

Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
GR 311.2	012-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)
GR 314.2	043-25	1	Standard	12/1/2027	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
GR 401.1	027-25	3	Standard	12/1/2026	Executive Staff	Approved (6/16/2026)
GR 808.1	010-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Britt McCormick, USHJA President	Approved (6/16/2026)
GR 845.1	007-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Human and Equine, Safety & Welfare	Approved (6/16/2026)
GR 847.1	001-25	2	Extraordinary	4/1/2026	Human and Equine, Safety & Welfare	Approved (6/16/2026)
GR 1033.5	022-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	Licensed Officials	Approved (6/16/2026)
GR 1040.1	009-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Eventing	Approved (6/16/2026)
GR 1113.1	044-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Connemara	Approved (6/16/2026)
GR 1124.1	045-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
GR 1124.6	042-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
GR 1133.1	017-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)
GR 1211.1	014-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)
GR 1211.4	018-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Eventing	Approved (6/16/2026)
GR 1214.1	030-25	3	Standard	12/1/2026	Executive Staff	Approved (6/16/2026)
AL 0.0	101-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Andalusian/Lusitano	Approved (6/16/2026)
AL 101.1	103-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Andalusian/Lusitano	Approved (6/16/2026)
AL 101.2	102-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Andalusian/Lusitano	Approved (6/16/2026)
AL 103.1	104-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Andalusian/Lusitano	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 105.1	105-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	AHA	Approved (6/16/2026)

Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
AR 105.2	123-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 106.4	118-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 108.1	119-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 109.19	127-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 126.1	128-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 133.1	107-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	AHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 138.1	108-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	AHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 144.1	122-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 148.2	116-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 148.3	131-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 150.4	106-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	AHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 166.1	109-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	AHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 177.2	110-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	AHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 183.1	222-25	1	Extraordinary	9/1/2026	AHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 190.2	211-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	AHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 214.1	115-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 214.2	130-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR App. 8	117-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 247.1	121-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 264.8	126-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)

Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
AR 287.5	120-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 287.9	111-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	AHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 288.2	114-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	AHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 297.5	129-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 298.10	125-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 298.11	112-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	AHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 306.1	124-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)
AR 317.1	113-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	AHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
CP 102.6	132-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Carriage Pleasure Driving	Approved (6/16/2026)
DC 901.1	135-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Driving Sport Committee	Approved (6/16/2026)
DC 905.3	254-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Driving	Approved (6/16/2026)
DC 908.1	249-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	Cynthia Wiseman	Approved (6/16/2026)
DC 913.4	223-25	1	Extraordinary	9/1/2026	Driving Sport Committee	Approved (6/16/2026)
DC 920.2	247-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	Beth Davidson	Approved (6/16/2026)
DC 944.4	133-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Driving	Approved (6/16/2026)
DC 947.4	134-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Driving Sport Committee	Approved (6/16/2026)
DC 959.1	253-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Driving	Approved (6/16/2026)
DC 970.1	246-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Beth Davidson	Approved (6/16/2026)
DC 974.0	252-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Driving	Approved (6/16/2026)
DR 101.1	136-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)

Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
DR 118.2	049-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USDF	Approved (6/16/2026)
DR 119.1	137-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)
DR 120.4	225-25	3	FEI Rule Change	12/1/2026	Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)
DR 121.0	144-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)
DR 121.3	261-25	1	FEI Rule Change	12/1/2026	Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)
DR 121.8	257-25	1	Extraordinary	9/1/2026	Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)
DR 122.3	138-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)
DR 122.5	145-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)
DR 133.1	139-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)
DR 203.7	140-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)
DR 208.0	141-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)
DR 209.1	142-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)
DR 211.4	143-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)
EQ 106.5	153-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)
EQ 106.5	174-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	National Hunter Committee	Approved (6/16/2026)
EQ 106.5	154-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)
EQ 108.1	146-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)
EQ 109.17	152-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)
EQ 111.8	039-25	1	Standard	9/1/2026	David Distler	Approved (6/16/2026)
EQ 111.11	149-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USEF Executive Staff	Approved (6/16/2026)

Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
EQ 113.7	150-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)
EQ 117.1	147-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USEF Executive Staff	Approved (6/16/2026)
EQ 119.1	155-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Saddle Seat Eq	Approved (6/16/2026)
EQ 119.8	255-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	USEF Executive Staff	Approved (6/16/2026)
EQ 122.1	148-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USEF Executive Staff	Approved (6/16/2026)
EV App. 1	214-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USEA	Approved (6/16/2026)
EV App. 2	221-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USEA	Approved (6/16/2026)
EV App. 3	157-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USEA	Approved (6/16/2026)
EV App. 3	215-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USEA	Approved (6/16/2026)
EV App. 9	219-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	USEA	Approved (6/16/2026)
EV App. 0	218-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USEA	Approved (6/16/2026)
EV 108.4	207-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	Eventing	Approved (6/16/2026)
EV 113.1	208-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Eventing	Approved (6/16/2026)
EV 122.2	210-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	Eventing	Approved (6/16/2026)
EV 127.8	209-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Eventing	Approved (6/16/2026)
EV 127.8	217-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USEA	Approved (6/16/2026)
EV 156.2	220-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	USEA	Approved (6/16/2026)
FR 101.35	158-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Friesian	Approved (6/16/2026)
FR 182.1	159-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Friesian	Approved (6/16/2026)
HJ 105.0	160-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)

Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
HU App. A	169-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)
HU 101.0	175-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	National Hunter Committee	Approved (6/16/2026)
HU 105.3	162-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)
HU 118.3	177-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	National Hunter Committee	Approved (6/16/2026)
HU 148.1	172-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)
HU 149.1	164-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)
HU 167.1	165-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)
HU 168.1	032-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	CEO - Bill Moroney	Approved (6/16/2026)
HU 174.6	173-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)
JP 5.0	178-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Jumper	Approved (6/16/2026)
JP 103.2	188-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)
JP 111.5	179-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Jumper	Approved (6/16/2026)
JP 111.12	180-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Jumper	Approved (6/16/2026)
JP 120.1	181-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Jumper	Approved (6/16/2026)
JP 123.1	186-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Jumper	Approved (6/16/2026)
JP 123.1	182-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Jumper	Approved (6/16/2026)
JP 140.1	185-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Jumper	Approved (6/16/2026)
JP 146.0	184-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Jumper	Approved (6/16/2026)
JP 146.3	183-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Jumper	Approved (6/16/2026)
JP 149.1	187-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)

Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
PF 1.0	200-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Paso Fino	Approved (6/16/2026)
PF 2.0	193-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	PFHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
PF 101.1	192-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	PFHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
PF 102.17	191-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	PFHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
PF 102.17	199-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	PFHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
PF 112.0	189-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Paso Fino	Approved (6/16/2026)
PF 125.0	198-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	PFHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
PF 127.3	190-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	PFHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
PF 128.0	197-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	PFHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
PF 147.2	194-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	PFHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
PF 147.2	195-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	PFHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
PF 147.4	196-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	PFHA	Approved (6/16/2026)
VA 110.1	015-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Kendel Edmunds	Approved (6/16/2026)
VA 116.0	213-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Vaulting	Approved (6/16/2026)
WD 121.1	201-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Western Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)
WD 121.5	204-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Western Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)
WD 129.9	203-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Western Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)
WD 130.1	202-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Western Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)
WD 145.6	205-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Western Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/13/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The intent of this proposed rule change is to expand and incentivize utilizing and emphasizing conformation in the Green Hunter, Young Hunter, and Amateur Owner hunter sections.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USHJA

Katie Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules Comments

**GR312 Determining Entries**

[....]

**6. Rated Hunter Section & Classes**

HUNTER SECTION RATINGS AND CLASSES	Premier/National ("AA"/"A") Min-Max Required Classes	Premier/National ("AA"/"A") Min Money	Regional ("B") Multi-Day Comp Min/Max Required Classes	Regional ("B") One Day Comp Min/Max Required Classes	Regional ("B") Min
Open Hunter Sections					
<i>Green Conformation</i>					
<i>Hunter 3'3"</i>	<b>4-6*</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>3-5***</b>	<b>3-4***</b>	<b>0</b>
Green Conformation Hunter 3'6"	4-6*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
High Performance Conformation Hunter	4-6*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
High Performance Hunter	3-5	750	3-5***	3-4***	0
Performance Hunter 3'3"	3-5	400	3-5***	3-4***	0
Performance Hunter 3'6"	3-5	500	3-5***	3-4***	0

[....]

**GR311 Awards Rating Classifications**

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2. In the Hunter division, points for ribbons won in any rated section will be awarded in two awards channels using the applicable point chart. Channel I includes Premier and National rated hunter competitions and Channel II includes Regional rated hunter competitions. Points earned in a channel are exclusive to that award channel.

- a. In the Green Hunter 3'0", 3'3", 3'6" and 3'9", Young Hunter 5 and under, Young Hunter 6 and under, Young Hunter 7 and under, High Performance Hunter, Performance Hunter 3'3" and 3'6", Green Conformation Hunter 3'3" **and** 3'6" and High Performance Conformation Hunter, standings for the National HOTY Awards based on money won will be determined by dollars won in the horses respective sections. See GR1132.

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**GR1132 Hunter and Equitation Divisions**

[....]

3. In the Hunter division, points are calculated according to the Hunter Division Point Chart. Exception: National awards for Green Hunter 3'0", 3'3", 3'6" and 3'9", Young Hunter 5 and under, Young Hunter 6 and under, Young Hunter 7 and under, High Performance and Performance Hunter 3'3" and 3'6", Green Conformation Hunter 3'3" **and** 3'6", and High Performance Conformation Hunter will be calculated using two systems towards two separate sets of national awards. The national Money Won Awards will be based on the money won by each horse in their respective section. The national Points Awards will be calculated according to the Hunter Division Point Chart. Both money won and points won in hunter classics, the USHJA International Hunter Derby, the USHJA National Hunter Derby, and the USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Stake will be included. The money won and points won in the USHJA International Hunter Derby will only be awarded towards a declared GR11 - 22 @ USEF 2025 @ USEF 2025 GR11 - 23 Hunter section for HOTY points if a horse competes in the declared section a minimum of five (5) times during the competition year. The money won and points won in the USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Stake will only be awarded

toward a declared Hunter section for HOTY points if a horse competes in the declared section a minimum of three (3) times during the competition year.

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9. Hunter Division Section champions will be awarded 2.0 times the total 1st place point value of the first class in that section toward any National Horse of the Year point award based on points earned. Section reserve champions will be awarded 1.2 times the total 1st place value of the first class in that section towards any National Horse of the Year award based on points earned. Exception: For National Horse of the Year awards that are based on money won, Section Champions in the Green Hunter 3'0", 3'3", 3'6", and 3'9", Young Hunter 5 and under, Young Hunter 6 and under, Young Hunter 7 and under, High Performance Hunter, Performance Hunters 3'3" and 3'6", Green Conformation Hunter 3'3" and 3'6", and High Performance Conformation Hunter will be awarded dollars equal to 10% of the total prize money offered for each respective section towards National Horse of the Year awards. Reserve Champions will be awarded dollars equal to the amount of 5% of the total prize money for each respective section.

10. Hunter Division Section Awards In the Hunter division, points for ribbons won or money won, if applicable, in any rated section will be awarded in two awards channels. Channel I includes Premier ("AA") and National ("A") rated hunter competitions and Channel II includes Regional ("B") rated hunter competitions. Points earned or money won, if applicable, in a channel are exclusive to that award channel.

a. Hunter Division Section awards are offered for the following at the National level from the Federation and at the Zone level from USHJA: Green Conformation Hunter 3'3" and 3'6", Green Hunter 3'0", 3'3", 3'6" and 3'9", High Performance Conformation Hunter, High Performance Hunter, Performance Hunters 3'3", Performance Hunters 3'6", Young Hunter 5 and under, Young Hunter 6 and under, Young Hunter 7 and under, Small Green Pony Hunter, Medium Green Pony Hunter, Large Green Pony Hunter, Small Pony Hunter, Medium Pony Hunter, Large Pony Hunter, Small Junior Hunter 15 yrs. & under, Small Junior Hunter 16-17 yrs., Large Junior Hunter 15 yrs. & under, Large Junior Hunter 16-17 yrs., Amateur Owner Hunter - 18-35 Years Old and Over 35 Years Old, Ladies Side Saddle, Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" 18-35 Years Old and Over 35 Years Old, Small Hunter, Small Junior Hunter 3'3", 15 yrs. & under, Small Junior Hunter 3'3" 16-17 yrs., Large Junior Hunter 3'3" 15 yrs. and under and Large Junior Hunter 3'3" 16-17 yrs, Children's Hunter Ponies, Children's Hunter Horses, Low Children's Hunter Horse, Low Children's Hunter Pony, Adult Amateur Hunter 18-35 Years Old, Adult Amateur Hunter Over 35 Years Old, Low Adult Amateur Hunter, Small Hunter, USHJA Hunter 2'0", 2'3", 2'6", 2'9" and 3'0", and Thoroughbred Hunter.

b. The USHJA shall determine the Zone HOTY points to be awarded for its USHJA Hunter Championships, Finals and Classes. The USHJA shall notify the Federation and publish the point scale to be utilized on the USHJA website a minimum of 60 days prior to the start of each event.

11. Hunter Competitions Utilizing Federation HOTY Points/money won for Qualification for their Events.

a. Premier and National hunter rated competitions (including those held in conjunction with Jumper Level 16 competitions) must utilize the applicable Channel I HOTY points for qualification purposes.

b. Regional hunter rated competitions (including those held in conjunction with Jumper Level 1-3 Jumper competitions) must utilize the applicable Channel II HOTY points for qualification purposes.

12. Grand Champion Horse of the Year Awards are based on National points and are offered for the following Hunter sections:

a. Amateur Owner Hunter: awarded to the horse with the most points from the rider age sections of Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6"

b. Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3": awarded to the horse with the most points from the rider age sections of Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3"

c. Junior Hunter 15 Years & Younger: awarded to the horse with the most points in the 15 & Under rider age section of the 3'6" Junior Hunters

d. Junior Hunter 16-17 Years: awarded to the horse with the most points in the 16-17 rider age section of the 3'6" Junior Hunters

e. Pony Hunter: awarded to the pony with the most points from the small, medium and large Regular Hunter Pony sections

f. Green Hunter Pony: awarded to the pony with the most points from the small, medium and large Green Hunter Pony sections

g. Conformation Hunter: awarded to the horse with the most points from the High Performance Conformation

Hunter, **Green Conformation Hunter 3'3"** and Green Conformation Hunter 3'6" sections

h. Green Hunter: awarded to the horse with the most points from the Green Hunter 3'0", 3'3", 3'6" and 3'9" sections.

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#### **HU111 Height of Obstacles**

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##### **6. Green Conformation Hunter 3'3"**

7. Green Conformation Hunter 3'6"

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#### **HJ120 Conformation Hunter Sections**

At Premier competitions, the Conformation sections must be offered separately. At National or Regional competitions, the Conformation sections may be offered as combined.

#### **HJ126 Limiting Entries in the Hunter Division**

Hunter sections restricting entries based on winnings must use the Federation National Horse of the Year points or prize money won, whichever is applicable, as a means of qualification for the specified time period or, alternatively, must use the greatest number of Federation National Horse of the Year points won at a specified number of competitions within a specified time period. (Exception: Green Hunter 3'0", 3'3", 3'6", and 3'9", Young Hunter 3'0", 3'3", and 3'6", Green Conformation Hunter 3'3" **and** 3'6", High Performance Conformation Hunter, High Performance Hunter, Performance Hunter 3'6" and Performance Hunter 3'3" sections restricting entries based on winnings must accept 50% of the entries from the Federation National Horse of the Year points list and 50% of the entries from the Federation National Horse of the Year prize money won list. If an odd number of entries will be accepted, the Federation National Horse of the Year prize money won list will take precedence. The procedure for determining horses that qualify and their ranking will begin with the top placed horse on the Money Won standings list, then go to the top placed horse on the Points standings list, back to the second placed horse on the Money Won standings list, then on to the second placed horse on the Money Won standings list, continuing down both lists in that order until all available slots have been filled. If during this process a horse appears on either list that has already qualified, skip that horse and go instead to the next horse on the same list. Continue using this process until all slots are filled). Only points awarded in the particular section to count except in Amateur Owner, Adult Amateur, Children's Hunter, and Junior Hunter sections where points from both the younger and older sections shall be counted. If the Horse of the Year list has been exhausted and positions are still available, an alternate system may be used provided it has been published in the prize list or otherwise prior to the end of any specified time period. Whichever method is used, no other restrictive criteria can be imposed. The method chosen may be clearly stated. Management can allow the previous year's Champion and Reserve Champion or Champion to enter the section they were Champion or Reserve Champion in the previous year without qualifying. Management may allow the horse or pony that is leading for the respective Federation Zone Award in its Zone to enter that section.

#### **HU131 Hunter Eligibility and Green Eligibility Status for**

[....]

3. Once a horse begins its Hunter eligibility by competing in Hunter or Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation classes or sections at 3'0" or higher held at a Federation or Equine Canada licensed competition the following statements apply:

a. Green Hunter 3'0" and 3'3": A horse in its first competition year of showing in classes with fence heights of 3'0" - 3'5" is eligible for Green Hunter 3'0" and 3'3" for a total of two competition years (not necessarily consecutive). During a horse's Green Hunter 3'0" and 3'3" years:

1. Horses competing in classes at 3'6": Once a horse competes in any Hunter, Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation, or Jumper class at a Federation or Equine Canada licensed recognized competition with fence heights of 3'6" (or 1.10m), it will be deemed is no longer eligible to compete in the Green Hunter 3'0" section but remains eligible to compete in the Green Hunter 3'3" section.

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#### HU136 Conformation Hunter Sections

1. Model Classes for Green Conformation Hunter 3'3" **and** 3'6" and High Performance Conformation Hunter.
  - a. To be shown at a walk and trot. To be judged on conformation, way of moving and soundness.
  - b. All horses being considered for an award must be serviceably sound.
  - c. Model classes to count 1/2 points. Points will be awarded even if less than three entries compete.
2. In a combined section, if a horse is eligible for more than one section; the exhibitor must declare to the Competition Secretary which height section the points are to count toward.
3. No horse may compete in more than one height section of a combined division.
4. No credit will be given in combined sections unless three entries have competed.
5. A horse must be eligible for the Green Hunter 3'3" **or** 3'6" **according to HU131** in order to be eligible for **Green Conformation 3'3" or** Green Conformation Hunter 3'6".

[...]

#### HU166 Combining and Dividing Specific Sections

[...]

4. **Green Conformation Hunter 3'3"**, Green Conformation Hunter 3'6" and High Performance Conformation Hunter
  - a. Number to hold separate sections: three (3).
  - b. Combining:
    1. **The Green Conformation 3'3" may be initially combined with the Green Conformation 3'6" if required . The Green Conformation 3'3" and the Green Conformation 3'6" may be further combined with the High Performance Conformation if necessary.**
    2. **If there are fewer than three horses in a section, the Green Conformation Hunter 3'6" must be combined with the Green Conformation Hunter 3'3" first, and then if still necessary, it may be combined with the High Performance Conformation Hunter.** ~~The High Performance Conformation Hunter may only be combined with the Green Conformation Hunter 3'6".~~ **High Performance Conformation may not be combined with any sections other than those listed here.**
    - 2, 3. When offered as **three** sections, if there are fewer than three (3) horses in either the **Green Conformation 3'3"**, Green Conformation 3'6" or the High Performance Conformation section they must be combined. HU - 34 © USEF 2025
    3. 4. When combining **any** Conformation Hunter **sections**, if different amounts of prize money or entry fees were offered in the original sections, the combined section will use the lower amount for both prize money and entry fees.
  - c. Dividing: If there are three (3) or more horses in each Conformation section they must be held separately.

[...]

#### HU173 National Horse of the Year Point Values

2. International Hunter Derby Points to be credited to each horse's respective section as declared at the time of entry. Only Juniors and Amateurs may declare for the applicable Junior or Amateur Owner section. Points may not be credited toward the HOTY awards for the **Green Conformation Hunter 3'3"**, Green Conformation Hunter 3'6" or the High Performance Conformation Hunter. The money won and points won in the USHJA International Hunter Derby will only be awarded towards a declared Hunter section for HOTY points if a horse competes in the declared section a minimum of five (5) times during the competition year.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2027	8/29/2025	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The Arabian Committee proposes a decrease to the mileage boundary for Arabian competitions from the current 250 miles to 100 miles. This change brings more consistency amongst the breeds as most other breeds' mileage boundaries are 100 miles. The goal of this proposal is to ease access for competition organizers to host their competition and retain or gain USEF licensure, without the need for mileage exemptions and presidential modifications with added fees imposed. Currently, there are many instances in the Arabian competition environment where competitions fall within the 250 mile boundary, but host different exhibitors due to regional boundaries or sections being offered at the competitions. The committee feels that decreasing this barrier for Arabian competitions will result in a better competition environment for Arabian organizers and exhibitors.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Arabian

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

## GR314 Mileage

(...)

2. Mileage Boundaries. Mileage consideration may be applicable to more than one mileage provision.

a. The below divisions will be conducted under the following mileage:

1. Andalusian/Lusitano: 250 miles;
2. Arabian: ~~250~~ **100** miles;
3. Friesian: 250 miles;
4. Hackney: 100 miles;
5. Morgan: 100 miles;
6. National Show Horse: 50 miles;
7. Roadster: 100 miles;
8. Shetland: 100 miles;
9. American Saddlebred: 100 miles;
10. Local Regular: Any breed competition restricted to one breed or multi-breed competition including any of the above listed breeds (1-9), regardless of number of classes offered: 50 miles;
11. Western Dressage: 100 miles.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	5/4/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This proposal clarifies rules within the Chapter, including the expectations regarding medication report form filings.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Executive Staff	Brittany Hendricks bhendricks@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## CHAPTER 4 DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS

[GR401-408. Equine Drugs and Medications Provisions Applicable to All Breeds and/or Disciplines](#)

[GR401 Determining the Equine Drugs and Medications Designation for Each Breed or Discipline](#)

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[GR406 Results, Confirmatory Analysis, and Retest](#)

[GR407 Management Procedures](#)

[GR408 Interpretations of the Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Chapter and its Application to Particular Substances](#)

[GR409 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions](#)

[GR410 Equine Drugs and Medications, The Therapeutic Substance Provisions](#)

[GR411 Conditions For Therapeutic Administrations of Prohibited Substances](#)

[GR412 Administrative Penalties](#)

[GR413 Human Drug Testing](#)

[GR 414 Prohibited Practices](#)

## CHAPTER 4 DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS

For purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions apply:

Drug Testing Personnel. Includes (i) any licensed veterinarian appointed by the Federation to perform duties under this Chapter; and (ii) any technician appointed by a Federation-appointed licensed veterinarian to perform duties under this Chapter.

Sample. Unless otherwise specified herein, means any biological or other material, including any tissue, body fluid, excreta, hair, skin scraping or swab collected for the purposes of analysis under the Federation rules.

Horse. Includes a horse, pony, or mule.

*BOD 06/17/25 Effective 07/01/25*

### GR401-408. Equine Drugs and Medications Provisions Applicable to All Breeds and/or Disciplines

#### GR401 Determining the Equine Drugs and Medications Designation for Each Breed or Discipline

1. The Board of Directors shall designate every Breed, Discipline, and/or Group competing under Federation Rules as either a Prohibited Substance Group or a Therapeutic Substance Group, as outlined herein below.
2. At each Annual Meeting, each Division Committee shall determine by a majority vote and shall indicate to the Chief Administrator of the Equine Drugs and Medications Program its preference for its Breed or Discipline to be designated as (or to be part of) either a Prohibited Substance Group or a Therapeutic Substance Group. In any instance where more than one Division Committee is responsible for a Breed and/or Discipline Group, after each committee has determined its preference by a majority vote, unanimity between and/or among the Division Committees of the Group shall be required to invoke a recommendation to be designated a Prohibited Substance Group. Absent such concurrence, the joint recommendation of the Division Committees of the Group shall be construed as a recommendation in favor of designation as a Therapeutic Substance Group.
3. Each Division Committee shall have responsibility to recommend for its division.
4. At its meeting at the Federation's Annual Meeting, the Veterinary Committee shall take into consideration these recommendations and the written recommendations of the respective Affiliate Associations in this regard, and it shall enact the designation for each Breed, Discipline, and/or Group. The effective dates of these designations shall coincide with the effective dates of the newly published Rule Book.
5. These designations shall be reviewed by each Division Committee at the subsequent Rule Change Convention.
6. Every ~~Horse and/or pony~~ competing at Federation competitions and/or events shall be subject to either the Prohibited Substance Provisions (GR409) or the Therapeutic Substance Provisions (GR410-412), depending upon its Breed's, Discipline's, and/or Group's designation, and it shall be required to compete in compliance therewith, whether competing in unrated or rated classes and/or divisions.
7. Any ~~Horse and/or pony~~ that competes in more than one Breed, Discipline, and/or Group at a competition, one of which is a Prohibited Substance Group, shall be required to be in compliance with the Prohibited Substance Provisions at all times while competing in any and/or all classes and/or divisions at that competition.

#### GR402 Testing

1. Horses competing at a Licensed Competition are subject to examination by a licensed veterinarian appointed by the Federation. Said appointed veterinarian may appoint a technician to perform certain duties under Chapter 4. The examination may include physical collection of Samples and/or any other test or procedure at the discretion of said veterinarian necessary to effectuate the purposes of Chapter 4. Said veterinarian may examine any or all Horses in a class or all classes in a competition or any Horses entered in any class, whether in competition or not, if on the competition grounds, or any Horse withdrawn by any exhibitor within

- 24 hours prior to a class for which it has been entered.
2. Whether a Horse is in competition or not, refusal to submit the Horse for examination or to cooperate with the Drug Testing Personnel constitutes a violation and subjects the responsible person to penalties under GR406.
  3. Trainers who are not able to accompany Drug Testing Personnel and the Horse to the location where Sample collection is to take place, to act as witness to the collection and sealing of Samples, and to sign the drug collection documents in the appropriate places as witness, must appoint an agent to do so. The absence of such a witness shall constitute a waiver of any objection to the identification of the Horse tested and the manner of collection and sealing of the Samples.
  4. Upon the collection of a sufficient number of tubes of blood from the Horse, the tubes shall be divided into two groups. One group shall be labeled and identified as Blood Sample A and the other as Blood Sample B, and they shall be sealed accordingly. Upon the collection of a sufficient volume of urine from the Horse, a portion of the Sample shall be poured into a second urine sample container. One container shall be labeled and identified as Urine Sample A and the other as Urine Sample B, and they shall be sealed accordingly. Upon collection of a sufficient amount of any other Sample from the Horse, a portion of the Sample shall be placed into a second sample container. One container shall be labeled and identified as Sample A and the other as Sample B, and they shall be sealed accordingly. NOTE: There is no Sample B for swabs. These procedures shall be performed whether or not the trainer or their appointed witness is present as provided for in Section 3 above.
  5. In the event reasonable attempts at Sample collections from the Horse do not provide a sufficient quantity of Sample material to be divided, labeled, and identified as Samples A and B, as determined by Drug Testing Personnel, the Sample(s) obtained (if obtained) shall be labeled and identified as Sample(s) A only, and it shall be recorded in the records of the Equine Drugs and Medications Program that the corresponding Sample(s) B does (do) not exist, in which event the obtained Sample(s) shall be subject to testing.
  6. A Sample may be retested under these Rules at any time exclusively at the direction of the Federation. The retesting of a Sample may lead to a violation only if the Sample was retested within three (3) years from the Sample collection date. In order to constitute a violation under these rules, the substance detected in the retested Sample must (i) have been prohibited at the time of Sample collection; and (ii) not a therapeutic substance, which for purposes of this rule includes only the Controlled Medications on the FEI Prohibited Substances List (available at <http://www.fei.org/fei/cleansport>) in effect on the Sample collection date.
  7. In the event that the retested Sample proves positive, and the retest was conducted more than one (1) year since the date of collection, no prizes or awards will be required to be returned.

BOD 06/17/25 Effective 07/01/25

### GR403 Cooperation

1. Cooperation with Drug Testing Personnel includes:
  - a. Taking the Horse and Drug Testing Personnel immediately to the location selected by Drug Testing Personnel for testing the Horse and presenting it for testing.
  - b. Assisting Drug Testing Personnel in procuring Samples promptly, including but not limited to removing equipment from the Horse, leaving it quietly in the stall and avoiding any distractions to it. Schooling, lengthy cooling out, bandaging and other delays of this type shall be construed as noncooperation.
  - c. Polite attitude and actions toward Drug Testing Personnel.
2. It is a violation for any individual to attempt to intimidate or interfere with Drug Testing Personnel.

BOD 06/17/25 Effective 07/01/25

### GR404 Accountability of Trainers and Other Persons Responsible

1. Trainers and other Persons Responsible, in the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary, are responsible and accountable under the penalty provisions of these rules. The trainer and other Persons Responsible are not relieved from such responsibility as a result of the lack or insufficiency of stable security. **For purposes of this rule, substantial evidence means affirmative evidence of such a clear and definite nature as to establish that said trainer, or any employee or agent of the trainer, was, in fact, not responsible or accountable for the condition of the Horse and/or pony.**
2. The Persons Responsible may include the individual who rides, vaults, or drives the **Horse and/or pony** during

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- a competition; ~~any~~ the Owner; and/or Support Personnel.
3. Support Personnel is defined to include but is not limited to grooms, handlers, longeurs, and veterinarians. **Support Personnel** may be regarded as additional Persons Responsible if they are present at the competition or have made a relevant decision about the ~~H~~horse and/or pony.
  4. A trainer is defined as any adult or adults who has or shares the responsibility for the care, training, custody, condition, or performance of a ~~H~~horse and/or pony. Said person must sign the entry blank of any Licensed Competition whether said person be a trainer, owner, rider, agent and/or coach. Where a minor exhibitor has no trainer, then a parent, guardian or agent or representative thereof must sign the entry blank and assume responsibility as trainer. The name of the trainer must be designated as such on the entry blank. It is the responsibility of trainers as well as competition management to see that entry blanks contain all of the required information. The responsibilities of a trainer include, but are not limited to the following:
    - a. for the condition of a ~~H~~horse or pony at a Licensed Competition (whether or not they have signed an entry blank),
    - b. to guard each ~~H~~horse and/or pony at, and sufficiently prior to, a Licensed Competition such as to prevent the administration by anyone of, or its exposure to, any prohibited substance, and
    - c. to know all of the provisions of this Chapter 4 (including any advisories or interpretations published in equestrian) and all other rules and regulations of the Federation and the penalty provisions of said rules.
    - d. If any trainer is prevented from performing their duties, including responsibility for the condition of the ~~H~~horses and/or ponies in their care, by illness or other cause, or is absent from any Licensed Competition where ~~H~~horses and/or ponies under their care are entered and stabled, the trainer must immediately notify the competition secretary and, at the same time, a substitute must be appointed by the trainer and such substitute must place their name on the entry blank forthwith. Such substitution does not relieve the regular trainer of their responsibility and accountability under this rule; however, the substitute trainer is equally responsible and accountable for the condition of such ~~H~~horses and/or ponies.
  5. The trainer and owner acknowledge that the trainer represents the owner regarding ~~H~~horses and/or ponies being trained or managed, entries, scratches for any reason and any act performed on any ~~H~~horse and/or pony under the care and custody of the trainer.
  6. In the case of a ~~H~~horse and/or pony competing under the Therapeutic Substance Provisions, any trainer and/or **other** Persons Responsible subject to these rules who actually administers, attempts to administer, instructs, aids, conspires with another to administer or employs anyone who administers or attempts to administer a prohibited substance to a ~~H~~horse and/or pony which might affect the performance of said ~~H~~horse and/or pony at a competition licensed by the Federation without complying with GR411, is subject to the penalties provided in GR406.
  7. Any trainer and/or **other** Persons Responsible subject to these rules who administers, attempts to administer, instructs, aids, conspires with another to administer or employs anyone who administers or attempts to administer any substance to a ~~H~~horse and/or pony by injection or by any other route of administration, whether the substance is prohibited or permitted, in the competition ring of a competition licensed by the Federation during a scheduled class, is subject to the penalties provided in GR406.

## **GR405 Equine Drugs and Medications Testing in Connection with an Appeal Measurement**

1. Each animal submitted for an appeal measurement is subject to ~~this~~ ~~the~~ ~~Drugs and Medications~~ Chapter at the time of said measurement and/or concurrent examinations, and said animal must be in compliance therewith.
2. Each animal submitted for an appeal measurement must have Samples collected at the time of said measurement and/or concurrent examinations. No Sample is a Sample as required under Chapter 4 unless it is collected by and/or under the direct supervision of Drug Testing Personnel, who must be appointed by the Federation to collect Samples from the animal in question in connection with said measurement.
3. ~~Each animal submitted for an appeal measurement must have Samples collected at the time of said measurement and/or concurrent examinations.~~ All Samples must be of sufficient volume and amount for drug testing purposes, as determined by the Federation. Said Sample collections shall be conducted in accordance with procedures which are the sole prerogative of the Drug Testing Personnel. As deemed necessary by the Federation testing veterinarian, the animal shall be administered furosemide to cause it to produce a Urine Sample in a timely manner.
4. Every Sample collected in connection with an appeal measurement and all portions thereof are the sole

property of the Federation. Said Samples and all portions thereof must remain in the sole custody of Drug Testing Personnel at all times during said measurement and/or concurrent examinations, and subsequently they must be submitted to the Federation's designated laboratory for testing in accordance with the instructions of the Federation.

5. The entire cost of Sample collections and testing conducted in connection with an appeal measurement, including the fees and expenses of Drug Testing Personnel, shipping costs for equipment and samples, laboratory charges, etc., as determined by the Federation, must be paid in full by the appellant within 30 days of the submission of an invoice, regardless of the outcome of said measurement, and regardless of the laboratory results. A deposit in ~~cash or certified check~~ equal to the costs of sampling and testing, as estimated by the Federation, may be required prior to the measurement.
6. No appeal measurement is valid absent written affirmation of the CEO or their designee **(i)** confirming the receipt of negative drug testing results from the Federation's designated laboratory, **and (ii)** indicating that all Samples collected from the animal in question in connection with said measurement and/or concurrent examinations were found to contain no prohibited substance, said results having been issued to the Federation. Any instance involving a finding of prohibited substance shall additionally result in a violation of Chapter 4 for adjudication by the Hearing Committee in accordance with the Federation Bylaws.

