

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	5/1/2023	2/2/2023	

## Extraordinary Change Reason

Recently, USEF and PFHA have been in discussions regarding the rule change process. The timeline of the Affiliate processes and the Federation's did not align. PFHA and the Federation have reached an understanding that moving forward, PFHA will align their rule change process with the Federations. Due to the inconsistencies, we are seeking an extraordinary rule change so the messaging is clear on what is acceptable at Paso Fino competitions. Going forward, this is the last batch of rules that will be processed in this way.

## Rule Change Intent

To align the PF chapter with the recent PFHA rule changes. Recently, USEF and PFHA have been in discussions regarding the rule change process. The timeline of the Affiliate processes and the Federation's did not align. PFHA and the Federation have reached an understanding that moving forward, PFHA will align their rule change process with the Federations. Due to the inconsistencies, we are seeking an extraordinary rule change so the messaging is clear on what is acceptable at Paso Fino competitions. Going forward, this is the last batch of rules that will be processed in this way.

## Proponent Details

Paso Fino Horse Association

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

## Committee Actions

## Licensed Officials

Natl Breed & Disciplines Council - Advisory

Paso Fino

## PF101 Eligibility

1. To be eligible for entry and exhibition in a competition, a horse must be registered with the Paso Fino Horse Association and must be entered and exhibited under its full registered name and registration number. All participants (owners, agents, lessees, trainers, riders, exhibitors, and handlers) must be current members of, and in good standing with, the PFHA. These rules are a condensed version of the Paso Fino Horse Association rules. Please refer to the latest edition of the PFHA rules for details.
  - a. The following credentials must be made available to Competition Management and steward and copies of said credentials must accompany the entry form however items 1 and 3 may be electronically verified when possible by the competition secretary:
    1. Each participant's PFHA and USEF membership card.
    2. The participant's PFHA and USEF amateur card, if applicable.
    3. A copy of each horses entry's registration papers (back side only if it contains the owner's name) **or PFHA show validation certificate.**
    4. All other papers and health documents required by law or by competition management.
    5. Copies of applicable lease agreements
    6. Affidavits of sales contracts.

## PF102 General Rules

1. [...]
15. ***In the Paso Fino division, exhibitors must be given no more than one placement per class. Classes will be judged under one of the following procedures;***
  - a. ***One judge per class;***
  - b. ***Conferring or a panel of judge submitting a single judges placements card; or***
  - c. ***A panel of three (3) or five (5) judges issuing placements that are averaged prior to announcing the final placement for the exhibitor(s).***

## PF116 Youth Horsemanship

Regional Group shows may offer this class at their discretion. This class shall be judged: 50% on horsemanship of rider, 10% on the suitability of the horse to the rider, and 40% on the performance of the horse. ***An individual test will be performed by each exhibitor. The course pattern must be posted at least two (2) hours prior to the test.***

## PF121 Procedures

1. [...]
4. Additional work-offs may be required at the Judge's discretion including the use of the sounding board to exhibit horse's cadence of gait. ***The judge is prohibited from requiring a horse to perform the Paso Largo on the sounding board.*** – During work-offs, the horses must remain on the rail except to pass.

## PF127 Tack

1. [...]
2. Schooling Headgear. Schooling headgear is defined as a bosal and barbada or alsador attached to the correct bridle for that division. Schooling Headgear is permitted in the following circumstances:
  - a. Schooling classes,
  - b. 36 to 60 month old horses in Amateur ***or Open*** classes that are not Schooling classes or
  - c. 36 to 60 month old horses in Youth classes, except Equitation and Horsemanship classes, headgear can be any training headgear not considered cruel or inhumane by the Judge or Show Committee. Bare metal, except for curb chains or parts of buckles, is not allowed. In a schooling class, metal may be used if covered in a

nosepiece or under the chin, but it must not be considered cruel or inhumane by the Judge or Show Committee and be sufficiently covered to ensure comfort to the animal.

