

# BATAVIA DOWNS WHIPPING RULES (EFFECTIVE JULY 24, 2019)

## **NEW YORK STATE GAMING COMMISSION RULES**

- ❖ The use of the whip shall be confined to an area above and between the sulky shafts and the outside wheel discs.
- ❖ Drivers shall use the whip in a conventional manner which includes not striking or jabbing the horse with the butt end of a whip.
- ❖ Drivers shall not use the whip in a manner that is brutal, excessive, indiscriminate, or unnecessary, or that interferes with or causes disturbance to another horse or driver.
- ❖ Under the supervision of the judges, there shall be a mandatory visual inspection of each horse following each race for evidence or brutal use of the whip.

## **BATAVIA DOWNS GAMING & HOTEL RULES**

- ❖ Drivers shall agree and comply with the rules of the New York State Gaming Commission and Batavia Downs Gaming and Hotel that they will use the whip in accordance with the standards set by the New York State Gaming Commission and Batavia Downs Gaming and Hotel.
- ❖ Drivers are no longer allowed to whip a horse more than two strikes at a time without a pause. Drivers that whip continually without a pause will forfeit their driving privileges at Batavia Downs Gaming and Hotel. This rule will be strictly enforced by the New York State judges and the Management of Batavia Downs Gaming and Hotel.
- ❖ Drivers must keep a rein in each hand (except as may be necessary to adjust equipment, pulling plugs, dropping blinkers) from the start of the race until the top of the stretch.
- ❖ A driver who uses the whip in a one handed motion once the horse has reached the top of the stretch shall strike only the shaft of the sulky or the saddle pad.
- ❖ Excessive use of the whip (excessive or indiscriminate), in any style or fashion, and/or using the whip after the finish of a race shall be considered a violation resulting in a fine and/or suspension.
- ❖ Drivers shall not cause an injury (visible or not) to the horse with the whip. Drivers shall not whip a horse that is out of contention.
- ❖ No goading device, including but not limited to a chain, spur, or mechanical or electrical device, other than a whip that is permitted by the New York State Gaming Commission rules shall be used upon a horse either while racing, training, or at any other time on the premises.