



## State of Utah

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Lieutenant Governor

## Department of Agriculture and Food

CRAIG W. BUTTARS  
Commissioner

KELLY PEHRSON  
Deputy Commissioner

LEANN HUNTING  
Director, Animal Industry

January 30, 2025

### UQHRA Membership

Re: Rule Changes for 2025

Dear UQHRA members,

The Utah Horse Racing Commission met on January 21, 2025 and approved the following changes for the upcoming season:

1. All horses on the grounds as part of the Utah Horse Racing Commission sanctioned races must have a negative test for Equine Infectious Anemia (aka EIA or Coggins) and piroplasmiasis performed on or after March 1, 2025. Testing must be completed prior to the draw, and the testing records must be available at the draw.
2. Jockeys who have not been previously licensed as a jockey in Utah must be approved by the stewards. The stewards will validate credentials for jockeys who have been licensed by sanctioning bodies in other states. New riders may be required to work in front of the stewards prior to approval.
3. Jockeys must provide proof of a physical exam within the current calendar year (after January 1, 2025) at the time of licensing.
4. The rules regarding the use of a riding crop by a jockey have been updated to be more in line with the Association of Racing Commissioners International's Model Rules of Racing. These newly adopted rules can be found in Utah Administrative Code Subsection R52-7-9(6) and are attached on the following page.
5. Individuals may now be licensed for one or three years. There is a discount for some of the three-year licenses compared to three one-year licenses.

The Commission believes that these changes will further protect the health and safety of horses competing this year, and we anticipate another successful season in 2025.

Sincerely,

*Leann Hunting*

Leann Hunting  
Executive Director, Utah Horse Racing Commission

  
Korry Trapp (Jan 30, 2025 09:14 MST)

Korry Trapp  
Chairman, Utah Horse Racing Commission

## **R52-7-9. Running the Race.**

6. Any jockey who chooses to use a riding crop during a race shall do so only in a manner consistent with exerting their efforts to win.

A. A jockey may only use the riding crop approved by Stewards to influence a horse's speed and may not use other electrical, mechanical, or other expedient devices intended for this purpose on the racetrack facility grounds during the race meeting, whether in a race or otherwise.

B. The riding crop shall only be used for safety, correction, and limited encouragement, and be appropriate, proportionate, and professional, taking into account the racing rules.

C. Stimulus provided by the use of the riding crop shall be monitored so as not to compromise the welfare of the horse.

D. Jockeys shall adjust their use of the riding crop to the individual horse and race conditions.

E. Riders shall adhere to the following guidelines when using a riding crop, except in situations where rider safety is at risk:

a. before striking the horse, first show the horse the crop or tap the horse with the crop held downward, allowing a response; and

b. may not use the crop more than two times consecutively, allowing the horse an opportunity to respond before using the crop again.

(1) A "chance to respond" means the horse has taken three full strides and the jockey has taken one of the following actions:

i. paused use of the crop before resuming;

ii. pushed on the reins with both hands, holding the crop in either the up or down position;

iii. shown the horse the riding crop without making contact; or

iv. moved the riding crop from one hand to the other.

F. When determining whether to review a jockey's riding crop usage, Stewards will evaluate the jockey's overall use of the crop throughout the race, focusing on its use in the final stages. Some relevant factors include:

a. how the jockey used the riding crop;

b. the reason for using the riding crop;

c. the distance the jockey used the riding crop, and whether the frequency of use was reasonable and necessary; and

d. whether the horse continued to respond.

G. In the event of a Stewards review, riding crop use may be considered appropriate in the following situations:

a. to keep a horse in contention or to maintain a challenging position before the final stages of a race;

b. to maintain a horse's focus and concentration;

c. to correct a noticeably hanging horse;

d. to ensure the horse maintains a straight course; or

e. when there is only light contact with the horse.

H. Prohibited uses of the riding crop include striking a horse:

a. on the head, flanks, or any other part of its body besides the shoulders or hindquarters, except when necessary for control;

b. during the post parade or after the race has finished, except when necessary for control;

c. excessively or brutally, causing welts or breaks in the skin;

d. when the horse is clearly out of the race or has achieved its maximum placing;

e. persistently, despite the horse showing no response to the riding crop; or

f. striking another rider or horse.