

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Rule Clarification	9/1/2025	4/1/2025	

Rule Change Intent

The rule as currently written is contradictory with the penalty to be scored in the case of an exhibitor competing with two hands on the reins; two hands on the reins is listed both as an Off Pattern ten point penalty and as a Zero Score. In the other Arabian Working Western divisions, two hands on the reins results in a zero score. This clarification is needed to keep the Arabian Working Western divisions aligned and to remove contradictory scoring language from the current rule. This clarification is also reorganizing the positioning of the description for Off-Pattern to increase the ease of use and flow in the section.

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Linked Rules	Comments
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SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION

AR266 VRH Ranch Trail Scoring

(...)

8. Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

a. VRH Ranch Trail Penalties – VRH Ranch Trail Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions –

1. Ten (10) point penalties

A. Off Pattern (~~see AR266.8.b.4~~) (OP): *incomplete maneuver; eliminating or adding a maneuver; failure to complete pattern as written; third refusal; repeated blatant disobedience, and failure to dally and remain dallied during the drag; failure to open and shut gate, or failure to complete gate.*

B. Unnatural (Arabian) Ranch Horse appearance, see AR105.2b.

2. Zero (0) score

A. Major disobedience or schooling

B. Prohibited use of fingers or hands on reins

b. Any deviation of the scoring contained within the current Arabian rules, the references within AQHA, NRHA, or NRCHA rulebooks regarding scoring will prevail.

1. 1 point: Over-bridled (per maneuver); out of frame (per maneuver); each hit, bite or stepping on a log, cone plant or any component of the obstacle; incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less; both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space at a walk or trot; skipping over or failing to step into required space; split pole in lope-over; incorrect number of strides, if specified; one to two steps on mount/dismount or ground tie except shifting to balance.

2. 3 point: Wrong lead or out of lead, draped reins; break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead; break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides; three to four steps on mount/dismount on ground tie.

3. 5 point: Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; knocking over, stepping out of or falling off an obstacle; dropping an object required to be carried; 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal; letting go of gate; five or more steps on mount/ dismount or ground tie.

4. Off Pattern (OP): ~~Incomplete maneuver; eliminating or adding a maneuver; Failure to complete pattern as written; Third refusal; repeated blatant disobedience, and failure to dally and remain dallied during the drag; use of two hands (except junior horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein); failure to open and shut gate, or failure to complete gate.~~

5.4. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): Lameness, abuse, leaving working area before pattern is complete, prohibited equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper western attire; fall of horse/exhibitor.