*BOD 06/17/25 Effective 07/01/25*

### **GR406 Results, Confirmatory Analysis, and Retest**

1. Samples labeled and identified as Samples A shall be subjected to chemical analysis by the Federation's designated laboratory. Samples labeled and identified as Samples B shall be stored securely, unopened, at the Federation's designated laboratory, to be used in the event of a confirmatory analysis, or in the event of a future analysis. Samples collected by the Federation are the property of the Federation, and the Federation is entitled to determine all matters regarding access to and the analysis and disposal of such Samples.
2. In the event the chemical analysis of Sample A is negative, i.e., no prohibited substance or any metabolite or analogue thereof is found to be present in the Sample, the corresponding Sample B may be frozen or stored, as appropriate, and maintained, at the Federation's designated laboratory, for possible future chemical analysis.
3. In the event the chemical analysis of Sample A is positive, i.e., a prohibited substance or any metabolite or analogue thereof is found to be present in the Sample, this shall be prima facie evidence that the prohibited substance was administered in some manner to said Horse, whether intentionally or unintentionally, or otherwise was caused to be present in the tissues, body fluids or excreta of the Horse at the competition, whether intentionally or unintentionally, such that the trainer(s) deemed responsible and accountable for its condition is (are) liable under the provisions of GR404.
4. In the event the chemical analysis of Sample A is positive, the Federation shall notify the Trainer, **other** Persons Responsible (if applicable), and the Owner of the Horse of their right to promptly request the analysis of the B Sample. They may waive analysis of the B Sample in which case they shall be deemed to accept the A Sample analytical results. If waived, the Federation may nonetheless elect to proceed with the B Sample analysis at its own expense. The Trainer, **other** Persons Responsible (if applicable), and the Owner of the Horse are deemed to have waived their right to a B Sample analysis if the Confirmatory Analysis Request Form is not received by the Federation within 10 calendar days from notification of the right to request such analysis. Upon receipt of the duly executed Confirmatory Analysis Request Form, the Federation shall make arrangements for analysis of the B Sample without undue delay. The party requesting the B Sample analysis must pay the costs associated therewith in advance, but if the B Sample analysis does not substantially confirm the A Sample analysis, such costs will be reimbursed by the Federation. If such costs required to be paid in advance are not paid to the Federation within five business days following the issuance of the invoice, the right to have the B Sample analysis performed will be deemed waived.
5. The party requesting the confirmatory analysis may elect to have the B Sample analyzed at a different laboratory than the one which performed the A Sample analysis. If such election is made, the Federation will select the B Sample laboratory. The choice of laboratory used for the confirmatory analysis of the corresponding Sample B will be determined exclusively by the Federation from the Federation Equestre Internationale list of approved laboratories or a laboratory recognized by the agency appointed by the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority as meeting their laboratory standards. The Federation will inform the requesting party which laboratory it selected to analyze the corresponding B Sample.

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6. The party requesting the analysis of the B Sample may send a representative (witness) to be present for the opening and identification of the B Sample, if possible, unless the Federation determines that allowing such representative (witness) may present a threat to the integrity of the analysis process. Such person does not have any right to witness the analysis of the B Sample. If the appointed representative (witness) claims that they are not available on the scheduled date indicated by the Federation, the Federation will liaise with the testing laboratory and propose two alternative dates. If the appointed representative (witness) claims not to be available on the alternative dates proposed, the Federation will instruct the testing laboratory to proceed without the representative (witness) present.
7. In the event that the Federation's designated laboratory conducts both the analysis of the Sample A and the confirmatory analysis of the Sample B, both the results of the analysis of Sample A (and supporting data) and the results of the confirmatory analysis of the corresponding Sample B, if any (and supporting data, if any), shall be admissible as evidence in any hearing or proceeding pertaining to this matter.
8. In the event the corresponding Sample B does not exist, or is of insufficient volume to permit a confirmatory analysis, and there exists a remaining aliquot of Sample A which is of sufficient volume to permit a retest, as determined by the Federation, the party who requests the retest of Sample A must make the request in writing to the Federation and it must be received within 7 days of the determination that the corresponding Sample B does not exist or is of insufficient volume to permit a confirmatory analysis. The party requesting the re-test must pay the costs associated therewith in advance, but if the re-test does not substantially confirm the A Sample analysis, such costs will be reimbursed by the Federation. If such costs required to be paid in advance are not paid to the Federation within five business days following the issuance of the invoice, the right to have the re-test performed will be deemed waived.
9. Any requested re-test of the remaining aliquot of Sample A, provided it is of sufficient volume to permit a retest, shall be performed by the Federation's designated laboratory.
10. After chemical analysis of the B Sample, or in the absence of the B Sample the re-test of the A Sample, if the laboratory's confirmatory analysis:
  - a. Does not substantially confirm the Federation's designated laboratory's findings, then any allegations that the substance in question was present at the time that the Samples were collected shall be dismissed; or
  - b. Substantially confirms the Federation's designated laboratory's findings, the finding shall be considered conclusive.
11. In the case of a Horse competing under the Therapeutic Substance Provisions, if the chemical analysis of the Sample taken from such Horse indicates the presence of a prohibited substance or any metabolite or analogue thereof and all the requirements of GR411 have been fully complied with, the information contained in said Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form and any other relevant evidence will be considered by the Federation in determining whether a rule violation was committed by **the Trainer or any other Person(s) Responsible** or accountable for the condition of the Horse under the provisions of this rule.
- 12. The Federation shall impose a temporary suspension for the Trainer and Horse for a period of 60 days if the Horse is found to contain one of the following substances or any metabolite or analogue thereof:**
  - a. Selective Androgen Receptor Modulator (SARMs);**
  - b. Barbiturates;**
  - c. Anticonvulsants Felbamate, Phentermine, Phenytoin, and/or Valproate;**
  - d. Anabolic steroids;**
  - e. Any long-acting tranquilizers or psychotropics under Category III of the Federation's published penalty guidelines, such as reserpine, fluphenazine, and zuclopenthixol; or**
  - f. Any Category IV substance under the Federation's published penalty guidelines.**

**No trainer, responsible or accountable for the condition of said Horse, will be suspended, or a Horse barred from competition, until after an administrative penalty has been assessed or after the conclusion of a hearing and a written ruling thereon has been made.**

***The temporary suspension shall take effect after the A Sample finding is confirmed through confirmatory analysis of the B Sample (or in the absence of the B Sample, the remaining aliquot of the A Sample which is of sufficient volume to permit a retest), which the Federation will undertake at its expense.***

***If the Federation imposes a temporary suspension under this rule, the affected individual will be afforded the opportunity for a provisional hearing as set forth in Federation Bylaw 702.9. Time served for a temporary suspension will be credited against any suspension that may be imposed for the underlying violation.***

13. The owner or owners of a Horse found to contain a prohibited substance or any metabolite or analogue thereof may be required to forfeit all prize money, sweepstakes, added money and any trophies, ribbons and "points" won at said competition by said Horse and the same will be redistributed accordingly. The owner must pay a fee to said competition. Points accumulated toward Horse of the Year Awards prior to said competition may be nullified and redistributed at the discretion of the Hearing Committee. If, prior to or at a hearing, the Federation as the charging party, determines that one or more persons, not previously charged as a trainer should also be charged as a trainer, then, upon application by the Federation, the Hearing Committee may, in its discretion, continue or adjourn the hearing, in whole or in part, to permit a new or amended Disciplinary Action Complaint to be issued (unless the person(s) to be charged waive notice).
14. A trainer **or other Persons Responsible** of a Horse found to contain such prohibited substance or any metabolite or analogue thereof is subject to whatever penalty is assessed in accordance with the Federation Bylaws, rules, and published penalty guidelines.
15. If the Hearing Committee determines that any violation or attempted violation of this Rule was willful and/or intentional, there shall not be any limit to the period of a suspension, and the Hearing Committee may impose other and significantly greater penalties than it would have in the absence of such a determination.
16. A Sample may be retested under these Rules at any time exclusively at the direction of the Federation. The retesting of a Sample may lead to a violation only if the Sample was retested within three (3) years from the Sample collection date. In order to constitute a violation under these rules, the substance detected in the retested Sample must (i) have been prohibited at the time of Sample collection; and (ii) not a therapeutic substance, which for purposes of this rule includes only the Controlled Medications on the FEI Prohibited Substances List (available at <http://www.fei.org/fei/cleansport>) in effect on the Sample collection date.
17. In the event that the retested Sample proves positive, and the retest was conducted more than one (1) year since the date of collection, no prizes or awards will be required to be returned.

*BOD 06/17/25 Effective 07/01/25*

## **GR407 Management Procedures**

1. To provide funds for research, inspection and enforcement of rules regarding use of medications and drugs, each Licensed Competition, except where prohibited by law, must assess the exhibitors a fee for each Horse entered in the competition. Participants in the following classes or competitions are exempted from payment:
  - a. leadline
  - b. exhibitions
  - c. games and races,
  - d. classes for 4-H members,
  - e. Recognized Academy classes at Dressage competitions.
  - f. Opportunity classes
  - g. Classes at Regular or Local Competitions restricted to breeds or disciplines whose rules are not included in the USEF rulebook.
  - h. Lite Competitions
  - i. However, these classes or competitions are not exempt from the Drugs and Medications Chapter itself. Within 10 days after a competition, competition management must forward to the Federation a sum representing the above fee times the number of Horses entered in the nonexempt classes of the competition plus the number of Horses scratched where the fee is not refunded, such sum to be held by the Federation in a separate fund for use to accomplish the purpose set forth above.
2. It is a violation for a Licensee to assess and/or collect a drug enforcement fee in excess of or in addition to that specified and required by GR407.1 of these rules, unless said assessment is approved in writing by the Federation in advance, and then only under the terms and conditions set forth.
3. It is a violation for a Licensee to withhold from the Federation any or all of the drug fees collected in accordance with GR407.1, for any purpose, including to defray the expenses incurred providing stalls, passes, and other items to Drug Testing Personnel, as required by GR407.4 and .5.
4. Each Licensed Competition shall, at its own cost and expense, set aside and make available to Drug Testing Personnel upon request suitable facilities conveniently located for the veterinarian appointed by Drug Testing Personnel to collect Samples. Suitable facilities means one or more stalls if available, as requested, that are well lit, clean, dry, freshly bedded, and having a door or gate that can be secured.
5. Each Licensed Competition, upon request, must furnish the veterinarian appointed by the Federation by mail

forthwith, with the requested number of official passes and parking passes for Drug Testing Personnel to have immediate and free access to all areas at said Licensed Competition.

6. Competition management must cooperate with and exhibit polite attitude and actions toward Drug Testing Personnel.

BOD 06/17/25 Effective 07/01/25

## **GR408 Interpretations of the Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Chapter and its Application to Particular Substances**

Any questions regarding the interpretation of this Chapter, including the application of this Chapter to particular substances, should be directed to the office of the Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Program at, 956 King Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43212-2655. (800) 633-2472, (614) 299-7707, FAX (614) 299-7706. Trainers and/or owners who seek advice concerning the interpretation and application of this rule should not rely solely upon interpretations or advice by private or competition veterinarians, competition officials, competition personnel, or other persons, but should also obtain verification of any such interpretations or advice from the Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Program office. Any trainer or owner who is uncertain about whether this rule applies in any given situation would be well advised to withdraw the affected ~~H~~horse and/or pony from competition until such time as the Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Program office has been consulted.

## **GR409 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions**

1. This paragraph applies only to FEI Banned Substances and Methods.  
For all Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) recognized disciplines, Articles 2 (what constitutes a violation), 3 [proof of violations (except 3.1 and 3.2.3)], 4 (banned substances and methods), and 8.2 (principles of fair hearing) of the FEI Equine Anti-Doping rules govern. Those Articles are incorporated by reference as if fully set out herein and can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org) or the Drugs & Medications tab at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org). For purposes of this rule, the designation of "Person Responsible" in the incorporated provisions of the FEI Equine Anti-Doping rules shall refer to the individual(s) found to be the trainer of the ~~H~~horse as defined by GR404.
2. No ~~H~~horse and/or pony competing in a Breed or Discipline designated as (or part of) a No Prohibited Substance Group is to be shown in any class at a competition licensed by the Federation if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contained in its tissues, body fluids or excreta a prohibited substance as defined in the FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).
3. EXHIBITORS, OWNERS, TRAINERS, AND VETERINARIANS ARE CAUTIONED AGAINST THE USE OF MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS, TONICS, PASTES, AND PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND, THE INGREDIENTS AND QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF WHICH ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY KNOWN, AS MANY OF THEM NO DOUBT CONTAIN ONE OR MORE PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES.

## **GR410 Equine Drugs and Medications, The Therapeutic Substance Provisions**

1. No ~~H~~horse and/or pony competing in a Breed or Discipline designated as (or part of) a Therapeutic Substance Group is to be shown in any class at a competition licensed by the Federation (see also GR402.1, last sentence) if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contains in its tissues, body fluids or excreta a prohibited substance except as provided in GR411. Any ~~H~~horse and/or pony that competes in more than one Breed, Discipline, and/or Group at a competition, one of which is a Prohibited Substance Group, shall be required to be in compliance with the Prohibited Substance Provisions at all times while competing in any and/or all classes and/or divisions at that competition. For purposes of this rule, a prohibited substance is:
  - a. Any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer, local anesthetic, *analgesic*, psychotropic (mood and/or behavior altering) substance, or drug which might affect the performance of a ~~H~~horse and/or pony (stimulants and/or depressants are defined as substances which stimulate or depress the cardiovascular, respiratory or central nervous systems), or any metabolite and/or analogue of any such substance or drug, except as expressly permitted by this rule.
  - b. Any corticosteroid present in the plasma of the ~~H~~horse/pony other than dexamethasone (see GR410.5b).

- c. Any nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug in excess of one present in the plasma or urine of the **Hhorse/pony** (GR411 does not apply); exception: salicylic acid.
  - d. Any substance (or metabolite and/or analogue thereof) permitted by this rule in excess of the maximum limit or other restrictions prescribed herein.
  - e. Any substance (or metabolite and/or analogue thereof), regardless of how harmless or innocuous it might be, which might interfere with the detection of any of the substances defined in (a), (b), (c) or (**ef**) or quantification of substances permitted by this rule.
  - f. Any anabolic steroid (GR411 below does not apply).
2. EXHIBITORS, OWNERS, TRAINERS, AND VETERINARIANS ARE CAUTIONED AGAINST THE USE OF MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS, TONICS, PASTES, AND PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND, THE INGREDIENTS AND QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF WHICH ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY KNOWN, AS MANY OF THEM MAY CONTAIN A PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE.
  3. The full use of modern therapeutic measures for the improvement and protection of the health of the **Hhorse and/or pony** is permitted unless:
    - a. The substance administered is a stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer, local anesthetic, **analgesic**, drug or drug metabolite which might affect the performance of a **Hhorse and/or pony** or might interfere with the detection of prohibited substances or quantification of permitted substances; or
    - b. More than one nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs **is/are** present in the plasma or urine of the **Hhorse/pony** (GR411 does not apply); exception: salicylic acid; or
    - c. The presence of such substance in the blood or urine sample exceeds the maximum limit or other restrictions prescribed herein below.
  4. Restrictions concerning the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs are as follows:
    - a. The maximum permitted plasma concentration of diclofenac is 0.005 micrograms per milliliter.
    - b. The maximum permitted plasma concentration of phenylbutazone is 15.0 micrograms per milliliter.
    - c. The maximum permitted plasma concentration of flunixin is 1.0 micrograms per milliliter.
    - d. The maximum permitted plasma concentration of ketoprofen is 40.0 nanograms per milliliter.
    - e. The maximum permitted plasma concentration of meclofenamic acid is 2.5 micrograms per milliliter.
    - f. The maximum permitted plasma concentration of naproxen is 40.0 micrograms per milliliter.
    - g. The maximum permitted plasma concentration of firocoxib is 0.240 micrograms per milliliter.
    - h. Not more than one of the substances listed in (a) through (g) are permitted to be present in the same plasma or urine sample (GR411 does not apply).
    - i. Any nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug not listed in (a) through (g) above is prohibited from being present in the plasma or urine sample (GR411 does not apply); exception: salicylic acid.
    - j. Any nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug that becomes approved for use in **Hhorses** can be added to the list of those permitted, after the completion, review and approval of the needed research.
  5. Restrictions concerning other therapeutic substances are as follows:
    - a. The maximum permissible plasma concentration of methocarbamol is 0.5 micrograms per milliliter.
    - b. The maximum permitted plasma concentration of dexamethasone is 0.5 nanograms per milliliter.
  6. Thresholds for substances of possible dietary origin are as follows:
    - a. The maximum permissible urine concentration of theobromine is 2.0 micrograms per milliliter.
  7. ~~Additional restrictions concerning particular classes and/or divisions (GR411 does not apply):~~
    - a. ~~In the breeding/in-hand classes for three-year-olds and under in the Arabian, Half Arabian, and Anglo Arabian Division, any anabolic steroid is prohibited. (See HOW LONG DRUGS REMAIN DETECTABLE in the current Drugs and Medications Rules Pamphlet for guidelines).~~

## GR411 Conditions For Therapeutic Administrations of Prohibited Substances

1. A **Hhorse and/or pony** exhibiting at a Licensed Competition pursuant to the Therapeutic Substance Provisions that receives any medication which contains a prohibited substance is not eligible for competition unless all of the following requirements have been met and the facts are furnished in writing on a timely-submitted official Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form online. A form is timely-submitted when the electronic form is submitted following administration and before the **Hhorse** competes (See (i) **addressing the use offer** paper forms):
  - a. The medication must be therapeutic and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an existing illness or injury. Administration of a prohibited substance for non-therapeutic or optional purposes (such as, by way of example only, shipping, clipping, training, turning out, routine floating or cleaning of teeth, non-

diagnostic nerve blocking, uncasting, mane pulling or non-emergency shoeing) is not considered to be therapeutic. Any trainer who is uncertain about whether a particular purpose is considered to be therapeutic would be well advised to consult the Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Program office.

- b. The ~~H~~horse and/or pony must be withdrawn from competition for a period of not less than 24 hours after the medication is administered.
  - c. The medication must be administered by a licensed veterinarian, or, if a veterinarian is unavailable, only by the trainer pursuant to the advice and direction of a veterinarian.
  - d. Identification of medication—the amount, strength and mode of administration.
  - e. Date and time of administration.
  - f. Identification of ~~H~~horse and/or pony, its name, age, sex, color and entry number.
  - g. Diagnosis and reason for administration.
  - h. Statement signed by person administering medication.
  - i. Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form **must be** filed following administration and prior to the ~~H~~horse competing. If an online form cannot be submitted due to lack of internet or phone service, a paper form may be submitted. This option may only be used when submitting the online form is impossible.
  - j. The Steward, Technical Delegate, or Designated Competition Office Representative must sign and record the time of receipt on the paper Equine Drugs and Medications Report Forms. The form must be filed with the Steward/Technical Delegate or Designated Competition Office Representative within one hour after administration. If administration occurred outside of competition hours, the form must be filed within one hour after the Steward/Technical Delegate or Designated Competition Office Representative returns to duty if administration took place at a time other than during competition hours. **All required information must be included when filing a report. Failure to satisfy and follow all the requirements of this Rule and to supply all of the information required by such Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form is a violation of the rules. The Steward/Technical Delegate must report any known violations of this Rule to the Federation for such further action as may be deemed appropriate.**
  - k. At selection trials for World Championships, and/or Olympic and/or Pan American Games, the requirement of subsection (b) above, that the ~~H~~horse or pony must be withdrawn from competition for a period of not less than 24 hours after the medication is administered will not apply, provided that:
    1. the competition is conducted pursuant to the written selection procedures as approved by the Federation Board of Directors;
    2. the written selection procedures specifically allow for therapeutic administrations of medications by a USEF-appointed veterinary panel within 24 hours preceding competition, and the written selection procedures are in no case less stringent in this regard than the FEI Veterinary Regulations (Articles 1006.7 and 1006.8) and guidelines pursuant thereto;
    3. all requirements of the written selection procedures regarding therapeutic administrations of medications have been met;
    4. all requirements of this Rule have been met except subsection GR411.1(b); and all persons competing in the competition are eligible and competing for selection.
2. Where all the requirements of GR411 have been fully complied with, the information contained in said Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form and any other relevant evidence will be considered by the Federation in determining whether a rule violation was committed by any ~~other P~~person(s) ~~r~~Responsible or accountable for the condition of the ~~H~~horse and/or pony under the provisions of this rule.
- ~~NOTE: The official Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form is available on the Federation website and from the officiating Steward/Technical Delegate and/or Competition Secretary. Paper Medication Report Forms may only be used when it is impossible to submit an online form. All required information must be included when filing a report. Failure to satisfy and follow all the requirements of this Rule and to supply all of the information required by such Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form is a violation of the rules. The Steward/Technical Delegate must report any known violations of this Rule to the Federation for such further action as may be deemed appropriate.~~
3. Flunixin, in addition to one other substance listed in GR410 (a) through (g), may be found in the same plasma and/or urine sample of a ~~H~~horse under the following conditions and for the treatment of colic or an ophthalmic emergency only: (i) must comply with GR411.1; (ii) the flunixin must have been administered by a veterinarian; (iii) the required ~~M~~medication ~~r~~Report ~~f~~Form must be signed by the administering veterinarian, submitted appropriately, and in accordance with GR411; and (iv) the ~~H~~horse must be withdrawn from competition for 24 hours following the administration.

## GR412 Administrative Penalties

Repealed

## GR413 Human Drug Testing

1. In accordance with the rules of the FEI and of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), any Federation member shall comply with in-competition, no advance notice (NAN), and other out-of-competition drug testing conducted by the FEI, WADA, US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) or by a WADA-authorized organization or USADA-authorized organization at any time without advanced notice. Failure to cooperate with such in-competition, NAN or other out-of-competition drug testing shall be a violation of Federation rules.
2. In conjunction with the above-described NAN or other out-of-competition drug testing, the Federation is required to submit the names, current addresses, telephone numbers, training times and training and competition locations for individuals and teams as requested by the FEI, WADA, or USADA to enable FEI, WADA, or USADA to conduct NAN or other out-of-competition drug testing. Notwithstanding the foregoing, compliance with anti-doping regulations rests with the individual subject to testing.
3. A finding of violation of human drug rules by USADA or WADA shall be deemed a violation of Federation rules, and the reciprocity provisions of the Federation's Bylaws shall be applied.

## GR 414 Prohibited Practices

1. No injectable substances may be administered to any ~~H~~horse or pony within 12 hours prior to competing, with the following three exceptions subject to paragraph 2 below:
  - a. Therapeutic fluids, which amount must consist of a minimum of 1L of polyionic fluids per 100lb of body weight, and which must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and guidelines. The fluids must not be supplemented with concentrated electrolytes, such as magnesium.
  - b. Antibiotics. Procaine penicillin G is prohibited under this exception.
  - c. Dexamethasone. This is permitted only for the treatment of acute urticaria – (hives). The dose must not exceed 0.5 mg per 100 lb (5.0 mg for 1000 lb ~~H~~horse) if administered more than 6 hours and less than 12 hours prior to entering the competition ring, and must not exceed 1.0 mg per 100 lb (10.0 mg for 1000lb ~~H~~horse) within any 24 hour period.
2. The above exceptions are permitted only when (i) the substance is administered by a licensed veterinarian and no less than 6 hours prior to competing; and (ii) the "Trainer" as defined under General Rule 404 properly files, or causes to be properly filed, an Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form following administration and prior to the ~~H~~horse competing.
3. No ~~H~~horse may be injected with any substance, prohibited or permitted, into an intra-synovial space (joint, tendon sheath, or bursa) within the 4 days preceding competition. No ~~H~~horse less than two years of age may be treated with intrasynovial injections within the 30 days preceding competition.
4. Only a licensed veterinarian may administer Shockwave Therapy on competition grounds. No Shockwave Therapy is permitted within the 12 hours prior to competing.
  - a. If sedation is required for Shockwave Therapy, only sedation performed by a licensed veterinarian and administered at the same time as the Shockwave Therapy will be considered therapeutic and GR411 will apply. No sedation associated with Shockwave Therapy will be considered therapeutic if administered within 24 hours prior to competition.
  - b. Shockwave Therapy administered within the three days preceding competition must be limited to application to the back and dorsal pelvis areas. This exception is permitted only when the "Trainer" as defined under GR404 properly files, or causes to be properly filed, an Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form after administration and prior to the ~~H~~horse competing. If an online form cannot be submitted due to lack of internet or phone service, a paper form may be submitted. The form must be filed with the Steward/Technical Delegate or competition office representative within one hour after the administration of Shockwave Therapy. If administration occurred outside of competition hours, the form must be filed within ~~or~~ one hour after the Steward/Technical Delegate or competition office representative

returns to duty if the administration occurs at a time outside competition hours. The Steward/Technical Delegate or competition office representative shall sign and record the time of receipt on the Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form.

5. No kinesiotape or self-adhesive patches may be used on any ~~H~~horse while **competing** ~~mounted at any time during competition~~. Kinesiotape and self-adhesive patches are permitted exclusively while the ~~H~~horse is unmounted in the stabling area. Nasal strips are permitted unless prohibited by specific division rules.
6. It is a prohibited practice to administer bisphosphonates, except in ~~H~~horses four years of age or older and when using bisphosphonates that are FDA approved for use in ~~H~~horses. GR411 must be followed.
7. It is a prohibited practice to compete in Federation competitions with a tracheotomy/tracheostomy (i.e. surgical opening through the skin into the trachea).
8. It is a prohibited practice to use and/or possess any of the following substances on competition grounds:
  - a. Injectable ACTH
  - b. Injectable Adenosine
  - c. Injectable Formaldehyde
  - d. Injectable Magnesium Sulfate
  - e. Injectable Melatonin
  - f. Injectable Oxytocin
  - g. Injectable Pentobarbital, except by a veterinarian for the purpose of euthanasia
  - h. Injectable Thiamine
  - i. Injectable Tryptophan
  - j. Liquid Nitrogen
  - k. Any injectable prescription medication in any formulation without a manufacturer or compound pharmacy label that identifies all ingredients.
9. It is a prohibited practice to rectally administer any substance on the grounds of a Federation competition.

*BOD 01/25/25 Effective 04/01/25*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	7/31/2025	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

In cases where fewer than 3 entries complete a class, the results of that class, including eliminations, should still be used to calculate Champion and Reserve Champion for the division. Otherwise, if the class with less than three completing is left out of the championship calculations, it can result in a champion being declared that did not successfully finish the entire section. The current rule is unfair to competitors who are penalized for competing in classes with less than three completions.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

**Britt McCormick, USHJA President**

Katie Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules      Comments

### GR808 Awarding Championships

1. Championship classes for a specific height or sex may be offered in any division as set forth in the respective division rules. Judging specifications must follow those of the Open Championship class.
2. In the Hunter divisions, Championships must be awarded on points. In the Morgan and Welsh Pony divisions, Championships may be awarded on points or held as performance classes. (See JP110.2 for Jumper Championships and EQ107.8 for Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Championships)
3. When Championships are awarded on points, all competitors must be given an equal opportunity to obtain points. In all other divisions, Championships must be awarded in a Championship Performance class and all entries must be given an opportunity to qualify.
4. Only the first four ribbons in each class are counted regardless of the number offered. Ribbons have the same point value even if less than the specified four places are awarded due to lack of entries, etc. Exception: See JP110.2 for Jumper Championships.
5. Point Value: Blue ribbon 5 points Yellow ribbon 2 points Red ribbon 3 points White ribbon 1 point
6. In Hunter and Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation sections only the first six ribbons in each class are counted regardless of the number offered. Ribbons have the same value even if less than the specified six places are awarded due to lack of entries. First Place...10 points, Second Place...6 points, Third Place...4 points, Fourth Place...2 points, Fifth Place...1 point, Sixth Place...1/2 point. ***If fewer than three entries complete a class, points for competition championships and reserve championships will be calculated for those entries that did complete the class; however, no HOTY points will be awarded for the class. See HU154.2.***

### GR1113 Credit

1. No credit will be given for classes where judging specifications are not in accordance with the Federation rules. Points will not count towards Horse of the Year Award competitions and classes will not be counted for division or section ratings.
2. No credit will be given in classes if less than three entries have shown and placed.  
Exceptions:
  - a. Hunter Breeding, Pony Hunter Breeding, and Conformation Model Classes.
  - b. Hunter Classes, a minimum of three entries must have completed (per HU120) to receive full points and money won. ***If fewer than three entries complete a class, points for competition championships and reserve championships will be calculated for those entries that did complete the class; however, no HOTY points will be awarded for the class. See HU154.2.***

### HU154 General

1. Show Championships must be offered in rated sections.
2. A Championship may not be offered in a section unless a minimum of two over fences classes and one Under Saddle class are held. ~~A Championship will not count for points unless a minimum of three entries complete in at least two over fences classes and one under saddle class (Exception: Ladies Side Saddle, see HU151; Performance Hunter, High Performance Hunter, and any other sections where individual classes may be entered, see HU154.3).~~ ***If fewer than three entries complete a class, points for competition championships and reserve championships will be calculated for those entries that did complete the class; however, no HOTY points will be awarded for the class. See HU154.2.*** If a competition offers more than one Under Saddle class in any one section, only one will count towards the Championship. (Exception: classes divided as to weight, height, age or breeding.) The prize list must specify the class to count.
3. The number of Championship and Reserve Championships that are awarded will be determined by the number of sections created from dividing the first over fences class. In order to award a section Championship in the Performance Hunter, High Performance Hunter, and any other sections where individual classes may be entered at least two (2) over fences classes per section and one (1) under saddle class must be held in which a minimum of three (3) entries complete. When multiple Championships are awarded when using the California Split method, under saddle classes with fewer than thirty (30) entries are not required to be split. When multiple Championships are awarded and only one under saddle class is held the points from the one under saddle class will be used to calculate the Championship for both sections. When a random split is used, multiple Championships may only be

awarded if a minimum of two (2) over fences and one (1) under saddle class are held per section.

a. When a Championship is offered, management must keep a score card or chart of winnings throughout the competition, which must be prominently displayed so that exhibitors may inspect it at all times. Only the first six ribbons count towards Championships regardless of the number offered.

b. Ribbons won in classes with specifications restricting horses in any manner, will not count toward any Championship unless such classes are complementary and over the same course, affording equal opportunity to all horses competing. If, however, competition management, having reserved the right to do so in the prize list, combines two or more complementary classes because of insufficient entries, thus making one open class, ribbons won in such a class count toward the Championship.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	6/17/2025	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This proposed rule change modernize and standardize language with regards to accident preparedness and emergency response. The updated language aligns more closely with industry standards and requirements align with typical sport EAP requirements.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Human and Equine, Safety & Welfare	Katlynn Wilbers kwilbers@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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#### GR845 ~~Accident Preparedness~~ *Emergency Action Plan*

1. All competitions must have in place, prior to the start of the competition, an ~~accident preparedness plan~~ **written emergency action plan (EAP)**.
2. Competition Management is responsible for ensuring that all appropriate competition officials and competition staff are advised of the ~~accident preparedness plan~~ **EAP**, and that they are distributed accordingly.
3. The ~~accident preparedness plan~~ **EAP** must be given to the Steward or Technical Delegate prior to the start of the competition.
4. The Steward or Technical Delegate shall submit a copy of the ~~accident preparedness plan~~ **EAP** to the Federation along with their Steward or Technical Delegate report.
5. At a minimum, the ~~accident preparedness plan~~ **EAP** must include:
  - a. Emergency call/radio priority protocol;
  - b. List of emergency telephone numbers and directions to the competition **including emergency vehicle access points** that can be relayed to offsite first responders; and
  - c. Name and contact information of the Safety Coordinator **and Qualified Medical Personnel (QMP) if on site**
  - d. **Closest hospital with emergency services and closest Level 1 Trauma center (address, distance by road, and phone number).**

#### GR846 Safety Coordinator

1. All Licensed Competitions must appoint a Safety Coordinator, who shall oversee the establishment and coordination of medical and veterinary services. This person must be a Senior Active member or a Subscriber member of the Federation and comply with the SafeSport Training requirements. This person may have other roles or duties in relation to the competition except:
  - a. The Safety Coordinator may not serve as a Licensed Official at the competition (exception: Course Designers); and
  - b. The Safety Coordinator may not compete as a rider, driver, vaulter, longeur, or handler at the competition.
  - c. For eventing competitions, the Safety Coordinators must not have any other duties during the Cross Country and Show Jumping phases.
2. The Safety Coordinator shall:
  - a. Oversee provisions for the safety and welfare of exhibitors, horses, and spectators;
  - b. Oversee the implementation of the ~~Accident Preparedness~~ **Emergency Action Plan (EAP)**;
  - c. Communicate with Competition Management and Medical Personnel prior to the start of competition to ensure that parties are aware of the requirements of the ~~Accident Preparedness Plan~~ **EAP**;
  - d. Provide Medical Personnel with a map of the competition grounds, which includes plans for emergency vehicle access to competition/warm-up areas and stabling.
  - e. Have their name and contact information posted along with the required emergency information at the competition.
  - f. Inform the senior Steward or Technical Delegate of any accident or injury to a human or horse within one hour of the accident or injury for proper follow-up and reporting as required by the Federation, in the event a Steward or Technical Delegate is unable to be present at an injury or accident to a human or a horse.

#### GR1033 Stewards and Technical Delegates

4. Forms – Forms submitted to the Federation must be on the correct competition year's form as provided by the Federation. Incomplete forms, prior year's forms, or illegible forms will not be accepted. The following forms must be submitted in a timely manner to:
  - a. The Federation (within 14 days after the last licensed day of the competition)
    - i. Steward Report or Technical Delegate Report
      1. The Report must include any offenses or rule violations ensuring the inclusion of relevant information, including, if applicable, entry number,

- entry blanks, USEF member ID number, and USEF horse ID number, etc.
2. If the Federation does not receive the completed report and/or attachments postmarked and/or electronically submitted in accordance with Federation guidelines within 14 days of the closing of the competition, the Steward/Technical Delegate will be fined a fee of \$100. For the second offense and any offense thereafter in the same competition year, said official will be fined \$250. A third offense and any offense thereafter will result in an automatic suspension from office as Steward or Technical Delegate for 90 days, in addition to the fines.
  3. Failure to pay any fine within 30 days will result in a violation of rules and the Steward/Technical Delegate will be subject to an additional late fee.
  4. If the Steward/Technical Delegate disputes that the report was not timely filed, they may appeal in writing to the Federation within 30 days of receipt of the Federation's notice of the fine. The appeal must be accompanied by a check payable to the Federation, which will be refunded if the appeal is upheld. The CEO or their designee and three members of the Licensed Officials Committee will consider the appeal and may waive a part or all of the fine upon finding of good cause of why the report was not timely filed and/or a finding that extreme hardship results from the automatic penalty. Note: only the fine may be waived. The rule violation will remain on record for the official.
- ii. Accident/Injury Report Forms on the official form provided by the Federation in accordance with GR848.
  - iii. Each competition's ~~Accident Preparedness Plan~~ **Emergency Action Plan (EAP)** as provided for in GR845.

