

HORSERACING'S SOCIAL LICENCE, TODAY AND TOMORROW

PRESENTATION TO
MEP HORSE GROUP
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS, NOVEMBER 30TH 2022

EMHF

DR PAULL KHAN
SECRETARY-GENERAL
EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN HORSERACING FEDERATION

Issues of greatest public concern:

- **USE OF THE WHIP**
- **AFTERCARE**
- **RACECOURSE INJURIES**

Issues of greatest public concern:

- **USE OF THE WHIP**

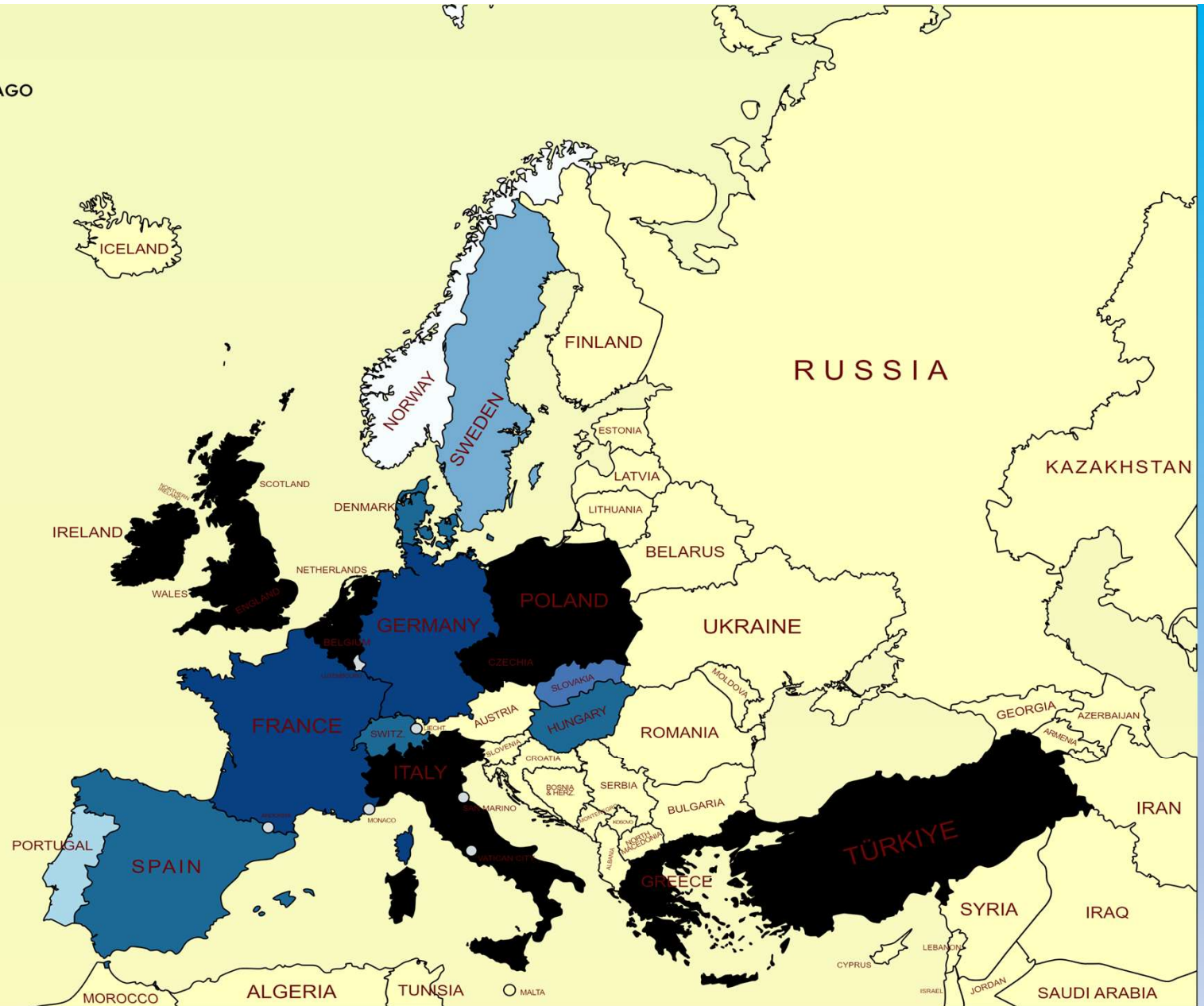
Article 32 A (RACING) - MINIMUM STANDARD GUIDELINES ON THE WHIP AND ITS USE

Only padded/shock absorbing whips/crops which have not been modified in any way may be carried by a rider at any time. This Guideline gives examples of use of the whip which are prohibited:

- Using the whip to the extent of causing injury.
- Using the whip with the arm above shoulder height.
- Using the whip with excessive force.
- Using the whip on a horse which is showing no response.
- The continued use of the whip on a horse after its chance of winning or being placed is clearly gone.
- The unnecessary use of the whip on a horse that has clearly won its race or has obtained its maximum placing.
- Using the whip on a horse which is past the winning post.
- Using the whip on the flank of the horse.
- Using the whip with excessive frequency.
- Using the whip on any part of the horse's head or in the vicinity of the head.
- The use of the whip in front of the saddle while the whip is held in the forehand position, unless exceptional circumstances prevail.

