



EVENTING
AUSTRALIA

National Eventing Rules

ANNEX 7 - EXCESSIVE USE OF WHIP, SPURS, BIT

1. WHIP

The use of a whip must be:

- for a good reason;
- at an appropriate time;
- in the right place;
- with appropriate severity.

Reason

The whip must only be used either as an aid to encourage the horse forward or as a reprimand. Thus it must never be used to vent a rider's temper - any use for such a reason is automatically excessive and therefore a breach of these Rules.

Time

As an aid, the appropriate time is when the horse is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of seat and legs. As a reprimand, the only appropriate time is immediately after a horse has been disobedient, eg napping, refusing (but not after elimination, when it will always be excessive). The whip should not be used after a horse has jumped the last fence on a course.

Place

As an aid to go forward, the whip may be used down the shoulder or behind the leg. It must never be used 'over-arm', eg a whip in the right hand being used to the left flank.

The use of a whip on a horse's head or neck is always excessive use.

Severity

As a reprimand only, a horse may be hit hard. However, it should never be hit more than three times for any one incident; and if the horse is marked by the whip, eg the skin is broken or there is a weal, its use is excessive.

2. SPURS

Spurs must not be used to reprimand a horse. Such use is always excessive, as is any use that results in a horse being marked by a spur.

3. BIT

The bit must never be used to reprimand a horse. Any such use is excessive.