



RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

5 May 2021

NOTICE TO HARNESS RACING INDUSTRY

APPROVED WHIPS

Current Harness Rules of Racing (HRR156) prescribe that a driver shall only use and be in possession of a whip approved by the Controlling Body which has not been modified in any manner and that is maintained in satisfactory condition.

Rule 156A prescribes the specification of such whip as being *“The approved whip is a flexible whip of black or dark tan colour with a core of fibreglass with a handle base and shaft and either a leather keeper to a maximum of 60 millimetres in length and 20 millimetres in width or a non rigid tip amounting to a maximum overall length of 1600mm”*.

Current LR156A states; *“Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 156A, the approved whip may be any approved by the Controlling Body in its absolute discretion.”*

Whilst work is ongoing by Harness Racing Australia in assessing various whip types, the absence of prescribed manufacturers raises difficulties in identifying potentially unsuitable whips that otherwise appear to conform with the specifications set out in Rule 156A.

In consultation with BOTRA, Senior Drivers and the Harness Racing Consultative Group, the following Local Rule of Racing is being adopted with effect from 1 June 2021 which sets out that only whips that can be identified as being of the listed manufacturers are approved whips.

Stewards will be inspecting whips and it will be expected that all Drivers whips are confirmed as compliant with the new rule by 1 June 2021.

Whips that cannot be identified or confirmed as being produced by the listed manufacturers will not be allowed to be used after 1 June 2021.

New Local Rule

LR156A Approved Whip

- (1) *Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 156A, the approved whip may be any approved by the Controlling Body in its absolute discretion.*
- (2) *For the purposes of Rule 156, the following whips are approved by the Controlling Body for use in races, official trials, and trackwork.*
 - (a) *Walsh*
 - (b) *Finntack*
 - (c) *Yonies*
 - (d) *Harness Special*

Denis Borovica – General Manager Racing Integrity
Ph: 9445 5427
denis.borovica@rwwa.com.au