## HJ105 Safety and Welfare

### 1. Definitions

- a. **Potable Water:** Convenient and ample water for horses and potable water for human consumption must be free and available at all times. If the facility cannot provide adequate potable water or runs out of potable water, management must provide an alternate water source as soon as possible. If the competition has been without ample water for horses for four consecutive hours, the competition must be halted until water is available.
- b. **Restrooms:** A minimum of one operable, sanitary restroom must be provided for every fifty (50) horses entered the prior year. A restroom is a fully-enclosed space with a lockable door containing a functioning toilet and stocked toilet paper dispensers. Men's restrooms may contain urinals. If the restroom is permanent, toilets must flush, hand soap must be provided, and operable sinks that dispense potable water must be provided. All restrooms must be stocked daily, or more often depending on use, and must be cleaned and thoroughly sanitized daily, or more often to prevent the accumulation of debris in undesignated areas.
- c. ~~Accident~~ **Emergency Preparedness:** An operable landline or cell phone must be reserved and accessible at all times for the purposes of contacting emergency personnel.

1. The following information must be posted outside the show office, and readily available to anyone on the competition grounds:

- a. All 24-hour telephone numbers for horse and human emergencies;
- b. Map of competition grounds;
- c. Directions from competition to nearest hospital and equine veterinary center;
- d. Facility address; and

- e. GPS coordinates of facility address.
2. In addition to the requirements of GR901, Federation licensed competitions with Hunter, Hunter Breeding, Jumper and/or Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation classes not restricted by breed must publish the following safety information in the prize list
- a. Mileage to nearest hospital with emergency care; and
  - b. Mileage to nearest Level 1 Trauma Center.
3. In addition to the requirements of GR845, Federation licensed competitions with Hunter, Hunter Breeding, Jumper and/or Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation classes not restricted by breed must do the following:
- a. Competition management is responsible for ensuring that all appropriate competition officials and competition staff including but not limited to Safety Coordinator, Medical Personnel, In-gate Starters, Licensed Officials, Announcers, Technical Coordinator, Stable Manager, Veterinarian, are provided a written copy of the ~~accident preparedness plan~~ **Emergency Action Plan (EAP)** and isolation protocol for horses, prior to the commencement of duties.
  - b. In addition to the requirements of GR1034 the Steward shall submit a copy of the ~~accident preparedness plan~~ **EAP** and protocol signed by the Competition Manager, Safety Coordinator, and Medical Personnel, to the Federation along with their Steward's report.

[...]

2. Minimum Requirements

Minimum Requirements to Obtain Rating	Jumper I	One-Day Regional ("B")	Multi-Day Regional ("B") Jumper 2	National ("A") Jumper 3/4	Premier ("AA") Jumper 5/6
Potable Water	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Restrooms	1 per 50 horses entered	1 per 50 horses entered	1 per 50 horses entered	1 per 50 horses entered	1 per 50 horses entered
<b>Accident Emergency Preparedness and Action Plan</b>	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Safe Sport Information Signage	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Veterinarian (GR1211.5, HU114 and JP105.5)	On call with written agreement unless: 1) previous year's horse entry number exceeds 200	On call with written agreement; for exception see HJ105.1e	On call with written agreement; for exception see HJ105.1e	On call with written agreement; for exception see HJ105.1e	Onsite with written agreement
Farrier (GR1211.6)	On call with written agreement	On call with written agreement	On call with written agreement	Onsite for entire competition	Onsite for entire competition
Human Ambulance (GR847)	On call	On call	On call	On call	On call
Qualified Medical Personnel	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required - at least one must be a

(GR847)					paramedic
Emergency Horse Transport	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Onsite for entire competition
AED	n/a	Required	Required	Required	Required
Privacy Screens	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required

**EN112 Modification to the Course and Rescheduling/Delay or Cancellation of Competitions**

1. Course Modification: After the course has been officially established, no alteration shall be made without the approval of the Competition Management and the Steward.
2. Rescheduling/Delay of Competition or Category of Competition: In exceptional circumstances, a competition or category may be rescheduled or delayed in start or held until the competition may be safely resumed by the Competition Management in consultation with the Steward.
3. Cancellation of Competitions: When catastrophic occurrences or circumstances arise beyond the reasonable control of Competition Management at or during a competition, which affect rider safety or horse welfare, or prevents the competition from continuing, a competition may be cancelled by the Competition Management in consultation with the Steward.
4. Notifications: In any case noted above, the riders should be officially notified as soon as reasonably possible of the decision, certainly before the start or before the Loop concerned or when they complete the preceding Loop.
5. ~~Accident Preparedness Plan~~ **Emergency Action Plan (EAP)**: Please refer to GR845.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2026	4/27/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Extraordinary Change Reason

To support the Return to Play Rule EO

Rule Change Intent

To address the national shortage of available EMT and Paramedics available to provide services at USEF-events, and to ensure that coverage is based on training levels and ability to provide Advanced Trauma Life Support, Basic Trauma Life Support or Pre-hospital Trauma Support should it be needed at an event. This may help to improve serious injury outcomes at events.

Proponent Details

Human and Equine, Safety & Welfare

Contact Information

Katlynn Wilbers

[kwilbers@usef.org](mailto:kwilbers@usef.org)

Linked Rules

Comments

## GR847 Use of Qualified Medical Personnel

1. Qualified medical personnel with no other duties and with appropriate medical equipment, as required by their certifying State or EMS Region, must be present during all scheduled performances at all competitions and during all ~~paid~~ scheduled schooling sessions over fences, including 1 day prior to the start of the competition, if applicable,

~~a. Qualified medical personnel is a currently certified or licensed EMT, or Paramedic, Certified First Responder, or a Physician, **Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner**, or Nurse trained in pre-hospital trauma care and currently certified or licensed in their profession under applicable law where the competition is held. Exception, for eventing competitions the minimum requirement is an EMT/Paramedic who is pre-hospital trauma trained.~~

~~b. A Physician, **Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner**, or Nurse trained in pre-hospital trauma care is a Physician or Nurse~~ **a. Qualified Medical Personnel is a certified or licensed medical provider or similar provider or first responder** who is currently certified in Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS), Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS), **or** Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS), ~~or who has First Responder or comparable certification.~~

~~c. b.~~ It is strongly recommended that EMTs and/or Paramedics be used to fill this position. Medical personnel must not exceed the scope of their practice.

~~d. c.~~ All medical personnel must be readily identifiable **by uniform, bright-colored vest or other means**, available, and mobile.

~~e. d.~~ Unless prohibited by Federal, State or local law, this person must furnish the Steward(s) or TD(s) with a copy of their report(s), or assist these officials with documenting any findings and treatment for all injuries sustained in competition or on the competition grounds.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/22/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Two competitions, with the same or differing licensees, may occur at the same time at the same venue. This typically occurs when a licensee hosts Championships or Finals alongside another Federation licensed competition. In these instances the competitions typically use the same group of officials. If this occurs, the Steward or TD should be permitted to officiate both competitions. However, both competitions' horse and ring counts will be counted together to ensure the competitions have a sufficient number of Stewards or TDs. The applicable rotation rules will still apply, including if both competitions are hosted by the same licensee.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Licensed Officials

Alina Brazzil

abrazzil@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

### GR1033 Stewards and Technical Delegates

[...]

6. The Steward's and/or schooling supervisor's decision regarding schooling fences, tack and equipment in the warm-up and/or schooling areas is final (Exception for Dressage: The final authority rests with Competition Management).
7. No Steward or Technical Delegate may officiate at more than one competition at the same time. **Exception: See GR1211 for concurrent competitions, including Championship/Finals competition requirements.**
8. Stewards and Technical Delegates must retain copies of steward/technical delegate report forms, and supporting documentation, for a period of three years.
9. The Senior C1 Steward's (see GR1211.4) responsibility includes overseeing all schooling at the horse show, monitoring schooling conditions (including footing, sound system, and safety), monitoring proper and adequate schooling equipment (jump standards, proper taping, jump cups, safety cups, flags and proper rails, etc.), monitoring proper tack, equipment, and attire, and interfacing with management, judges and other officials as necessary judges and other officials as necessary and assuring that the schooling areas have the appropriate supervision for the class.

### GR1211 Appointment of Officials and Employees

[...]

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:
    - i. A C2 Steward may officiate through Fourth Level of breed restricted Dressage classes at Licensed Breed Restricted Competitions.
    - ii. 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 GR1304.12 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. Competitions are required to obtain the necessary Stewards or Technical Delegates in accordance with the restrictions below:

		Number of Previous Year's Unique Horse Entries					
		0-250	251-500	501-1,000	1,001-1,500	1,501-2,000	2,001 or more
# of	1-3	1	1	2	3	4	4

competition rings used simultaneously	4-7	1	2	3	4	4	5
	8 or more	2	2	4	4	5	5

- i. Competition Management is permitted to obtain more than the minimum number of Stewards or Technical Delegates required above.
- ii. For any competitions holding the eventing division, when the cross-country phase is running, it will count as one competition ring, regardless of the number of levels offered. In addition, each dressage and show jumping ring will be counted as a competition ring. Additional Eventing TD requirements contained in EV153 are intended to be in addition to the minimum TD requirements contained in the above chart.
- iii. Competitions that host regionals, championships, or finals that occur on a rotating schedule, and create a significant change in horse entry numbers, may request a waiver to the Federation to utilize the horse entry count from the year prior to the regional, championship, or final. The waiver must be requested with the competition license renewal.
- iv. ***When hosting a Federation licensed Championship or Finals during another Federation licensed competition, both competitions may use the same Stewards or Technical Delegates if all the following conditions apply. The two competitions must:***
  - 1. Be operated by the same Competition Management***
  - 2. Be the same competition subtype***
  - 3. Occur at the same venue***
  - 4. Run concurrently***
  - 5. Count the total number of competition rings and previous year's unique horse entries across both competitions to determine the required minimum number of Stewards or Technical Delegates in accordance with the chart above.***
- v. Exception: At the Paso Fino Grand National Championship at least two C2 Stewards must officiate. See PF155 for additional restrictions.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	7/30/2025	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

To allow dually licensed FEI and Federation Eventing Technical Delegates/Stewards to serve in both roles at dually licensed FEI/Federation Eventing Competitions. This is permitted under FEI Eventing rules, and a common practice in Eventing. The proposed change is necessary to ensure there are no continued financial and organizational burdens for Eventing organizers and licensed officials. Endorsed, Licensed and FEI levels are included in horse counts to ensure there is an appropriate number of officials, as required by EV153 and FEI Article 513.8.3.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Alison Lloyd  alloyd@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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**GR1040 Conflicts of Interest and Restrictions - Stewards and Technical Delegates (See also GR107 and GR1304)**

1. The following are ineligible to serve as Stewards and Technical Delegates: the president, chairman, other Show Committee officers, competition secretary, manager or other competition officials or employees, judges or exhibitors at that competition.
2. The following is prohibited for a Steward or Technical Delegate:
  - a. Officiate at a competition where the Steward or Technical Delegate's family, cohabitant, companion, domestic partner, housemate, member of a Steward or Technical Delegate's household, or client is acting as a Judge, trainer, coach, lessor, lessee, exhibitor, rider, driver, handler, or vaulter; or
  - b. Officiate at a competition where the Steward or Technical Delegate's family, cohabitant, companion, domestic partner, housemate, or member of a Steward or Technical Delegate's household is serving as a Federation Licensed Official, Competition Licensee, Competition Manager, or Competition Secretary.
3. Stewards and Technical Delegates are not to be used as Competition Staff, a Competition Official (Directors, Officers, Chairman of the Show Committee, Manager, Secretary, Judge, Veterinarian, and Course Designer), FEI Official, or in any other paid position not related to their proper duties at Licensed Competitions where they are officiating with the following exceptions:
  - a. At a competition where more than one Steward or Technical Delegate is officiating, and after a Steward or Technical Delegate has entirely completed their duties for the day at that Licensed Competition, the Steward or Technical Delegate may officiate as a Certified Schooling Supervisor if the Steward or Technical Delegate is licensed as a Certified Schooling Supervisor. At no time may a competition have less than the requisite number of Stewards and Technical Delegates as required under GR1211 and other applicable rules.
    1. A C1 Steward may use their C1 Steward's License to act as a Certified Schooling Supervisor. C1 Steward's acting as a Certified Schooling Supervisor are not subject to the restrictions in GR1039 or GR1040.1-4, since they are not acting as one of the required official Competition Stewards.
  - b. C2 Stewards who are also licensed as 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.
  - c. Federation Combined Driving Technical Delegates and FEI Driving Stewards holding both licenses may serve in both roles at dually licensed FEI/Federation Driving Competitions. Federation Combined Driving Technical Delegates and FEI Driving Technical Delegates holding both licenses may serve in both roles at dually licensed FEI/Federation Driving Competitions. FEI Driving Stewards and FEI Driving Technical Delegates may serve as Federation Combined Driving Technical Delegates per DC971 and GR1005.
  - d. ***Federation licensed Eventing Technical Delegates and FEI Eventing Technical Delegates, holding both Federation and FEI licenses, may serve in both roles at dually licensed FEI/Federation Eventing Competitions.***
4. Dressage, Eventing, and Vaulting Technical Delegates also holding licensure as a FEI Steward for Dressage, Para-Dressage, Driving, Eventing, and Vaulting are prohibited from serving in both roles on the same day(s).
5. A Steward or Technical Delegate cannot own or operate any business (i.e. tack shop, braiding business, etc.) at the same competition where they are officiating.
6. No Steward or Technical Delegate who is presently receiving, or has received within the past 30 days, any form of compensation from a competition management firm for services other than as a Federation licensed official or schooling supervisor, may officiate at any of said management's competitions.



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	8/29/2025	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule change is a revamp of the way points are awarded for the Connemara Horse of the Year awards. The Connemara Committee wanted a points system that brought more fairness, structure, and leveling across the many different avenues that Connemaras compete in. The rule change eliminates the requirement of at least three horses competing in a class to earn points and the points calculation of three points awarded per horse defeated in a class. Instead this rule change proposes three points charts each tailored to different types of competitions that Connemaras compete in: Eventing, Dressage, and collective classes. The Dressage points chart delineates points based on the level of test completed and the percentage score earned in the class. The Eventing points chart awards points based on the level of competition and the placement earned in the level. The collective class type chart is used for in-hand, hunter, and jumper classes and delineates points based on the number of horses in the class and the placement earned in the class.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Connemara

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

### GR1113 Credit

1. No credit will be given for classes where judging specifications are not in accordance with the Federation rules. Points will not count towards Horse of the Year Award competitions and classes will not be counted for division or section ratings.
2. No credit will be given in classes if less than three entries have shown and placed. Exceptions:
  - a. Hunter Breeding, Pony Hunter Breeding, and Conformation Model Classes.
  - b. Hunter Classes, a minimum of three entries must have completed (per HU120) to receive full points and money won.
  - c. At a National or Premier rated hunter/jumper competition where it is required that the division be held over two days, if there are fewer than three exhibitors the second day, Zone and National Horse of the Year points will still apply.
  - d. Andalusian/Lusitano
  - e. Friesians
  - f. Carriage Pleasure Driving (GR1125)
  - g. Hackney
  - h. Jumper Classes, a minimum of three entries must have competed per JP136.13.
  - i. Morgans
  - j. American Saddlebreds
  - k. Shetlands
  - l. Arabians (Exception: Championship classes based only on scores or high point awards are not awarded points.)
  - m. National Show Horse
  - n. Roadsters
  - o. Ladies Side Saddle Over Fences Class in the Hunter Division, see HU149.
  - p. Driving Combined (GR1127).
  - q. Western Dressage.
  - r. USEF Western Equitation Junior Medal Class and USEF Western Equitation Adult Amateur Medal Class (EQ129.7).
  - s. Welsh. Classes with fewer than three entries will receive reduced points. Refer to charts in GR1142.
  - t. **Connemaras**

### GR1116 Special Conditions

1. No credit will be given in any class that does not count toward a division or section rating (See GR313).
  - a. Exceptions:
    1. In Hunter Classics Bonus Points will be awarded in horse's respective section.
    2. In cases which Juniors, Young Riders and Amateur Owners compete in a Combined class, prize money will be awarded in the horse's respective section.
    3. Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation classes listed as eligible classes in GR1132.13 will count for points even if the class does not count toward division or section rating.
2. Where the term Championship is omitted from a class title, the class that is open to all horses in a division or section that has the required specifications will be counted as the Championship. When Championships are awarded on a point basis, only the Champion and Reserve will receive points for a Horse of the Year Award. (Exception: Arabian, see GR1124).
3. Only classes held in accordance with HU149 will count toward Ladies Side Saddle Hunter.
4. Credit for the following will be applied as specified in Chapter 11:
  - a. Andalusian/Lusitano Division will be applied as per GR1123.
  - b. Arabian Division will be applied as per GR1124.
  - c. Friesian Division will be applied as per GR1130.
  - d. Hackney Division will be applied as per GR1131.
  - e. National Show Horse Division will be applied as per GR1136.
  - f. Morgan Division will be applied as per GR1135.

- g. Roadster Division will be applied as per GR1139.
- h. American Saddlebred Division will be applied as per GR1140.
- i. Shetland Division will be applied as per GR1141.
- j. Western Dressage Division will be applied as per GR1145.
- k. *Connemara Division will be applied as per GR1126.*

**GR1126 Connemara**

- 1. For eligibility see GR1110 and CO101.
- 2. Point tabulations. See GR1113-1119. Points will be awarded **as follows:** according to the number of horses defeated in a class for which the Federation has class specifications. Three points will be awarded for every horse defeated in a class at Federation Licensed Competitions.
  - a. Championship In Hand classes will be awarded double points.
  - b. **Points for award categories listed in GR1126.3 and GR1126.4.f-j are awarded as follows:**

<b>Exhibitors v. Placing</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11-15</b>	<b>16-20</b>	<b>21+</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>							1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>								1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>									1	2	3	4	5
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>										1	2	3	4

- c. **Points for award categories listed in GR1126.4.a-b and GR1126.5 are awarded as follows:**

<b>Score v. Level</b>	<b>55.00-59.99%</b>	<b>60.00-64.99%</b>	<b>65.00-69.99%</b>	<b>70.00-74.99%</b>	<b>75.00% +</b>
<b>Introductory</b>	0	1	2	3	4
<b>Training</b>	0	2	4	6	8
<b>First</b>	0	3	6	9	12
<b>Second</b>	0	4	8	12	16
<b>Third</b>	3	5	10	15	20
<b>Fourth</b>	4	6	12	18	24
<b>FEI</b>	6	7	14	21	28

- d. **Points for award categories listed in GR1126.4.c-e are awarded as follows:**

<b>Level v. Placement</b>	<b>Beginner Novice-Training</b>	<b>Modified/1*</b>	<b>Preliminary/2*</b>	<b>Intermediate/3*</b>	<b>Advanced/4*/5*</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	10	15	20	25	30
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	9	12	18	23	28
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	8	10	16	20	26
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	7	9	14	18	24

<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>

3. Awards will be given in the following categories for horses participating in Federation Connemara competitions or Connemara classes held at Federation competitions as described in Chapter CO:
- a. Purebred Connemara Mare- to include points earned in In Hand classes for purebred mares 3 years of age and older
  - b. Purebred Connemara Stallion or Gelding- to include points earned in In Hand classes for purebred stallions or geldings 3 years of age and older
  - c. Purebred Connemara Hunter- One award category
  - d. Purebred Connemara Jumper- One award category
  - e. Halfbred Connemara Hunter - One award category
  - f. Halfbred Connemara Jumper - One award category

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	8/29/2025	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

In previous years there had been confusion regarding USEF membership requirements and Arabian Walk-Trot/Jog classes receiving HOTY points. This rule addition to the Arabian HOTY section makes clear that all Arabian Walk-Trot/Jog classes do not count for HOTY points, therefore fall under the membership requirements of GR901.9, that walk-trot classes are exempt from USEF membership. These walk-trot/jog classes are a stepping stone for many exhibitors into the world of horse competitions and are vital to the industry for gaining avid competing equestrians.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Arabian	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## GR1124 Arabian and Half/Anglo Arabian Divisions

1. Eligibility. See GR1110.
2. Point Tabulation. See GR1113-GR1119. Points for all competitions will be awarded as follows.

Started	10+	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
1st	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
2nd	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
3rd	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
4th	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
5th	6	5	4	3	2	1				
6th	5	4	3	2	1					
7th	4	3	2	1						
8th	3	2	1							
9th	2	1								
10th	1									

Full points shall be awarded to Arabian and Half/Anglo Arabian Breeding/In-Hand and Performance classes conducted at USEF Licensed Competitions.

3. Exceptions:
  - a. In Breeding and/or In-Hand Championship classes, points will be awarded to only Champion and Reserve.
  - b. In Breeding, In-Hand and Performance Championship classes based only on scores or high point awards are not awarded points.
  - c. Half-points will be given in the following classes: Maiden, Novice, Limit and Green horse classes; no points will be awarded for Model classes.
  - d. ***In Walk-Trot/Jog classes, points will not be awarded.***
  - e. For additional restrictions, refer to GR313 Special Conditions.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/17/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This proposal re-organizes and cleans up the Arabian HOTY award categories and verbiage for ease of understanding. The proposal adds clarity to the Working Hunter section awards by cleaning-up redundant and unnecessary verbiage and removes the award category of Green Working Hunter to include the Green Working Hunter classes into the Specialty Hunter Award category. The proposal clarifies outdated verbiage in the Halter award category where Half/Anglo Arabian Stallions are permitted to compete in Halter classes. This proposal also changes the Arabian Western Dressage HOTY category to align more closely with the Arabian Dressage HOTY category, by splitting the AR WD award category from one combined HOTY award, into several HOTY awards based on the WD level. The Arabian Committee feels that there is ample participation in Arabian Western Dressage to justify breaking down the category into several awards and that these exhibitors deserve to be recognized for their accomplishments. The proposal splits the AR WD category into six award categories as follows: Introductory and Advanced Introductory Levels, Basic Level, Level One, Level Two, Levels Three through Six, and Western Dressage Rail to include the following classes: WD Suitability and WD Hack. WD Seat Horsemanship and WD Seat Equitation on the Rail classes are removed from the HOTY category, due to those classes being adjudicated based on the rider instead of the horse.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Arabian	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER 11-F AWARD SECTIONS

### GR1124 Arabian and Half/Anglo Arabian Divisions

(...)

**6. Award Categories. National and Regional awards will be awarded in the following categories:**  
English Pleasure/Pleasure Driving—Open, Adult Amateur, Junior Exhibitor;  
Country English Pleasure/Country Pleasure Driving—Open, Adult Amateur, Junior Exhibitor;  
Hunter Pleasure—Open, Adult Amateur, Junior Exhibitor;  
Western Pleasure—Open, Adult Amateur, Junior Exhibitor;  
Working Western Horse—includes Western Trail, Reining, Working Cowhorse, Cutting and Western Riding, all Ranch classes, one award category;  
Hunter—Regular Working; (includes Regular Working Hunter-Open/Handy/Stake/Under Saddle and Modified Working Under Saddle/Over Fences);  
Green Working (includes all Green classes);  
Hunter Specialty (includes all ATR/JTR, AOTR/JOTR, AATR/AAOTR classes including Horses 14.2 hands and under and Working Hunter 2<sup>nd</sup> section classes, Horses 14.2 Hands and Under Open; and Working Hunter 2<sup>nd</sup> Open)  
Exception: Cross Rail classes do not count for award points;  
Specialty Horse—includes Park, English Show Hack, Ladies Side Saddle, Native Costume, Hunter Hack, Formal Combination, Informal Combination, Formal Driving, Roadster, English Trail, English and Western In Hand Trail, Versatility, Gymkhana, Carriage Pleasure Driving, and Jumper, one award category;  
Halter—includes Performance Halter (Stallions, Mares, Geldings for Arabians and Half/Anglo Arabians) and Breeding/In Hand (Stallions, Mares, Geldings for Arabians and Mares and Geldings for Half/Anglo Arabians), one award category;  
Dressage—Open: Training Level; First Level; Second Level, Third Level, Fourth Level and FEI combined Level Amateur: Training Level; First Level; Second Level, Third Level, Fourth Level, and FEI combined Level  
Sport Horse—Sport Horse In-Hand; Sport Horse Under Saddle and Sport Horse Show Hack combine for one award category. Western Dressage Includes Open, Amateur, and Junior Exhibitor classes for all test levels and Western Dressage Suitability, Western Dressage Hack, Western Dressage Seat Horsemanship, and Western Dressage Seat on the rail.  
**7. Overall Grand Champion Categories:**  
Purebred Arabian—based on the total of all points won in all Purebred Arabian categories.  
Half/Anglo Arabian—based on the total of all points won in all Half/Anglo Arabian categories.  
Arabian Gelding—based on the total of all points won in all Purebred Arabian categories.  
Purebred Arabian Junior Exhibitor—based on the total of all points won in Arabian Junior Exhibitor classes (classes combined with amateur sections will not be counted).  
Half/Anglo Arabian Junior Exhibitor—based on the total of all points won in Half/Anglo Arabian Junior Exhibitor classes (classes combined with amateur sections will not be counted).

**6. Award Categories. National and Regional awards will be awarded in the following categories :**

- a. English Pleasure/Pleasure Driving**
  - i. Open*
  - ii. Adult Amateur*
  - iii. Junior Exhibitor*
- b. Country English Pleasure/Country Pleasure Driving**
  - i. Open*
  - ii. Adult Amateur*
  - iii. Junior Exhibitor*
- c. Hunter Pleas ure**
  - i. Open*
  - ii. Adult Amateur*
  - iii. Junior Exhibitor*
- d. Western Pleasure**
  - i. Open*

*ii. Adult Amateur*

*iii. Junior Exhibitor*

*e. Working Western Horse: includes Western Trail, Reining, Working Cow horse, Cutting, Western Riding, and all Ranch classes.*

*f. Regular Working Hunter: includes Regular Working Hunter Open, Handy, Stake, Under Saddle, Low, and Modified Working Under Saddle/Over Fences classes.*

*g. Hunter Specialty: includes all Horses 14.2 Hands and Under, Working Hunter 2', and Green Working Hunter classes. Exception: Cross Rail classes.*

*h. Specialty Horse: includes Park, English Show Hack, Ladies Side Saddle, Native Costume, Hunter Hack, Formal Combination, Informal Combination, Formal Driving, Roadster, English Trail, English and Western In-Hand Trail, Versatility, Gymkhana, Carriage Pleasure Driving, and Jumper classes.*

*i. Halter: includes Performance Halter (Stallions, Mares, Geldings) and Breeding/In-Hand (Stallions, Mares, Geldings) classes.*

*j. Dressage Open:*

*i. Training Level*

*ii. First Level*

*iii. Second Level*

*iv. Third Level*

*v. Fourth Level*

*vi. FEI Combined Level*

*k. Dressage Amateur:*

*i. Training Level*

*ii. First Level*

*iii. Second Level*

*iv. Third Level*

*v. Fourth Level*

*vi. FEI Combined Level*

*l. Sport Horse: includes Sport Horse In-Hand, Sport Horse Under Saddle, and Sport Horse Show Hack classes.*

*m. Western Dressage: includes Open, Amateur, and Junior Exhibitor classes*

*i. Introductory and Advanced Introductory Levels*

*ii. Basic Level*

*iii. Level One*

*iv. Level Two*

*v. Levels Three, Four, Five, and Six*

*vi. Western Dressage Rail: includes Western Dressage Suitability and Western Dressage Hack classes.*

**7. Overall Grand Champion Categories:**

*a. Purebred Arabian: based on the total points won in all Purebred Arabian categories.*

*b. Half/Anglo Arabian: based on the total points won in all Half/Anglo Arabian categories.*

*c. Purebred Arabian Gelding: based on the total points won in all Purebred Arabian categories.*

*d. Purebred Arabian Junior Exhibitor: based on the total points won in all Purebred Arabian Junior Exhibitor classes. Exception: classes combined with amateur sections.*

*e. Half/Anglo Arabian Junior Exhibitor: based on the total points won in all Half/Anglo Arabian Junior Exhibitor classes. Exception: classes combined with amateur sections.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	3/10/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

In an effort to strengthen and grow the Hunter Breeding division and encourage and reward competitors participating at larger shows against a greater number of horses, the Hunter Breeding Task Force feels strongly that the point tabulations toward Zone and National Horse of the Year awards should be tiered to provide greater recognition to those competing in larger events. The proposed rule will provide more points and prestige based on not only number of horses competing in the division but also the rating of the competition. Horses and ponies that win against a large pool of competitors at Channel 1 events will receive more points than those competing against fewer horses/ponies at Channel 2 competitions.

Calculating points based on the first 12 shows will create a fairer and more welfare-friendly system for determining year-end awards for young horses.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USHJA

Katie M Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules Comments

**017-25 (GR1133.1) - Proposed Draft #2**

**GR1133 Pony Hunter Breeding and Hunter Breeding**

1. Eligibility- Points toward any Horse of the Year Award will not be credited until the applications and fees for the horse's recording, exhibitor's registration, transfer of ownership, name change or addition of owner(s) and owner's Senior Active, Junior Active or Life membership are received online by the Federation. Furthermore, points toward any Horse of the Year Awards will not be credited until the applications and fees for the horse's USHJA Horse Registration, transfer of ownership, name change or addition of owners(s) and the owner's USHJA Active or USHJA Life membership are received by the USHJA offices. Exception: Applications for USHJA Individual Membership and Horse Recordings submitted at Licensed Competitions.

[...]

**3. Federation National and USHJA Zone HOTY awards for Hunter Breeding are based on points accumulated at the first twelve (12) Federation Licensed Regional, National, or Premier hunter rated competitions in which the horse participates during the competition year. Points earned at the Devon Horse Show and at the USEF/USHJA Sallie B. Wheeler Hunter Breeding Championship will count in addition to the first twelve (12) competitions.**

- a. The horse accumulating the most National points **in accordance with GR1133.3** out of the Yearling, Two-Year-Old and Three-Year-Old Hunter Breeding (horse) sections will be awarded the Grand Champion Hunter Breeding Award.

5. Point Tabulation

- a. Classes with combined age groups do not count toward the Horse or Zone Horse of the Year Awards. Exception: Best Young Horse and Best Young Pony classes. See also GR1113.
- b. Points will be based on the number of horses/ponies in the class **and rating of competition** as follows:

**Channel 2 - Regional**

Number in Class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
1	1(*)			
2	2(*)	1 (*)		
3-10	5	3	2	1
11+	10	6	4	2

**Channel 1 – National competitions will offer Regional points with a multiplier x4.**

**Channel 1 – Premier competitions will offer Regional points with a multiplier x6.**

- c. (\*) If a horse or pony that competes in a qualifying class with less than three entries becomes Best Young Horse/Pony or Reserve Best Young Horse/Pony at that competition, they will receive full points for the qualifying class (i.e. 5 pts. for 1st, 3 pts. for 2nd).

- d. Points awarded in the Best Young Horse Class for the Championship and Reserve Championship are based on the total number of horses **and rating of competition** entered in all rated classes of the Hunter Breeding section.

**Channel 2 - Regional**

Total Number	Champion	Reserve
1-2	2 points	1 point
3-14	5 points	3 points
15 or more	10 points	6 points

***Channel 1 – National competitions will offer Regional points with a multiplier x4.***

***Channel 1 – Premier competitions will offer Regional points with a multiplier x6.***

e. Pony Hunter Breeding Championship points are based on the total number of ponies ***and rating of competition*** in the rated classes of the Pony Hunter Breeding Division (Yearling, Two year-olds, and Three year-olds) ~~1 to 14 total entries: Champion 5 points, Reserve 3 points 15 or more entries: Champion 10 points, Reserve 6 points.~~ ***based on the point charts outlined above in this rule.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/22/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

To establish a more practical and efficient number of Stewards required at a licensed competition, based on the previous year's horse entries and the number of competition rings used simultaneously in the current year. Additionally, this rule change aims to clarify the number of Stewards required throughout the day, based on the specific needs of the competition on a given day.

Due to the unique nature of this rule change for the Hunter/Jumper disciplines, it has now been moved to the HJ Chapter of the USEF Rule Book for better alignment and clarity.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

USHJA

Katie M Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules      Comments

...

e. Competitions are required to obtain the necessary Stewards or Technical Delegates in accordance with the restrictions below.

...

*v. Exception: for Hunter/Jumper competitions, see HJ103.5.*

HJ103 Definitions

...

**5. Stewards**

*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.*

*b. If a competition finds it necessary to substitute a Steward 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 GR1304.12 will not apply.*

*c. 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.*

*d. Competitions are required to obtain the necessary Stewards in accordance with the restrictions below:*

# of rings		Number of Previous Year's Unique USEF Horse Entries					
		0-300	301-500	501-1,000	1,001-1,600	1,601-2,000	2,001 or more
# of USEF/USHJA Outreach competition rings in use at the same time	1	1	1	2	2	3	3
	2-4	1	2	3	3	4	4
	5-7	1	2	3	4	4	5
	8-10	2	3	3	4	4	5
	11 or more	3	3	4	4	5	5

*i. Competition Management may increase or decrease the number of Stewards on duty based on the time schedule and number of rings actively in use at the same time.*

*ii. Competition Management is permitted to obtain more than the minimum number of Stewards or Technical Delegates required above.*

*iii. Competition rings dedicated to USHJA Outreach classes are included in the number of USEF competition rings in use.*

*iv. Competition rings dedicated to FEI classes are not included in the number of USEF competition rings in use.*

*e. Unless otherwise approved by the Federation, a competition in its first year of operation must have at least one Steward for every two competition rings being used simultaneously regardless of the number of horses entered.*

*f. 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 each Steward.*

*g. The Federation is required to provide competition Stewards with some form of discernable identification (such as a badge with lanyard) which must be worn at the competition by the official.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	8/15/2025	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The combination of GR1211 and EV153 requirements has placed an undue burden upon organizers, requiring the hiring of an excessive number of Technical Delegates. EV153 was originally written to address proper Technical Delegate coverage at Eventing competitions, GR1211 was introduced after, and despite the International Disciplines Council, Eventing Sport Committee, and USEA not supporting the proposal, it was approved. Its implementation has caused issues amongst the Eventing community, and this proposal aims to address those by creating an exemption within GR1211, and providing clarifying language on how to count horse numbers within EV153.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Eventing

Alison Lloyd

alloyd@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

## GR1211 Appointment of Officials and Employees

[...]

### 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 GR1304.12 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. Competitions are required to obtain the necessary Stewards or Technical Delegates in accordance with the restrictions below:

i. Competition Management is permitted to obtain more than the minimum number of Stewards or Technical Delegates required above.

~~ii. For any competitions holding the eventing division, when the cross-country phase is running, it will count as one competition ring, regardless of the number of levels offered. In addition, each dressage and show jumping ring will be counted as a competition ring. Additional Eventing TD requirements contained in EV153 are intended to be in addition to the minimum TD requirements contained in the above chart.~~

~~iii.ii.~~ Competitions that host regionals, championships, or finals that occur on a rotating schedule, and create a significant change in horse entry numbers, may request a waiver to the Federation to utilize the horse entry count from the year prior to the regional, championship, or final. The waiver must be requested with the competition license renewal.

~~iv.iii~~ Exception: At the Paso Fino Grand National Championship at least two C2 Stewards must officiate. See PF155 for additional restrictions.

