BEVA POSITION STATEMENT ON USE OF THE WHIP

BEVA accepts that a whip, like any other equestrian aid, is not per se, a risk to horse welfare. There are occasions in all equestrian sports when the use of a whip helps to keep horse and rider safe. However excessive or inappropriate use of a whip is always a welfare issue.

The public have developed a heightened awareness of animal welfare issues and are becoming increasingly uneasy at the sight of horses being whipped either as a punishment or as “encouragement” to enhance performance. Whilst the design of whips used in racing has improved immeasurably with the advent of the “air whip” which minimises pain and trauma, the principle of whipping still causes great concern and BEVA supports the ongoing campaign to penalise and eliminate inappropriate use of the whip in order that equestrian sport has maximum public support and continues to flourish.