

# BATAVIA DOWNS WHIPPING RULES

## **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 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.
- ❖ Driver will be allowed only black ordinary whips not to exceed four feet, plus a snapper not longer than six inches. No leather or unusual materials may be used. The conventional snapper shall not be knotted, and tape is only permitted on the handle of the whip. All other modifications of the whip are prohibited.
- ❖ Drivers are not allowed to use the whip more than three times in succession without giving the horse time to respond to the urging.
- ❖ Use of the whip shall be restricted to forearm and wrist action only and drivers arms cannot be raised above the drivers shoulders.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ The driver must keep a line in each hand, except as may be necessary to adjust equipment (that is, pulling plugs, dropping blinkers, etc.) beginning when the horse is behind the starting gate and continuing through the finish of the race.
- ❖ A driver using the whip in a one handed motion shall strike the shaft of the sulky or the saddle pad once the horse has reached the top of the stretch. Drivers are also permitted to use the whip to hit the wheel disc or shaft so long as it does not interfere with another horse or driver.

- ❖ Drivers are permitted to use their hand or the whip in sliding, gliding, or tapping manner above the level of the arch.
- ❖ Drivers **are not** permitted to place the whip between the horse's legs nor contact the horse with the whip on the horse's hocks or below.
- ❖ 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. Use the whip after the finish line is prohibited, except for emergency situations.
- ❖ 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.