***iv. Exception. For Eventing, see EV153 for Technical Delegate requirements.***

## EV153 Licensed Officials for Horse Trials

1. The following Licensed Officials are the minimum required at Horse Trials. Higher level Licensed Officials may serve in the roles listed below. A **Second-second** Eventing Technical Delegate of any level is required if an Event has more than 300 entries, any day where Cross-Country and Show Jumping phases will be running concurrently and a member of the Ground Jury will not be present on the course during the Cross-Country phase. ***Entries include horses entered in the Endorsed, Licensed and FEI levels at the Event.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	5/4/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The current 10-day requirement to transmit results prolongs the posting and processing and does not align with deadline expectations for a majority of the sport programs of USEF and affiliates as well as qualification for major competitions. Starting with the 2026 competition year, competition software providers will be transitioning to the use of the USEF results API, streamlining the transmission of results from software to USEF. Additionally, the launch of the EZ Entry competition software will provide an alternative option for smaller competitions not currently utilizing software.

This rule change will also clarify that jumper faults in Junior Jumper classes are only required for classes held at 1.20m or above and the requirement was not intended to apply to the classes at 1.15m or below (previously named Children's Jumper).

Proponent Details Contact Information

Executive Staff

Kelsey Shanley

Kshanley@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

## GR1214 Results

1. All competition results and other data as specified by the Federation in the license agreement must be electronically transmitted to the Federation within 10 days **or as otherwise agreed to in the Federation Competition License Agreement** following a Licensed Competition, including all corrections, changes, and additions to the prize list. All results must meet the criteria and format of the Federation result template with all required fields as published by the Federation and must be submitted as outlined in the license agreement. ~~A fee will be assessed for any required data not received electronically.~~ Full results include, but are not limited to the names and Federation numbers of all horses, riders/**drivers/vaulters/handlers**, and owners, **trainers, and coaches** in all classes; the number of entries; all placings; the names and Federation numbers of all Licensed Officials who officiated in each class, except Stewards and Technical Delegates; and money paid out. In the event of an entry under multiple ownership, only one owner need be a Member or pay a Show Pass fee. The competition is responsible for listing either the Active member or the person that paid the Show Pass fee in the results. (Exception GR901.9).

### a. Hunter, Jumper, and Equitation

1. Results for all non-breed competitions restricted to Hunter, Jumper, and Equitation classes over fences must also include the fence height for each exhibitor.
2. For Young Jumper classes the first round fault scores for each entry must also be included.
3. Results must include faults of each round in jumper classes held at 1.30m or above and in all Junior Jumper classes **held at 1.20m or above.**
4. Results must include faults from each round of Pony Jumper classes.
5. Results in Hunter Competitions in over fences classes must record the following information, if applicable: (i) Did Not Compete and (ii) Did Not Place. See HU118.10 b. Dressage

2. Results for Dressage Competitions and Regular or Local competitions holding open Dressage or Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes must include the Federation and USDF membership and identification/recording numbers for all owners, riders, handlers and horses for whom this information is required for the competition. This material is needed in order to include the winnings of exhibitors in the Federation's permanent records.

3. The secretary of each Federation Licensed Competition must, within 10 calendar days of the competition, electronically send to the Federation, a list of Competition Officials, as well as the full results with all required fields.

4. If the competition fails to file a full set of results postmarked within 10 calendar days of the closing of the competition, the Federation will levy a fine of \$250. If the fine is not paid, future competition dates might be retracted or not awarded. The competition has the right to request a waiver of this fine, provided they can show good cause. Exception: See the USEF Fee Schedule for the Lite Competition fee structure.

5. Within 30 days of the deadline for filing any report or paperwork required under the Rules, the Federation must notify the Official Competition Contact responsible for filing such report or paperwork in the event that it has not been received.

6. The Federation must be notified of any retirement ceremony held at any Licensed Competition. See GR812.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

At the request of exhibitors, the Andalusian/Lusitano Committee, with this rule change, is adding the Western Dressage Section to the AL Chapter. This will permit competitions to run AL breed-restricted Western Dressage classes. The AL WD classes will follow the WD chapter rules.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Andalusian/Lusitano	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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**SUBCHAPTER AL-36 WESTERN DRESSAGE**

***Western Dressage classes held in the Andalusian/Lusitano Division are to be conducted in accordance with the Western Dressage Division, Chapter WD.***

*(renumber current SUBCHAPTERS 36-43)*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

It has been common practice for Andalusian/Lusitano competitions to charge each owner of a competing horse a IALHA show pass fee, but there has not been an official rule regarding this requirement. This rule change will align the Andalusian/Lusitano chapter with USEF's other breed chapters by requiring exhibitors and owners of competing horses to be members of IALHA or obtain an IALHA show pass. This rule change also rectifies a discrepancy in the rules regarding IALHA horse registrations, by removing confusing language, in favor of the current processes in the Andalusian/Lusitano environment.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Andalusian/Lusitano	Ashton Street  astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER AL-1 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

### AL101 Eligibility to Compete

1. Purebred and Half-Andalusian/Lusitano horses to be shown in a local or regional competition must be registered with or application for registration made to IALHA. Weanlings and yearlings are eligible if ~~both parents are either registered or an~~ application has been **made completed** to register them with IALHA. In order to be qualified to enter the ring in a National Championship class, the horse must be registered with the IALHA and a copy of the registration papers on file with the Competition Secretary. Weanlings and yearlings may enter a National Championship Class without a copy of the registration papers on file with the Competition Secretary if and only if the Competition Secretary has received a letter from the IALHA Registrar or Half-Andalusian/Lusitano Registration Secretary identifying the weanling or yearling and certifying that each and every requirement for registration of such weanling or yearling has been met and the registration certificate will be issued. Lineage must be traceable back to the Spanish or Portuguese Stud Books. Copies of registration papers must be mailed with entries or presented at each competition.

**2. Owners and exhibitors of horses competing in the Andalusian/Lusitano Division must be members of IALHA or obtain an IALHA show pass.**

*(renumber current AL101.2-26)*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule change will give competition management the option to offer classes concurrently. Permitting concurrent classes gives competition management more flexibility with their show schedule, provides more exciting classes that are fuller for both exhibitors and spectators, and can save time in the show schedule.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Andalusian/Lusitano	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER AL-1 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

### AL101 Eligibility to Compete

(...)

2. Half Andalusians/Lusitano may not ~~be shown together with~~ **compete against** Purebred Andalusian/Lusitanos except in the following classes: Junior Equitation, Showmanship, Western Trail, Western Riding, Doma Vaquera, Reining, Dressage, Musical Free Style, Fantasy Costume, Heritage Tack and Attire, Traditional Tack and Attire, Green Rider and Sport Horse Showmanship.

**3. Concurrent classes are two separate classes adjudicated concurrently in a single arena. Competition management may choose to offer concurrent classes provided:**

- a. Both classes are held in accordance with all applicable Federation rules,***
- b. The class specifications are the same for both classes,***
- c. There are no duplicate riders,***
- d. The combined class size does not exceed eight horses, and***
- e. The same judge(s) adjudicates both classes and submits separate judge's cards for each class.***

(renumber current AL101.3-26)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Over the past few years, there has been discussion in the Andalusian/Lusitano environment regarding the shoeing rules needing updates due to the advancements in farrier work. The AL Committee has decided to permit the use of rubber and other non-metallic shoes. This mimics the permitted shoes from the Arabian Division. This change will allow for more horses to compete in shoeing that is best for their feet.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Andalusian/Lusitano	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER AL-1 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

### AL103 Shoeing

1. Any machine made (keg) or handmade shoe made of magnetic steel, mild steel, or aluminum, **rubber, or other non-metallic shoe is ~~allowed~~ permitted** No part of the shoe may exceed the dimensions of 3/8" thick by 1 1/8" wide (nail heads and/or toe clips are not considered when measuring the shoe). The shoe may be of any type and configuration except in the case of a bar shoe, the bar may not extend below the ground surface of the shoe.

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Welfare of the Arabian horse is paramount to the Arabian Horse Association and its members, exhibitors, and owners. The Morgans, Saddlebreds, Hackneys, Roadsters, and National Show Horses all require soundness in their rules of the USEF as follows:

MO102.3 – Entries shall be serviceably sound and in good condition...

SB103.2 – All horses must be serviceably sound. In In-Hand classes for sires and dams or prospective sires and dams, transmissible unsoundness only shall be considered. Horses must not show evidence of lameness, broken wind, or complete loss of sight in both eyes.

HK102.4 – TO BE PENALIZED...Horses and ponies must be serviceably sound, i.e. must not show evidence of lameness or broken wind.

RD103.1 – Horses and ponies must be serviceably sound.

NS102.1 – Soundness is required.

It is the desire of the Arabian Division Rules Committee and our Association to ensure Arabian rules support promotion of the welfare of the horse.

(AHA Resolution 3-25)

Proponent Details	Contact Information
AHA	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-1 GENERAL SECTION

### AR105 Conduct, Specifications, Soundness and Welfare of the Horse

1. All horses, ~~except horses entered in Sub-Chapter 28-Equitation and Sub-Chapter 29-Showmanship classes,~~ must be serviceably sound. ***Any unsound horse must be eliminated.***

(...)

## SUBCHAPTER AR-14 WORKING HUNTER SECTION

### AR170 Working Hunter Championship Ties

(...)

~~2. If all tied horses are declared unsound, selection of the winner among such tied competitors is left to the discretion of the judges.~~

## SUBCHAPTER AR-17 SPORT HORSE SECTION

### AR190 Sport Horse Showmanship

(...)

#### 2. General

(...)

~~b. Unsoundness of the horse being shown shall not penalize a handler unless it is sufficiently severe as to impair the required performance, in which case penalty is at the judge's discretion.~~

~~e~~b. Offering prize money in Youth Sport Horse Showmanship is prohibited.

~~e~~c. A minimum of six ribbons should be awarded, but no more than ten places are recommended.

~~e~~d. Hair must be neat and securely fastened so as not to cover the handler's number.

~~f~~e. The handler's number must be worn on the back and must be clearly visible. Number may be attached by string around waist or attached to shirt, jacket, or vest with magnets or safety pins.

~~g~~f. Excessive coaching or unauthorized assistance in any manner is subject to penalty or disqualification at the judge's discretion.

~~h~~g. If stallions are prohibited, it must be stated in the premium/prize list/omnibus

(...)

## SUBCHAPTER AR-28 EQUITATION SECTION

### AR287 Regulations for All Seats

(...)

5. Equitation classes must be conducted according to E Q107 and judged in accordance with E Q102.2-12. Exception: Western Horsemanship, Reining Seat Equitation and Dressage Seat Equitation.

(...)

## SUBCHAPTER AR-29 SHOWMANSHIP SECTION

### AR300 General

(...)

~~2. Uncoundness of the horse being shown shall not penalize a handler unless it is sufficiently severe as to impair the required performance, in which case penalty is at the judge's discretion.~~

32. Offering prize money in Halter Showmanship is prohibited.

43. A minimum of six ribbons should be awarded, but no more than ten places are recommended.

54. A handler must wear the correct number on their back and it must be clearly visible at all times; penalty is at judge's discretion.

65. Excessive coaching or unauthorized assistance in any manner is subject to penalty or disqualification at the judge's discretion.

76. It is recommended that stallions be prohibited, but it must be so stated in the prize list

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The main detailed rule regarding Arabian tails is located in AR105.2, but is highlighted at the beginning of the Arabian Working Western section as well. The verbiage used in the working western section regarding "altered" tails interprets differently than the rule in ARA105.2(a); this statement in working western is being removed to avoid confusion and referencing the rule in AR105. This change is also adding clarity to the verbiage regarding tails in the working western section to gain easier understanding. This rule change also adds the clarification that in non-scored working western classes, the penalty for unnatural Arabian tail carriage supercedes all other penalties, placing the horse last in the class.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Arabian

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-1 GENERAL SECTION

### AR105 Conduct, Specifications, Soundness and Welfare of the Horse

(...)

#### 2. Natural Arabian Appearance

(...)

b. An "unnatural" tail is deemed, by a judge's opinion, to be carried in a manner not consistent with the typical Arabian or Half-Arabian type. Judges are required to penalize a horse exhibiting unnatural Arabian tail carriage. Conversely, horses with natural Arabian tail carriage showing expression that is not angry or offensive ~~shall must~~ not be penalized. A horse's tail carriage ~~shall must~~ be considered "unnatural" when it is obviously and consistently carried in an unnatural manner throughout its performance in a class.

i. In all non-scored classes, a horse exhibiting an unnatural Arabian tail carriage must be penalized and positioned last in the class. ***This penalty supersedes all other penalties and must always result in the horse's placement as last in the class.***

(...)

## SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION

### AR213 Working Western General

(...)

#### 3. Tails

The Arabian Working Western Horse should exhibit breed type while performing its task-oriented disciplines. Breed type includes a natural tail carriage. **See AR105.2b.** No horse may compete in a class in the Arabian Division with a tail that has been altered in any manner or by any means. **See AR105.2b.a. An "unnatural" tail is deemed, by a judge's opinion, to be carried in a manner not consistent with the typical Arabian or Half-Arabian type. Judges are required to penalize a horse exhibiting unnatural Arabian tail carriage. Conversely, horses with natural Arabian tail carriage, showing expression that is not angry or offensive, must not be penalized. A horse's tail carriage must be considered "unnatural" when it is obviously and consistently carried in an unnatural manner throughout its performance in a class.**

~~a. Judges must penalize horses exhibiting unnatural Arabian appearance (unnatural tail carriage). Conversely, horses with natural Arabian appearance (tail carriage) showing expression that is not angry or offensive must not be penalized.~~

~~b. A horse's tail carriage must be considered altered when it is obviously and consistently carried in an unnatural manner.~~

~~ea. In all scored Working Western classes, a horse exhibiting unnatural Arabian appearance tail carriage must be assessed a 10-point penalty.~~

~~db. In non-scored Working Western classes, a horse exhibiting unnatural Arabian appearance tail carriage must be penalized and positioned last in the class. ***This penalty supersedes all other penalties and must always result in the horse's placement as last in the class.***~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Currently, the Arabian shoeing rule state that shoes are measured with an accurate gauge, but this rule change is making it clear that all parts of the shoe must be gauge-able; there must be no part of the shoe that the gauge cannot fit in order to get accurate measurements of the entire shoe. This rule change comes in response to several instances in the field where parts of the shoe have not been gauge-able due to the elements of the shoe.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Arabian	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-1 GENERAL SECTION

### AR106 Shoeing Regulations, Artificial Markings and Appliances

(...)

#### 4. Method of measuring toe, shoe and pad.

- a. Using a six (6) inch metal ruler, the length of the toe is determined by measuring the front of the hoof, in the center, from the hairline to the ground. Hairline is considered the origin of the hair at the coronet band.
- b. Shoes are measured with an accurate gauge. ***All parts of the shoe must be able to be gauged, including the width and depth of the inner and outer dimensions of the shoe.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule change is adding clarity to the time out rules due to instances in the industry that have been questionable as to whether it was permitted and/or if a time out should be called. The change adds clarity to the situation of an exhibitor using the time during another exhibitors time out, dismounting a horse is considered a time out, and instances of a farrier touching a shoe even when a shoe is not cast. This rule change will be helpful in the field for judges, stewards, and competition announcers.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Arabian

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

SUBCHAPTER AR-1 GENERAL SECTION

AR108 Time Outs

1. A time-out is a suspension of judging which may be requested by a competitor or directed by the judge(s).

(...)

d. If a horse casts a shoe in a class, time starts (after measuring and/or gauging has concluded, if applicable) when the farrier or their assistant touches the shoe, ***pad, band, or any element of the shoe*** or the horse. No more than three minutes will be allotted to find a shoe; if the shoe is not found, the exhibitor may elect to continue or withdraw. If a horse is removed from the ring for the purposes of shoeing, the steward or judge shall accompany and remain with the horse until it is returned to the ring or excused from the class.

***i. In instances when a shoe is not cast, but the farrier or their assistant touches the shoe, pad, band, or any element of the shoe or horse, the time starts at their touch.***

(...)

g. Competitors who are not involved in a time-out may make minor adjustments that can be performed with the assistance of one attendant and not be charged with a time-out. Minor adjustments do not include replacing shoes. ***Any disruption that does not conclude prior to the original time out's end will be charged an additional time out.***

(...)

***i. At any time during a class, prior to the judges' cards being submitted for announcement, dismounting from a horse is considered a time-out. Exception: AR108.1(g).***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Currently, AR 109 lists each section in the Arabian Division with how a fall of the horse or rider is handled in terms of placement or scoring; Ranch Rail Pleasure is not included on this list. This rule change adds the penalty of elimination for a fall of the horse and/or rider in a Ranch Rail Pleasure class.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Arabian	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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SUBCHAPTER AR-1 GENERAL SECTION

AR109 Falls

(...)

**19. RANCH RAIL PLEASURE: Fall of horse or rider - elimination**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Currently, the rule reads in a way that a horse competing in performance halter may compete in any bridle appropriate to its performance division. This rule change makes an exception to the rule, that bridles with blinkers or blinders, normally used for driving, are not permitted.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Arabian	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER AR-4 PERFORMANCE HALTER SECTION

### AR126 Appointments

1. Horses may be shown in a traditional style Arabian showhalter, a Western style showhalter, or a leather stable halter. Horses may be shown in bridles appropriate to their performance divisions. ***Exception: Bridles with blinders or blinkers are prohibited.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

"Suitability to the discipline" is an important component when adjudicating. The purpose of the rule change is to define and better align all judges and exhibitors to this one point of horses being suitable to the discipline in which they are competing.

(AHA Resolution 5-25)

Proponent Details	Contact Information
AHA	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-6 PARK HORSE SECTION

### AR133 Park Horse Class Specifications

1. OPEN. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter. To be judged on ***suitability to the discipline***, brilliant performance with proper cadence and balance, presence, quality, manners and conformation.
2. AMATEUR. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter. To be judged on ***manners, suitability to the discipline***, brilliant performance with proper cadence and balance, ~~manners~~, quality and suitability of horse to rider.
3. LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter. To be judged on ***manners, suitability to the discipline***, brilliant performance with proper cadence and balance, ~~manners~~, quality and suitability of horse to rider.
4. JUNIOR HORSE. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter. To be judged on ***suitability to the discipline***, quality, brilliant performance with proper cadence and balance, and manners.

## SUBCHAPTER AR-7 ENGLISH PLEASURE SECTION

### AR137 English Pleasure Class Specifications

1. OPEN. To be shown at a walk, normal trot, strong trot, canter and hand gallop. To be judged on ***suitability to the discipline***, manners, performance, attitude, quality and conformation.
2. AMATEUR. To be shown at a walk, normal trot and canter. To be judged on manners, ***suitability to the discipline***, performance, attitude, quality, suitability of horse to rider, and conformation.
3. LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be shown at a walk, normal trot and canter. To be judged on manners, ***suitability to the discipline***, performance, attitude, quality, suitability of horse to rider, and conformation.
4. JUNIOR HORSE. To be shown at a walk, normal trot and canter. To be judged on ***suitability to the discipline***, quality, performance, attitude and manners.

## SUBCHAPTER AR-8 COUNTRY ENGLISH PLEASURE SECTION

### AR142 Country English Pleasure Class Specifications

1. OPEN. To be shown at a walk, normal trot, strong trot, canter and hand gallop. To be judged on attitude, ***suitability to the discipline***, manners, performance, quality and conformation.
2. AMATEUR. To be shown at a walk, normal trot and canter. To be judged on attitude, manners, ***suitability to the discipline***, performance, quality, conformation and suitability of horse to rider.
3. LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be shown at a walk, normal trot and canter. To be judged on attitude, manners, ***suitability to the discipline***, performance, quality, conformation and suitability of horse to rider.
4. JUNIOR HORSE. To be shown at a walk, normal trot and canter. To be judged on attitude, ***suitability to the discipline***, manners, quality, and performance.

## SUBCHAPTER AR-9 HUNTER PLEASURE SECTION

### AR146 Hunter Pleasure Class Specifications

1. OPEN. To be shown at a walk, trot, canter and hand gallop both directions of the ring. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on **suitability to the discipline**, manners, performance, ~~suitability as a Hunter~~, quality and conformation.
2. AMATEUR. To be shown at a walk, trot, canter and hand gallop both directions of the ring. To stand quietly and back readily to be judged on manners, **suitability to the discipline**, performance, ~~suitability as a Hunter~~, quality and conformation.
3. LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be shown at a walk, trot, canter and hand gallop both directions of the ring. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on manners, **suitability to the discipline**, performance, ~~suitability as a Hunter~~, quality and conformation.
4. JUNIOR HORSE. To be shown at a walk, trot, canter and hand gallop both directions of the ring. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on **suitability to the discipline**, quality, performance, ~~suitability as a Hunter~~, manners and conformation.

## SUBCHAPTER AR-10 WESTERN PLEASURE SECTION

### AR150 Western Pleasure Class Specifications

1. OPEN. To be shown at a walk, jog-trot, lope and hand gallop. Extreme speed to be penalized. To be judged on **suitability to the discipline**, manners, performance, substance, quality, conformation and attitude. In the lineup, horses may be asked to back in a straight line with no additional testing, returning to the lineup at a walk. Horses may be asked to back on the rail.
2. AMATEUR. To be shown at a walk, jog-trot and lope. To be judged on manners, **suitability to the discipline**, performance, suitability of horse to rider, substance, quality, conformation and attitude. In the lineup, horses may be asked to back in a straight line with no additional testing, returning to the lineup at a walk. Horses may be asked to back on the rail.
3. LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be shown at a walk, jog-trot and lope. To be judged on manners, **suitability to the discipline**, performance, suitability of horse to rider, substance, quality, conformation and attitude. In the lineup, horses may be asked to back in a straight line with no additional testing, returning to the lineup at a walk. Horses may be asked to back on the rail.
4. JUNIOR HORSE. To be shown at a walk, jog-trot and lope. To be judged on **suitability to the discipline**, substance, quality, performance, manners and attitude. In the lineup, horses may be asked to back in a straight line with no additional testing, returning to the lineup at a walk. Horses may be asked to back on the rail.

## SUBCHAPTER AR-11 LADIES SIDE SADDLE SECTION

### AR154 Ladies Side Saddle Class Specifications

OPEN, AMATEUR. To be shown both directions at the walk, trot or jog-trot, canter or lope. Horses should back readily

if requested by the judge and stand quietly. To be judged 85% on manners, ***suitability to the discipline***, performance, ***suitability***, quality and conformation; 15% on appropriate side saddle attire. Manners and suitability of purpose shall be emphasized. (Suitability refers to the horse being suitable as a sidesaddle mount.)

#### SUBCHAPTER AR-13 ENGLISH SHOW HACK SECTION.

##### AR162 English Show Hack Class Specifications

1. OPEN, AMATEUR, LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be shown at a walk, trot, canter, and hand gallop; collected and extended and normal gaits to be called for. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on manners, ***suitability to the discipline***, performance, quality and conformation.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Country Pleasure, since its inception, has looked to separate itself from English Pleasure, being a more relaxed and easier way of going class. Asking for a "Strong Trot" and/or a "Hand Gallop" goes against what the class title implies. Focusing on the finer points of Country Pleasure, such as attitude, smooth transitions, and quiet mouths, etc., would be a better barometer for what is important. The halt and back portion of the required "test" in all Country classes has proven to be ineffective and time consuming, while walking on a loose rein has been found as an adequate barometer of a "Country" attitude. Changing the word "Trot" to read "Country Trot" and implementing the aforementioned changes, will help to bring separation and identity to the Country Pleasure section.

(AHA Resolution 6-25)

Proponent Details Contact Information

AHA

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

SUBCHAPTER AR-8 COUNTRY ENGLISH PLEASURE SECTION

AR138 Conduct

1. Competitors enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction, at the normal **Country** trot.

(...)

7. High action at the **Country** canter or **Country** trot must be penalized. Rider to post the trot.

8. Extreme speed at the **Country** canter or **Country** trot must be penalized.

9. For Country English Pleasure performance criteria, see AR Country English Pleasure Chart below.

Country English Pleasure Chart	Good	Minor Fault	Major Fault	Elimination General Items
<b>Country</b> Walk	relaxed flat footed moving forward	a few hesitant strides	jigging, anxious not walking, standing or consistent circling in a corner	Blood in the mouth, chin shoulder or flanks (AR 105.6)
<b>Country</b> Trot	cadenced unhurried, moderate shift of balance point	a few missed steps varied speed	break of gait aggressive gait extreme speed extreme shift of balance point high action, i.e. consistently trotting over level	lame (AR 105.1 - must be serviceably sound)  whip marks (AR 105.6)  abusive treatment (AR 105.4)
<b>Country</b> Canter	straight and true	crooked varied speed	chagy wrong lead cross cantering high action	dangerous to other exhibitors (AR 105.5)
<b>Country</b> Hand Gallop	true change of gait longer stride	minimal change of stride	cross cantering change of lead extreme speed	rearing, running backwards, bucking, out of control (AR 105.5 - these would be examples of dangerous to others and possibly rider)
Stop, back, walk on a loose rein	straight square halt, straight unhurried back, relaxed walk with lowered frame relaxed gathering of the reins	crooked halt premature back crooked back hesitant walk slight resistance to the gathering reins	antsy or no halt refusal to back forced back no loose rein chagy or no walk no lowered frame no relaxed lowered frame major resistance to the gathering of reins	fall of horse or rider, if due to bad manners of horse (AR 109.1-3)
			Horses with an unnatural tail carriage (see AR 105.2b) must be positioned last in the class.	

#### AR141 Qualifying Gaits

1. **Country** Walk, a four-beat gait: To be true, flat-footed and ground covering
2. ~~Normal~~ **Country** Trot, a two-beat gait: To be an overall balanced, relaxed, easy-going trot with elasticity and freedom of movement.
3. **Country** Strong Trot, a two-beat gait: To be faster with lengthened stride, maintaining balance, ease and freedom of movement.
4. **Country** Canter, a three-beat gait: To be smooth, unhurried, straight and correct on both leads.
5. **Country** Hand Gallop: To be a faster gait, lengthened stride and controlled, straight and correct on both leads.

#### AR142 Country English Pleasure Class Specifications

1. OPEN. To be shown at a **Country** walk, ~~normal~~ **Country** trot, **Country** strong trot, **Country** canter, and **Country** hand gallop. To be judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality, and conformation.
2. AMATEUR. To be shown at a **Country** walk, ~~normal~~ **Country** trot, and **Country** canter. To be judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality, conformation, and suitability of horse to rider.
3. LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be shown at a **Country** walk, ~~normal~~ **Country** trot, and **Country** canter. To be judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality, conformation, and suitability of horse to rider.
4. JUNIOR HORSE To be shown at a **Country** walk, ~~normal~~ **Country** trot, and **Country** canter. To be judged on attitude, manners, quality, and performance.

#### SUBCHAPTER AR-23 COUNTRY PLEASURE DRIVING SECTION

##### AR202 Conduct

1. Competitors enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction at the ~~normal~~ **Country** trot.

(...)

##### AR204 Qualifying Gaits

1. **Country** Walk, a four-beat gait: To be true, flat-footed and ground covering.
2. ~~Normal~~ **Country** Trot, a two-beat gait: To be an overall balanced, relaxed, easy-going trot with elasticity and freedom of movement. High action MUST be penalized.
3. **Country** Strong Trot, a two-beat gait: To be faster with lengthened stride, maintaining balance, ease and freedom of movement. High action MUST be penalized.

##### AR205 Country Pleasure Driving Class Specifications

1. OPEN. To be shown at the **Country** walk, ~~normal~~ **Country** trot, and **Country** strong trot. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality, and conformation.
2. AMATEUR, LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be shown at a **Country** walk, ~~normal~~ **Country** trot, and **Country** strong

trot. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality, conformation, and suitability of horse to driver.

3. JUNIOR HORSE. To be shown at a *Country* walk, ~~normal~~ *Country* trot, and *Country* strong trot. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on attitude, manners, quality, and performance.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

At some point during the rule change process, an addition was made to the Hunter Pleasure section appointments specific to bridles by adding a rule regarding junior horses. This addition over time has become muddled with other rule changes to the section, resulting in currently the rule contradicts itself, making the interpretation of these rules very difficult. This change adds clarity to the two rules regarding bridles in Hunter Pleasure classes.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Arabian	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

SUBCHAPTER AR-9 HUNTER PLEASURE SECTION

AR144 Appointments

1. Tack:

a. Bridle, *including the browband and cavesson, shall be light, show is to be hunter type; with either a snaffle (including full or half cheek), pelham, full bridle, or kimberwick bit acceptable. Browband/cavessons must be of hunter type. The following are prohibited: ornamented bridles and figure eight, drop, and flash nosebands.*

b. *Junior horse classes require a snaffle bit with either a straight bar, or single or double jointed mouthpiece, that measures at least 3/8" in diameter as measured 1/2" from the ring, with no attachments to the headstall or reins through a hook. Junior Horse classes require a snaffle bit. (Snaffle bit is defined as snaffle bit of at least 3/8" diameter as measured 1/2" from the ring. The snaffle bit may be jointed, double jointed, or unjointed. For all junior horse performance classes, all snaffle bits must have a round, egg butt or "D" shaped ring with no attachments to the headstall or reins through a hook. (except for keepers for a full cheek snaffle when section rules allow a full cheek). Full cheek (with or without keepers), French and Dr. Bristol snaffle bits are permitted). The following are not permitted: half cheek snaffles, ornamented bridles, browbands, or cavessons, saddle seat style colored browbands/cavessons, figure eight, drop, or flash nosebands.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule change is slightly re-organizing some language for easier understanding and is removing contradictory verbiage regarding permitting holding the saddle horn in particular classes or instances. Verbiage is being removed from the Western Pleasure section that currently only applies to the Working Western section. Verbiage is being moved in the Working Western equipment section for ease of understanding. Verbiage is being removed from several of the Working Western classes that are either contradictory or repetitive.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Arabian	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER AR-10 WESTERN PLEASURE SECTION

### AR148 Appointments

(...)

#### 2. Tack:

c. Split reins or closed reins are equally acceptable.

~~1. Only one hand may be used on reins and hands must not be changed except to negotiate an obstacle in a Trail Horse Class.~~

~~2. While working a cow in herd work and Limited Reined Cow Horse, it is permissible to hold the reins and the romal in one hand (rein hand), while doing so, the other hand may be used to hold the saddle horn.~~

31. For romal reins, the rider's hand must be closed around the reins with the wrist kept straight and relaxed and the thumb on top. The bottom of the hand must hold the point of the reins closest to the horse's mouth. The reins must not be held between the fingers. Exception when the ends of split reins fall on side of reining hand, one finger between reins is permitted.

42. When using romal or when ends of split reins are held in hand not used for reining, no finger between reins is permitted.

53. The rider may hold romal or the end of split reins to keep them from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins provided it is held with at least 16 inches of rein between the hands.

## SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION

### AR215 Appointments

#### 1. Western Equipment:

(...)

e. Split reins or romal (closed) reins are permitted. Only one hand may be used on reins and hands must not be changed except to negotiate an obstacle in a Trail Horse Class. ~~While working a cow in herd work and Limited Reined Cow Horse, it is permissible to hold the reins and the romal in one hand (rein hand), while doing so, the other hand may be used to hold the saddle horn.~~ The hand must be completely around the reins. When ends of split reins fall on side of reining hand, one finger between reins is permitted. When using a romal or when the ends of split reins are held in the hand not used for reining to keep them from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins provided it is held with at least 16" of rein between the hands, no finger between reins is permitted. ***While working a cow in herd work and Limited Reined Cow Horse, it is permissible to hold the reins and the romal in one hand (rein hand), while doing so, the other hand may be used to hold the saddle horn.***

(...)

### AR245 Ranch Riding Patterns for Walk-Trot

(...)

~~4. Holding the horn is acceptable at the extended trot.~~

AR254 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot Class Specifications

(...)

2. Entries will be worked both directions of the ring at both qualifying gaits the walk and the trot. The judge may call for:

(...)

b. The extended trot (riders are permitted to post ~~or hold the horn~~)

AR257 Versatility Ranch Horse Appointments and Conduct

(...)

9. Holding the saddle horn with either hand is permitted in any *Versatility Ranch Horse* class.

(...)

AR265 VRH Ranch Trail Course Obstacles

(...)

4. Optional obstacles may be used provided the obstacles can be found in everyday ranch work. Optional obstacles from which selections can be made include, but are not limited to:

a. A jump obstacle whose center height is a minimum of 14" high but no more than 25" high. ~~Holding the saddle horn is permitted for this obstacle.~~

(...)

AR272 VRH Ranch Cow Work General

(...)

~~2. Holding the saddle horn is permitted.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule change adds consistency to the Working Western Section and related classes in regard to the proper attire for the various classes and the scoring penalty for incomplete or prohibited attire. Non-scored classes must be positioned last in the class and scored classes must receive a zero score for incomplete/prohibited attire. The changes add clarity throughout the section and classes.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Arabian	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-10 WESTERN PLEASURE SECTION

### AR148 Appointments

#### 3. Attire:

a. Riders shall wear Western hat, long-sleeved shirt with any type collar, trousers or pants (~~one-piece long-sleeved equitation suit is acceptable provided it includes a collar~~); chaps, shotgun chaps, or chinks, and boots. A vest, jacket, coat, and/or sweater may also be worn. Competitors with incomplete attire must be penalized.

## SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION

### AR215 Appointments

(...)

#### 4. Attire:

a. Horse/Exhibitor number must be placed on the left side, both sides of the saddle pad or on the exhibitor's back. Exception: Ranch Rail Pleasure, the number must be on the exhibitor's back or both sides of the pad. Horses shown without a number, or with a wrong number may be required to pay a \$25 fee at the discretion of show management.

