The following amendments to Rules 156 and 156A were approved at the Annual General Meeting on 12 October 2009 and will take effect on 1 January 2010:

“156. (1) A driver shall only use a non modified whip of the type approved by the Controlling Body.

(2) A driver shall at all times hold a rein in each hand unless adjusting approved gear.

(3) (a) A whip shall not be used so as to obstruct, strike or endanger another driver or horse;
(b) a driver shall not use a whip excessively;
(c) a driver shall not allow a whip to project outside the sulky;
(d) a whip shall not be used in a prodding or jabbing motion;
(e) (Rule 156(2)(e) repealed – AHRC approved 30th March 2007);
(f) a horse shall not be whipped after it has passed the winning post at the finish of a race, its run is finished, or if it cannot maintain or improve its position in the race.

(4) For the purposes of sub-rule (3) (b) a driver shall be deemed to have used a whip excessively in the following circumstances which are not exclusive:-

(a) if the tip of the whip is drawn back further than the driver’s shoulder;
(b) if the whip action involves more than a wrist and elbow action.

(c) If the reins are lengthened so as to result in loose reining
(d) If the whip is used other than in a flicking motion.

(5) A person who fails to comply with any provision of sub rule (1), (2) or (3) is guilty of an offence.

“156A. The approved whip is a flexible whip of black or dark tan colour with a core of fibreglass with a handle base and shaft and either a leather keeper to a maximum of 60 millimetres in
length and 20 millimetres in width or a non rigid tip amounting to a maximum overall length of 1600 millimetres.”