- f. use or carry the whip in any other way than described in the preamble of this paragraph 1.

The penalties are as follows:

Penalties for violations with the whip and inappropriate behavior towards a horse:

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| 1 st Offence: | €200 fine, minimum; |
| 2 nd Offence: | €300 fine, minimum; |
| 3 rd Offence: | €400 and 3 days suspension of the license, minimum; |
| 4 th Offence: | €600 and 6 days suspension of the license, minimum; |
| 5 th Offence: | referral to the disciplinary committee. |

- When imposing punishments, the Disciplinary Committee and the Stewards will take into account the punishments imposed on the person concerned, which have taken place in a period of maximum three months prior to the time when the last violation was committed.
- If the prizemoney of the relevant race amounts to € 15.000,- or more, the minimum penalty will be increased with one (1) percent of the total prizemoney.