***b. In all non-scored classes (Ranch Rail Pleasure, VRH Ranch Conformation), an exhibitor with incomplete/prohibited attire must be penalized and positioned last in the class. A horse exhibiting unnatural Arabian tail carriage must be placed below exhibitors with incomplete/prohibited attire.***

***c. In all scored classes (Reining, Working Cow, Reined Cow Horse, Herd Work, Cutting, Western/English/In-Hand Trail, Western Riding, Ranch Riding, VRH Ranch Riding, VRH Ranch Trail, VRH Ranch Reining, VRH Ranch Cow Work, VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work Amateur/Youth [Box-Drive-Box-Drive], VRH Ranch Cutting) an exhibitor with incomplete/prohibited attire must be assessed a zero score. A horse exhibiting unnatural Arabian tail carriage must be placed below exhibitors with incomplete/prohibited attire.***

#### ***bd. Western***

1. Exhibitors must wear Western hat, long-sleeved shirt with any type of collar, trousers or pants (~~one-piece long-sleeved equitation suit is permitted provided it includes a collar~~); , chaps, shotgun chaps, or chinks, and boots. A vest, jacket, coat, and/or sweater may also be worn. ~~Competitors with incomplete/prohibited attire must receive a zero score.~~ Exception: ~~in ranch rail and VRH ranch conformation~~ ***and in-hand trail***, exhibitors ~~with incomplete attire must be eliminated from placing~~ (~~chaps are not required in ranch conformation~~) ***are not required to wear chaps, shotgun chaps, or chinks.***

2. Spurs are optional and are at the discretion of the exhibitor, ***Exception: Spurs are prohibited for In-Hand Trail classes and must be assessed a zero score, and VRH Conformation classes and must be penalized and positioned last in the class.***

3. ~~Whips are not allowed~~ ***prohibited*** except with side saddle. ***Use of whips for In-Hand Trail classes must be assessed a zero score and VRH Conformation classes and must be penalized and positioned last in the class. (See GR1310 Dispensations.)***

#### ***ee. English:***

1. ~~Informal or formal Saddle Seat, Hunt, Show Hack, or Dressage attire is permitted. For~~

*appointments refer to AR135, AR140, AR144, and AR160. Exception: ASTM Helmets are required for all English Trail classes. Per AR111 exhibitors may not enter the arena without protective headgear.*

*i. In scored classes (English Trail and English In-Hand Trail), an exhibitor with incomplete/prohibited attire must receive be assessed a zero score.*

*2. Spurs are optional and at the discretion of the exhibitor; Exception: Spurs are prohibited for In-Hand Trail classes and must be assessed a zero score.*

*3. Whips are prohibited except with a side saddle. Use of whips for In-Hand Trail classes must be assessed a zero score.*

*2. ASTM Helmets are required for all English Trail classes. Per AR111 exhibitors may not enter the arena without protective headgear.*

\_\_\_\_\_ d. In-Hand Trail

*1. Western and English refer to AR215.4*

*2. Crop, whip, chaps, chinks, and spurs are not permitted.*

*3. Competitors with incomplete/prohibited attire must receive a zero score.*

AR228 Trail Scoring

1. General

(...)

d. Penalties

i. No Score

(...)

*4. Use of whips in In-Hand Trail.*

ii. ~~Disqualified 0~~ — Zero (0) Score

(...)

*11. Use of a whip in In-Hand Trail classes.*

AR253 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot 10 & Under Appointments

Horse and exhibitor must follow the appointments as set forth in the Arabian Western Pleasure Sub Chapter **AR215.4(d)**.

AR257 Versatility Ranch Horse Division Appointments and Conduct

(...)

**12. For exhibitor appointments see AR215.4(d).**

AR258 Versatility Ranch Horse Division Scoring

(...)

4. No horse/exhibitor team can be disqualified except for lameness, abuse, prohibited equipment, disrespect, or misconduct, leaving working area before pattern is complete, ~~improper western attire~~ and/or fall of horse/exhibitor. Disqualified horses will count as entries in the class but will not receive points.

#### AR262 VRH Ranch Riding Scoring

##### 1. Credits and Penalties

(...)

1. VRH Ranch Riding Penalties – VRH Ranch Riding Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions –

(...)

b. Zero (0) score

(...)

##### **3. Incomplete/prohibited attire**

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

(...)

d. No Score/Disqualification (DQ):

(...)

~~6. Improper western attire~~

~~7. 6. Fall of horse/exhibitor~~

#### 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 –

(...)

2. Zero (0) score

(...)

##### **c. Incomplete/prohibited attire**

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

(...)

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

AR268 Ranch Horse Trail Walk-Trot 10 & Under Appointments

Horse and exhibitor must follow the appointments as set forth in the ~~Arabian Western Pleasure Sub-Chapter AR215.4(d)~~.

AR271 VRH Ranch Reining Scoring

(...)

4. Penalties

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

(...)

2. Zero (0) score

(...)

**c. Incomplete/prohibited attire**

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

(...)

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

AR274 VRH Ranch Cow Work Scoring

(...)

7. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

a. VRH Ranch Cow Work Penalties – VRH Ranch Cow Work Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions:

(...)

2. Zero (0) score

(...)

**c. Incomplete/prohibited attire**

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

(...)

6. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): bringing the cow straight over backwards landing on its back or head with all four feet in the air, lameness, abuse, prohibited equipment, disrespect or misconduct, leaving arena before run is complete; ~~improper western attire~~; fall of horse/exhibitor.

AR277 VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work Amateur/Youth (Box-Drive-Box-Drive) Scoring

(...)

5. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

a. VRH Ranch Limited Cow Work Penalties – VRH Ranch Limited CowWork Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions:

(...)

2. Zero (0) score

(...)

**c. Incomplete/prohibited attire**

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

(...)

5. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): lameness, abuse, prohibited equipment, disrespect, or misconduct, leaving arena before run is complete, ~~improper western attire, and/or~~ fall of horse/exhibitor.

#### AR280 VRH Ranch Cutting Scoring

(...)

4. Penalties should be assessed as follows:

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

(...)

2. Zero (0) score

(...)

**c. Incomplete/prohibited attire**

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

(...)

5. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): lameness; abuse; disrespect or misconduct; prohibited equipment; excessive disturbance of herd to the point that exhibitor is asked to leave the arena; leaving arena before run is complete, fall of horse/exhibitor, ~~improper western attire~~

#### AR282 VRH Ranch Conformation Appointments

(...)

3. ~~For rules regarding correct western attire refer to AR148.3. Exception: Chaps or chinks are not required.~~  
**Exhibitors must adhere to the appointments as set forth in AR215.4(d).**

#### SUBCHAPTER AR-28 EQUITATION SECTION

#### AR290 Western Seat Equitation

1. For rules governing Western Seat Equitation classes refer to Chapter EQ, Subchapter EQ-4, Western Seat Equitation, EQ123 *General*, ~~EQ124~~ *Position*, EQ125.2 *Appointments (Tack)*, AR215.4(d) *Appointments (Attire)*, EQ126 *Conduct*, and EQ130 *Requirements for Specific Classes* 434.

#### AR295 Appointments

Refer to ~~EQ125~~ AR215.4(d).

#### AR297 Reining Seat Equitation

(...)

5. For appointments, see ~~EQ125~~ AR215.4(d).

### SUBCHAPTER AR-30 WALK-TROT/JOG 10 & UNDER SECTION

#### AR 307 Appointments

1. For attire, appointments, and position for Equitation classes refer to Chapter EQ. *Exception: For Western Seat Equitation, Western Horsemanship, and Reining Seat Equitation, refer to AR215.4(d).*

(...)

**5. For attire and appointments for Trail classes, refer to AR215.4.**

#### AR314 Walk/Trot/Jog Trail Class Specifications

To be judged over a course of obstacles at a walk and a trot/jog (AR228). Horse and rider must follow the appointments as set forth in ~~the Arabian Western Pleasure Subchapter AR215.4(d)~~ for a Western Trail Walk/Jog class and ~~the Arabian English Pleasure Sub-Chapter AR 215.4(e)~~ for an English Trail Walk/Trot class. For approved Trail obstacles, dimensions, definitions, scoring and penalties, refer to Arabian Trail Horse Subchapter.

#### AR316 Short Stirrup Reining Specifications

Riders to perform any current NRHA Short Stirrup Reining pattern as stated in Arabian Working Western Subchapter. Horse and rider must follow the appointments as set forth in ~~the Arabian Western Pleasure Subchapter AR215.4(d)~~.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Our young western horses have increasingly shown significant signs of metabolic syndrome and become overweight at an early age. The removal of the class specification of "substance" from the Junior Horse classes in Arabian Western Pleasure may remove the idea that an overweight horse is desired.

(AHA Resolution 4-25)

Proponent Details	Contact Information
AHA	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-10 WESTERN PLEASURE SECTION

### AR150 Western Pleasure Class Specifications

(..)

4. JUNIOR HORSE. To be shown at a walk, jog-trot and lope. To be judged on **substance**, quality, performance, manners and attitude. In the lineup, horses may be asked to back in a straight line with no additional testing, returning to the lineup at a walk. Horses may be asked to back on the rail.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

There is currently no rated Open Working Hunter class specifically designated for fence height 2'6" in the Arabian Division. The current class options either fall below (2'0', unrated) or above (2'9", Modified Working Hunter) creating a significant developmental gap for horses and riders progressing through the hunter pipeline. The 2'6" height is widely recognized as a fundamental and popular entry-level division in both breed and open hunter competition environments. Creating a Low Working Hunter – Open (2'6") class will better serve the needs of horses and exhibitors transitioning from unrated or beginner levels and align with green eligibility standards. The intent is to add this class an official rated class within the Arabian Working Hunter Division, eligible for qualifications and Regional/National Championship inclusion.

(AHA Resolution 7-25)

Proponent Details Contact Information

AHA

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-14 WORKING HUNTER SECTION

### AR166 Height of Obstacles

1. Regular Hunter Divisions/Classes to be determined as follows (Note: any class offered at an AHA approved show that does not specifically adhere to the following nomenclature and specifications will be considered an unrated class):

a. Open:

1. Working Hunter - Open 2'. Horses are not required to jog for soundness.

2. Combined Hunter over fences - 2'3" and 2'6" - at the discretion of show management, this division/class(es) may be run as individual classes or as a combined class. When classes are combined, horses can compete at the height of their choice. Horses may only compete once per class and the height (2'3" or 2'6") must be declared to the ingate/whipper prior to the start of the class. Failure to declare which height that the rider wishes to compete at prior to the start of the class will default the entry to the maximum height. If multiple classes or a division is offered at a competition, horses may change the height in which they jump each class. This class is an unrated class only and cannot be offered at Regionals or National Championship shows. Horse are not required to jog for soundness.

**3. Low Working Hunter – Open – 2'6"**

**34. Modified Working Hunter Over Fences – Open - 2'9".**

**45. Regular Working Hunter Over Fences – Open - 3'0".**

**56. Working Hunter Classic Over Fences - A Hunter Classic is a class shown over two rounds with the top horses returning for a second round. The first round is 10 – 12 fences with the second round over a shortened course of 6 to 8 fences. The number of horses returning for the second round can be determined by the show management but may not exceed 12 horses nor can it be less than the number of ribbons plus 2, as entries allow. Classics may be run as a combined hunter competition, with horses competing at 2'6", 2'9" and 3'. The height that the horse would compete at would be the maximum height that they competed at during the show.**

**67. Working Hunter Derby – Similar to a Hunter Classic, 2 rounds, but the course should include natural elements and options. Further the 2nd round must be a Handy Hunter Course. Judged in accordance with USHJA Handbook. National Derby Rules. Derby may be run as a combined hunter competition, with horses competing at 2'6", 2'9" and 3'. The height that the horse would compete at would be the maximum height that they competed at during the show.**

**78. Working Hunter Cross Rails: not to exceed 18". Courses to consist of 8 cross rail fences - Open.**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The existing rules were originally intended to separate Dressage exhibitors from non-dressage exhibitors (Western Pleasure, Country Pleasure, etc.). Since Dressage and Western Dressage classes can run in the same dressage courts, competition management currently must divide the warm-up space. Competition management faces difficulties when show facilities lack large enough and available warm-up areas to allow for the required divided warm-up areas for Traditional Dressage and Western Dressage exhibitors, thereby having to create smaller than optimal areas of warm-up, leading to inadequate and unfair warm-up. Competition managers are faced with the additional financial strain if additional warm up areas must be rented to remain compliant with this rule of keeping the Dressage warm-up area separate. This rule change will provide competition managers with flexibility.

(AHA Resolution 8-25)

Proponent Details Contact Information

AHA

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-16 DRESSAGE SECTION

### AR177 Conduct

(...)

2. Dressage classes held in the Arabian Division to be conducted in accordance with Dressage Chapter DR, except as stated herein:

(...)

**b.** *At competition management's discretion, Western Dressage and Dressage exhibitors may be permitted to use the same schooling area simultaneously.*

**b.c.** Whips are prohibited in AHA Regional and National Championship classes (Exception: Competitors riding sidesaddle may carry a whip and AR 106.15).

**b.d.** A caller, if supplied by the competitor, may be used in any AHA Regional Championship Dressage class. (Exception: all FEI Tests, including FEI Junior Tests, and all Freestyle Rides must be ridden from memory; see also AR 106.18)

**b.d.e.** Horses competing in the Arabian and/or Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Dressage Division may compete in more than one Licensed Competition on the same day. This is an exception to DR119.2.

**b.f.** An Introductory Walk-Trot 10 & Under or Walk Trot 11 & Over class at Federation Licensed Arabian competitions, when ridden by an exhibitor competing only in Walk/Trot/Walk-Jog classes, will not be considered one of the two levels to which the horse is restricted at that competition under DR119.2. (Exception: open Dressage classes or divisions.) Refer to Subchapter AR-30 Walk-Trot/Walk-Jog 10 & Under section and Subchapter AR-31 ATR/JTR/AATR Walk-Trot/Walk-Jog 11 and Over section for additional Walk-Trot/Walk-Jog 10 & Under and 11 & Over class requirements.

**b.g.** Dressage horses competing at Federation Licensed Arabian competitions are not limited to a maximum of three rides per day at Fourth Level or below. (Exception: open Dressage classes or divisions.)

**b.h.** False tails are not permitted in Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division Dressage classes (This is an exception to DR121.15).

**b.i.** For the Arabian Division, adult amateurs are defined as those no longer eligible to compete as junior exhibitors DR 119.3 does not apply.

**b.j.** A separate number is not required for each horse/rider combination. This is an exception to DR126.2j(4). SEE AR112 Numbers.

**b.k.** The prerequisite score for an Arabian, Half-Arabian, and/or Anglo/Arabian breed restricted Dressage Musical Freestyle may be earned in either open or breed-restricted Federation Recognized Dressage competition(s) held prior to the competition where the horse/rider combination is entered to ride a Dressage Freestyle class.

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	9/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Extraordinary Change Reason

This rule change will have a positive impact on the safety and well-being of horses, exhibitors, and competition staff. It will immediately address the safety concerns of showing young horses in Sport Horse In-Hand classes.

Rule Change Intent

The safety of exhibitors, show staff, and horses should be of utmost importance. Concerns have been raised about the practicality of the Sport Horse In-Hand rules related to horses shown in halters. Chain pressure under the chin can encourage some young horses to invert and rear. At USDF shows, the most common method of using a stud chain with a halter is over the nose. USDF Sport horse handler clinic instructors recommend chains be used over the nose for control and safety. Currently, the Arabian rules prohibit the use of a chain over the nose of a young horse when showing in a leather halter, therefore this rule change is removing that portion and adding that a chain over the nose is prohibited when using a bridle.

(AHA Resolution 9-25)

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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AHA

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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**Legal:** Legislative Committee voted to approve this EO on 4/7/2026

## SUBCHAPTER AR-17 SPORT HORSE SECTION

### AR183 Sport Horse In-Hand Appointments

#### 1. Tack:

Bridles are mandatory on horses three years and older. A bridle shall be a dressage-type snaffle bridle (for dressage type) or hunter-type snaffle bridle (for hunter type). Snaffle bit may be with or without cheeks, keepers allowed. Use of a noseband is optional but if used, the style must match the discipline being shown. If the dressage type/hunter type splits are not offered, the exhibitor may choose the type of snaffle bridle used. A split or single lead made of either leather or leather like material with or without a chain may be used, and must be attached to both sides of the bit, with/or instead of reins. If using a single lead, a coupler may be used to attach the lead to both sides of the bit. Horses aged two years may be shown in a bridle (as listed above), or a plain leather stable halter. Horses under age two years must be shown in a plain leather stable halter. A single lead, with or without a chain, made of either leather or leather like material, must be used with a halter. Whether used with a bridle or a halter, a properly fitted chain should be short enough to prevent the horse from getting it in their mouth and must never be placed ~~over the nose or~~ through the mouth. **When used with a bridle, the chain must never be placed over the nose.** Competitors with non-conforming appointments will be eliminated from judging consideration.

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The popularity of Sport Horse In Hand Showmanship classes has grown considerably in recent years, drawing more exhibitors from a variety of disciplines. Because the handler is being judged in this class, only one back number is issued per horse, causing hardship and impossibility to differentiate handlers if using the same horse competing multiple times, therefore a horse should only be shown once per class. There has also been ongoing confusion among exhibitors and judges regarding the proper presentation stance of the horse to be used for Sport Horse In Hand Showmanship. Clarifying that **handlers may show their horse from either side** will ensure consistent expectations and judging across these classes. This rule change provides a clear definition of "open position" which will improve exhibitor understanding, enhance fairness in competition, and support the integrity of the Sport Horse In Hand Showmanship section.

AHA Resolution 18-25

Proponent Details Contact Information

AHA

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

SUBCHAPTER AR-17 SPORT HORSE SECTION

AR190 Sport Horse Showmanship

(...)

2. General

(...)

*i. A horse may only be shown once per class and no handler may show more than one horse per class.*

(...)

4. Class Conduct

(...)

c. The horse ~~is to~~ **must** be shown in an "open position." The traditional way of showing open position ~~would be is~~ with the right front leg slightly back and the right hind leg slightly forward, ~~is also acceptable~~ all four legs of the horse ~~are~~ **should be** visible to the judge when standing on either side of the horse. The horse's head and neck should be allowed to show in a natural and comfortable carriage, and the handler should stand away from the horse with a loose lead line. **Handlers may show their horse from either side.** Handlers may use treats to keep **the** horse's attention and focus.

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Currently, there has been confusion amongst judges and exhibitors about whether a rider is to post or sit the extended trot/jog, as well as confusion on when extended gaits were permitted to be called in classes. This rule change adds clarification throughout the chapter on how the extended gaits are to be ridden and permits extended gaits to be used in trail under saddle classes. This rule change also fixes any contradictory language and removes unnecessary verbiage from the rules regarding extended gaits.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Arabian	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION

### AR214 Working Western Definitions

#### 1. Gaits Definitions for Non-Ranch classes

(...)

b. The jog is a smooth, ground-covering two-beat diagonal gait. The horse works from one pair of diagonals to the other pair. The jog should be square, balanced and with straight, forward movement of the feet. Horses walking with their back feet and trotting in the front are not considered performing the required gait. When asked to extend the jog, it moves out with the same smooth way of going. ***The extended jog should be ridden seated, but posting must not be penalized.***

(...)

#### 2. Gaits Definitions for Ranch classes

In all gaits, movement of the ranch horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. The following terminology shall apply:

(...)

d. The extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The horse should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with an above level topline. ***The extended trot should be ridden posting, but sitting must not be penalized.***

(...)

### AR224 Trail Class Types

#### 1. Trail Horse - Under Saddle

(...)

ii. The course must be designed to require each horse to show all three (3) gaits, somewhere between and/or over obstacles as part of its work, and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the obstacle score. ***An extended jog and/or extended lope may be required.*** Unnecessary delays while approaching or negotiating an obstacle must be penalized.

(...)

### AR227 Trail Course Information

(...)

3. Mandatory Trail Obstacle Dimensions - All elevated poles must be in a pole holder e.g., trail blocks, trail risers, standard jump cups or similar type supports. The judge has the right to alter the course.

(...)

b. ***Lope/Extended Lope*** Overs for Western (not allowed In-Hand) For lope overs, a distance of 6'-6'6"

(...)

e. ***Jog/Extended Jog*** Overs for Western Jog overs: 3 feet to 3'6" apart, or multiples of the given dimension (space is measured between poles)

(...)

#### AR245 Ranch Riding Patterns for Walk-Trot

(...)

~~3. Posting at the extended trot is permitted.~~

(...)

#### AR246 Ranch Riding Patterns

(...)

~~3. Posting at the extended trot is permitted.~~

#### AR250 Ranch Rail Class Specifications

(...)

~~8. Posting at the extended trot is permitted.~~

#### AR254 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot Class Specifications

(...)

2. Entries will be worked both directions of the ring at both qualifying gaits the walk and the trot. The judge may call for:

(...)

b. The extended trot (riders are permitted to ~~post~~ or hold the horn)

(...)

#### AR257 Versatility Ranch Horse Appointments and Conduct

(...)

~~10. Posting at the extended trot is permitted.~~

(...)

## SUBCHAPTER AR-28 EQUITATION SECTION

### AR294 Rider Position in Extended Gaits

1. Extended jog: The rider should stay squarely **seated** and maintain proper overall body position yet animate their seat to encourage forward motion of the horse. The lower leg, while maintaining light contact and proper position may also become moderately more active to encourage the horse to lengthen its stride while maintaining cadence. The horse's stride should lengthen or extend, not quicken. The length of the stride should not be any greater than is comfortable for the individual horse to carry and maintain.

2. Extended lope: The rider should have a square **seated**, balanced torso over a soft connected seat. The rider's seat may rhythmically drive the stride of the horse forward yet not interfere with the cadence of the gait. The horse should transition within a few strides from the lope to the extended lope, which is a lengthened stride not a quickened pace. The length of stride should not be any greater than is comfortable for the individual horse to carry and maintain.

## SUBCHAPTER AR-31 ATR/JTR/AATR WALK-TROT/WALK-JOG 11 AND OVER SECTION

### AR318 Conduct

1. All Walk/Trot or Jog 11 and Over classes are to be judged at the walk/trot or jog only.

a. No canter, lope, or hand gallop, ~~lengthening or extension of gaits~~ shall be called.

(...)

2. Tests are optional at local, regional and national shows but, if used, tests are limited to the following:

(...)

c. Walk/Jog 11 & Over Western Seat Equitation, horses to be shown at the Walk and Jog in both directions.

(...)

3. Extended jog

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This change is currently being enforced through a Presidential Modification. There were requests from licensed officials for more clarity regarding what is an acceptable procedure for performing a simple lead change. This rule change gives a proper description of the simple lead change and clarifies this addition in the scoring procedures.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Arabian

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION

### AR214 Working Western Definitions

(...)

#### 2. Gaits Definitions for Ranch classes

In all gaits, movement of the ranch horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. The following terminology shall apply:

(...)

**g. The simple lead change is performed through the walk or trot in three strides or less.**

### AR247 Ranch Horse Scoring

(...)

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

(...)

b. Three (3) point penalties

(...)

5. **Walking or Trotting** more than three strides when making a simple lead change

### AR262 VRH Ranch Riding Scoring

#### 1. Credits and Penalties.

(...)

d. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

(...)

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

(...)

b. 3 Point:

(...)

6. **Walking or Trotting** more than three strides when making a simple lead change

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

In Arabian Trail classes, more than one gait may be involved in the execution of a single obstacle. A horse could perform a significant portion of an obstacle correctly and should not receive a “0” score. Currently horses can be overly penalized for an infraction that is less or equal in magnitude to other 3 and 5 point penalties. Currently in scoring for Trail, a penalty is not identified for a horse that fails to ever demonstrate the correct gait as designated. This rule change makes this occurrence a penalty of Disqualification/Zero Score. This rule change also moves the penalty for the failure to perform every segment of an obstacle at the correct gait from a disqualification/zero score penalty to a five point penalty.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Arabian

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION

AR228 Trail Scoring

1. General

(...)

d. Penalties

(...)

ii. Disqualified 0 – Score

(...)

**~~8. Failure to perform every segment of an obstacle at the correct gait. Failure to ever demonstrate the correct gait as designated.~~**

(...)

(...)

iv. 5 Point Penalties

(...)

**11. Failure to perform every segment of an obstacle at the correct gait**

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

In order to add consistency in scoring penalties throughout the Arabian Working Western section, this rule change removes the no score/disqualification penalty of a fall of the horse or exhibitor in the Versatility Ranch Horse classes and adds the fall of the horse or exhibitor as a zero(0) score penalty.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Arabian	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION

### AR247 Ranch Horse Scoring

1. AQHA Penalties – Ranch Horse Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions:

(...)

b. Zero (0) score

(...)

#### **3. Fall of horse/exhibitor**

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

(...)

d. No Score/Disqualification (DQ):

(...)

#### **6. Fall of horse/exhibitor**

(...)

### AR258 Versatility Ranch Horse Scoring

4. No horse/exhibitor team can be disqualified except for lameness, abuse, prohibited equipment, disrespect, or misconduct, leaving working area before pattern is complete, **and** improper western attire **and or fall of horse/exhibitor**. Disqualified horses, **receiving no score**, will count as entries in the class but will not receive points.

### AR262 VRH Ranch Riding Scoring

1. Credits and Penalties.

(...)

d. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

1. VRH Ranch Riding Penalties – VRH Ranch Riding Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions –

(...)

b. Zero (0) score

(...)

#### **3. Fall of horse/exhibitor**

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

(...)

d. No Score/Disqualification (DQ):

(↔)

~~7. Fall of horse/exhibitor~~

#### 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 –

(...)

2. Zero (0) score

(...)

*c. Fall of horse/exhibitor*

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

(...)

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.~~

#### AR271 VRH Ranch Reining Scoring

(...)

#### 4. Penalties

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

(...)

2. Zero (0) score

(...)

*c. Fall of horse/exhibitor*

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

(...)

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

AR274 VRH Ranch Cow Work Scoring

(...)

7. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

a. VRH Ranch Cow Work Penalties – VRH Ranch Cow Work Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions:

(...)

2. Zero (0) score

(...)

**c. Fall of horse/exhibitor**

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

(...)

6. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): bringing the cow straight over backwards landing on its back or head with all four feet in the air, lameness, abuse, prohibited equipment, disrespect or misconduct, leaving arena before run is complete; improper western attire; ~~fall of horse/exhibitor.~~

AR277 VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work Amateur/Youth (Box-Drive-Box-Drive) Scoring

(...)

5. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

a. VRH Ranch Limited Cow Work Penalties – VRH Ranch Limited Cow Work Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions:

(...)

2. Zero (0) score

(...)

**c. Fall of horse/exhibitor**

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

(...)

5. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): lameness, abuse, prohibited equipment, disrespect, or misconduct, leaving arena before run is complete; improper western attire; ~~fall of horse/exhibitor.~~

AR280 VRH Ranch Cutting Scoring

(...)

4. Penalties should be assessed as follows:

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

(...)

2. Zero (0) score

(...)

***c. Fall of horse/exhibitor***

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

(...)

5. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): lameness; abuse; disrespect or misconduct; prohibited equipment; excessive disturbance of herd to the point that exhibitor is asked to leave the arena; leaving arena before run is complete, ~~fall of horse/exhibitor~~; improper western attire.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Currently there is no mention of exhibitors being permitted to walk the course for the VRH Ranch Trail class. This rule change will bring the VRH Ranch Trail class in line with the other Arabian Trail classes in permitting exhibitors to walk the course in advance of competing.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Arabian	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION

AR264 VRH Ranch Trail Course Information

(...)

***8. All entered exhibitors will be permitted to walk and inspect the course with the judge and course designer, if present, prior to the start of the class. In amateur and junior exhibitor classes, exhibitors may be accompanied by their trainer.***

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule change is removing an unnecessary reference from the Equitation section in the Arabian Division. This rule currently exists in the AR EQ section under "Regulations for all Seats", but the reference to conduct all classes in accordance with EQ107 does not fit, as EQ107 is specific to Hunter Seat Equitation.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Arabian	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

SUBCHAPTER AR-28 EQUITATION SECTION

AR287 Regulations for All Seats

(...)

5. Equitation classes must be ~~conducted according to E Q 107~~ and judged in accordance with E Q 102. Exception: Western Horsemanship, Reining Seat Equitation and Dressage Seat Equitation.

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/17/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

AHA hires some non-USEF judges at their National Shows and these judges may not be familiar with the quality of our exhibitors and therefore do not know which patterns are best for said exhibitors. The judges and the exhibitors want patterns that best fit the exhibitors skill levels. All the classes are judged by panels of up to five judges and since the call judge for a particular class may not be aware of the exhibitors' skill level, said judge may not choose the most appropriate pattern for that class. The Judges and Stewards Commissioner is familiar with the needs of the judges and exhibitors and knows the strengths of the individual judges. The National shows have a steward check the patterns for any errors before the patterns are released to the exhibitors and judges. The Nationals shows release their patterns in advance of the show so the patterns must be vetted way in advance of the shows.

(AHA Resolution 10-25)

Proponent Details Contact Information

AHA

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

SUBCHAPTER AR-28 EQUITATION SECTION

AR287 Regulations for All Seats

(...)

9. At all AHA Regional and AHA National Competitions *and Canada's National Arabian Championship* the Call Judge shall prepare in writing and have a pattern posted at least 24 hours prior to the first section of the Eliminations. ***At all National Competitions, the Judges and Stewards Commissioner's office will assign which judge or group is responsible for the pattern choices. The patterns must be posted at least 24 hours prior to the first section of the Eliminations.*** Subsequent patterns are to be available immediately following the last working section of each phase. (Exception: Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences, testing of top four. In determining the Champion and Reserve Champion in the AHA Hunter Seat Equitation Medal Final, the test will not be posted in advance and will be determined by the Call Judge).

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The current Hunter Seat Equitation Over Obstacles rules under AR288.2 outline course requirements, but do not define a standardized procedure for conducting a work-off at National Championship competitions. The absence of a clearly defined work-off protocol can lead to inconsistency in judging and confusion among exhibitors, particularly at the national level where placings carry significant weight. A structured and transparent work-off procedure enhances fairness, promotes exhibitor understanding, and strengthens the integrity of the equitation division. Protocol for other National Championship equitation classes differ considerably from Hunter Seat Equitation Over Obstacles. The purpose of Equitation Over Obstacles classes is to evaluate the rider's ability to interpret and respond to instruction under pressure in addition to demonstrating technical riding ability.

AHA Resolution 17-25

Proponent Details      Contact Information

AHA

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules      Comments

SUBCHAPTER AR-28 EQUITATION SECTION

AR288 Hunter Seat Equitation

(...)

2. Hunter Seat Equitation Over Obstacles:

(...)

b. Course Requirements:

(...)

6. In Junior/Adult Equitation Over Obstacles - 2'9" and AHA Junior Equitation Over Obstacles Medal - 2'9" classes, the course must include at least two changes of direction and 1/3 of the fences should be oxers. In addition, all courses must include at least three of the following:

(...)

*j. In National Championship Equitation Over Obstacles classes, the top four placed exhibitors will be brought back into the ring for a work-off at the judges' direction. Once the instructions are read aloud, exhibitors must remain in the ring and will complete the work-off individually in the reverse order of the judges' placings, i.e., fourth, third, second, first. Interpretation of the work-off instructions is considered part of the judging criteria. Questions may be asked prior to the start of the work-off. Obstacles included in the work-off must have been part of the original course and must be jumped in the original direction unless otherwise specified.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Currently the AHA Reining Seat Medal class requires bits to be dropped and inspected, but the Reining Seat Equitation class does not address the dropping of bits. This rule change will align the AHA Medal Reining Seat Medal and the Arabian Reining Seat Equitation classes in regard to the inspection of bits.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Arabian	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

SUBCHAPTER AR-28 EQUITATION SECTION

AR297 Reining Seat Equitation

(...)

5. For appointments, see EQ125.

***a. Bits must be dropped and inspected by the Judge or designated official, and all riders must dismount for this inspection. If called for in the ring, assistance, if necessary, may be provided by one of the licensed officials.***

***1. Rein(s) must not be removed from the horse's neck while inspecting bits.***

AR299 AHA Medal Class Requirements

(...)

20. Class specification for AHA Medal classes are as follows:

c. AHA Reining Seat Medal class

(...)

***3. Bits must be dropped and inspected by the Judge or designated official, and all riders must dismount for this inspection. If called for in the ring, assistance, if necessary, may be ~~had from~~ provided by one of the ~~ring~~ licensed officials.***

***4.i. Rein(s) shall ~~must~~ not be removed from the horse's neck while inspecting bits.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The USEF Dressage Committee had previously removed the Dressage test, riding without stirrups, from the rulebook due to safety precautions, but the Arabian Dressage Seat Equitation section still retains this test. This rule change simply aligns the Arabian Dressage Seat Equitation to Dressage by removing the option of calling for riding without stirrups as a test.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Arabian	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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SUBCHAPTER AR-28 EQUITATION SECTION

AR298 Dressage Seat Equitation

(...)

10. Additional tests from which judges may choose movements and exercises, as required at Training and First Level, to be ridden in small groups or independently:

(...)

~~g. Riding without stirrups~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The requirements for the Dressage Seat Equitation Medal individual work are three tests (AR299.20[g]), but the Dressage Seat Equitation rule AR298.11 does not indicate this requirement of at least three tests. This rule change will add consistency to the equitation and equitation medal sections.

(AHA Resolution 11-25)

Proponent Details	Contact Information
AHA	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

SUBCHAPTER AR-28 EQUITATION SECTION

AR298 Dressage Seat Equitation

(...)

11. In Regional and National Championship shows, all riders in a class must perform **at least three** independent tests. The judges may, at their discretion, choose to require independent tests in Recognized shows, and they may select any number of riders in the class to perform one or more independent tests.

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Currently the rule gives the exhibitor the choice of entering the ring at the walk or the trot, but this can cause a safety issue for these less experienced Walk-Trot/Jog riders when trying to get through the in-gate and begin the class. This rule change will align the rule with the current Presidential Modification in place and will give the judge the discretion to call for their preferred gait for the class to enter the ring which will provide a safer environment for these exhibitors entering the ring.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

Arabian

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules      Comments

SUBCHAPTER AR-30 WALK-TROT/WALK -JOG AND 10 & UNDER SECTION

AR306 Conduct

1. Competitors ~~to enter the ring in a counter-clockwise direction~~ at a walk or trot/jog, ***at the judge's discretion***.

(...)

SUBCHAPTER AR-31 ATR/JTR/AATR WALK-TROT/WALK-JOG 11 AND OVER SECTION

AR318 Conduct

1. All Walk/Trot or Jog 11 and Over classes are to be judged at the walk/trot or jog only.

(...)

- b. Competitors ~~may~~ enter the ring at either a walk or trot/jog, ***at the judge's discretion***.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The Walk-Trot 11 and over section continues to develop and should match the Walk-Trot 10 and Under section. It is important that the rules reflect the same requirements and guidelines. This rule change updates the 11 and over section to match the 10 and under section for Dressage Seat Equitation, Dressage Introductory Walk-Trot tests, and Western Dressage Introductory Walk-Jog tests.

(Resolution 12-25)

Proponent Details Contact Information

AHA

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

SUBCHAPTER AR-31 ATR/JTR/AATR WALK-TROT/WALK-JOG 11 AND OVER SECTION

AR317 Class Requirements

1. Division of Classes

- a. Classes may be divided by age of exhibitor.
- b. Separate classes for Arabians and Half/Anglo Arabians may be offered OR classes may be combined.
- c. Pleasure or Sport Horse under Saddle classes must not be combined with Equitation classes.
- d. Pleasure classes may be combined into a single class.
- e. Equitation classes may be combined into a single class (Exception: Dressage Seat Equitation and Western Dressage Seat Equitation must not be combined with any other equitation class).
- f. Dressage Introductory Walk-Trot Tests must not be combined with any other class.
- g. Dressage Seat Equitation and Introductory Walk-Trot tests must be judged by a Dressage judge.**
- g.h. Western Dressage Introductory Walk-Jog Tests must not be combined with any other class (requires a Western Dressage judge).**

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The committee wishes to make an additional Junior division to help encourage more young people entering the sport within the various breeds that hold Carriage Pleasure Driving classes. This will allow a longer participation in Junior classes, and will make it easier for established adult drivers to lend their team & vehicle to another, younger adult, allowing them to try the sport.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Carriage Pleasure Driving

Lexie Stovel

lstovel@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

SUBCHAPTER CP-1 INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS

CP 102 Definitions of Term

(...)