WHIP LIMITS 20 YEARS AGO

- No specified limit
- 9+ strikes max
- 7-8 strikes max
- 6 strikes max
- 5 strikes max
- 4 strikes max
- No strikes allowed
- No data



WHIP LIMITS 10 YEARS AGO

- No specified limit
- 9+ strikes max
- 7 - 8 strikes max
- 6 strikes max
- 5 strikes max
- 3 strikes max
- No strikes allowed
- No data



WHIP LIMITS TODAY

- 9+ strikes max
- 7-8 strikes max
- 6 strikes max
- 5 strikes max
- 4 strikes max
- No strikes allowed
- No data



WHIP LIMITS 20 YEARS AGO

- No specified limit
- 9+ strikes max
- 7-8 strikes max
- 6 strikes max
- 5 strikes max
- 4 strikes max
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WHIP LIMITS 10 YEARS AGO

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- 4 strikes max
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- No data



WHIP LIMITS TODAY

- 9+ strikes max
- 7-8 strikes max
- 6 strikes max
- 5 strikes max
- 4 strikes max
- No strikes allowed
- No data



Issues of greatest public concern:

- **AFTERCARE**



International Forum for the Aftercare of Racehorses



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“ Promoting equine welfare before, during and after a horse’s racing career is vital in ensuring the public’s confidence in the sport is maintained and is integral to the future health of horseracing – **Jim Gagliano, The Jockey Club** ”

“ There is now a better understanding and greater recognition that our shared responsibility for the welfare of racehorses extends beyond their career on the racetrack. With awareness of the versatility of former racehorses increasing and more success stories being promoted, the time is right to pool learnings from around the world so that best practice and standards can be applied internationally. – **Jamie Stier, Chairman, IFHA Welfare Committee and Executive General Manager, Integrity Services, Racing Victoria.** ”

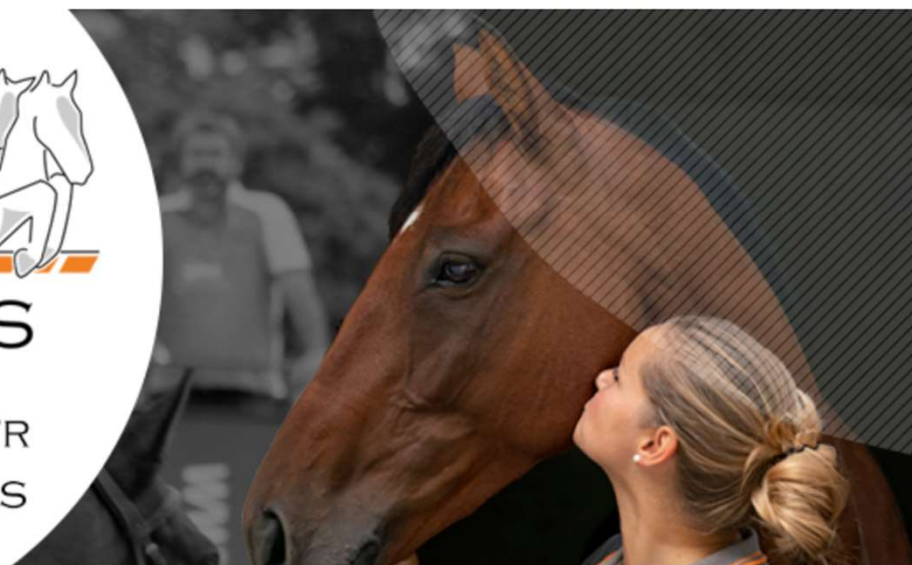


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Issues of greatest public concern:

- **RACECOURSE INJURIES**

SELECTION OF SAFETY MEASURES TAKEN

- Better Watering: Abandonment of Jump Racing if ground is hard.
- Cessation of jump racing on All-Weather Tracks
- Cessation of Jump racing on the snow
- Abandonment of racing in extreme hot weather
- Safer design, constructing and siting of obstacles
- By-passing of obstacles in low sunlight
- Re-Colouring of obstacles in line with equine sight (orange to white)
- Heightened scrutiny of inappropriate use of analgesics
- Increased prevalence of pre-race veterinary inspections, with withdrawal of horses if necessary

