



New rules regarding the use of the whip will apply **in Austria from April 1st, 2025.**

The new rules in wording:

Implementing regulations on the use of whips in accordance with § 84 Para. 2 g TRO

Preamble

The principle applies that any action which could injure the integrity or the integrity of the horse is prohibited.

Rules

The improper use of the whip is not permitted. Only corrections and light aids are allowed. Light aids mean making small hand and / or arm movements without applying force to the movement. All corrections and aids must always be carried out with great care and must not subject the horse to excessive pressure.

The whip may only be used a few times during the race for corrections and aids. During all corrections and aids, the whip must be pointed forward and the lines must be held in both hands at all times.

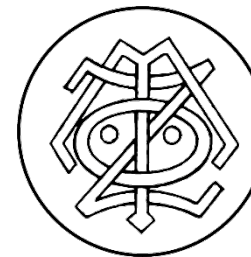
A horse may not be request without having had time to respond to previous aids or if it is obvious that the horse's position in the race cannot be improved.

If a penalty is imposed for improper use of the whip, the horse concerned must be examined by the racetrack veterinarian of the organiser on the orders of the race judges. If marks or welts are found that can be associated with the use of the whip, the racetrack veterinarian shall make a record of this and forward it to the **Zentrale für Traber-Zucht und –Rennen in Österreich** without delay.

Notes on application

The driver is in particular prohibited from

- to request the horse several times in quick succession with the whip or the lines / reins (it must be waited how the horse reacts to the individual requests).
- moving or holding the whip sideways and using it to strike the sulky or the horse's equipment.
- to correct or give aids with the whip turned backwards.



- to request the horse with the hands, especially by pushing / boxing / pushing in and under the tail region.
- to request the horse with the reins / leads.
- kicking the horse.
- to hold the foot in the direction of the horse's hind legs.

The driver is required to keep his feet in / on the footrests of the sulky at all times, except when manoeuvring with the side poles or pulling the draw wadding.

Monté races:

In addition to the above rules on corrections or aids, it is specifically prohibited at trotting widths,

- the whip by taking the hands off the reins.
- kicking the horse.

All provisions of § 84 Para. 2 g TRO apply mutatis mutandis.

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