6. Junior and adult drivers are defined as follows: The age of an individual on December 1st shall be maintained until November 30th of the following year. Persons born on December 1st shall assume the greater age on that date.

COMPETITION AGE *		MUST HAVE KNOWLEDGEABLE ADULT HORSEMAN ON VEHICLE
Junior A	10 and under	Yes
Junior B	11 - 13	Yes Exception: for single use in a securely enclosed arena, adult horseman required at organizer discretion
Junior C	14 - 18	Organizer discretion unless otherwise required by the rules.
<i>Junior D</i>	<b>19 - 21</b>	<b><i>Organizer discretion unless otherwise required by the rules.</i></b>
Adult	19 and over	No
*age reached during the current calendar year		

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/6/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Remove all Small Pony classes and remove VSE classes and Novice Advanced and Open Advanced levels. The Small Pony division dilutes the population of pony drivers when they could be combined with the regular ponies. It is not in the interest of safety and horse welfare to have VSE's competing at the Novice Advanced and Open Advanced level due to the length and speeds of the marathon with the requirements of grooms being on the carriage at that level.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Driving Sport Committee	Steven Morrissey smorrissey@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## DC901 Categories and Levels

### 1. Classes:

1.1. All, or any, of the following classes may be held at the same Event, but each must be classified separately:

Horse: Single (H1), Pair (H2), and Four-in-Hand (H4)

Pony: Single (P1), Pair (P2), and Four-in-Hand (P4)

1.2. In Beginner, Training, Preliminary, and Intermediate only:

**~~Small Pony: Single (SP1), Pair (SP2), and Four-in-Hand (SP4)~~**

Very Small Equine: Single (VSE1), Pair (VSE2), and Four-in-Hand (VSE4) **at Intermediate and below levels.**

## DC915 Height

See Appendix DC-A for measurement of combined driving ponies.

1. Driving ponies must not exceed 148cm without shoes, or 149cm with shoes. Above these heights, they are classified as horses. **Very Small Equines must be under 99cm.**

2. A mixed height turnout is not allowed.

**~~Large pony 120cm - 148cm without shoes or 149cm with shoes~~**

**~~Small pony 99cm - under 120cm with or without shoes~~**

**~~Very Small Equine - under 99cm~~**

## DC922 Weights and Dimensions

3. Carriages used in Dressage and Cones must comply with the following: 3.1 For Intermediate, Preliminary, Training, and Beginner levels, the requirement for a groom with a single turnout is at the discretion of the Organizer. Exception: All Para-Driving turnouts must always have a groom while on the carriage.

Class	Wheels	Grooms	Minimum Width for Advanced
Horse Four-in-Hand	4	2 behind	158cm
Pony Four-in-Hand	4	2 behind	138cm
<b><del>Small Pony or</del></b> VSE Four-in-Hand	4	1 behind	n/a
Horse Pair	4	1 behind	148cm
Pony Pair	4	1 behind	138cm
Horse Single	2 or 4	1 behind or beside	138cm

Pony Single	2 or 4	1 behind or beside	138cm
<b>Small Pony or VSE</b> Single	2 or 4	1 behind or beside, if used (ref. DC 922.3)	n/a

4. Carriages used in Marathon must comply with the following:

Class	Wheels	Minimum Weight for Advanced	Grooms	Minimum Width for Advanced
Horse Four-in-Hand	4	600kg	2 behind	125cm
Pony Four-in-Hand	4	300kg	2 behind	125cm
<b>Small Pony or VSE</b> Four-in-Hand	4	n/a	1 behind	n/a
Horse Pair	4	350kg	1 behind	125cm
Pony Pair	4	225kg	1 behind	125cm
Horse Single	4	150kg	1 behind	125cm
Pony Single	2 or 4	90kg	1 behind or beside	138cm
<b>Small Pony or VSE</b> Single	2 or 4	n/a	1 behind or beside	n/a

DC944 The Course

2. Marathon: Combined Driving Event sections

DIVISION	Section A						Controlled Warm-up	Section B						
	Distance km	Horse Speeds	Pony Speeds	<b>Sm. Pony</b>	VSE	Time		Distance km	Horse Speeds	Pony Speeds	<b>Sm. Pony</b>	VSE	# Obstacles	# of Gates in an Obstacle
Open Advanced	5-9	12-14	11-13	<del>11-13</del>	<del>8-10</del>	Up to 30 minutes	5-9	14	13	<del>13</del>	<del>8-10</del>	7	6	Blue Triangle
Novice Advanced	5-9	11-13	10-12	<del>10-12</del>	<del>8-10</del>	Up to 30 minutes	5-9	12-14	11-13	<del>11-13</del>	<del>8-10</del>	6	6	Orange Keystone
Intermediate	5-8	10-12	9-11	<del>8-10</del>	6-8	Up to 30 minutes	5-9	12-14	11-13	<del>10-12</del>	8-10	6	5	Red Circle

e														
Preliminary	4 – 6	10-12	9-11	<del>8-10</del>	6-8	Up to 30 minutes	5-7	12-14	11-13	<del>10-12</del>	8-10	6	4	Green Square
Training	3 – 5	9-11	8-10	<del>7-9</del>	5-7	Up to 30 minutes	5-7	11-13	10-12	<del>9-11</del>	7-9	5	3	Black Diamond
Beginner						Up to 30 minutes	4-6	11-13	10-12	<del>9-11</del>	7-9	5	3	White Square
Para	5 – 8	10-12	9 – 11			Up to 30 minutes	5-9	12-14	11-13			6	5	Red Circle

### 3. Short Format Driving Events – Modified Marathon Section(s)

Division	Controlled Warm-up (optional)	Distance km	Horse speeds	Pony speeds	<b>Sm. Pony speeds</b>	VSE speeds	# of Obstacles	# of Gates in an Obstacle	Course Marker
Open Advanced	Up to 30 minutes	3.5 – 7	13-14	12-13	<del>12-13</del>	<b>8-10</b>	5	6	Blue Triangle
Novice Advanced	Up to 30 minutes	3.5 – 7	12-14	11-13	<del>11-13</del>	<b>8-10</b>	5	6	Orange Keystone
Intermediate	Up to 30 minutes	3.5 – 7	12-14	11-13	<del>10-12</del>	8-10	5	5	Red Circle
Preliminary	Up to 30 minutes	3 – 6	12-14	11-13	<del>10-12</del>	8-10	4	4	Green Square
Training	Up to 30 minutes	3 – 6	11-13	10-12	<del>9-11</del>	7-9	4	3	Black Diamond
Beginner	Up to 30 minutes	3 – 6	11-13	10-12	<del>9-11</del>	7-9	3	3	White Square
Para	Up to 30 minutes	3.5-7	12-14	11-13			3-5	5	Red Circle

### DC958 Cones Competition

#### 1. Single Obstacles and Open Multiple obstacles settings.

	Division Class	Advanced Speed M/min	Advanced Cones Width (cm)	Serpentine	Zig-Zag (m)	Wave	Distance between obstacles (m)
Horse	Four-in-hand	240	185	10-12	11-13	10/12	15
	Pair	250	170	6-8	10-12	8/10	12

	Single	250	160	6-8	10-12	8/10	12
	Para-Driving	230	160	6-8	10-12	8/10	12
Pony	Four-in-hand	240	160	8-10	9-11	8/10	12
	Pair	250	160	6-8	9-11	8/10	12
	Single	260	160	6-8	9-11	8/10	12
	Para-Driving	230	160	6-8	9-11	8/10	12
VSE	Pair/Multiple	<b>200</b>	<b>+15cm</b>	9	9	8/10	12
	Single	<b>210</b>	<b>+15cm</b>	6	8	8/10	9

### 1.1.2 Paces

DIVISION		Single or Pair		Four-in-hand
Beginner/Training	VSE	150mpm		170mpm
	Horse/Pony	180mpm		190mpm
Preliminary	VSE	180mpm		170mpm
	Horse/Pony	200mpm		190mpm
Intermediate	VSE	190mpm		180mpm
	Horse/Pony	220mpm		210mpm
Advanced		Single	Pair	Four-in-Hand
	<b>VSE</b>	<b>170mpm</b>	<b>170mpm</b>	<b>160mpm</b>
	Pony	260mpm	250mpm	240mpm
	Horse	250mpm	250mpm	240mpm
Para Driving	Horse/Pony	230mpm		

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	3/4/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Allow the use of video evidence by officials.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

Driving

Steven Morrissey

smorrissey@usef.org

Linked Rules      Comments

**3. Use of Video Evidence**

***The use of all technical assistance available is permitted to assist Officials in carrying out their responsibilities. For an unaltered video recording to be accepted under these Rules for purposes of a Protest, it must be presented within the required time period as set out in DC905.***

***If Officials rely on unaltered video evidence to alter the outcome of any Competition after the results have been communicated, such unaltered video recording must contain irrefutable evidence that the original ruling or Decision was incorrect. The use of video shall always be within the confines of the applicable rules and must never by its usage alter the Rules currently in effect.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/15/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

### Rule Change Intent

#### USEF Proposed Rule Change Language in BOLD and CAPITALIZED

DC 908 Minimum Eligibility Requirements.

1. Open & Novice Advanced division: Open to any athlete who has completed at least two Intermediate division CDEs , **TWO CAI2\* FEI CDEs OR 1 INTERMEDIATE DIVISION CDE AND ONE CAI2\* FEI CDE** with Dressage penalty points of 70 or less

1.1 1.1 Short Format Advanced divisions: Open to any athlete who has completed at least two Intermediate Events, **TWO CAI2\* FEI CDEs OR 1 INTERMEDIATE DIVISION CDE AND ONE CAI2\* FEI CDE**

The revision of Combined Driving DC908 Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) 1. and 1.1 to include CAI2\* FEI results would allow advancement at the National level along a similar pathway to the FEI levels. Applying the USEF imposed dressage score requirement to the CAI2\* FEI completions would help maintain USEF's standard of preparation within the training scale prior to advancement. Currently athletes must choose between advancing within the USEF framework or the FEI framework and have a limited number of CDEs at which to attain MERs.

As of the date of this proposal, there are 13 USEF-sanctioned Combined Driving competitions scheduled for the 2026 season. More than half of those (7) are hosted from January through March in the state of Florida. There are 5 FEI Combined Driving Competitions listed for the 2026 season in the United States. Three of those are hosted in Florida from January through March. The other two are held in Tryon, North Carolina; 1 in April, the other in September. To advance to the Novice Advanced or Advanced Level within USEF, the athlete with High Performance aspirations may miss the limited FEI opportunities in an effort to gain USEF qualifications at the Intermediate level. These numbers do not even address the issue of Short Format events that account for several of the listed USEF-sanctioned Combined Driving competitions, but are not considered qualifiers for MER for Noviced Advanced and Open Advanced CDEs.

The USEF Intermediate Combined Driving Events are permitted to use either USEF Intermediate Dressage test or the CAI1\* FEI Dressage Test. USEF Intermediate Level marathon consists of obstacles requiring gates A-E over a course 5-9 km long at 12-14 kph for horses or 11-13kph for ponies. USEF Intermediate Level cones are run at 220 mpm for Single and Pair Horses and Ponies or at 210 mpm for Four-In Hand Horses and Ponies.

The USEF Novice Advanced Combined Driving Events use the CAI2\* FEI Dressage Test. THE USEF Open Advanced Combined Driving Events use the CAI 3\* Dressage Test. USEF Novice Advanced and Open Advanced level marathon consists of obstacles requiring gates A-F. Both are run over a course 5-9km long at 12-14 kph for horses or 11-13 kph for ponies. Both USEF Novice Advanced and Open Advanced division cones are run at 260mpm for Single Ponies, 250 mpm for Pair Ponies, 240 mpm for Four-In Hand Ponies. Horse speeds are 250 mpm for singles and pairs and 240 mpm for Four-in Hand.

In comparison, the CAI2\* FEI Combined Driving Event utilizes FEI CAI2\* dressage. The CAI2\* marathon and CAI3\* consist of obstacles requiring gates A-F run over a course 5-9 km long at the same speeds as Intermediate, Novice Advanced and Open Advanced. The CAI2\* and CAI3\* cones phase requires the same speeds as the Novice Advanced and Open Advanced levels.

The CAI2\* FEI Combined Driving Level is directly comparable to the USEF Novice Advanced Level, which is considered more difficult than the USEF Intermediate Level. Therefore, if a competitor has already completed CAI2\* competitions including a dressage score that meets the USEF dictated minimum dressage score of 70, the athlete should be considered to be qualified to compete at Novice Advanced or Open Advanced.

#### REFERENCES:

##### 1. MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

##### USEF DC-4 Eligibility. DC 908 Minimum Eligibility Requirements.

1. Open & Novice Advanced division: Open to any athlete who has completed at least two Intermediate division CDEs with Dressage penalty points of 70 or less

1.1 Short Format Advanced divisions: Open to any athlete who has completed at least two Intermediate Events.

## FEI Driving Rules: Chapter IV Eligibility: Article 913 Minimum Eligibility Requirements

Article 913 Minimum Eligibility Requirements/Qualification Criteria:

2\* Athletes: Athletes who have successfully completed two CAI1\* at different shows- Format 1, 2 (with Dressage) or 3 only - without Elimination, Retirement or Disqualification or alternatively, have successfully completed one CAI-B (under the previous Rules) or three CANs with Dressage, Marathon and Cones

3\* Athletes: Athletes who have successfully completed two CAI2\*, and/or CAI U25/J at different shows and/or CH EU J/CH EU U25 3 (Format 1, 2 or 3 only) and/or top 3 of a CH-M-PEA without Elimination, Retirement or Disqualification or alternatively, have successfully completed one CAI-A or three CAI-Bs under the previous FEI Driving Rules

### 2. DRESSAGE PHASE

USEF DC935 Driven Dressage Tests: Approved Tests

FEI Driving Rules: Chapter XI Driven Dressage. Article 951. Driven Dressage Tests  
<https://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/organisers/driving/dressage-tests>

### 3. MARATHON PHASE

USEF DC944 The Course: 2. Marathon: Combined Driving Event Sections

FEI Driving Rules: Chapter XII Marathon. Article 960 The Course. 1. The Marathon Course

### 4. CONES PHASE

USEF DC 958 Cones Phase: 1. Single Obstacles and Open Multiple obstacle settings. 1.1.2 Paces

FEI Driving Rules: Chapter XIII Cones: Article 974 Cones Phase Summary 1. Single Obstacles and Open Multiple Obstacles

## USEF Proposed Rule Change Language in BOLD and CAPITALIZED

DC 908 Minimum Eligibility Requirements.

1. Open & Novice Advanced division: Open to any athlete who has completed at least two Intermediate division CDEs , **TWO CAI2\* FEI CDEs OR 1 INTERMEDIATE DIVISION CDE AND ONE CAI2\* FEI CDE** with Dressage penalty points of 70 or less

1.1 1.1 Short Format Advanced divisions: Open to any athlete who has completed at least two Intermediate Events, **TWO CAI2\* FEI CDEs OR 1 INTERMEDIATE DIVISION CDE AND ONE CAI2\* FEI CDE**

## IN CONCLUSION

When doing a direct comparison between USEF Intermediate, USEF Novice Advanced and USEF Advanced with CAI2\* FEI and CAI3\* FEI, the USEF Novice Advanced level is directly comparable with the CAI2\* FEI Level. The USEF Open Advanced level is directly comparable with the CAI3\* FEI Level. Therefore, if a competitor is eligible to compete at the CAI3\* FEI Level through the successful completion of TWO CAI2\* FEI, that same athlete should be considered capable of competing at the USEF Novice Advanced Level AND USEF Open Advanced Level. Although FEI does NOT list minimum dressage score requirements, USEF can uphold the minimum dressage score requirements by retaining the language "with Dressage penalty points of 70 or less".

This benefits the individual athlete as well as the USEF organization by permitting advancement within the sport of Combined Driving and appropriate preparation and qualification for the World Championships.

Proponent Details

Cynthia Wiseman

Contact Information

Cynthia Wiseman

[cynthdvm@yahoo.com](mailto:cynthdvm@yahoo.com)



DC908 Minimum Eligibility Requirements

1. Open & Novice Advanced division: Open to any athlete who has completed at least two **of the following ~~Intermediate division CDEs~~** with Dressage penalty points of 70 or less: **Intermediate CDE or FEI CAI2\***.

1.1 Short Format Advanced divisions: Open to any athlete who has completed at least two **~~Intermediate events~~, of the following: Intermediate CDE or FEI CAI2\***.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	9/1/2026	1/20/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Extraordinary Change Reason

Whips must be longer for Driving than what is permitted in the General Rules.

Rule Change Intent

The General Rules restrict the length of whips to a length that is not suitable for driving. This rule change will permit the necessary length of the whips for Combined Driving.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Driving Sport Committee	Steven Morrissey smorrissey@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
	<b>Legal:</b> Legislative Committee voted to approve as EO on 4/7/2026

## DC913 Dress, Safety, and Whips

### 4. Whip for Dressage and Cones

4.1 The athlete must carry a driving whip. ***There is no restriction on the length of whips provided it does not interfere with safety.***

4.2 An athlete must enter the arena with a whip in hand or incur 5 penalty points.

4.3 If an athlete drops or puts down their whip, when in the arena, or if it is not held in the hand, they will incur 5 penalty points.

4.4 The whip, if dropped, need not be replaced and the athlete may finish without a whip. However, the groom may hand the athlete a spare whip and without any further penalty.

4.5 Para Driving athletes from nominated profiles may compete with the whip held or used by a groom, but must have this noted on the FEI Masterlist or their Federation dispensation following classification evaluation.

### 5. Whip for Marathon, Modified Marathon and Combined Marathon

The whip can only be used by the athlete. Failure to comply will incur 20 penalties.  
***There is no restriction on the length of whips provided it does not interfere with safety.***

5.1 Para Driving athlete from nominated profiles may compete with the whip held or used by groom but must have this noted on the FEI Masterlist or their Federation dispensation following classification evaluation.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/15/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Change the wording for the mandatory horse inspection, required at Advanced Level, to mandatory only at events offering a National Championship (DC 920 2.2.1-14).

Currently, all horses and ponies must be inspected at a jog if they are competing at the Advanced level. This places a financial strain on the organizer in a sport that already requires a large number of officials per competitor. No other national level equestrian sport (eventing, dressage, show jumping) requires a veterinarian inspection prior to competition. The ground jury and two veterinarians (one for the jog, one for the hold) must be present for this inspection. At competitions where 30-50 total entries are common and often Advanced level entries number less than five, this places an unnecessary financial burden on the organizer.

The ground jury can eliminate horses and ponies from the dressage test due to unsoundness, and all competitors must pass an in-harness inspection prior to the start of the marathon and cones. At a recent competition, the two veterinarians and the entire ground jury had to be present a day early for the jog, held for only 2 advanced competitors. I envision driving shows will discontinue offering the advanced level, due to the excessive costs associated with the division. It would be much less expensive to simply offer Beginner to Intermediate, as the entry fees for minimal advanced turnouts does not cover the additional expenses for the required advanced jog. National Championship competitions could still require the first inspection, but it should be removed for CDE's and bring it in line with the short format CDE.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

Beth Davidson

Beth Davidson

bethdavidsonBDF@gmail.com

Linked Rules      Comments

## DC920 Examinations and Inspections of Horses

### 2. First Horse Inspection

2.1 This must take place at all Combined Driving events **offering National Championships for at least the Open Advanced Level horses** before the start of the first Phase. **An organizer may require a first horse inspection for any level at their discretion.**

2.2 **CDEs not offering National Championships and** Short Format Driving Events do not require a first-horse inspection. A Judge and/or the Technical Delegate can determine if a horse/pony is unfit to compete and whether it must be examined by a veterinarian before continuing in any phase.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/20/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Reduce the financial burden on the organizer by removing the need to have a Farrier on-site.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

Driving

Steven Morrissey

smorrissey@usef.org

Linked Rules      Comments

DC944 The Course

4.4 A farrier must be ***on call during available at the start of*** the Marathon. ***At Short Format Driving Events, a farrier can be on-call rather than on-site for a Modified Marathon.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/20/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule has caused confusion for competitors and volunteers while not serving a purpose to have a separate rule for short format events.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Driving Sport Committee	Steven Morrissey smorrissey@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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DC947 Times

4. Start and finish for Section A, Controlled Warm-up, B, and Cool Down

~~**4.2.1 At Short Format Driving Events, DC 947.4.1 & 4.2 do not apply. Timekeepers can start an athlete out of order with no penalty, but should notify an Official of the change so the timecards can be confirmed. Athlete must start each section from the halt with the leading horse behind the line. The Timekeepers will count down to the start time. If an athlete starts before the Timekeeper gives them the authorization, the athlete will be recalled, a new start will be given and the Marathon Time Card will be amended. If the athlete fails to stop they may be eliminated. A member of the Ground Jury must be made aware of the circumstances as soon as possible**~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	3/4/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Require a trained licensed official for cones judging for Short Format events.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Driving

Steven Morrissey

smorrissey@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

## DC959 Judging Cones Competition

### 1. Starting the Competition

1.1 The Technical Delegate will report to the President of the Ground Jury as soon as the course is ready. The President of the Ground Jury will then authorize and announce the start of the competition.

#### Starting the Cones course

After the bell run, the Athlete has 45 seconds to cross the start line.

1.2 At Short Format Driving Events **with less than 45 entries**, the POJ can appoint **the Technical delegate as a** Cones judge to oversee the course and document any penalties or errors. Any eliminations or disqualifications must be confirmed by an appropriate Licensed Official.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/24/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

- Reduce the required number of judges from three to two for the Advanced Level, except at events offering a National Championship ((DC 970 1).

Requiring three judges at the advanced level is excessive at a regular national level competition, where only a handful of drivers may compete. There are not many driving judges and availability has become a significant issue. For a national competition to fly a judge from Europe greatly increases the costs for the organizer. Most driving shows are drawing 30-50 competitors for both the short format CDE and a traditional CDE, where often only 2-5 drivers enter at the Advanced Level. Removing the expense of one judge saves on travel, housing, per diem and judges fees. Most driving shows do not have a large number of advanced level drivers, so the additional expense for a handful of drivers could lead to organizers offering only Beginner to Intermediate levels to minimize expenses.

Driving shows are not breaking even, including when you factor in the driving grants from USEF. At the current time, only venues that can raise significant sponsorship money or are willing to lose money at driving shows, will continue to host driving shows. Finding ways to reduce the financial burden on organizers is paramount to keeping this sport healthy.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Beth Davidson	Beth Davidson bethdavidsonBDF@gmail.com

Linked Rules	Comments
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DC970 Composition of the Ground Jury

1 Ground Jury - Minimum requirements

Category	Judges
National Championships (All Divisions)	3 min
Advanced, Intermediate, Preliminary	2 min
Beginner and Training	1 min
Short Format driving events or Combined Tests (All Divisions)	1 min

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	3/4/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Add the requirement that a Veterinarian be present for the in harness examination at the end of the Marathon for Short Format competitions to ensure horse welfare.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Driving

Steven Morrissey

smorrissey@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

DC974 Veterinary Delegate

The Organizer must appoint a Veterinarian(s) for the Event and publish a list in the Prize List.

At Short Format Driving Events, the Veterinarian ***must be is required to be on-site for the In Harness Examination following Marathon and on-call at all other times during the competition, but is not required to be on-site.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/29/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Add statement to the Dressage rules on the principles of dressage that support the ethical treatment of horses.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

**DR101 Object and General Principles of Dressage. Add new:**

1. The object of dressage is the development of the horse into a happy athlete through harmonious education. As a result, it makes the horse calm, supple, loose and flexible, but also confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with the rider.

***2. Upholding a high standard of welfare, care and ethical treatment of all horses, ensuring their physical and mental well-being.***

3. These qualities are demonstrated by:

- a. The freedom and regularity of the gaits;
- b. The harmony, lightness, and ease of the movements;
- c. The lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hindquarters, originating from a lively impulsion;
- d. The acceptance of the bit, with submissiveness/throughness (Durchlässigkeit) without any tension or resistance.

4. The horse thus gives the impression of doing, of its own accord, what is required. Confident and attentive, submitting generously to the control of the rider, remaining absolutely straight in any movement on a straight line and bending accordingly when moving on curved lines.

5. The walk is regular, free, and unconstrained. The trot is free, supple, regular, and active. The canter is united, light, and balanced. The hindquarters are never inactive or sluggish. The horse responds to the slightest indication of the rider and thereby gives life and spirit to all the rest of its body.

6. By virtue of a lively impulsion and the suppleness of the joints, free from the paralyzing effects of resistance, the horse obeys willingly and without hesitation and responds to the various aids calmly and with precision, displaying a natural and harmonious balance both physically and mentally.

7. In all the work, even at the halt, the horse must be "on the bit." A horse is said to be "on the bit" when the neck is more or less raised and arched according to the stage of training and the extension or collection of the gait, accepting the bridle with a light and consistent soft submissive contact. The head should remain in a steady position, as a rule slightly in front of the vertical, with a supple poll as the highest point of the neck, and no resistance should be offered to the rider.

8. Cadence is shown in trot and canter and is the result of the proper harmony that a horse shows when it moves with well-marked regularity, impulsion, and balance. Cadence must be maintained in all the different trot or canter exercises and in all the variations of these gaits.

9. The regularity of the gaits is fundamental to dressage.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	9/3/2025	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

To expand the Purpose of the Levels to address the welfare of the horse and emphasize harmony and ease of performance. The goal is to emphasize what is required at each level, so riders fully understand what is expected of them. In prioritizing the welfare of the horse, it is the rider's responsibility to choose an appropriate level of competition where the horse and rider are both competent.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USDF	Katherine Robertson krobertson@usdf.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## DR 118.2 Objectives, purpose, and standards of Federation levels of competition

**Introductory Level.** To introduce the rider and/or horse to the sport of dressage, confirming that they are beginning to develop an understanding of correct dressage basics *understand the correct basics and concepts*. The horse should be ridden freely forward in a steady tempo and clear correct *rhythm and tempo*, accepting contact with the bit. ~~An understanding of test accuracy and geometry should be demonstrated.~~ *Movements should be accurate with correct geometry and show balance, bend, ease, and harmony.*

**Training Level.** To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics by showing suppleness both laterally and longitudinally, moving freely forward in a clear rhythm with a steady tempo, and readily accepting contact with the bit. ~~Correct geometry and lines of travel should be shown.~~

*The horse should be ridden freely forward in a correct rhythm and a steady tempo. There should be confident acceptance of the bit, and the horse should show correct suppleness, both laterally and longitudinally with bend on circles and in corners. Accuracy and correct geometry are required. The exercises should be performed with ease and harmony.*

**First Level.** To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics, and in addition to the requirements of Training Level, has developed improved balance, lateral suppleness and throughness, as well as the thrust to perform lengthenings of stride. The horse should be on the bit. All trot work may be ridden sitting or rising, unless otherwise stated.

*In addition to the Training Level requirements the horse should now be willingly on the bit with improved balance, bend and throughness. The horse is developing the ability to move sideways and with sufficient thrust to perform lengthenings at trot and canter. Accuracy and correct geometry are required. The exercises should be performed with ease and harmony.*

**Second Level.** To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics and now begins to accept more weight on the hindquarters as the collected and medium gaits develop. A greater degree of straightness, suppleness, throughness, and balance are required to perform the movements with ease and self-carriage. The horse is reliably on the bit and show an uphill tendency.

*In addition to the First Level requirements the horse should be more reliably and confidently on the bit. With improved balance and throughness, the horse begins to take weight on the hindquarters developing uphill balance for collected and medium gaits, and transitions. Equal lateral suppleness (bend) should be demonstrated in all lateral movements. The improved balance allows the horse to perform the required movements with elasticity, ease, harmony and self-carriage.*

**Third Level.** To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics, while maintaining consistent uphill balance and self-carriage. Increased engagement facilitates clear differences in collected, medium, and extended gaits with well-defined, balanced transitions. Movements should be accomplished with harmony and ease due to the increased balance and collection. The horse must demonstrate a greater degree of throughness, suppleness, straightness and bending.

*In addition to the Second Level requirements, the horse should be more consistently engaged and collected, with equal lateral suppleness (bend) and cadence in all lateral work. The medium gaits should be fully developed, and the extended gaits should show balance and ground cover without rushing. Well defined transitions between and within gaits should be balanced and harmonious. There should be confident acceptance of the flying change aids. Consistent uphill balance and self-carriage should be demonstrated while performing movements with ease and harmony.*

**Fourth Level.** To confirm that the horse demonstrates correct basics, and has developed sufficient throughness, suppleness, balance, and impulsion to perform with ease the exercises at this medium level of difficulty. The horse has established consistent self-carriage and lightness through improved

connection, engagement, and collection. The movements and transitions are performed with greater straightness, impulsion, and cadence.

*In addition to the Third Level requirements, the horse now has improved balance, equal lateral suppleness (bend), throughness and elasticity. The horse should maintain a consistent uphill balance and self-carriage with ease. Increased engagement facilitates clear differences between the collected, medium and extended gaits. Cadence is clearly shown in all trot and canter work. Transitions should be well defined, balanced and harmonious. The horse demonstrates confidence, throughness, and engagement so that all movements are performed with straightness, impulsion, harmony, and ease.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/12/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Reorganize, clarify and add important content to DR119. Also, correct conflict between wording of DR119.2 and DR129. DR129 requires qualification to ride a freestyle to have occurred at a previous competition.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

**DR119 Participation in Dressage Competitions. Change to read:**

**1. Eligibility:**

- a. Dressage classes are open to riders on horses, mules and/or ponies of any *breed or* origin. *However*, Dressage Competitions and classes may be limited to ponies of any breed or origin. ~~However~~, Dressage Competitions and open dressage divisions of other Federation licensed competitions may not offer breed-restricted tests or classes. *See DR Subchapter 2 (DR204.2e) for information on breed-restricted DSHB classes.*
- b. *Participation of mules and ponies may be limited in the q*~~Qualifying criteria for the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, NAYC or selection trials and classes designated as qualifying classes for international competition, may limit participation of mules and ponies (except championships for FEI Pony Riders).~~
- c. In the Dressage Division, a horse is an animal over 148 cm without shoes, and 149 cm with shoes. A pony is an animal that does not exceed 148 cm without shoes, and 149 cm with shoes. Unless otherwise noted, the term “horse” in these rules denotes either a horse or pony (see DR13.5).
- d. Stallions are permitted in all classes, *with the exception of* Dressage Seat Equitation classes *limited to riders ages 18 and under.* (see DR133.1.f). Mares may not compete after their eighth month of pregnancy or within three months after foaling.
- e. No horse may be ridden more than once in any Dressage class (including separate divisions or sections of the same class).
- f. Horses showing evidence of broken wind or complete loss of sight in either or both eyes are permitted to compete. Horses with complete loss of sight in both eyes may only participate in classes in which they are shown individually.
- g. *Horse’s age.* The horse’s age is to be counted from January 1 of the year of birth to January 1 of the current competition year. *However*, horses in any under saddle class must be at least thirty-six months of age (from foaling date) at the time of competition. Horses competing in the following tests and levels must meet the following minimum age requirements per FEI rules:
  - i. FEI Children/Pony/Junior and Fourth level tests: minimum six (6) years;
  - ii. Young Riders/Prix St. Georges/Intermediate I: minimum seven (7) years;
  - iii. Tests above Intermediate I: minimum eight (8) years.
  - iv. Horses must be a minimum of six (6) years of age to compete in an FEI Para Dressage Class.

**2. Competition Restrictions.**

- a. Horses may compete in no more than one Licensed Competition on the same day and are prohibited from competing in any non-licensed competition(s) held on the same day(s) as ~~they compete in a~~ the Licensed Dressage Competition *in which they are competing.*
- b. Horses competing in *Federation licensed Regular or Local competitions (including Breed restricted) that are holding* Open dressage divisions or classes ~~which must be offered prior to any other classes, at a Regular or Local Competition~~ are not permitted to participate or compete in other divisions or classes on the same day(s). *and The Open dressage division or classes must be offered prior to any other classes. All Open dressage competitors* are subject to all DR Chapter rules from the time of their arrival.
- c. Horses are limited to a maximum of three Dressage rides per day at Fourth Level and below or two Dressage rides per day above Fourth Level. Horses competing at both Fourth Level and Prix St. Georges, (or their equivalents), are limited to two Dressage rides per day. Horses competing in FEI Para Dressage tests are limited to a maximum of two Dressage rides per day including non-Para Dressage FEI, USEF, or USDF tests.
- d. Dressage Seat Equitation, Quadrille, Pas de Deux and Materiale classes are excluded from the maximum limit of rides per day and horses in these classes may compete at any level for which they are otherwise eligible during the same competition.
- e. Horses may enter no more than two consecutive levels, Freestyle levels included, at any one competition (refer to the following chart). ~~The FEI Intermediate B (Medium Tour) Freestyles are is open only to permitted only for horses that have competed competing~~ at Intermediate A, Intermediate B, or Intermediate II levels, *or higher at a previous competition.*
- f. FEI Para Dressage tests may be ridden at non-consecutive levels to USDF, USEF, and other FEI tests. *The Consecutive Levels chart does not apply to FEI Para Dressage tests.*
- g. *Consecutive Levels and Equivalencies.*

Intro									
Tr.									
	1st	1st							
		2nd	2nd						
			3rd	3rd					
				4th	4th				
					PSG & Dress	PSG & Dress			

					PSG	PSG			
						Int I	Int I		
							Int A&B	Int A&B	
								Int II & Devel GP	Int II & Devel GP
									GP

- All FEI Pony Rider and FEI Childrens Tests are equivalent to Second Level.
- All FEI Junior Rider Tests are equivalent to Third Level.
- All FEI Young Rider Tests are equivalent to PSG.
- The USEF Brentina Cup (Young Adult) Test and FEI Grand Prix *U25 16-25* Test are equivalent to Intermediate II and the Developing Grand Prix.
- The USEF Four-Year-Old Test is equivalent to First Level.
- The FEI Four-Year-Old Test is equivalent to First Level.
- The FEI Five-Year-Old Tests are equivalent to Second Level.
- The FEI Six-Year-Old Tests are equivalent to Third Level.
- The FEI Seven-Year-Old Tests are equivalent to Fourth Level.
- ~~The equivalency chart does not apply to FEI Para Dressage tests.~~
- Cross entry in Eventing tests and other Dressage tests is permitted as listed below:
  - Eventing *Starter*, Beginner Novice and Novice tests are equivalent to Training Level.
  - Eventing Training Level, Modified Level, and Preliminary Level tests are equivalent to First Level.
  - Eventing Intermediate Level tests are equivalent to Second Level.
  - Eventing Advanced Level tests are equivalent to Third Level.
- Except for Young Horse tests, all dressage tests listed above shall be considered equivalent to the highest test of the level (e.g. the FEI Pony Rider Team Test is considered equivalent to Second Level Test 3).