3. Bits. (All Divisions)

- a. Bits are required in all classes except Schooling Classes or other classes as specified. Bits may be of any humane approved type, curb or snaffle. See Paso Fino Tack Guide.  
There shall be no discrimination against any standard curb bit. A standard curb bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 1/2". When a curb bit is used a curb strap or curb chain is required and must be at least 1/2 inch in width. The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter as measured one inch in from the shank. The bars may be inlaid but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude above or below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions, prongs or rivets designed to intimidate the horse. Rollers attached to the center of the bit are acceptable, and may extend below the bar. Jointed mouthpieces are acceptable and may consist of two or three pieces and may have one or two joints. A three-piece mouthpiece may include a connecting ring of 1 1/4" or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2"), which lies flat in the mouth, or a roller or port as described herein. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2" maximum with roller(s) and covers acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds and spade bits are standard. ***Straight bar bits must have rounded edges or be wrapped. The diameter or thickness of the bar is not to exceed 3/4". The width (flat surface) of the bar must not exceed 1".*** Slip or gag bits, rigid donut mouthpieces and flat polo mouthpieces are prohibited. Roping bits with both reins connected to a single ring at center of cross bar shall not be used. Reins must be attached to each shank. Any rein design or other device which increases the effective length and thereby the leverage of the shank of a standard curb bit is prohibited. Anything that alters the intended use of the equipment as described in the appointments for a given class is considered to be an artificial appliance. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center jointed single rounded, unwrapped smooth mouthpiece of 5/16" to 3/4" diameter metal as measured from ring to 1" in from the ring with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The rings may be from 2" to 4" outside diameter of either the loose type, eggbutt, dee or center mounted without cheeks. The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachment hooks. Snaffle bits do not require a curb chain. If a curb strap is used it must be attached below the reins.
- b. Shanks cannot exceed eight and a half (8.5) inches. The length of a shank shall be measured in a straight line from the inside of the uppermost part of the headstall slot to the point on the rein ring where the rein would pull from when pressure is applied to the rein.
- c. All ports must be less than three (3) inches in height as measured from the bottom of the mouthpiece to the top of the port or spoon. Measurement will be taken by placing a straight edge at the bottom of the bars to have an accurate line as the "bottom" when measuring the height.
- d. All bits with shanks must have a curb strap or curb chain attached and used for leverage. Snaffle bits do not require a curb chain. If used, curb chains and leather straps must be flat and at least 1/2" in width and lie flat against the jaws of the horse ***along the "chin groove" (the part of the jaw behind the bulge of the chin) of the horse.*** Soft cover and/or wrap may be used on the curb chain. No wire, rawhide, or metal can be used in conjunction with, or as part of, the leather chin strap or curb chain.
- e. All mouthpieces must be smooth or latex wrapped. The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter, as measured 1" from the shank. Flat bar mouthpieces must be measured 1" from shank and will be 5/16" to 3/4" on the upper and lower surface. The width of the flat bar will be no wider than 1.5". Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece such as extensions, prongs, or rivets designed to intimidate the horse.
- f. Slip or gag bits, rigid donut mouthpieces and flat polo mouthpieces are prohibited. Any rein design or bit shank which increases the effective length and thereby the leverage of the shank of the bit is prohibited.
- g. The competition steward may require a rider or riders to dismount and drop their horse's bits for inspection. Competition officials may select entire classes or individuals in any section for inspection. ***In championship classes, the steward or judge may inspect bits of the top placing horses at the end of the class. This may be done in the ring or as the horses exit the ring. For safety, riders must dismount and drop the horse(s)'s bit for inspection. Show officials may determine the extent and number of placements to be checked and the location for the inspection.***

## PF128 Attire and Appointments

1. Official Paso Fino Show Costume. In classes requiring the official Paso Fino show costume, the attire shall be a long-sleeved bolero-type jacket **of approximate hip-length, which does not touch the saddle**, and full length **riding** pants or jumpsuit which cover(s) the boots. The bolero-jacket and pants or jumpsuit must be conservative in color and **may include contrasting trim and/or embroidery. Slightly reflective or non-metallic buttons (such as pearl, glass, or burnished metal), trim, adornments, and/or threading are allowed, so long as they do not predominate the attire.** A long-sleeve, short-sleeve, or sleeveless shirt or blouse may be worn under the long-sleeve bolero-jacket. A matching or contrasting cummerbund is optional. Sequins, glitter, or other similar reflective adornment is not allowed on any part of the Paso Fino show costume. **A long sleeve, short sleeve, or sleeveless shirt or blouse may be worn under the long sleeve jacket.** Male riders shall wear an unadorned tie **a bow tie, western bow tie, or bolo.** The exhibitor must wear a Spanish-type felt, leather or suede hat with a round, flat crown and with a flat or slightly rolled brim with a matching or contrasting hatband. **There may be small adornments on the hatband, such as metallic buttons or symbols. The whole effect of the exhibitor's costume is to be one of good taste which promotes the horse.**
2. [...]

