



## **Reminder**

# **Amendment of rules of racing: Disqualification following whip abuse**

From 1 September 2023, horses will be disqualified when their jockeys use the whip nine times or more. This means the horse will be immediately excluded from the finishing order and the decision will be announced before bets on the race concerned are paid out.

This new rule is part of the amendments to the rules of racing that were adopted by the France Galop Committee on 12 June 2023 and subsequently approved by the Ministry of Agriculture ([the latest amendments to the rules of racing can be viewed here.](#))

The aim of this rule is to further strengthen deterrence against whip abuse, with the allowed number of whip strokes having been reduced to 4 on 1 May 2023.

In this context, racing stewards will impose more severe suspensions if a horse was to be disqualified after the jockey used the whip 9 times or more (recommendation for suspensions below).

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**Press Relations France Galop**

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| <b>USE OF THE WHIP 5 TO 6 TIMES DURING THE RACE (ALL RACES EXCEPT GROUP RACES)</b>   |                                 |                             |                  |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Offence  | Jockeys                         | Apprentices<br>Young riders | Amateurs         |
| 1st offence  | At least 150 euros              | At least 2 days             | At least 4 days  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence  | At least 1 day                  | At least 4 days             | At least 8 days  |
| 3rd offence  | At least 2 days                 | At least 6 days             | At least 12 days |
| 4th offence  | At least 4 days                 | At least 8 days             | At least 16 days |
| Next offences  | etc.                            | etc.                        | etc.             |
| <b>USE OF THE WHIP 7 TO 8 TIMES DURING THE RACE (ALL RACES EXCEPT GROUP RACES)</b>   |                                 |                             |                  |
| Offence  | Jockeys                         | Apprentices<br>Young riders | Amateurs         |
| 1st offence  | At least 6 days                 | At least 8 days             | At least 12 days |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence  | At least 8 days                 | At least 12 days            | At least 16 days |
| 3rd offence  | At least 10 days                | At least 16 days            | At least 20 days |
| 4th offence  | At least 12 days                | At least 20 days            | At least 24 days |
| Next offences  | etc.                            | etc.                        | etc.             |
| <b>USE OF THE WHIP 5 TO 6 TIMES DURING THE RACE (GROUP I – II - III)</b>   |                                 |                             |                  |
|  | Jockeys                         | Apprentices<br>Young riders | Amateurs         |
|  | At least 2 days                 | At least 4 days             | At least 4 days  |
| <b>There is not notion of recidivism for Group races</b>   |                                 |                             |                  |
| <b>USE OF THE WHIP 7 TO 8 TIMES DURING THE RACE (GROUP I – II - III)</b>   |                                 |                             |                  |
|  | Jockeys                         | Apprentices<br>Young riders | Amateurs         |
|  | At least 8 days                 | At least 16 days            | At least 16 days |
| <b>There is not notion of recidivism for Group races</b>   |                                 |                             |                  |
| <b>USE OF THE WHIP 9 TIMES OR MORE DURING THE RACE / ALL RACES<br/>HORSE MUST BE DISQUALIFIED FROM ANY PLACING<br/>(applied from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023)</b>  |                                 |                             |                  |
|  | All races<br>except Group races | Group races                 | HORSE            |
| Jockeys  | At least 15 days                | At least 30 days            | Disqualified     |
| Apprentices<br>Young riders  | At least 20 days                | At least 40 days            | Disqualified     |
| Amateurs   | At least 30 days                | At least 40 days            | Disqualified     |
| <b>ELBOW ABOVE THE LINE OF THE SHOULDER (from the 1<sup>st</sup> elbow above the line during the race)</b>   |                                 |                             |                  |
| Offence  | Jockeys                         | Apprentices<br>Young riders | Amateurs         |
| 1st offence  | Warning                         | Warning                     | Warning          |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence  | At least 150 euros              | At least 1 day              | At least 1 day   |
| 3rd offence  | At least 1 day                  | At least 2 days             | At least 2 days  |
| 4th offence  | At least 2 days                 | At least 4 days             | At least 4 days  |
| Next offences  | etc.                            | etc.                        | etc.             |
| <b>The sanction must be doubled in Group races for the elbow above the line of the shoulder</b>  |                                 |                             |                  |
| Use of the whip must be counted if the jockey does not hold the reins with both hands  |                                 |                             |                  |
| <b>Very important:</b> must be considered as 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , or 4 <sup>th</sup> offence, offences within 2 months after the 1 <sup>st</sup> one  |                                 |                             |                  |
| <b>Art. 161:</b> Any jockey who makes inappropriate use of the whip to help his horse to be loaded into the gates must be sanctioned by at least one day of suspension. The penalty must be doubled for apprentices, young-riders, and amateurs. |                                 |                             |                  |