

4. IMPROPER RIDING - RULE (B)54.2 AND SCHEDULE (B)6 PART 2

Another area which may give rise to a riding offence is that concerning Improper Riding. Whether the rider is mounted or dismounted this covers cases of Mis-use of the Whip (Schedule (B)6 Part 2) or striking other riders or horses (Rule (B)54.2), but may also be used to describe other forms of misconduct which do not give rise to interference (Rule (B)54.2).

The BHA remains totally committed to preventing any abuse of horses through improper or unacceptable use of the whip. **Stewards must hold an enquiry into any case where the rider appears to have hit his horse contrary to the guidelines on Pages 28 and 29, or the rider has used his whip in any way as to cause them concern.**

Veterinary Officers will inspect horses after a race and if it is reported that a horse is wealed a Stewards' Enquiry must be held. However, the fact that a horse has not been wealed should not dissuade Stewards from holding an enquiry and, where appropriate, finding that excessive force has been used.

GUIDANCE ON USE OF THE WHIP

In assessing a rider's use of the whip the Stewards should always remember that the whip should be used for safety and encouragement, and never to coerce. Whilst there is a requirement for all riders to carry a whip, there is no obligation or expectation on riders using their whip.

- Any use of the whip by a jockey must be appropriate, proportionate, professional, and take account of the Rules and these Guidelines;
- The whip may be used to encourage a horse - to have the horse focused and concentrated - to perform at its best;
- The stimulus provided by the use of the whip must be limited, and the whip only used within the set limits on frequency, so as not to compromise the welfare of the horse;
- All jockeys must use a specifically designed and approved energy absorbing whip.

Riders should consider the following factors before and after picking up their whip so as to minimise any possibility of being found in breach of the Rules:

- a) Urging the horse to lengthen its stride and increase its pace by first using hands and heels before picking up the whip;
- b) Giving consideration to how much of the race is still left to run before starting to use the whip;
- c) Showing the horse the whip and giving it time to respond before using it;
- d) Using the whip in the back hand position;
- e) Having used the whip, giving the horse a chance to respond before using it again;
- f) Keeping both hands on the reins when using the whip down the shoulder in the backhand position;
- g) Using the whip in rhythm with the horse's stride and close to its side;
- h) Swinging the whip to keep the horse straight.

SCHEDULE (B)6 Part 2 - WHEN TO HOLD AN ENQUIRY

Having reviewed the race, the Stewards should hold an enquiry into any case where the rider appears to have hit the horse contrary to the guidelines on Page 28 or the rider has used his whip in such a way as to cause them concerns.

MIS-USE OF THE WHIP

1. Using the whip on a horse:
 - to the extent of causing a weal or an injury;
 - with the whip arm above shoulder height;
 - rapidly without regard to their stride (that is twice or more in one stride);
 - with excessive force;
 - without giving the horse time to respond.

2. Using the whip on a horse which is:
 - showing no response;
 - out of contention;
 - clearly winning;
 - past the winning post.

3. Using the whip on a horse in any place except:
 - on the quarters with the whip in either the backhand or forehand position;
 - down the shoulder with the whip in the backhand position;
 - unless exceptional circumstances prevail.

4. Using the whip on a horse:
 - with excessive frequency.

NOTES ON PENALTIES - SCHEDULE (B)6 PART 2

1. Having found the rider in breach, the Stewards must decide on the level of penalty for the offence. Having arrived at a figure, the Stewards should then establish if the rider has committed previous breaches and if so, increase the length of the suspension as set out in Paragraphs 6 and 7 below.
2. The level of penalty for whip offences should be dependent on both the actual offence and other offences within the previous 12 months.
3. Offences which incur a suspension of 2 - 4 days (Lower Level) are to be **treated separately** from those offences that incur a suspension of 5 days or more (Upper Level) when establishing whether or not the rider has committed previous offences.
4. When taking into account previous whip offences, the relevant date is the date on which a finding of a breach was first made.
5. Offences within the previous 12 months will be taken into account notwithstanding that the rider has appeared before the Disciplinary Panel.
6. Offences which incur a suspension of 5 days or more before previous offences are taken into account (Upper Level).

Second whip offence within previous 12 months -

Having decided on the level of penalty for the offence, it should be doubled.

