

Our whip rules have changed from 5 hits to 3 hits during the whole race only for the purpose of correction and help but not for motivation. The penalty for offences with 5 or more hits raised dramatically.

SPECIAL WHIP RULES IN GERMANY NEW FROM JANUARY 1st, 2023

*The use of the whip is limited to a **maximum of 3 hits** that a rider can give to a horse during the whole race only for the purpose of correction and as help. Back handlers with hands on reins on the shoulders are allowed for safety and corrective measures only and will not count to the max. number of 3 hits if they are not exceeding in an unqualified way. Even this number of hits could be too much if the horse is well beaten or easily winning or being clear for its placing. In a case of a rider to be found guilty by the stewards of exceeding use of the whip the following suspensions will be imposed:*

- 1. Offence 14 days suspension**
- 2. Offence 21 days suspension**
- 3. Offence 28 days suspension**

For each hit more (over 4) an additional suspension will be imposed as follows:

- 5 hits additional 42 days suspension**
- 6 hits additional 84 days suspension**
- 7 hits additional 168 days suspension**
- 8 hits and more additional 168 days suspension**

Furthermore, a rider found guilty of a whip offence will be charged with a minimum of 50 % up to 100 % of the riding percentage.

For our EMHF General Assembly in Warsaw in May I would like to know from each country (excluding the countries France, Great Britain, Ireland) the interference procedure if they follow the Category 1 or 2 philosophy to have an update and help countries to change to Category 1

As a reminder the Category 1 Protest/Objection rule is laid down as follows:

If, in the opinion of the Staging Authority's relevant judicial body, a horse or its rider causes interference and finishes in front of the horse interfered with but irrespective of the incident(s) the sufferer would not have finished ahead of the horse causing the interference, the judge's placings will remain unaltered.

If, in the opinion of the Staging Authority's relevant judicial body, a horse or its rider causes interference and finishes in front of the horse interfered with and if not for the incident(s) the sufferer would have finished ahead of the horse causing the interference, the interferer will be placed immediately behind the sufferer.

Racing Authorities may, within their Rules, provide for the disqualification of a horse from a race in circumstances in which the Staging Authority's relevant judicial body deems that the rider has ridden in a dangerous manner.