

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	7/2/2024	

Rule Change Intent

This rule update is long overdue in the equitation division. This update will better define what is excessive use of the whip. It also fits in with what is going on with the industry as to Horse Welfare issues. This will make it easier for exhibitors and officials to understand excessive whip use.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Janet Fall	Janet Fall falloff411@hotmail.com

Linked Rules	Comments
--------------	----------

Committee Actions

EQ 104 Horse Welfare (see also GR839)

1. The following acts are prohibited:
 - a. Riding an exhausted horse.
 - b. Lunging a visibly exhausted horse.
 - c. Excessive pressuring of a tired horse.
 - d. Riding or lunging an obviously lame horse.
 - e. Chasing a horse with a whip or other inappropriate use of the whip.
 - f. Appendages and attachments are prohibited, including but not limited to bags and flags.
 - g. Excessive and/or disruptive cracking of the whip.
 - h. Excessive use of a whip on any horse in a stall, aisle, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds. ~~The use of a whip must be for a good reason, done at the appropriate time, in the proper place and with appropriate restraint. Excessive whipping will not be tolerated.~~ ***The use of the whip in a manner deemed to be in anger, on the horse's head, and/or in excess of three consecutive times may be deemed excessive. If a horse's skin is broken due to use of the whip, it shall be deemed excessive. It is prohibited to use the whip following elimination.***
 - i. Any striking of the horse's head (on the poll or forward of the poll) shall be deemed excessive.