

GUIDELINES FOR FINES AND SUSPENSIONS (Harness)

Reviewed and approved by the Ohio State
Racing Commission on August 25, 2015

- 1) **Cutting a horse with the whip or visibly injuring a horse** -- 3769-17-17(L)
 - a) \$500 fine and a three day driving suspension for first offense in Ohio
 - b) \$1,000 fine, a five day driving suspension, and referral to the Commission for second offense within 365 days in Ohio

- 2) **Excessive/Indiscriminate, abusive whipping, whipping after finish, whipping out of contention, illegal whip** -- 3769-17-17(B), (C), (D), (E), (F), (G), (I), (J), (K), (L))
 - a) \$300 fine for first offense in Ohio
 - b) \$300 fine, a three day driving suspension for second offense within 365 days in Ohio
 - c) \$500 fine, a five day driving suspension, and referral to the Commission for third offense within 365 days in Ohio

- 3) **Failure to keep a line in each hand** -- 3769-17-17(A)
 - a) \$300 fine for first offense in Ohio
 - b) \$300 fine and a three day suspension for second offense within 365 days in Ohio
 - c) \$500 fine, a five day driving suspension, and referral to the Commission for third offense within 365 days in Ohio

- 4) **Kicking** -- 3769-17-16(C)
 - a) \$300 fine for first offense in Ohio
 - b) \$300 fine and a three day driving suspension for second Ohio offense within 365 days
 - c) \$500 fine, a five day driving suspension, and referral to the Commission for third offense within 365 days in Ohio

- 5) **Leaning back excessively in the sulky** 3769-17-16(D)
 - a) \$200 fine for first offense in Ohio
 - b) \$300 fine for second offense within 365 days in Ohio
 - c) \$500 fine, a three day driving suspension, and referral to the Commission for third offense within 365 days in Ohio

This is a guide for judges. Drivers are subject to other penalties for violations not listed. Judges, in their discretion, may deviate from this guide. Judges determine the dates of any suspension.

Posted 7/1/15~Changes to the harness racing whipping rule take effect on July 19, 2015. The complete rule follows, as does 3769-17-16.

3769-17-17 Use of the whip.

(A) All drivers must keep a line in each hand 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 the driver's shoulder height.

(C) Drivers shall not move their whipping arm in an exaggerated manner and the lines shall remain reasonably taut during the race.

(D) Drivers shall not use the whip below the level of the shaft, forward of the race bike's wheels.

(E) Drivers shall not place the whip between the horse's legs.

(F) Drivers shall not strike another horse or driver with the whip.

(G) Drivers shall not use the handle of a whip on a horse.

(H) Drivers are permitted to use their hand or the whip in a sliding or gliding manner above the level of the shaft.

(I) Drivers shall not use the whip on a tired horse, on a horse that is not visibly responding, or when a horse is not in contention in a race.

(J) Drivers shall not use the whip without giving the horse time to respond to a previous application of the whip.

(K) Whips shall be no longer than 48 inches with the cracker no longer than 6 inches in length. Only a conventional cracker shall be permitted. No leather or unusual materials may be used. The conventional cracker shall not be knotted and tape is only permitted on the handle of the whip. All other modifications of the whip are prohibited.

(L) Excessive, indiscriminate, visibly injurious, or abusive use of the whip is prohibited.

(M) In addition to the penalties provided in Rule 3769-17-99, the violation of any of the provisions in this rule may result in loss of placement or disqualification.

Effective Date: 7/19/2015

3769-17-16 Improper conduct in race

(A) Loud shouting or other improper conduct is forbidden in a race.

(B) Drivers shall keep both feet in the stirrups at all times while on the track and during the race, except to pull ear plugs.

(C) Drivers shall not use any part of their feet and/or legs to impel a horse whether or not the feet remain in the stirrups.

(D) Drivers shall not lean back excessively in the sulky during a race and shall keep the hand holds set in a position to keep control of the horse.