### 3. Rider Age Divisions and Eligibility:

a. *Junior/Young Riders:* For purposes of competition in the Dressage Division, individuals are eligible as Junior/Young Riders until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 21.

b. *Juniors:* For purposes of competition in the Dressage Division, *except for FEI Junior and FEI Young Rider tests and classes*, individuals are eligible as Juniors until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18.

4. For purposes of qualification for and participation in competitions conducted under FEI rules, age groups are as follows:

a. *Young Riders:* Same as in DR 119.3;

c. *FEI Juniors:*

i. Individuals are eligible as *FEI Juniors* from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 14 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18.

ii. FEI Junior Tests, *including freestyle*, are open only to FEI Juniors. *Ponies may not be ridden in FEI Junior tests or classes.*

d. *Young Riders:*

i. Individuals are eligible as Young Riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 21.

ii. FEI Young Rider Tests, *including freestyle*, are open only to Young Riders. *Ponies may not be ridden in FEI Young Rider tests or classes.*

e. Individuals who are eligible as *FEI Juniors* and *FEI Young Riders* may not enter both FEI Junior and FEI Young Rider tests on the same horse in the same competition; however, they may enter both *FEI Junior* and *FEI Young Rider* tests in the same competition on different horses.

f. *FEI Pony Riders:* Individuals are eligible as Pony Riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 12 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16. FEI Pony Rider Tests, *including freestyle*, are open only to FEI Pony Riders.

g. *FEI Children:* Individuals are eligible to participate in competitions and championships for Children from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 12 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 14. FEI Tests for Children are open only to riders in this age group.

h. *U25 Riders:* A person ~~Individuals~~ may compete as a U25 Rider from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of sixteen (16) until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of twenty five (25).

i. *Seniors:* Individuals are eligible as Seniors from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18.

j. *Adult and Adult Amateur:* Competitors shall compete as Adults from the beginning of the calendar year in which they

beginning of the calendar year in which they reach age 22.

**k. Open:** For purposes of competition in the Dressage Division, riders of any age are eligible to compete in an "open" class or division of a class. Riders age 22 and older who do not have current Federation amateur status are only eligible to compete in "open" classes or divisions, or classes with specific restrictions, i.e. by horse's age, etc.

**l. Other Divisions based on rider or horse age or experience.** Competitions may offer other classes or divisions within classes at any national test level for riders or horses as long as the class or division is clearly defined in the Prize List.

**Examples:**

i. Maiden, Novice or Limit Divisions (see DR137)

ii. Horses or riders of specific ages (e.g., Training Level Test of Choice for riders 55 or older)

iii. Riders who have never shown above a certain level (e.g., First Level Test 3 for riders who have never shown above Third Level)

iv. Horses of certain ages or experience levels (e.g., Training Level TOC for horses age 20 or older)

~~7. The FEI Young Rider Freestyle test is open only to Young Riders.~~

#### **4. Young Horse Tests.**

~~a. Horses competing in the USEF Dressage Test for 4-year-old horses and the FEI Dressage Tests for 4-year-old horses and USEF Dressage Test for 4-year-old horses must be four years old. These tests are comparable to First Level.~~

~~b. Horses competing in the FEI Dressage Tests for 5-year-old horses must be five years old. The FEI Dressage Tests for 5-year-old horses. These tests are comparable to Second Level.~~

~~c. Horses competing in the FEI Dressage Tests for 6-year-old horses must be six years old. The FEI Dressage Tests for 6-year-old horses. These tests are comparable to Third Level.~~

~~d. Horses competing in the FEI Dressage Tests for 7-year-old horses must be seven years old. These tests are comparable to Fourth Level.~~

~~e. The horse's age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth to January 1 of the current competition year.~~

#### **5. Hors de Concours.**

~~a. An Hors de Concours (H.C.) entry is "outside the competition". Horse/rider combinations may only participate in a class Hors de Concours with the permission of competition management. A horse/rider combination may enter a class Hors de Concours. Said permission must be granted prior to the start of the class(es) involved. Such entries must pay the full entry fee but scores for these entries will not be published or recorded, nor shall they count towards any prizes, placings or year-end awards. Said permission must be granted prior to the start of the class(es) involved.~~

~~b. Hors de Concours entries must follow all Federation General and Dressage Division rules that apply to other entries in the same class, except GRI034 as described below.~~

~~c. Having competed Hors de Concours at a competition, a horse is no longer eligible for further prizes, awards or placings at that competition except in situations of emergency substitutions of judges.~~

~~d. Hors de Concours entries are not permitted in Federation/USDF Championship and NAYC qualifying and championship classes. See also DR119.6 below.~~

#### **6. Conflicts of Interest.**

~~a. A Dressage competition manager or secretary may not serve as judge or compete at their own competition. However, a Dressage competition manager or secretary may ride Hors de Concours if they designate an assistant in charge while they are riding. This does not absolve the manager's or secretary's duties and responsibilities.~~

~~b. A judge may not be an owner of any competing horse, except that horses may be shown Hors de Concours in classes where the owner is not officiating (see GR1304 and GR1039).~~

~~7. Annex B. Minimum entry requirements for athletes of USA FEI sport nationality entering CDIs can be found in Annex B, which is posted on the USEF website. Athletes of foreign FEI sport nationality (other than USA) should refer to the rules of their National Federation for minimum CDI entry requirements.~~

~~8. Championships Qualifying Criteria. Published qualifying criteria or selection procedures for U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, NAYC, and USDF Championships take precedence over other published rules:~~

#### **9. Para Dressage Athletes and Riders with a Presidential Modification.**

~~a. Riders Athletes with a diagnosed permanent disability who require the use of compensatory aids or adaptive equipment must hold a Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate indicating their International (FEI) or their National (Federation) classification status.~~

~~43-b. Athletes in FEI Para Dressage tests must have a current Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate which indicates their Classification status to be eligible to participate.~~

~~c. A copy of an athlete's Dispensation/Classification Certificate listing all of their allowed compensating aids and adaptive equipment must be included with the rider's entry, with a copy then attached to each of their Dressage test sheets for the~~

Judge's reference. ~~A copy must remain with the entry records for review by the Technical Delegate. A copy must also be given to the Technical Delegate and ring steward(s).~~

44 *d.* Riders who do not submit a current Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate or a Federation Presidential Modification letter to the competition secretary cannot compete with any modifications, compensatory aids, or dispensations to the rules in DR Chapter 1. Federation affidavits cannot be used to compete with modifications or compensatory aids when either the Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate or Presidential Modification is not available.

*e.* See *GR154, GR1309 and GR1310 for information on Federation Presidential Modification requirements.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	12/1/2026	4/29/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The FEI has recently determined that only smooth rowels, without projections, are permitted in dressage. This change is recommended for USEF Dressage rules in the interest of horse welfare.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Dressage	Lauren Moore lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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**DR120 Dress. Change to read:**

4.1 If spurs are worn, a separate spur must be worn on each boot. The shank must be either curved or straight pointing directly back from the center of the spur when on the rider's boot. If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directed downwards. However, swan necked spurs are permitted. The inside arm of the spur must be smooth and one or both arms may have *smooth* rubber covers. If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth, *rounded* and free to rotate *with no rough or sharp edges (e.g. no daisy rowels or lines of any kind)*. Metal spurs with round hard plastic knobs (metal or plastic) on the shank are permitted ("Impuls" spur) and the knobs may rotate. "Dummy" spurs (without shank) are permitted. Armless spurs are permitted. *See also Annex A posted on Federation website for additional information on permitted and prohibited spurs.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The intent of this proposal is to allow only the use of a snaffle bridle at Third Level and below, removing the option to compete in a double bridle until Fourth Level. Under current rules, there is no age limit for horses competing at Third Level, while horses competing at Fourth Level must be a minimum of six years of age. This rule change would prevent the use of the double bridle in competition on horses below the age of six. The change aligns with global equine welfare initiatives and best practices in training and competition.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

**DR121 Saddlery and Equipment. Change to read:**

Figure 121.3: Permitted bridoon bits. Bridoon bits are used in combination with a curb bit to form a double bridle which is permitted only at ~~Third~~ **Fourth** Level and above. See also Annex A posted on the Federation website for additional information on permitted and prohibited bits.

.....  
Figure 121.4: Permitted curb bits. Curb bits are used in combination with a bridoon bit to form a double bridle which is permitted only at ~~Third~~ **Fourth** Level and above. See also Annex A posted on the Federation website for additional information on permitted and prohibited bits.

- .....  
j. Bridles allowed in Federation (national) competitions:
1. For Tests at ~~Second~~ **Third** Level and below, FEI Tests for Children, and FEI Pony tests, a plain snaffle bridle is required in warm up and in competition.
  2. For ~~Third and Fourth~~ Level tests a snaffle bridle or double bridle ~~are~~ **is** permitted in the warm up and in competition.
  6. Para Dressage athletes. Riders competing only in FEI Para Dressage tests **or Fourth Level and above** may use either a snaffle bridle or double bridle. Riders competing in both FEI Para Dressage tests and USDF or USEF tests at the same competition at ~~second~~ **Third** level and below, must use a plain snaffle bridle in all tests and warmup for those tests. ~~When competing only at third level or above, a snaffle bridle or double bridle may be used in warm-up and in competition.~~

**DR121 Saddlery and Equipment. Change to read:**

Figure 121.11. Bridles Allowed in Competitions Under Federation Rules

Competition	Snaffle Bridle	Double Bridle
USEF training, first, <del>and second</del> <b>and third</b> levels	✓	✗
USEF <del>third and fourth</del> levels	✓	✓

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	12/1/2026	3/24/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Aligns the USEF rules for crownpieces used in Dressage to be in compliance with the FEI rules and FEI Tack App.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

**DR121 Saddlery and Equipment. Change to read:**

3.a. Crownpiece. The crownpiece of the bridle must lie immediately behind the poll and may extend forward onto the poll, but it may not be fitted to lie on the vertebrae behind the skull (Figure 121.6). The crownpiece may be padded and it may have elastic inserts. ~~Any padding must be smooth and continuous across the poll while on the horse, and rectangular or in the same shape as the crownpiece. Padding may extend no more than 1.5 centimeters beyond the dimensions for the crownpiece as indicated in Figure 121.6.~~ The only material contacting the horse's head must be the leather, **or** leather-like material, ~~or elastic,~~ of the crownpiece or the additional padding material. Any piece of tack or equipment that impairs the ears to move freely is not permitted.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	9/1/2026	3/24/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Extraordinary Change Reason

Safety Concerns

Rule Change Intent

There have been reports of dangerous situations occurring during tack inspections following the completion of tests, specifically regarding the removal of fly hoods. No longer requiring fly hoods to be removed for some horses after their tests would improve safety procedures during the equipment check for all involved. Multiple occurrences arose this season, where horses reacted poorly to the checking of fly hoods during tack inspections resulting in horses losing bridles, getting loose, flying backwards, etc. This resulted in dangerous situations for horses/riders/officials, and others in the vicinity.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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Dressage

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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**DR121 Saddlery and Equipment. Delete and renumber:**

8. Fly hoods. Fly hoods (ear covers) that do not cover the horse's eyes can be used to protect horses from insects. Fly hoods may not be attached to the noseband. They should be discreet in color and design, and may have a promotional or manufacturer's logo that is in compliance with DR121.1.b.

- a. Fly hoods are permitted in the warm up and other training areas and for all classes.
- b. Fly hoods may be noise-cancelling in manufactured state but cannot be used with earplugs.
- c. ~~If a tack inspection is performed after completion of the test, the rider or their representative is responsible for removing the fly hood and presenting it for inspection to the designated ring steward who will ensure that nothing prohibited has been added, such as ear plugs.~~
- d. Blinkers or goggles (with clear or tinted full eye cups) that cover the horse's eyes but do not obstruct the horse's vision are permitted in the warmup but are prohibited in the competition arena. Fly masks are forbidden in warmup, training areas and competition.

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**DR126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management. Change to read:**

2. g. Ring Stewards and supervision of schooling areas.

1. Tack Inspections. Inspection of saddlery and equipment (except bits) must be done at the direction of the technical delegate. Ring stewards appointed by competition management are required to inspect the saddlery, dress and equipment worn by at least one-third of the horses in a class immediately as the horse leaves the arena using a new disposable protective glove on each hand for each horse. In championship classes, saddlery, dress and equipment inspections are required for each horse. When an inspection is conducted, all equipment including ~~fly hoods,~~ nosebands, curb chains, whips, bits, and spurs on both sides must be inspected. The ring steward must also inspect the horse for evidence of blood.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/12/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Amend penalties for use of voice in national competitions to be the same as the current FEI rule penalties for use of voice. The USEF rule gives a deduction for each movement where use of voice was identified. The current FEI rule gives a 2% deduction for use of voice at the end of a test no matter how many times voice was used in a test.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

**DR122 Execution and Judging of Tests. Change to read:**

3. Voice. The use of the voice or other intentional audio aids in any way whatsoever or clicking the tongue once or repeatedly is a serious fault involving the deduction of *zero point five percentage points (0.5%) from the final score by each Judge, but these deductions are not cumulative and will not result in Elimination (including for Freestyle tests).* ~~no marks from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this occurred. In movements with a coefficient, judges must deduct only one mark so that the final mark, after the coefficient is applied, is deducted by two versus four points.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Correct confusing and contradictory language within in DR122.5.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

Dressage

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules      Comments

**DR122 Execution and Judging of Tests. Change to read.**

5.e. For ~~FEL Level~~ and USDF Freestyle tests, two points will be deducted for each error, however they are not cumulative and will not result in elimination.

f. When the competitor makes an “error of the test/execution” (trots rising instead of sitting; ~~at the salute does not take the reins in one hand~~, etc.) they must be penalized as for an “error of the course”. In principle, a competitor is not allowed to repeat a movement of the test unless the President of the Jury decided on an error of course or error of test/execution (rings the bell). If, however, the rider has started the execution of a movement and attempts to do the same movement again, the judge(s) must consider the first movement shown only and, at the same time penalize for an error of course.

g. If the Jury has not noted an error the competitor has the benefit of the doubt.

h. The decision as to whether or not an error of course or error of test/execution has been made will be that of the judge at C. The other judges’ scores will be adapted accordingly upon approval of the judge at C.

i. The penalty points are deducted on each judge’s sheet from the total points obtained by the competitor.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/12/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

It is not usually practical to require additional tests for tied riders as it adds too much time to complete the class and conduct the awards ceremony - it is not necessary to break ties for riders placed fourth and below.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

**DR133 Dressage Seat Equitation. Change to read:**

1. Dressage Seat Equitation classes. May be offered for Juniors, Young Riders, Adult Amateurs and/or Open riders according to the following specifications:

*o. When the judge(s) ask for independent tests/patterns (as listed below in DR133.2.i(4)-2.i(5)), riders completing this additional work must be scored and placed higher than riders who did not execute the additional work.*

2. Dressage Seat Medal Program

g.3. Two Federation Registered (R) or Senior (S) judges, one of whom must have a Federation Dressage Seat Equitation Designation, will officiate together in each Semi-Finals class, using the same scribes and the same class score sheet. Three Federation Registered (R) or Senior (S) judges will officiate together, as above, in each Finals class. Judges should evaluate riders separately from different positions in the ring and then all judges must consult together prior to arriving at final scores. *Riders who complete independent tests/patterns must receive higher final scores and placing than riders who do not ride or complete independent tests/patterns.*

g.5. Tied scores in a Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Final and Final class *must be broken by all judges consulting together for Champion, Reserve Champion and third placed riders. Ties for remaining places may* will be broken by *all judges consulting together or ties may remain unbroken* requiring riders to perform an additional independent test, which will be scored by all judges together. ~~The higher score on the additional independent test will receive the higher placing.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/12/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The list of classes for which geldings of different ages are eligible is incomplete. This change provides clarification regarding class eligibility.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

Dressage

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules      Comments

**DR203 Definitions. Change to read:**

7. Gelding—A gelded male horse of any age.

*a. Geldings age two and under are eligible to compete only in Sport Horse Prospect, Group and Individual Breed classes (IBC).*

*b. Three year old geldings are eligible to compete only in Sport Horse Prospect, Group, Materiale, Dressage Suitability and IBC classes.*

*c. Geldings four years old and older are eligible to compete only in **Four-Year-Old Prospect classes, and** Group, Materiale, Dressage Suitability and **IBC** classes. ~~Four-year-old geldings are also eligible to compete in the Four-Year-Old Prospect classes.~~*

*d. Geldings are not eligible to compete in Dressage Breeding Stock In Hand classes.*

*e. Other in-hand classes for mature geldings are not permitted.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/12/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Update standards for DSHB in-hand classes. Competitions with DSHB classes are too small to require presence of a veterinarian on the grounds. This rule has not been used in approximately twenty years.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

**DR208 Competition Veterinarian. Delete and renumber.**

~~The competition veterinarian must be available to the judge, if on the premises, and the handler must give permission to the judge and/or veterinarian before either touches the horse. If the veterinarian is not immediately available, or not called upon, the judge's decision as to the serviceable soundness of a horse must be final. For further regulations governing Competition Veterinarian, refer to General Rules, GR1204.5, .6 and .7.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/12/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule is very outdated and is no longer practiced at DSHB shows.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

Dressage

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules      Comments

**DR209 Conduct of Classes. Change to read:**

1. In-Hand Classes. Horses being shown individually on the triangle.

a. Following a posted order, entries in each class will approach the judging area one at a time, walk to the apex of the triangle, and await the judge's request to proceed on the triangle. The handler will lead the horse on the perimeter of the triangle at walk and trot, returning to the apex to stand the horse for conformation judging or to repeat any movement at the judge's request. Handlers are permitted to have one assistant if necessary. Repetition of all or any part of the movement on the triangle may be allowed at the judge's request only. At the completion of the judging, the handler will lead the horse away from the judging area. The next will enter the judging area promptly. The judge may elect to judge conformation either before and/or after judging the horse's movement on the triangle.

b. The horse is to be shown in an "open position," i.e. with all four legs of the horse visible to the judge when standing on either side of the horse.

~~c. After all horses have been shown on the triangle, some or all may be recalled (depending on size, format and schedule of the competition) to be shown in groups at a walk and trot. If horses may be recalled, the prize list or program must state that this procedure will be used.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/12/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule is outdated and is no longer practiced at DSHB shows. Also, clarification is needed on how ties are broken when two or more judges officiate together and not independently.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

**DR211 Judging Procedures. Change to read:**

4. Tied scores shall be broken first by referring to the totals of the movement scores. If still tied, the tie may be broken at the judge's discretion, by the use of decimals, or the horses may ~~be examined again (movement only)~~ *remain tied*. If a class is judged by more than one judge, officiating together and not independently, the judges ~~may~~ *must* consult *on the final result* and ~~arrive at one agreed upon placement.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/3/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Recent competitions have highlighted issues where competitors were not permitted to put their martingales on after the flat. The Equitation Task Force believes this poses a significant safety risk and strongly recommends that the rulebook be amended to require that competitors be allowed to put back on all tack/equipment that was used in the preliminary over fences round before proceeding to test.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USHJA	Katie Patrick kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## EQ106 Appointments

[....]

5. Tack. Judges may penalize but not eliminate a horse or pony that competes in unconventional tack. Judges must eliminate a horse or pony that competes in illegal tack. *Following the flat portion of a class, judges must allow competitors to replace all tack/equipment that was used in the preliminary over fences round prior to testing.*

[....]

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/13/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This would define the parameters for when bit converters are permitted in the hunter and hunter seat equitation competition rings. This rule change is an effort to provide clearer guidance for tack and equipment rules in the hunter and equitation competition rings.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
National Hunter Committee	Jennifer Day jday@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## EQ106 Appointments

5. Tack. Judges may penalize but not eliminate a horse or pony that competes in unconventional tack. Judges must eliminate a horse or pony that competes in illegal tack.
  - a. Hunter Seat Equitation:
    1. Legal bits include snaffles, pelhams, kimberwicks, or full bridles. Illegal bits include, but are not limited to, two rings, three rings, gags (other than the hunter gag), et cetera. Changing of bit/bridle between phases is permissible. **Bit converters are illegal (exception: classes with fence heights of 2'6" and below).**
    2. Illegal nosebands include but are not limited to, drop, flash and figure eight nosebands.
    3. Martingales are permitted in classes over obstacles and in the jumping phase of classes requiring both jumping and flat work. Martingales are not permitted on the flat in any class or phase unless class specifications allow their use.
  - b. Jumping Seat Equitation (USEF Talent Search, WIHS Jumper Phase, USHJA Jumping Seat Medal, and any class specifically designated as a Jumping Seat Equitation class):
    1. Legal bits include snaffles, pelhams, gags, kimberwicks, and two or three ring bits. Full bridles may be used. Any other bits (including but not limited to hackamores, etc.) are prohibited. Exception: Hackamores may be used in jumping phases of the USEF Talent Search Classes and Finals. Changing of bit/bridle between phases is permissible.
    2. Legal nosebands include leather cavesson, flash, drop and figure eight.
    3. Martingales are not permitted on the flat in any class or phase unless class specifications allow their use. Running Martingales used in the conventional manner are legal in the over fences phase only. Standing martingales, German martingales, draw reins, or restricted martingales are prohibited in all phases.
    4. Bit converters may be used.
    5. Blinkers are prohibited.

## HU105 Tack

1. Snaffles, pelhams and full bridles, all with cavesson nose bands, are required.
  - a. Judges may penalize, but may not eliminate, a horse or pony that competes in a snaffle, pelham, or full bridle that is unconventional. Unconventional snaffles, pelhams, or full bridles include, but are not limited to, hunter gags, kimberwicks, etc.
  - b. Judges must eliminate a horse or pony that competes in illegal bits or nosebands. Illegal bits include, but are not limited to, three rings, gags (other than the hunter gag), et cetera... Illegal nosebands include, but are not limited to, drop, flash and figure eight nosebands. **Bit converters are illegal (exception: classes with fence heights of 2'6" and below).**
2. Curbs: When using a curb with any leverage bit, it must be constructed of loose links,
  - a. joints, and/or lie smooth against the jaw of the horse and be free of twists, sharp

objects or anything inhumane. A curb may be wrapped or inserted into a cover for the comfort of the horse. A curb may not be used in conjunction with wire, metal, rawhide, metal "keepers", or any other substance except for attachment of curb to the bit.

3. Horses must return to the ring for conformation or soundness wearing a snaffle, pelham or full bridle with a cavesson noseband.
4. Martingales of any type are prohibited in under saddle, hack and tie-breaking classes. Standing and running martingales used in the conventional manner are allowed for all over fences classes. All other martingales are considered illegal. A judge must eliminate a horse or pony that competes in a martingale other than a standing or running martingale used in the conventional manner.
  - a. Cable or metal tie downs are prohibited for use on horses and ponies.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/3/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The purpose of this proposed rule change is to establish consistent regulations regarding the use of draw reins and German martingales in Hunter Seat Equitation classes.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USHJA

Katie Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules Comments

**EQ106 Appointments**

[...]

**5. Tack...**

a. Hunter Seat Equitation:

[...]

**4. *Draw reins and German martingales are prohibited.***

[...]

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	10/7/2025	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The purpose of this proposed rule change is to align the rule book and the USHJA Gladstone Cup specifications. The Gladstone Cup specifications state that 2 cumulative refusals incur elimination.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USHJA

Katie Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules Comments

**EQ108 Class Routine**

**1. [...]**

i. [...]

2. Three cumulative refusals. Exceptions: Riders will be eliminated after two cumulative refusals in the... USEF Talent Search class and the WIHS Equitation Jumper phase, ***and the USHJA Gladstone Cup.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/2/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Currently, there is no mention of the dotted line within the EQ chapter, nor is there a specified penalty for crossing it. This change will establish that crossing the dotted line prior to a round is cause for elimination, and this would align the rules with the HU chapter. Also, the Task Force feels that riders gain no advantage to their performance by crossing the dotted line at the finish of their round, therefore, it may not cause elimination.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USHJA	Katie Patrick kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## EQ109 Course Requirements

[....]

***17. If the area of the courtesy circle is to be restricted by a mandatory line, the line must be indicated on the diagram and a corresponding barrier must be erected on the course. As this becomes part of the judging specifications, this policy must be clearly stated in the prize list (see GR901.10) and announced at least one hour prior to the class. If a rider crosses the dotted line preceding their round, that is cause for elimination. However, crossing the dotted line at the finish of a round will not affect the score.***

## HU110 Course Diagrams [....]

***2. If the area of the courtesy circle is to be restricted by a mandatory line, the line must be indicated on the diagram and a corresponding barrier must be erected on the course. As this becomes part of the judging specifications, this policy must be clearly stated in the prize list (see GR901.10) and announced at least one hour prior to the class. If a rider crosses the dotted line preceding their round, that is cause for elimination. However, crossing the dotted line at the finish of a round will not affect the score.***

[....]

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	9/1/2026	8/29/2025	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This is a request made to WIHS by the USHJA Equitation Committee. They recommend that the courses for the hunter phase of these classes be run over a "handy hunter" typecourse. This change has been approved through a Presidential Modification taking effect beginning September 1, 2025, the start of the qualifying period for 2026. The change would not take place at the Washington Equitation Finals until 2026. This rule change will align the rules with the approved language from the Presidential Modification.

Proponent Details Contact Information

David Distler

David Distler

daviddistler@msn.com

Linked Rules Comments

## EQ111 Requirements for Specific Classes

When creating tests, judges must consider the level of ability of the riders in the class.

[...]

### 8. WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW EQUITATION

For full specifications and qualification information please see [www.wihs.org](http://www.wihs.org).

- a. Riders need not be members of the WHS Equitation to compete in any qualifying classes, but only current members will accrue points towards year-end finals.
- b. QUALIFYING PERIOD. Qualifying period: shows starting on or after September 1st through shows starting on or before August 31st.
- c. Awarding of Points  
1st - 6th place points are tabulated by multiplying the # of riders in the qualifier class by 10, 6, 4, 2, 1, ½ points respectively. Three riders must complete the course in order for points for that phase to count. In order for overall points to count in a two-phase qualifier, three riders must complete the course in at least one of the two phases and at least three riders must compete in the second phase. (See HU119 for definition of competed)  
When there is a two-phase junior equitation qualifier, only the overall results of a two-phase junior equitation qualifier will be tabulated for the standings. A multiplying factor of 2 will be applied to these classes only.
- d. CLASS SPECIFICATIONS. WHS Equitation and WHS Pony Equitation:
  1. The WHS Equitation Classes are open to junior members of USEF or Equine Canada.
  2. Three riders must complete the course for the class to be included in the National Ranking.
  3. The same horse must be used in all phases of the event. No Exceptions.
  4. Only one rider per horse, unless the judge requests a change.
  5. Classes to be judged in accordance with the current USEF standards for equitation.
  6. Riders may only compete in one WHS Equitation class at a show.
  7. If there are 50 or more entries at the start of either phase, that phase must be divided as under HU158 ("California Split"). If one phase is split and there are fewer than 50 entries in the second phase, splitting the second phase is optional. Only phases with more than 50 entries must be split. If either phase is double pinned, then the overall results must also be double pinned. Points will be awarded based on the number of riders in the largest phase after any split, however for calculation purposes the maximum differential between the two phases will be no more than ten riders of the lesser section.
- e. WHS Pony Equitation: To be shown over a course of not less than 8 jumps. No junior rider over 12 years of age may compete on a small pony. No junior rider over 14 years of age may compete on a medium pony. Fence heights: 2'3" for ponies not exceeding 12.2 hands; 2'6" for ponies over 12.2 hands and not exceeding 13.2 hands; and 2'9" - 3' for ponies over 13.2 hands and not exceeding 14.2 hands. The suggested distance for the in and out is 20' for small ponies, 22' for medium ponies and 24' for large ponies. The distance must be altered for each height division. WHS Pony Equitation classes may include any of the following: bending line, narrow jump (5'6"-8'), rollback turn, fence at the end of the ring, long approach to a single jump. It is recommended that the course be consistent with EQ109.11. A numerical score will be given. WHS Pony Equitation class may run concurrently with the small, medium and large pony division.
- f. WHS Equitation: See EQ106.5b for tack and saddlery restrictions. Boots and conservative colored bandages are permitted in both phases.
  1. Hunter Phase - To be shown over a minimum of 8 jumps at 3'6". ~~It is recommended that the course must be a "handy hunter" type course (see HU112.6). straight forward hunter course consisting of natural jumps. It must include a combination, hunter lines, and a long approach to a single jump.~~ A numerical score will be given. Refer to EQ111.10c for minimum number of riders required for points to count.
  2. Jumper Phase - The course should be of the type used in a High Junior Jumper competition. To be shown over a minimum of 10 jumps at 1.10 m (3'7"). A minimum of either two double combinations or one triple combination are required. There must be at least two changes of direction after the first fence. In addition, at least two of the following are required and more

are recommended: vertical - no ground lines; Liverpool; narrow jump - minimum width 5'6"; one or more of the following - triple bar, swedish oxer, fan jump. Refer to EQ110.10.c for minimum number of riders required for points to count.

A Time Allowed will be used based on a speed of 360 yards per minute. The judge will give a numerical score for each competitor's round. The announcer will announce the judge's numerical score and then deduct time faults as follows: one point for each commenced second over the Time Allowed. Rules regarding Time to Start (JP137.3 and .4) and Starting and Stopping (JP137.1) will apply.

A FINAL SCORE BELOW ZERO MAY NOT BE GIVEN.

3. Two Phase Event - Hunter & Jumper - Each phase to be conducted under their own specifications and pinned separately, as well as an overall placing.
  - a. Both Hunter & Jumper Phases to be scored under the numerical system. Scores from each phase will be added together to determine the overall winner. In the event of a tie for any placing, the tie will remain.
  - b. Scores from the first phase will determine the order of go in the second phase. The highest scores will return last; riders may volunteer to move up in the order.
  - c. One or more judges may be used in any combination.
  - d. National Ranking points will be awarded based on the OVERALL placing only.
- g. See [www.wihs.org](http://www.wihs.org) for procedures for the WMS Equitation Finals.
- h. Qualifying procedures and Finals procedures cannot be changed without the approval of the Washington International Horse Show Assn., LTD.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

In September of 2025, the Professional Horseman's Association leadership informed the Federation that its National PHA Medal Class program is no longer active and the classes are no longer being held. This proposal seeks to accommodate PHA's request to remove all references to the class from the USEF Rule Book.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEF Executive Staff	Leslie Mangan
	lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## EQ111 Requirements for Specific Classes

[...]

### 11. NATIONAL PHA MEDAL CLASS

#### a. Host Requirements

1. Only USEF licensed horse shows may offer this class.
2. Competitions must submit the appropriate application, available at [nationalalpha.com](http://nationalalpha.com) at least 30 days prior to the competition date to: Scott Tarter at [scott@twinlakesfarm.com](mailto:scott@twinlakesfarm.com).
3. Class results must be submitted electronically within ten (10) days after the competition ends, using the same file as is submitted to the Federation, and must be submitted to: Scott Tarter at [scott@twinlakesfarm.com](mailto:scott@twinlakesfarm.com).

#### b. Eligibility

1. Open to young riders ages 21 and under. Only one rider per horse.
2. Riders do not have to be PHA members to compete in this class.
3. Trainers need to be either PHA Professional or Associate members in good standing for rider's points to count for year-end finals class.

#### c. Qualifying Period begins on September 1st of the current competition year and concludes July 15th of the following year.

#### d. Course Requirements

1. To be shown over a course of eight (8) or more fences and offered at 3'3" or 3'6" in height.
  - i. Heights to be judged concurrently as one class.
2. Course shall include a minimum of three (3) oxers with at least one combination. Combination may include one oxer.
3. There shall be at least two changes of direction after the first fence.

#### e. Testing

1. The course designer/judge shall insert a minimum of two tests into the course selected from the following options: trot jump, hand gallop jump, counter canter jump, halt.
2. Further testing is optional at judge's discretion. If further testing is requested, those choosing not to return either over fences or on the flat will be placed after those that do return.

#### f. Scoring

1. To fill a class three (3) riders must complete the course.
2. The top eight (8) riders will be pinned in the order of the judge's choosing.
3. Classes with up to 15 riders, points will count 10-6-4-2-1-1/2
4. Classes with 16 to 30 riders, points will be doubled.
5. Classes with 31 riders and above points will be tripled.
6. All classes with 50 or more entries at the beginning of the class must be split and run as two separate classes with separate ribbons and trophies.

#### g. Year End Championship Class

1. There will be a championship class for the top 40 riders based upon points accumulated throughout the season.
2. The winner of the championship class is no longer eligible to compete in that championship class.
3. The year-end championship class will include a work-off of at least the top four (4) riders of the judge(s)'s choosing.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/30/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The purpose of this proposed rule change is to clarify the equitation tests from which judges may select, while addressing safety concerns observed at recent competitions. These changes refine the testing language to clearly define what is and is not permitted, thereby eliminating potential risks and ensuring that riders are not placed in unsafe situations during competition. Additionally, this change specifies the minimum and maximum permissible line lengths for which the collection of strides test may be applied.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USHJA	Katie Patrick  kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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EQ113 Tests From Which Judges Must Choose

[...]

7. Jump a shortened course...

**a. Canter directly to a first jump.**

8. Jump low obstacles at a trot ~~as well as a canter~~. The maximum height of ...

[...]

12. Collection of strides between 2 fences. It is ~~recommended~~ **required** that a line chosen for this test be not less than 70' **and not to exceed 112'**.

a. For safety purposes, judges may only ask for additional strides to be added and must not ask rider to leave out a stride.

**b. Combinations cannot be used with this test.**

[...]

16. A canter on the counter lead may be used on the approach to a jump...

[...]

c) A judge can not require a rider to land on the counter lead, **nor can they require a rider to counter canter into a combination.**

[...]

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This proposal seeks to remove all references to the Good Hands equitation classes and finals from the USEF Rule Book in a manner consistent with the recently approved rule change to remove all references to UPHA programs and classes. This is due to the fact that the Good Hands program owner, Mid-America Horse Shows Association declined to enter into an agreement with USEF to prohibit Good Hands classes from being held at any competition that does not prohibit persons on the USEF, FEI, or U.S. Center for Safe Sport banned or suspended lists from being on competition grounds or participating in the competitions.

