



Arena Rule Directive 21st December 2018

At the recent Arena Rules Committee meeting it was agreed to bring in the following rules with immediate effect:

- 1. Blocking.** When play is resumed with a hit after a break in play or when a goal is scored, it is not permitted for any member of the team taking the hit to ride off or block an opponent attempting to make a play on the hitter. If the ball is then left for a team mate following, the player leaving it may not then ride off or block an opponent attempting to make a play on the player who has been left the ball
- 2. Whips.**
Whips must not be more than 48 inches long including any tag. Broken whips are not allowed.
- 3. Use of the whip**
Any use of the whip by a player must be appropriate, proportionate and professional and only when the ball is in play.
A whip may only be carried in a player's left hand and unless there are exceptional circumstances a player may not take that hand off the reins to use the whip.
No part of the whip may be raised above the height of the player's shoulder prior to striking.
Any infringement of the above will result in an automatic yellow flag and an appropriate penalty.

Guidance on Use of the Whip – for guidance only

- There is no requirement for players to carry a whip. The whip should only be used for safety and encouragement.
- Any use of the whip by a rider must be appropriate, proportionate, professional, and take account of the Rules of Polo and guidelines laid down by the HPA
- The whip may be used to encourage a horse – to have the horse focused and concentrated – to perform at its best but the stimulus provided by the use of the whip must be limited so as not to compromise the welfare of the horse.
- Players can only carry an approved length whip.

Players should consider the following factors so as to minimise any possibility of being found in breach of the Rules:

- a) Urging the horse to lengthen its stride and increase its pace by first using hands and heels before resorting to the whip
- b) Showing the horse the whip and giving it time to respond before using it
- c) Having used the whip, giving the horse a chance to respond before using it again
- d) Keeping his/her hand on the reins when using the whip
- e) Ensuring that no part of the whip pass the height of the shoulder

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