Third whip offence within previous 12 months -

Having decided on the level of penalty for the offence it should be trebled.

If this would result in a suspension of more than 42 days, the rider must be referred.

Fourth whip offence within previous 12 months - refer.

7. Offences which incur a suspension of 2 - 4 days before previous offences are taken into account (Lower Level).

Second offence within previous 12 months - double penalty

Third offence within the previous 12 months - treble penalty

Fourth offence within the previous 12 months - quadruple penalty

Fifth offence within the previous 12 months - refer

8. If in the opinion of the Stewards a whip offence warrants a suspension of:

- More than 20 days before it is increased because it is not a first offence;
- More than 42 days after previous offences have been taken into account;

the matter should be referred to the Disciplinary Panel.

9. Group 1 and Grade 1 exemptions for races in this country and abroad will not apply to any whip offence.
10. If a rider is suspended for 7 days or more before previous offences are taken into account, he will lose his entitlement to a percentage of any prize money.
11. The Disciplinary Panel will usually impose a suspension of:

Referred -

Fourth suspension of 5 days or more within previous 12 months

2 months - 6 months suspension with an entry point of 3 months.

Rider will lose his entitlement to his percentage of any prize money if the suspension for the offence is 7 days or more before previous offences are taken into account.

Attend a course in remedial training.

Referred -

Fifth suspension of 2 - 4 days within previous 12 months

1 month - 3 months suspension with an entry point of 45 days.

Attend a course in remedial training.

PENALTY GUIDELINES - SCHEDULE (B)6 PART 2

These are Guidelines and do not provide an exhaustive list of offences, or circumstances, whereby a rider's use of the whip may be considered Improper.

Schedule (B)6 Part 2 - USE OF THE WHIP (Examples of Mis-use)	Number of hits which amount to a BREACH	Minimum penalty - DAYS
Report made by Veterinary Officer		
Minor weal		5
Moderate weal		8
Injury		refer
Arm above shoulder height	2	2
Without regard to stride (rat - tat - tat)	3	2
Excessive force	1	2
Without time to respond (allow 3 strides per stroke)	3	3
Showing no response	3	5
Out of contention	3	5
Clearly winning (or other placing)	2	2
Past the post	2	2
Incorrect place	1	2
Down shoulder in forehand	2	2
Excessive frequency		
Flat Race	8	5
Jump Race	9	5

If a rider's whip makes contact with his horse with his whip hand off the reins it will be considered as a hit regardless of how, where, or with what force the whip is used.

The level of penalty should be increased by 2 days for each hit over the number which amounts to a breach.

If the rider is in breach of more than one example add both penalties together. e.g. 8 hits in a flat race (5 days suspension for frequency) of which 2 hits were excessive force (4 days suspension) totals 9 days suspension.

PENALTY GUIDELINES - RULE (B)54.2

Rule (B)54.2 - Examples of Improper Riding which are <u>not</u> breaches of Schedule (B)6 Part 2. (This list is not exhaustive)	Minimum penalty - DAYS
Striking own horse in annoyance with whip	5
Throwing whip at horse in annoyance	5
Punching/jabbing horse in annoyance	5
Kicking horse in annoyance	5
Intentionally striking or attempting to strike other horses or riders (see pages 23 and below).	*See Improper Riding guidelines - page 23

STRIKING OR ATTEMPTING TO STRIKE OTHER HORSES OR RIDERS WITH A WHIP

- 1) Rider intentionally strikes another horse or rider with his whip causing serious interference - DANGEROUS RIDING
- 2) Rider intentionally strikes/attempts to strike another horse or rider with his whip causing interference - IMPROPER RIDING
- 3) Rider intentionally strikes/attempts to strike another horse or rider with his whip but does not cause interference - IMPROPER RIDING
- 4) Rider unintentionally strikes another horse or rider causing some interference but should have moderated his use of the whip because of the close proximity of another horse or rider - CARELESS RIDING
- 5) Rider accidentally strikes another horse or rider with his whip causing interference - ACCIDENTAL INTERFERENCE

NOTE: **If a rider hits another horse only once in a finish and the Panel consider that the rider is unlikely to have known that the horse was within striking range, more often than not it is likely to be categorised as Accidental Interference.**