## PF130 Procedures

Exhibitors will enter the ring to the right on the rail and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until instructed to reverse or halt. Horses must work both directions, reverse, halt and proceed in gait and traverse the sounding board when available. Breaking gait on reverses, stops or starts shall be penalized. A figure eight may be requested to demonstrate flexibility, responsiveness, and steadiness of gait, but diminishing circles are not allowed. Only inanimate objects may be used as "posts" for the figure eight as long as they do not present a danger to horse or rider. Judges may call for horses to perform a serpentine at the classic fino as an optional test. Judges may call for horses to work parallel together at the classic fino as an optional test. A solid, ground level, hard surface sounding board 48' or longer shall be used in this class to clearly exhibit the rhythmic consistency of the horse's cadence and impact when available. The performance of the horse on the sounding board shall not be given preference over the horse's work on the rail. During competition, while being judged, exhibitors are not allowed to turn on the sounding board. Backing of horses may be requested. **The judge is prohibited from requiring a horse to perform the Paso Largo on the sounding board.**

## PF134 Procedures

The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right on the rail at a collected Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. The sequence of gaits shall be: collected Paso Corto, collected Paso Largo, to show the marked difference in speed, collected walk, reverse and repeat.

A solid, ground level, continuous hard surface, allowing no more than one-half inch of space between the sounding board 48' or longer shall be used when available. However, the judges may require horses to perform only the Paso Corto gait over the sounding board. **The judge is prohibited from requiring a horse to perform the Paso Largo on the sounding board.** Judges may call for a serpentine at a collected Paso Corto and/or a figure eight at a collected Paso Corto as requirements for a work-off of horses in close competition. At a very minimum, a serpentine should consist of half circles with 180 degree turns.

## SUBCHAPTER PF-7 PASO PLEASURE DIVISION

### PF138 Procedures

1. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner.

2. The sequence of gaits shall be: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, to demonstrate the marked difference in speed, flat walk, reverse, repeat and traverse the sounding board when available.
3. Each rider shall be asked to demonstrate the back from the line-up. In the back, the horse shall maintain proper head position, show evidence of a good mouth, back in a straight line and be readily responsive. At the judge's discretion, riders may be asked to perform individually; the required test should show the submissive manners, willingness and quiet temperament. Some of the requests may be as follows:
  - a. Dismount and remount from the left side, either in the line-up or along the rail, except in Youth Classes. Rider's style of dismount and mount is not to be emphasized; rather, emphasis is placed on the horse's willingness to stand quietly
  - b. Perform a serpentine at the Paso Corto gait;
  - c. Perform the Paso Corto gait over the sounding board;
  - d. Back on the board;
  - e. Back on the rail.

Any combination of the above may be used for a work-off. ***The judge is prohibited from requiring a horse to perform the Paso Largo on the sounding board.***

## PF141 Class Specifications.

1. The Paso Fino Country Pleasure Horse should be a calm, mild-mannered, ~~safe~~, using ***safe presenting*** pleasure horse maintaining balance, ease and freedom of movement. It must demonstrate flawless manners. It must be absolutely agreeable to the commands and directions of the rider. It is imperative that the horse give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride with emphasis on the flat walk and smooth transitions. It must at all times work on a very light rein without resistance and, although it should be athletic, may be energetic, and should combine style and spirit. It must at all times demonstrate a quiet, calm and extremely tractable attitude. It must stand quietly and back readily when requested. Horses indicating aggressiveness, over- collection or excessive animation shall be severely penalized.
2. This class is open to amateurs ~~and to horses who have not been in professional training for thirty (30) days before the show~~. Cross entering in any other class is permitted.
3. This class shall be judged: 20% on flat Walk; 20% on Corto; 20% on Largo; 10% on the back; 10% on appearance and way of going; and 20% on manners. Special attention shall be afforded to form, smoothness, rhythmic constancy of the gaits and tractable attitude.