Fracture Support Boots



Fracture Support Splints



- Diagnostic testing (PET/bone/MRI/CT scanners)
- Genetic testing for sudden death
- Detection of horses likely to develop arrhythmias
- Centralised database of all veterinary interventions
- Gait analysis to detect abnormalities/deviations
 - Camera-based
 - Biometric signal-based

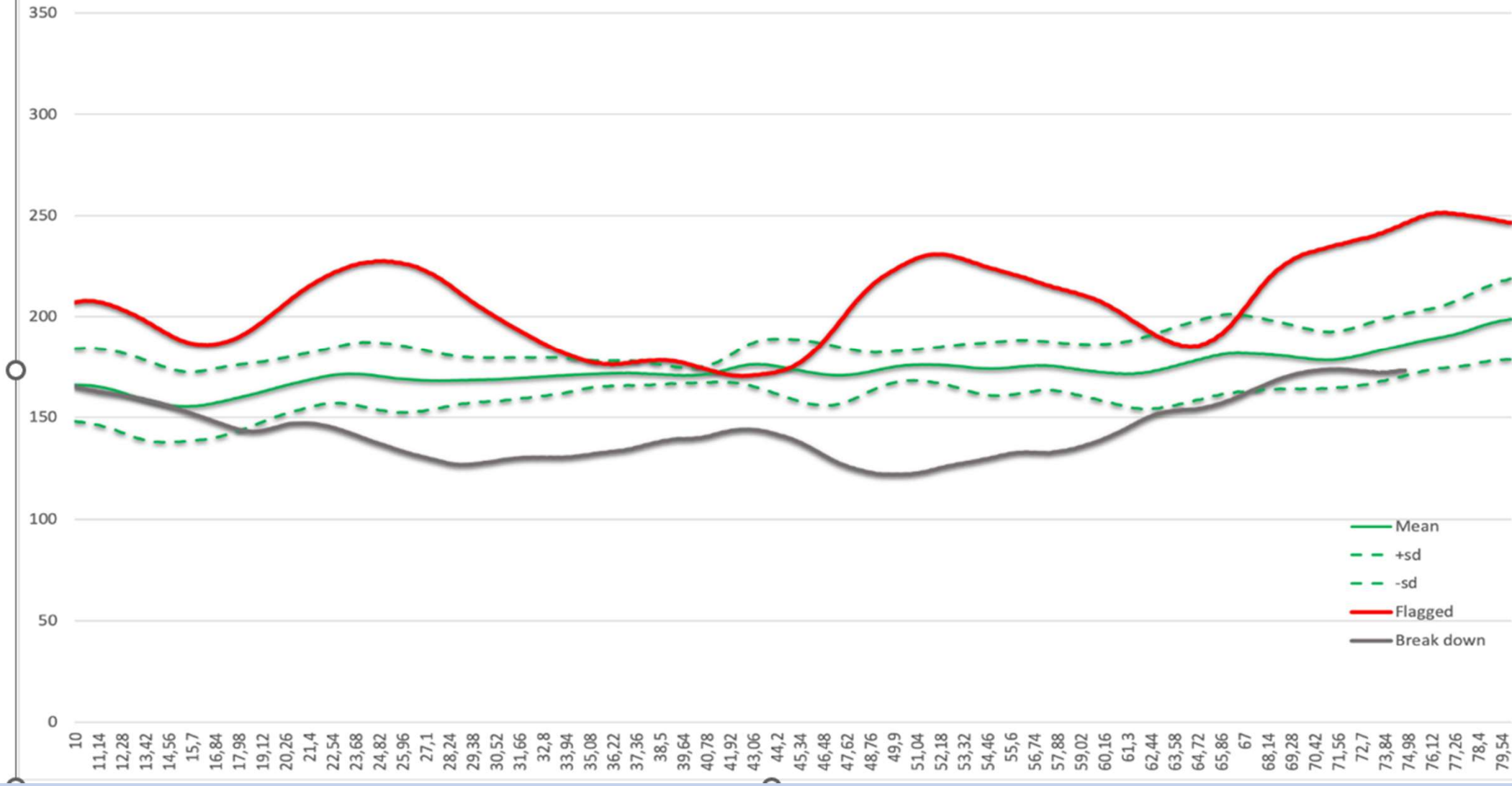
GPS Biometric Sensor

➤ Measures Acceleration

- Longitudinal
- Dorsoventral (vertical)
- Mediolateral (side-to-side)
- Data capture @ 800 Hz
- 2,400 data points/sec
- Carried in saddle cloth



6-year old mare, total vibration from 10 seconds after the start



THE FUTURE

**“Horseracing is a social need
for modern societies”**

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk



PHOTO CREDIT: DAN ABRAHAM