

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2023	2/27/2023	

Rule Change Intent

AHA is requesting that tongue ties be permitted in competition for a specific list of classes as stated in the proposal.

History: It is the responsibility of AHA to recognize methods to provide the safest show ring environment for both horses and exhibitors. It is also of highest priority for AHA to minimize stress of horses in the show ring environment by the authorization of USEF accepted techniques already generally available and in use within the show ring (ie: Saddlebred and Morgan English divisions) and on competition grounds at all recognized AHA shows. Horses with nervous tongues become fixated on their tongues which results in a horse's loss of concentration and focus making them more difficult to train and show thereby elevating their stress level significantly. Any horse in the show ring environment with the tendency to place the tongue over the bits is an eminent danger to themselves, their riders and/or drivers, and to all other exhibitors particularly in a driving class. A certain number of horses struggle with dorsal displacement of the soft palate, which interferes with breathing and causes significant stress when training and showing. The use of tongue ties is the predominant and most humane method to prevent a horse from getting the tongue over the bit and avoiding a dangerous situation for horse, rider/driver, and all other exhibitors and is also the primary method for the prevention of dorsal displacement. The use of tongue ties is permitted and routinely used in the warm up areas of all Arabian horse shows to aid in reduction of equine stress by lessening training/warm up time and creating a secure bridle environment for both horse and rider/driver, but the tongue tie is not permitted and must be removed prior to entering the show ring.

Proponent Details

AHA

Contact Information

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Linked Rules

Comments

Committee Actions

Natl Breed & Disciplines Council - Advisory

SUBCHAPTER AR-1 GENERAL SECTION

AR106 Shoeing Regulations, Artificial Markings and Appliances

11. Horses must be shown without artificial appliances. Anything that alters the intended use of equipment as provided for in the description of appointments for a given class is considered to be an artificial appliance and is considered illegal tack while competing. This includes but is not limited to tongue ties, mouth ties, and/or nasal strips and tying and/or securing stirrups, stirrup leathers or foot in any manner to equipment. ***Exception: A single inconspicuous tongue tie, made of soft material, is permitted in the show ring for any horse competing in Park, English Pleasure, Country English Pleasure, Mounted Native Costume, English Show Hack, Formal Driving, Pleasure Driving, Country Pleasure Driving and Saddle Seat Equitation and for use by any horse competing in Ladies Side Saddle in English Show Hack attire (see AR156.1a) or in English attire (see AR132.1a), Walk-Trot/Walk-Jog 10 & Under in English attire (see AR132.1a) and ATR/JTR/AATR Walk-Trot/Walk-Jog 11 and Over in English attire (see AR132.1a).***