## PF146 Paso Western Pleasure

1. [...]
2. Procedures. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. Only one hand may be used on the reins when using a curb bit and hands must not be changed. If hands are changed or if two hands are used with a curb bit, the exhibitor shall be penalized. If the left hand is used with reins, the bight must drape to the left side of the withers. The only exception to this is if long reins or a romal are used. In that case, one hand may be used to carry the excess rein, but the hands must be at least twelve (12) inches apart. All horses being considered for an award are required to back in a straight line. Refusal to back disqualifies a horse from placement.  
The sequence of the gaits shall be: Paso Corto, flat walk, lope, flat walk, reverse, and repeat.  
Riders should space themselves while executing the flat walk to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail. In the Paso Corto and lope, entries shall remain on the rail except to pass. The judge may require each rider to dismount and remount in the line-up from the left side. The rider's style of dismount and mount is not to be emphasized; rather, emphasis is placed on the horse's willingness to stand quietly. ***The judge is prohibited from requiring a horse to perform the Paso Largo on the sounding board.*** The judge also may require any of the following tests to any or all entries:
  - a. Demonstrate a straight back for up to 15 feet.
  - b. Lope and stop either on the rail or on the center.
  - c. Perform the figure eight at the lope on the correct lead demonstrating a simple change of lead. One or two figure eights may be required. In a simple change of lead, the horse is brought back to the halt and restarted into the lope on the opposite lead from the halt or walk.
  - d. Perform the Paso Corto gait over the sounding board.

3. [...]

## PF147 Paso Trail

1. [...]

2. Procedures.

- a. In this class, each horse shall be asked to negotiate through obstacles. Obstacles are to be negotiated by exhibitors individually with only one horse in the arena at a time.
- b. A drawn course will be provided by show management, reviewed for compliance with required procedures and approved by the judge(s) and steward(s). An exhibitor in this class cannot design or set up the course. The course will show the line of travel through obstacles and the gait required to perform obstacles. Changes or revisions will not be permitted after posting. The course will specify how a horse is to negotiate or travel between obstacles that seems appropriate. ***The trail pattern must be posted at least two (2) hours prior to the class.***
- c. Tests that may be required are: negotiating a gate, carrying an object from one part of the arena to another, riding through water, over logs or simulated brush, riding down into, up and out of a ditch without lunging or jumping, crossing a bridge, backing through obstacles, sidepassing, mounting and dismounting from either side, and performing over any reasonable conditions along the trail. (See WS103.4 for posting requirements.) Any coat or jacket to be put on by the rider must be open in front and not be an item which must be put on over the head. Unnatural obstacles, such as fire extinguisher, perforated plywood in water boxes, or exotic animals should be avoided. ***After consulting with show management, a sounding board may be used as an obstacle. The judge is prohibited from requiring a horse to perform the Paso Largo on the sounding board.***
- d. [...]

## PF151 Amateur Adult Horsemanship

This class shall be judged: 50% on horsemanship of rider, 10% on the suitability of the horse to the rider and 40% on the performance of the horse.

1. [...]

2. Gaits.

- a. Walk. Slightly collected and maintained at an even pace with no hesitations.
- b. Corto. Collected, with sustained cadence and rhythm.
- c. Largo. Collected, with good transitions to and from Paso Corto, sustained cadence and rhythm.
3. Tests. The course shall be posted ~~approximately~~ ***at least two (2) hours before*** ~~prior to~~ the class.
  - a. Stop. The rider should quietly stop the horse and keep the horse still and parallel to the rail.
  - b. Serpentine. At a Paso Corto, the rider will perform a serpentine through cones without touching cones while maintaining gait, cadence and rhythm.
  - c. Circles. At a Paso Corto, the rider will perform two circles through cones while maintaining gait, cadence and rhythm.
  - d. Figure Eights. In a distance of nine feet between two cones with the horse at a Paso Corto, the rider will perform two figure eights while maintaining gait, cadence and rhythm without touching the cones.
  - e. Back. The horse shall back four to six steps in a straight line.
  - f. Sounding Board. At a Paso Corto, the rider shall ride the horse over the sounding board while maintaining gait, cadence and rhythm. The horse should move straight down the center of the board, tracking straight. The rider shall circle at the end of the board and return over the sounding board.
4. [...]

