

HISA Rule 2280: Riding Crop

- (a)** Subject to paragraphs (b) and (c) of this Rule, a Jockey who uses a riding crop on a Covered Horse during a Covered Horse race shall do so only in a professional manner consistent with maintaining focus and concentration of the Covered Horse for safety of Covered Horses and Riders, or for encouragement to achieve optimal performance.
- (b)** A Jockey may:
- (1)** use the crop only on the hindquarters or the shoulders to activate and focus the Covered Horse;
 - (2)** use the crop a maximum of 6 times during a race. Use of the crop shall be considered any contact of the crop with the Covered Horse except for a tap to the shoulder of the Covered Horse as permitted by Rule 2280(b)(4);
 - (3)** use the crop in increments of 2 or fewer strikes. A Jockey must allow at least 2 strides for the Covered Horse to respond before using the crop again;
 - (4)** tap the Covered Horse on the shoulder with the crop while both hands are holding on to the reins and both hands are touching the neck of the Covered Horse. A tap to the shoulder of a Covered Horse in accordance with the first sentence of this paragraph (4) shall not count towards the 6 permitted uses of the crop established in Rule 2280(b)(2);
 - (5)** show or wave the crop to the Covered Horse without physically contacting the Covered Horse; and
 - (6)** use the crop to preserve the safety of Covered Horses and Jockeys.
- (c)** A Jockey shall not:
- (1)** raise the crop with the Jockey's wrist above the Jockey's helmet when using the crop;
 - (2)** injure the Covered Horse with the crop or leave any physical marks, such as welts, bruises, or lacerations;
 - (3)** use the crop on any part of the Covered Horse's body other than the shoulders or hindquarters;
 - (4)** use the crop during the post parade or after the finish of the race other than to avoid a dangerous situation or preserve the safety of Covered Horses and Riders;
 - (5)** use the crop if the Covered Horse has obtained its maximum placing;
 - (6)** use the crop persistently even though the Covered Horse is showing no response;
 - (7)** use a crop on a 2-year-old Covered Horse in races before April 1 of each year other than to avoid a dangerous situation or preserve the safety of Covered Horses and Riders;
 - (8)** strike another horse or person with the crop; or
 - (9)** strike a Covered Horse with any object other than a riding crop that conforms to the requirements established in Rule 2281
- (d)** In any Race in which a Jockey will ride without a crop, that fact shall be declared at entry, included in the official program, and an announcement of that fact shall be made over the public address system.

HISA Rule 2281: Riding Crop Specifications

- (a) Riding crops are subject to inspection by the safety officer, stewards, and the clerk of scales.
- (b) All riding crops must be soft-padded.
- (c) Riding crops shall have a shaft and a flap or smooth foam cylinder and must conform to the following dimensions and construction:
- (1) The maximum allowable weight shall be 8 ounces;
 - (2) The maximum allowable length shall be 30 inches;
 - (3) The minimum diameter of the shaft shall be three-eighths of one inch;
 - (4) The shaft, beyond the grip, must be smooth with no protrusions or raised surface and covered by shock absorbing materials; there shall be no binding within 7 inches of the end of the shaft.
 - (5) The flap or smooth foam cylinder is the only allowable attachment to the shaft and must meet the following specifications:
 - (i) Shall have no reinforcements;
 - (ii) Shall have a maximum length beyond the shaft of one inch;
 - (iii) Shall have a minimum diameter of 0.8 inches and a maximum width of 1.6 inches;
 - (iv) There shall be no other reinforcements or additions beyond the end of the shaft;
 - (v) Shall be made of shock absorbing material with a compression factor of at least 5 millimeters.
 - (vi) Shall be made of a waterproof, ultraviolet, and chemical resistant flap or foam material that is durable and preserves its shock absorption in use under all conditions; and
 - (vii) Shall be replaced after reasonable wear and tear is visibly evident.
 - (6) Riding crops shall not be altered and shall have a mark identifying the name and manufacturer.

For additional rules and regulations go to hisaus.org

