

DIRECTIVE NO. 100 – 2019

STANDARD BRED

The Rules Governing Horse Racing in Alberta, Chapter 3: General Horse Racing Rules, Part 6 Standardbred Racing, Division 7 Driving Rules

The following Rule 458 s and Directive No. 085 – 2016 is **AMENDED** as follows:

Rule 458 s Obligations of driver

1. A driver violates these rules if the driver
 - a. fails to obey the starter's instructions;
 - b. wilfully backs off the starting gate after having been in position;
 - c. allows another horse to pass needlessly on the inside, or commits any other act that helps another horse to improve its position;
 - d. takes up or slows up in a manner in front of other horses so as to cause confusion or interference among the trailing horses;
 - e. lays off a normal pace and leaves a hole when it is well within the horse's capacity to keep the hole closed;
 - f. drives in a careless, reckless or unsatisfactory manner;
 - g. fails to set or maintain a pace comparable to the class in which the driver is racing, considering the track conditions, weather and circumstances in the race;
 - h. fails to properly contest an excessively slow pace having regard to the horse's ability, track conditions, weather and circumstances confronted in the race;
 - i. backs off from any position and subsequently comes on when challenged;
 - j. fails to report an interference or any other infraction that occurs during a race and was noticed by the driver;
 - k. lodges a claim of foul, violation of these or any other rules, objection or complaint which the judges board considers frivolous;

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- l. drives a horse in a manner that prevents the driver from winning a race;
- m. drives a horse to perpetrate or aid in a fraud or corrupt practice;
- n. drives a horse in an inconsistent manner;
- o. uses a whip exceeding 3 feet 9 inches in length plus a snapper that is longer than 6 inches in length, or is of a colour not clearly visible and acceptable to the board of judges;
- p. uses a whip or crop in a brutal, excessive or indiscriminate manner;
- q. kicks a horse or allows their foot to come into contact with a horse by having their foot out of a stirrup;
- r. uses a whip to interfere with or cause disturbance to any other horse or driver;
- s. strikes a wheel disc with a whip.

2. Urging rule violations

- (1) At any time while on the grounds of an Association, it is a violation of the Rules for a driver, or the person in control of the horse, to engage in any of the following actions with respect to their driving conduct:
 - (a) indiscriminate action, which is characterized by unrestrained or careless activity;
 - (b) excessive action, which is characterized by unreasonable quantity or degree, including using the whip continuously and/or without allowing the horse time to respond;
 - (c) aggressive action, which is characterized by inhumane, severe or brutal activity.
- (2) The whip shall not be used on a horse in a race:
 - (a) where the horse is not visibly responding;
 - (b) where the horse is not in contention for a meaningful position;
 - (c) where the horse is not maintaining or improving its position;
 - (d) where the horse is clearly winning;
 - (e) where the horse has passed the winning post at the finish of a race.

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- (3) At any time while on the grounds of an Association, the whip shall only be used for safety purposes and for very light encouragement. The only movement allowed to encourage a horse is a movement of the wrist.

It is a violation of the Rules for a driver, or the person in control of the horse, to use the whip to hit or make contact with the horse as follows:

- (a) to raise their hand(s) above their head;
 - (b) to use more than acceptable wrist action;
 - (c) to cause any portion of the whip to be outside the confines of the wheels of the race bike;
 - (d) to strike the shaft of the race bike, or the horse below the level of the shaft of the race bike;
 - (e) to cut or welt a horse.
- (4) A driver, or the person in control of the horse, is required to:
- (a) keep a line in each hand for the entire race, from the starter's call to the gate until the finish of the race, except for the purpose of adjusting equipment;
 - (b) keep both hands in front of their body;
 - (c) keep their hand below their head, and
 - (d) have control of their horse at all times when on the racetrack.
- (5) Violation of any of the provisions in **Rule 458 s (2) Urging rule violations** (1), (2), (3) and (4) may result in any of the following penalties:
- (a) monetary penalty;
 - (b) suspension;
 - (c) placement;
 - (d) disqualification, and/or
 - (e) any other penalty as ordered.

Signed at the City of Edmonton
in the Province of Alberta
this 14th day of August, 2019



Kent Verlik, Chief Executive Officer
Horse Racing Alberta

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