## GR1211 Appointment of Officials and Employees

1. Apply for Special and Guest Officials' card in accordance with GR1005, GR1011, GR1015, GR1024, and GR1025.
2. It is the responsibility of competition management to hire the appropriate number and type of licensed officials.
3. Judges.

- a. It is the responsibility of the Licensed Official to ensure that they is eligible to officiate by complying with all licensure and membership requirements prior to the first day of competition.
  - b. If a competition finds it necessary to substitute a judge for one who is officially designated in the prize list and/or catalogue and who is unable to serve due to circumstances beyond their control, the restrictions of GR1304.2-.12 and GR1304.21-.24 shall be non-effective.
  - c. Furnish the judges in each class a scorecard containing exact class specifications. (Exception: only the percentage of conformation must be noted for rated Hunter classes.) Fence heights must be noted for all unrated classes. Method of breaking ties in Jumper classes must be included.
4. Stewards/Technical Delegates.
- a. Appoint and identify in the prize list and catalogue one or more licensed Federation Stewards licensed to officiate in the divisions and sections for which the competition is approved who shall be present at each session of the competition. A technical delegate must be appointed for Eventing Competitions, Dressage Competitions and Regular and Local Competitions offering "open" Dressage Division classes (i.e., classes which are not limited to certain breeds) or classes above Third Level. Exceptions:
    1. A C2 Steward may officiate through Fourth Level of breed restricted Dressage classes at Licensed Breed Restricted Competitions.
    2. C2 Stewards who are also licensed Dressage Technical Delegates may serve in both roles at Licensed Breed Restricted Competitions offering Open Dressage classes. When a dually licensed C2 Steward/Dressage Technical Delegate is officiating, the Open Dressage classes must be their sole responsibility until those classes are complete. If there are additional non-Open Dressage classes occurring at the same time as the Open Dressage classes, a separate Dressage Technical Delegate must officiate for the Open Dressage classes.
  - b. If required to officiate, a Dressage Technical Delegate must be present and officiate for all Dressage classes held on the day(s) which they are in attendance. If no other classes except Dressage are held on a licensed day of a Breed-Restricted Competition, a steward does not need to be present in addition to the Dressage Technical Delegate.
  - c. If a competition finds it necessary to substitute a steward or technical delegate for one who is officially designated in the prize list and/or catalogue and who is unable to serve due to circumstances beyond their control, the restrictions of GR1304.14 and/or GR1304.25 shall be non-effective.
  - d. Competitions are urged to engage a steward for each ring when classes are held simultaneously and to select individuals who are well versed in the divisions being offered.
  - e. With the exception of Hunter/Jumper competitions (see GR1211.3e), competitions using more than three performance areas simultaneously must have at least two stewards on duty. Dressage arenas do not count as a performance area. If more than six performance areas are used simultaneously, at least three stewards must be on duty.
  - f. A Federation licensed Hunter/Jumper competition must appoint C1 Stewards as follows:
    1. When one to four performance areas are in use simultaneously, at least one Steward must be on duty.
    2. When five to eight performance areas are in use simultaneously, at least two Stewards must be on duty.
    3. When nine or more performance areas are used simultaneously, at least three Stewards must be on duty.
    4. A competition using four performance areas simultaneously that had more than 500 horses competing the previous year must have two Stewards on duty.
    5. A competition in its first year of operation must have two Stewards on duty if four to eight performance areas are in use simultaneously.
    6. When more than one steward is required, the licensed Stewards must designate one as the Senior Steward for that competition and must notify competition management.
  - g. For each competition day that a Dressage Competition schedules 300 or more rides (including Dressage and DSHB entries), the competition must have at least two Dressage Technical Delegates on duty. When only one competition ring is in session, only one Dressage Technical Delegate need be present on the grounds. Dressage Competitions holding both a national competition and a CDI must have a separate Dressage Technical Delegate in addition to the FEI Chief Dressage Steward.
  - h. At all competitions using more than one competition ring, management must provide a hand-held communication device (i.e. walkie-talkie or cell phone) to at least one steward or technical delegate.
  - i. A Paso Fino competition with more than 475 **250** Paso Fino horses competing based on the previous competition entry numbers, determined by the amount of Federation fees paid to the Federation, shall be required to have at least two stewards.
  - j. The Federation is required to provide competition stewards and technical delegates with some form of

discernable identification (such as a badge with lanyard) which must be worn at the competition by the official.

5. [...]