

April 7, 2016

### **ILLINOIS RACING BOARD IMPOSES NEW WHIP RULE**

Changes in the rules governing the use of the whip in harness races at Illinois racetracks took effect March 1, 2016, and will be enforced at the beginning of the Suburban Downs meet at Hawthorne Race Course which starts May 6.

The rule change reads, in part: “Drivers shall keep a line in each hand from the start of the race until the beginning of the open stretch or the 7/8 mile pole, as applicable. One-handed whipping from the beginning of the open stretch or the 7/8 mile pole to the finish of the race is restricted to elbow and wrist action only. The whipping arm shall not be raised above shoulder height or behind the driver.”

Penalties for violation of the whip rule are as follows:

- 1) 1st offense – minimum fine of \$200 to a maximum fine of \$500;
- 2) 2nd offense within a 365 day period after the 1st offense - minimum fine of \$400 to a maximum fine of \$1,000;
- 3) 3rd offense within a 365 day period after the 1st offense - minimum fine of \$1,000 and a 7 day suspension;
- 4) 4th or subsequent offense within a 365 day period after the 1st offense - minimum fine of \$2,000 and a 10 day suspension.

Click the link below to read the rule in its entirety.

<http://www.illinois.gov/irb/Documents/Rules/Adopted%201318.pdf>