



ORGANIZACIÓN SUDAMERICANA DE FOMENTO
DEL SANGRE PURA DE CARRERA

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OSAF'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE USE OF THE WHIP

The regional harmonization on the use of the whip was an issue introduced by OSAF in late 2012, where the recommendation was for the South American racecourses to use the whip that was used Worldwide at the time, the one approved by IFHA's TAC (Technical Advisory Committee): the Procrush flat whip, with flexible stem and slim non-slip handle, with shock-absorbing, cushioned end that stimulates the horse without inflicting injury and minimizing the impact of the hit. This whip has a total length of 76 cm and contains a patent leather core to prevent any potential twist in the tip that may harm the horse.

Driven by this initiative, by 2014 all OSAF member racecourses had already adopted the use of this whip. .

Then, during 2015, and with a more extended participation of OSAF in IFHA Committees, the measures for Equine Welfare were introduced. OSAF became more involved in gathering information on current practices, and also in producing documents that propose guidelines for Best Practices in horseracing and towards equine welfare, throughout the life of these Thoroughbreds.

For the last years, the use of the whip (controlling the amount and intensity of hits) has become more of a major issue, Worldwide. In 2017, IFHA produced a document within its Equine Welfare Committee, which OSAF translated into Spanish and circulated. IFHA's International Agreement on Breeding, Racing and Wagering (IABRW) has an article dedicated to addressing this issue: "Article 32 A -- MINIMUM STANDARD GUIDELINES ON THE WHIP AND ITS USE" - where the IFHA emphasizes these qualitative - not quantitative - aspects, and which begins with the following statement: "Only padded/shock absorbing whips/crops which have not been modified in any way may be carried in a race", then describing a series of uses of the whip which are forbidden.

Therefore, OSAF has recently circulated amongst its member racecourses a document with recommendations for the Good Practice as regards the use of the Whip, including:

- * To ensure that the recommendations set by IFHA's International Agreement are met, penalizing the cases of abuse or incorrect use in all types of competition (Black types and all common races)
- * To circulate and communicate these recommendations to all licenced jockeys and apprentice jockeys riding in their racecourses, as well as in jockey schools.
- * To ensure that their Stewards or Racing Commissions, as deemed relevant, keep an eye on possible cases of abuse or incorrect use of the whip, and that they are clear and strong on the application of penalizations.
- * To make sure that it is clear that controlling the use of the whip by means of counting the amount of hits applied is a misleading measure, as it will depend on the fact that it is not used in a harmful or forbidden way, as it is understood that - if well used - the correct stimulus may be necessary for the outcome of a competition.
- * To make sure that the racecourse will penalize (suspend) the infringing jockey, as an essential means to adequately applying justice and enforcing rules.

The full document and background is available in Spanish at OSAF website:

<https://www.osafweb.com.ar/recomendacion-osaf-sobre-el-uso-de-la-fusta/>