Similar to other state and local association classes held at USEF competitions, the Good Hands classes can still be offered by the organizer as miscellaneous classes and the program owner, Mid-America Horse Show Association would assume the responsibility for how the classes are conducted, not the USEF.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USEF Executive Staff

Leslie Mangan

lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

## SUBCHAPTER EQ-3 SADDLE SEAT EQUITATION SECTION

### EQ117 Conduct

(see GR1210.1b – .1e)

1. Classes for junior and senior riders can be combined.
2. When entries warrant, it is recommended that competitions restrict Maiden, Novice, Limit and Intermediate riders to their respective categories.
3. DIVISION OF CLASSES.  
In ~~The Good Hands~~, and Saddle Seat championship classes, judges must work competitors in groups of 20 or less. In USEF Saddle Seat Medal classes, judges must work competitors in groups of 15 or less. In USEF Saddle Seat Adult Amateur Medal Classes it is at the discretion of competition management whether or not to work competitors in groups of 15 or less. In all other Saddle Seat classes, if there are 20 or more en-tries in a class, it is recommended that the class be divided into separate sections by selecting every other number on the list of entries, and that separate trophies and ribbons be awarded. If there are 25 or more entries, the class must be divided and the notification of such publicly announced and posted at least two hours prior to the start of the class. In classes with eliminations, it is the prerogative of the judge, not of competition management, to determine the number of riders from any given section. The list of qualifying riders for the class finals will not be posted or an-ounced until all sections have been worked.

[...]

### EQ119 Requirements for Specific Classes.

[...]

8. PLEASURE EQUITATION. For junior riders who have not reached their 18th birthday, riding Pleasure horses with full mane and tail with natural carriage. Classes may be divided as to sex and age of the rider. (For riders competing on American Saddlebreds: Horses cross entered in the Country Pleasure division at the same competition may not wear tailsets or bustles while on the grounds. Riders competing in these classes cannot compete in any other Saddle Seat Equitation classes at the same competition, except USEF Medal; UPHA, ~~The Good Hands~~ and American Saddlebred Pleasure Equitation Medallion Saddle Seat classes on Pleasure horses with full manes and tails with natural carriage. Riders competing in Pleasure Equitation classes are eligible to compete in the Open Saddle Seat Equitation Championship on a Pleasure horse with a full mane and tail with natural carriage only if a Pleasure Equitation Championship is not offered at that competition.

[...]

- ~~13. THE GOOD HANDS. For permission to offer this class and complete details, contact The Mid-America Horse Show Association, email admin@MidAmericaHorseShow.org or phone (847) 537-4743. There is a class fee.~~
  - ~~a. THE GOOD HANDS QUALIFYING CLASSES. For juniors who have not reached their 18th birthday. To be judged as a group at a walk, trot and canter. A minimum of two riders are required to individually execute a figure eight at a canter, trot to the judge, stop and back. After which, Tests 1-16 may be called for. Judging is based 40% on railwork and 60% on individual workout. Horsemanship only to count. To fill a class, two competitors must compete with proper tack. A rider must place first or second to qualify to compete in The Good Hands Finals. One win eliminates the rider from further competition in this class for the remainder of the qualifying~~

season.

- b. ~~THE GOOD HANDS FINALS. To be eligible, entrant must have placed first or second in an official Good Hands qualifying class at an approved competition and must be properly certified by the secretary of the competition at which such win was made. The winner of this championship is not eligible for further participation in this particular event. Open to junior riders who have not reached their eighteenth birthday. The finals consist of two sections: Preliminaries and the Championship class. The preliminary class(es) shall also serve as an elimination for the Championship class. In the preliminary, all eligible competitors are to be judged as a group at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring and then are required to individually execute the mandatory workout consisting of a figure eight at the canter, trot back to the judge, stop and back. Judging is based 40% on railwork, 60% on individual workout. Judges shall select 10-15 contestants to compete in the Championship class. In the final phase, all contestants are to be judged as a group at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. All contestants shall individually execute a prescribed workout. Further testing of any contestants may be requested at the judges' discretion. Again, judging is based on a 40% railwork, 60% individual workout analysis. A rider's performance in the preliminary has equal consideration as the performance in the final phase. In the event a horse becomes incapacitated, upon examination of the competition's veterinarian and a judge or steward, a substitution will be permitted.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/9/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The committee would like to remove the requirement for a class to be filled with 2 competitors in proper appointments in order for the class to count towards qualifying. By removing this requirement, if a class only has one entry, they will still be eligible to earn their qualification for the Final. Due to declining class participation, the current rule unfairly penalizes exhibitors when entries scratch or when a class ultimately has no additional competitors.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Saddle Seat Eq	Emily McSweeney emcsweeney@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## EQ119 Requirements for Specific Classes

1. [...]

12. USEF SADDLE SEAT MEDAL CLASS (17 & Under and Adult/Amateur).

a. Conditions Governing Competitors in USEF Saddle Seat Medal Classes

1. USEF Medal Classes are open to Individual Junior Members in good standing who have not reached their 18th birthday in accordance with GR128. Exception: Saddle Seat Adult Amateur classes are open to amateur riders 18 years of age or older. Affiliated Members are not eligible. No credit will be given for winnings before a competitor becomes a member.

2. Application for membership can be made directly to the Federation.

3. In Saddle Seat only the first place winner is eliminated from further qualifying classes during that year. In Saddle Seat Adult Amateur Medal classes a win does not eliminate a rider from further competition for the remainder of the year.

4. The winner of a Medal Class Final is no longer eligible to compete in Medal classes in the division in which the Final was won. (Exception: Winners of the Saddle Seat Adult Amateur Medal Final will be eliminated from further competition in Saddle Seat Adult Amateur Medal classes after two (2) consecutive or non-consecutive wins of the Final).

b. For full qualifying and Final specifications for the USEF Saddle Seat Medal Final and USEF Saddle Seat Adult Amateur Medal Final see the USEF website.

c. USEF SADDLE SEAT MEDAL CLASS (17 & Under). Open to Junior Active Members of the Federation who have not yet reached their 18th birthday. One win eliminates the rider from further competition in this class for the remainder of the qualifying season. Individual workouts of the top four competitors are required and must include two or more individual tests. Tests 1-16. Judging is based 50% on rail work and 50% on individual workout. ~~To fill a class, two competitors must show with proper appointments.~~ If there are more than 15 entries at the beginning of this class, it must be split and run as two separate classes. The same workout is required for both classes.

d. USEF SADDLE SEAT ADULT AMATEUR MEDAL CLASS. Open to Senior Active Amateur Members of the Federation. A win does not eliminate the rider from further competition in this class for the remainder of the qualifying season. Two or more individual tests of the top four competitors are required. Tests 1-13 and 15-16. Judging is based 50% on rail work and 50% on individual workout. If there are more than 15 entries at the beginning of this class, it must be split and run as two separate classes. The same workout is required for both classes.

**c. For full qualifying and Final specifications for the USEF Saddle Seat Medal Final and USEF Saddle Seat Adult Amateur Medal Final see the USEF website.**

### CLEAN VERSION OF WHAT 12 WOULD LOOK LIKE:

12. USEF SADDLE SEAT MEDAL CLASS (17 & Under and Adult/Amateur).

a. USEF SADDLE SEAT MEDAL CLASS (17 & Under). Open to Junior Active Members of the Federation who have not yet reached their 18th birthday. One win eliminates the rider from further competition in this class for the remainder of the qualifying season. Individual workouts of the top four competitors are required and must include two or more individual tests **listed in EQ120. Tests 1-16.** Judging is based 50% on rail work and 50% on individual workout. ~~To fill a class, two competitors must show with proper appointments.~~ If there are more than 15 entries at the beginning of this class, it must be split and run as two separate classes. The same workout is required for both classes.

b. USEF SADDLE SEAT ADULT AMATEUR MEDAL CLASS. Open to Senior Active Amateur Members of the Federation. A win does not eliminate the rider from further competition in this class for the remainder of the qualifying season. ~~Two or more individual tests of the top four competitors are required.~~ **The top four competitors are required to complete two or more individual tests listed in EQ120. Tests 1-13 and 15-16. 14 must not be called for.** Judging is based 50% on rail work and 50% on individual workout. If there are more than 15 entries at the beginning of this class, it must be split and run as two separate classes. The same workout is required for both classes.

c. For full qualifying and Final specifications for the USEF Saddle Seat Medal Final and USEF Saddle Seat Adult Amateur Medal Final see the USEF website.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/22/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This proposal seeks to remove all references to the Saddle & Bridle program classes from the USEF Rule Book in a manner consistent with the recently approved rule change to remove all references to UPHA programs and classes. This is due to the fact that Saddle & Bridle declined to enter into an agreement with USEF to prohibit their program classes from being held at any competition that does not prohibit persons on the USEF, FEI, or U.S. Center for Safe Sport banned or suspended lists from being on competition grounds or participating in the competitions.

Similar to other state and local association classes held at USEF competitions, the Saddle & Bridle program classes can still be offered by the organizer as miscellaneous classes and the program owner, Saddle & Bridle would assume the responsibility for how the classes are conducted, not the USEF.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USEF Executive Staff

Leslie Mangan

lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

## SUBCHAPTER EQ-3 SADDLE SEAT EQUITATION SECTION

[...]

EQ119 Requirements for Specific Classes.

[...]

8. PLEASURE EQUITATION. For junior riders who have not reached their 18th birthday, riding Pleasure horses with full mane and tail with natural carriage. Classes may be divided as to sex and age of the rider. (For riders competing on American Saddlebreds: Horses cross entered in the Country Pleasure division at the same competition may not wear tailsets or bustles while on the grounds. Riders competing in these classes cannot compete in any other Saddle Seat Equitation classes at the same competition, except USEF Medal, UPHA, The Good Hands and American Saddlebred Pleasure Equitation Medallion Saddle Seat classes on Pleasure horses with full manes and tails with natural carriage. Riders competing in Pleasure Equitation classes are eligible to compete in the Open Saddle Seat Equitation Championship on a Pleasure horse with a full mane and tail with natural carriage only if a Pleasure Equitation Championship is not offered at that competition.

[...]

13. ~~SADDLE & BRIDLE'S AMERICAN SADDLEBRED PLEASURE EQUITATION MEDALLION. For permission to offer this class and complete details please refer to the website for "Saddle & Bridle" magazine at [www.saddleandbridle.com](http://www.saddleandbridle.com).~~

### SB161 Classes Offered and Specifications

[...]

6. ~~SADDLE & BRIDLE'S SHATNER WESTERN PLEASURE CLASS. Please refer to the website for "Saddle & Bridle" Magazine at [www.saddleandbridle.com](http://www.saddleandbridle.com).~~
7. ~~SADDLE & BRIDLE'S WORKING WESTERN PLEASURE CLASS. Please refer to the website for "Saddle & Bridle" Magazine at [www.saddleandbridle.com](http://www.saddleandbridle.com).~~

### SB166 Classes Offered and Specifications

[...]

3. ~~SADDLE & BRIDLE'S HUNTER SEAT CLASSIC. Please refer to the website for "Saddle & Bridle" Magazine at [www.saddleandbridle.com](http://www.saddleandbridle.com).~~

## SUBCHAPTER 11-F AWARD SECTIONS

### GR1140 American Saddlebred

[...]

2. Point Tabulation. See GR1113-GR1119. Points for all competitions will be awarded as follows:

[...]

~~c. The Saddle and Bridle Hunter Classic Final and Saddle and Bridle Shatner Western Final held at the St. Louis National Charity Horse Show will receive triple points.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This proposal clarifies that the Federation-recognized Saddle Seat World Cup program and subsequent competition(s), which are the property of the Federation, will be run in accordance with USEF rules.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

USEF Executive Staff

Leslie Mangan

lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules      Comments

## SUBCHAPTER EQ-3 SADDLE SEAT EQUITATION SECTION

### EQ122 Saddle Seat World Cup Competition.

1. When the United States hosts the Saddle Seat World Cup in conjunction with a Federation licensed competition or as a stand-alone Federation licensed competition, USEF Membership and Show Pass fees will not apply to owners of donated horses and to international competitors.
2. The World Cup Competition will be conducted in accordance with ~~the International Saddle Seat Equitation Association (ISSEA) and~~ applicable USEF rules.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Add clarifying language to distance requirement for ditches and steps used at the Beginner Novice and Novice level to better assist officials and riders.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USEA

Hannah Seagle

[h temple@useventing.com](mailto:h temple@useventing.com)

Linked Rules Comments

## APPENDIX 1 - LEVELS OF HORSE TRIALS

1. Beginner Novice - The Beginner Novice level is designed to introduce green Horses and Athletes to Horse Trials. Beginner Novice is intended for Athletes and Horses that have experience in schooling Events in all three phases. The goal is an educational experience to build confidence and a desire to progress.

a. Dressage: Athletes should be prepared to do a walk, trot and canter Dressage test with 20 m figures and a halt.

b. Cross-Country: Obstacles, solid in appearance, with ground lines where appropriate to enhance the fence profile.

1. There must be no Obstacles before or after a water crossing within 78 ft (25 m) before and 54 ft (16 m) after.

2. A step up and down, but not in combination, may be included.

3. Ditches must be riveted and include a visible ground line with rounded edges and is at least 6 in (15 cm) above grade.

4. The track of the course must avoid turns of less than a 20 m radius.

5. The course must not include more than one combination composed of two elements, where the Obstacles must be a minimum of 33 ft apart ~~or 54 ft after a ditch or step up.~~

***An Obstacle must be a minimum of 54 ft before a ditch or a minimum of 57 ft after a ditch. An Obstacle must be a minimum of 54 ft. after a step.***

c. Show Jumping: The course should be inviting and straightforward, preferably with lines of 82 ft or more and may include only one double set on two strides, a minimum of 34 ft, which may include only one oxer at the "a" element of the combination.

1. Liverpools are prohibited at this level.

2. Novice—The Novice level is a continuing introduction to Horse Trials. It is designed for Athletes and Horses with some experience at lower levels or for experienced Athletes and Horses who are new to the discipline.

a. Dressage: Athletes should be prepared to do a walk, trot, and canter Dressage test with 20 m figures, and a halt.

b. Cross-Country: Obstacles, solid in appearance, with ground lines where appropriate to enhance the fence profile.

1. Obstacles in combinations should be a minimum of 33 ft apart, ~~and an Obstacle after a ditch or step up at no less than 42 ft apart.~~ ***An Obstacle must be a minimum of 42 ft***

***before a ditch or a minimum of 45 ft after a ditch.***

2. Steps in combination may include: a step up followed by a step down at a minimum of 30 ft, two steps up at a minimum of 33 ft, or an Obstacle after a step up at a minimum of 30 ft.

3. Water Obstacles may include a step or single Obstacle out of water or a single Obstacle 45 ft before the water and a single Obstacle 30 ft after water.

c. Show Jumping: The course should be inviting and straightforward, preferably with lines of 82 ft or more and must only include one or two doubles, set on two strides of a minimum of 34 ft. Each combination may only include one oxer at the "a" element of the combination.

1. Liverpools are prohibited at this level.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/29/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Align Modified qualifications with all other classic series divisions. Now that the Modified Level is established across the country, the allowance for Training Level MERs should be removed. One or more MER at the Modified Level need to be obtained to qualify for a Modified Classic Series event.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USEA

Hannah Seagle

[h temple@useventing.com](mailto:h temple@useventing.com)

Linked Rules Comments

## APPENDIX 2 – Participation in Horse Trials

### 3. LEVELS OF HORSE TRIALS AND EVENTS

3.4.1 MODIFIED CLASSIC THREE-DAY EVENT- Open to Athletes of any age, on Horses five years of age or older. Both the Athlete and the Horse as a combination must achieve one or more MERs at ~~Horse Trials at the Training level or higher or one at the Modified level or higher.~~ An Athlete established at the Preliminary level may compete on a Horse which has obtained two MERs at the ~~Training~~ **Modified** level or higher. Qualifying Events must be completed within a 24-month period prior to the start of the Classic Three-Day Event.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The Modified specification on cross-country dimensions and speeds does not align with the FEI Specification for the 1 star level. America was the first to add the 3'5" Modified level and recognize it through the USEF. Then, the FEI added a 1-star level with different specifications. This is very confusing, especially when a Modified National Horse trial runs at the same event as a 1-Star FEI competition. We feel the Modified specifications should be changed to meet the FEI specifications. This would alleviate any confusion for the riders and officials.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USEA

Hannah Seagle

[h temple@useventing.com](mailto:h temple@useventing.com)

Linked Rules Comments

### APPENDIX 3 - SPECIFICATIONS FOR HORSE TRIALS

For other specifications, such as depth of water, widths of water crossings, etc., See EV145.

	Beginner Novice	Novice	Training	Modified	Preliminary	Intermediate	Advanced
Dressage							
Federation Eventing tests	BN A BN B	Novice A Novice B	Training A Training B	Modified A Modified B Modified C	Preliminary A Preliminary B Preliminary C	Intermediate A Intermediate B Intermediate C	Advanced A Advanced B
Cross-Country							
Distances	1400 - 2000m	1600 - 2200m	2000 - 2600m	2200m - 3000m	2200 - 3120m	2600 - 3575m	3200 - 3990m
Speeds Optimum Time	300 - 350mpm	350 - 400mpm	420 - 470mpm	490-500mpm	520mpm	550mpm	570mpm
Speed Faults	420mpm	450mpm	520mpm	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Efforts	14-18	16-20	20-24	22-28	22-30	26-34	32-40
Heights Fixed Brush	.80m (2'7") .91m (3')	.90m (2'11") 1.10m (3'7")	1.00m (3'3") 1.20m (3'11")	1.05m (3'5") 1.25m (4'1")	1.10m (3'7") 1.30m (4'3")	1.15m (3'9") 1.35m (4'5")	1.20m (3'11") 1.40m (4'7")
Spreads Highest Point Base Without Height	84m (2'9") 1.22m (4') 1.22m (4')	1.00m (3'3") 1.50m (4'11") 2.00m (6'7")	1.20m (3'11") 1.8m (5'11") 2.40m (7'11")	<del>1.30m (4'3")</del> 1.20m (3'11") <del>2.04m (6'5")</del> 1.80m (5'11") <del>2.6m (8'6")</del> 2.40m (7'11")	1.40m (4'7") 2.10m (6'11") 2.80m (9'2")	1.60m (5'3") 1.60m (5'3") 2.40m (7'11") 3.20m (10'6")	1.80m (5'11") 1.80m (5'11") 2.70m (8'10") 3.60m (11'10")
Drops	1.01m (3'3")	1.20m (3'11")	1.40m (4'7")	<del>1.5m (4'11")</del> 1.40m (4'11")	1.60m (5'3")	1.80m (5'11")	2.00 (6'7")
Show Jumping							
Lengths	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m
Speeds	300mpm	320mpm	325mpm	325mpm	350mpm	350mpm	375mpm
Efforts	9-11	9-11	10-12	10-13	11-13	12-14	13-15
Heights	.80m (2'7")	.90m (2'11")	1.0m (3'3")	1.05m (3'5")	1.10m (3'7")	1.20m (3'11")	1.25m (4'1")
Overall Spreads of Oxers	1.00m (3'3")	1.10m (3'7")	1.20m (3'11")	1.25m (4'1")	1.30m (4'3")	1.40m (4'7")	1.45m (4'9")
Overall Spreads of Triple Bar	1.20m (3'11")	1.30m (4'3")	1.40m (4'7")	1.45m (4'9")	1.50m (4'11")	1.60m (5'3")	1.65m (5'5")

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

fine tune show jumping specs, such as adjusting some spreads for a safer and more appropriate relationship to heights

Proponent Details Contact Information

USEA

Hannah Seagle

[h temple@useventing.com](mailto:h temple@useventing.com)

Linked Rules Comments

### APPENDIX 3 - SPECIFICATIONS FOR HORSE TRIALS

For other specifications, such as depth of water, widths of water crossings, etc., See EV145.

	Beginner Novice	Novice	Training	Modified	Preliminary	Intermediate	Advanced
Dressage							
Federation Eventing tests	BN A BN B	Novice A Novice B	Training A Training B	Modified A Modified B Modified C	Preliminary A Preliminary B Preliminary C	Intermediate A Intermediate B Intermediate C	Advanced A Advanced B
Cross-Country							
Distances	1400 - 2000m	1600 - 2200m	2000 - 2600m	2200m - 3000m	2200 - 3120m	2600 - 3575m	3200 - 3990m
Speeds Optimum Time	300 - 350mpm	350 - 400mpm	420 - 470mpm	490mpm	520mpm	550mpm	570mpm
Speed Faults	420mpm	450mpm	520mpm	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Efforts	14-18	16-20	20-24	22-28	22-30	26-34	32-40
Heights Fixed Brush	.80m (2'7") .91m (3')	.90m (2'11") 1.10m (3'7")	1.00m (3'3") 1.20m (3'11")	1.05m (3'5") 1.25m (4'1")	1.10m(3'7") 1.30m(4'3")	1.15m (3'9") 1.35m (4'5")	1.20m(3'11") 1.40m (4'7")
Spreads Highest Point Base Without Height	84m (2'9") 1.22m (4') 1.22m (4')	1.00m (3'3") 1.50m (4'11") 2.00m (6'7")	1.20m (3'11") 1.8m (5'11") 2.40m (7'11")	1.30m (4'3") 2.04m (6'5") 2.6m (8'6")	1.40m (4'7") 2.10m (6'11") 2.80m (9'2")	1.60m (5'3") 2.40m (7'11") 3.20m (10'6")	1.80m (5'11") 2.70m (8'10") 3.60m (11'10")
Drops	1.01m (3'3")	1.20m (3'11")	1.40m (4'7")	1.5m (4'11")	1.60m (5'3")	1.80m (5'11")	2.00 (6'7")
Show Jumping							
Lengths	Maximum <del>600m</del> 500m	Maximum <del>600m</del> 500m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m
Speeds	300mpm	<del>320mpm</del> 325mpm	325mpm	<del>325mpm</del> 350mpm	350mpm	350mpm	375mpm
Efforts	9 - 11	9 - 11	10 - 12	10 - 13	11-13	12-14	13-15
Heights	0.80m	0.90m (2'11")	1.00m	1.05m	1.10m (3'7")	1.20m (3'11")	1.25m (4'1")
Overall Spreads of Overs	<del>1.00m (3'3")</del> 0.90m (2'11")	<del>1.10m (3'7")</del> 1.00m (3'3")	<del>1.20m (3'11")</del> 1.15m (3'9")	1.25m (4'1")	1.30m (4'3")	1.40m (4'7")	1.45m (4'9")
Overall Spreads of Triple Bar	<del>1.20m (3'11")</del> N/A	<del>1.30m (4'3")</del> N/A	1.40m (4'7")	1.45m (4'9")	1.50m (4'11")	1.60m (5'3")	1.65m (5'5")

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/17/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The rule change proposal intends to broaden the neckwear clothing requirements in dressage and show jumping. During the heat of summer, many of the lower-level competitors are often seen in violation of the rules as stock ties and pins are removed. Updated language ease neckwear requirements to a minimum of a shirt collar and broaden breeches color to all conservative colors. Utilizing modern apparel styles to be used in competition allows for better inclusivity of members.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEA	Hannah Seagle  h temple@useventing.com

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER EV-9 DRESS

### 5. DRESSAGE PHASE

c. Shirts. A shirt worn with a jacket may be any color or design. It may have tasteful and discreet accents. ~~It must be worn with a stock and pin, choker, or tie.~~ **Neckwear must be worn that may include a closed shirt collar, stock and pin, choker, or tie.** If an Athlete competes without a jacket, the Athlete must wear a shirt with sleeves and a collar, tucked into riding breeches. It may be any color or design and may have tasteful and discreet accents. No neckwear is permitted.

e. Breeches or jodhpurs. ~~Light color or white. Any conservative color is permitted.~~ **White, light or dark colored breeches or jodhpurs are permitted in competition. Bright colors or patterns are not permitted. Contrast piping is allowed.**

### 7. SHOW JUMPING PHASE

c. Shirts. A shirt worn with a jacket may be any color or design. It may have tasteful and discreet accents. ~~It must be worn with a stock and pin, choker, or tie.~~ **Neckwear must be worn that may include a closed shirt collar, stock and pin, choker, or tie.** If an Athlete competes without a jacket, the Athlete must wear a shirt with sleeves and a collar, tucked into riding breeches. It may be any color or design and may have tasteful and discreet accents. No neckwear is permitted.

e. Breeches or jodhpurs. ~~Light color or white. Any conservative color is permitted.~~ **White, light or dark colored breeches or jodhpurs are permitted in competition. Bright colors or patterns are not permitted. Contrast piping is allowed.**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/29/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Permit the use of ear plugs in all phases of eventing. The removal of ear hoods following competition often poses safety risks to officials and volunteer stewards who are required to inspect the horse's ears for ear plugs. By permitting the use of ear plugs during competition, there would be no need to require ear hoods be removed for inspection, eliminating the safety risks of onsite personnel. National level competitions are primarily reliant on volunteers to cover the dressage inspections, who often do not have the horse experience or knowledge of how best to handle removal of bridles/safety handling horses, or what exactly an ear plug looks or feels like inside the ear.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USEA

Hannah Seagle

htemple@useventing.com

Linked Rules Comments

## SUBCHAPTER EV-10 SADDLERY

### 2. DRESSAGE TEST.

- i. Ear hoods **and ear plugs** are permitted for all Tests and may also provide noise reduction. However, ear hoods must allow for ears to move freely and must not cover the horse's eyes ~~and ear plugs are not permitted (exception for prize giving ceremonies)~~. The ear hoods should be discreet in color and design. Ear hoods may not be attached to the noseband.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/29/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

There have been multiple instances at events where an Athlete wished to withdraw from the FEI division following their Dressage Test (for reasons unrelated to horse welfare) and move to the National Event. EV108 only addresses Horses that are Eliminated for reasons unrelated to horse welfare. The proposed rule change expands the rule to permit Horses that Withdraw from FEI Events, for reason unrelated to horse welfare, to compete in the National Event at a level that they are qualified for, at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Alison Lloyd  alloyd@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## EV108 Participation

### 4. HORSES.

- a. Events are open to stallions, mares, or geldings. The age of the Horse must comply with the specifications of the Event.
- b. For Horse Trials and Classic Three-Day Events, Horses may only compete once and must be ridden by the same Athlete throughout all phases.
- c. At FEI Events running concurrently with a national Event, if a Horse is Eliminated **or is Withdrawn in during or after** the Dressage **phase Test** for reasons unrelated to horse welfare, ~~the national Ground Jury, in consultation with the Technical Delegate and the Organizer, may at their discretion, permit the Horse to compete in the national Event at the same height level or below.~~ **the national Ground Jury may in their sole discretion, in consultation with the Technical Delegate and the Organizer, permit the Horse to compete in the national Event at a level for which they are qualified. Any Horse that has started the second phase of an FEI Event, it is not eligible to compete in the national Event.**
- d. As an exception to GR840, a Horse is eligible for Events even though it has complete loss of sight in one eye, provided sight in the other eye is normal and it meets the other requirements.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/11/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

To provide consistent application of Dangerous Riding across competitions. Currently, Dangerous Riding may receive three different penalties: 25 penalties, Elimination, and/or issued a Recorded Warning Card. To ensure fairness for all competitors, the proposed amends the penalties so that all cases of Dangerous Riding must receive a Recorded Warning. In addition to a Recorded Warning, 25 penalties or Elimination may be applied, at the discretion of the Ground Jury. The proposed penalties also align with the FEI rules for Dangerous Riding.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Alison Lloyd alloyd@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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### **EV113 Dangerous Riding**

1. Dangerous Riding is considered any Athlete who rides in such a way as to constitute a hazard to the safety or well-being of the Athlete, Horse, other Athletes, their Horses, spectators, or others during the competition. Dangerous Riding may include but is not limited to the following:

- a. Riding out of control (Horse clearly not responding to the Athletes restraining or driving aids).
- b. Riding Obstacles too fast or too slow.
- c. Repeatedly standing off fences too far (pushing the Horse to the base of the Obstacle, firing the Horse to the fence).
- d. Repeatedly being ahead or behind the Horse's movement when jumping.
- e. Series of dangerous jumps.
- f. Severe lack of responsiveness from the Horse or the Athlete.
- g. Continuing after three clear refusals, a fall, or any form of Elimination.
- h. Endangering the public in any way (e.g., jumping out of the roped track).

~~2. Dangerous Riding will be penalized accordingly, at the discretion of the Ground Jury. Athletes who engage in Dangerous Riding must receive 25 penalties, be Eliminated, and/or issued a Recorded Warning. The overall score for the Horse/Athlete combination must not count as a qualifying MER. All cases of Dangerous Riding must receive a Recorded Warning. The Ground Jury, in its discretion, may apply an additional penalty of Elimination or 25 penalties. If Dangerous Riding is reported, the Ground Jury must evaluate the evidence and determine if a penalty is appropriate. There is no appeal against a Ground Jury's decision in a case of Dangerous Riding.~~

~~3. If Dangerous Riding is reported, the Ground Jury must evaluate the evidence and determine if a penalty is appropriate. If a member of the Ground Jury observes Dangerous Riding, they may Eliminate or penalize the Athlete. There is no appeal against a Ground Jury's decision in a case of Dangerous Riding.~~

3. The Ground Jury, the Technical Delegate, and the Course Designer for the Event, when present solely in their role as Course Designer, have the authority to stop an Athlete on the Cross-Country course for Dangerous Riding.

4. The President of the Ground Jury may designate one or several deputies (i.e., Eventing Licensed Officials up to the level for which they are licensed and not in an official function at the Event, any Level IV or V USEA ECP Instructor or any Athlete who has represented the USA in a World Championship, Olympic Games, or Pan American Games) for the Cross-Country phase to advise the Ground Jury regarding any action described in 1 or 4 3 (above). Deputies and fence judges will be provided with a red flag to be waved at the Athlete, at the direction of Ground Jury, to stop the Athlete if the situation continues or for infringement of the above.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/17/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This language aims to clarify the circumstances under which a missed marker occurs.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

Eventing

Alison Lloyd

alloyd@usef.org

Linked Rules      Comments

## EV122 Cross-Country Phase Definitions of Faults

### 2. DISOBEDIENCES (REFUSALS, RUN-OUTS, and MISSED MARKER).

c. Missed marker. To clear an Obstacle, the Horse's head, neck, and points of both shoulders must pass between the Obstacle markers. ***A Horse is considered to have missed a marker when the point of a shoulder fails to pass between the obstacle markers.*** If a marker is dislodged, the hindquarters must jump the height of the solid part of the obstacle. If the Obstacle is not navigated as described a 9-point penalty must be assessed.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/11/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The proposal amends Compulsory Retirement (CR) so it is only applied when the Show Jumping phase occurs before the Cross Country phase. The intent of the rule is to prevent combinations with a poor Show Jumping performance from beginning the Cross-Country phase as a safety precaution. When Show Jumping occurs after Cross Country, there is no perceived benefit to risk management, so the proposed would allow athlete to finish on their numerical score as they have completed the competition.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Alison Lloyd alloyd@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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### EV127 Show Jumping Phase Penalties

8. COMPULSORY RETIREMENT. An Athlete incurs 20 or more jump penalties at the Training level or higher, *when the Show Jumping phase is before the Cross-Country phase*. Compulsory Retirement is enforced at the end of the round unless the Athlete retires or is Eliminated. An Athlete who receives a CR will not be permitted to begin the Cross-Country phase. *An Athlete that starts the Cross-Country phase after receiving a CR must be issued a Recorded Warning or Yellow Warning Card.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Riders moving up the levels are not properly educated on the rules that apply at higher levels of competition. The lack of education directly impacts the safety of horse and rider during competition.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USEA

Hannah Seagle

[h temple@useventing.com](mailto:h temple@useventing.com)

Linked Rules Comments

## EV127 Show Jumping Phase Penalties

8. **COMPULSORY RETIREMENT.** An Athlete incurs 20 or more jump penalties at the Training level or higher. Compulsory Retirement is enforced at the end of the round unless the Athlete retires or is eliminated. An Athlete who receives a CR will not be permitted to begin the Cross-Country phase. ***An Athlete who starts Cross-Country after receiving a CR will be issued a Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/17/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Fitness to compete is an essential requirement of all equine athletes participating in competitions. The proposed language ensures that horses overall wellbeing is also taken into consideration in addition to soundness. To ensure the well-being of competition horses, Licensed Officials must feel authorized to identify an unfit or unsound horse to determine best welfare options for competition. Allowing the President of the Ground Jury to rely on support from the TD and Veterinarian creates a better nonbiased conversation to take place regarding horse welfare.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEA	Hannah Seagle  htemple@useventing.com

Linked Rules	Comments
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## EV156 Ground Jury Qualifications and Duties

### 2. DUTIES:

#### b. The Ground Jury:

1. Will Judge the Dressage phase. Additional Judges may be appointed by the Organizer, in accordance with EV157, but the Ground Jury is responsible for all decisions.
2. Will be responsible for all arrangements made by the Organizer for the judging and timekeeping of the Cross-Country phase. The Ground Jury or the Technical Delegate must be available to adjudicate on unforeseen circumstances, inquiries, and protests.
3. Will be responsible for evaluating inquiries and protests on the Cross-Country phase. The Ground Jury's decision will supersede decisions rendered by a Licensed Official or appointed personnel of the Event.
4. Will be responsible for judging the Show Jumping phase. This duty may be delegated to an additional Judge, Technical Delegate, or a panel of Licensed Officials appointed by the Organizer, in accordance with EV157.
5. Must Eliminate any Horse that is lame, sick, or exhausted; and any Athlete who is unfit to continue. **If a Horse's fitness to compete is questioned in any regards, the Ground Jury must consult with the Veterinarian prior to Elimination. the President of the Ground Jury in consultation with the Veterinarian and Technical Delegate will convene to determine the best options for the welfare of the Horse and education of the rider.** See also EV112, EV105. There is no appeal against a Ground Jury determination for these circumstances.
6. At Classic Three-Day Events, the Ground Jury and the veterinarian will form the committee for the first and third Horse Inspections.
7. At Classic Three-Day Events, the President of the Ground Jury will be based at the control center (or elsewhere as decided by the President of the Ground Jury) to adjudicate any unforeseen circumstances. Another Ground Jury member and the veterinarian will form the Horse Inspection committee for the Inspection during the 10 minute halt.
8. For mixed level sections (EV133.1d), the Dressage Judge must be licensed to officiate at the level of the test for which they are responsible.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

## Rule Change Intent

This rule change will permit competition management to host concurrent classes (two classes adjudicated concurrently in a single arena). This will allow for those classes with identical specifications to compete in the arena at one time. This will be beneficial to competitions that have small class sizes to be able to save time in their schedule, beneficial to exhibitors having more horses in the competition ring, and provide more excitement for spectators to have larger class sizes (versus one and two horse classes).

## Proponent Details

Friesian

## Contact Information

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

SUBCHAPTER FR1 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

FR101 Eligibility to Compete

(...)

**35. Concurrent classes are two separate classes adjudicated concurrently in a single arena. Competition management may choose to offer concurrent classes provided:**

- a. Both classes are held in accordance with all applicable Federation rules,*
- b. The class specifications are the same for both classes,*
- c. There are no duplicate riders,*
- d. The combined class size does not exceed 25 horses, and*
- e. The same judge(s) adjudicates both classes and submits separate judge's cards for each class.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Previously, the Friesian Committee had placed all necessary verbiage for the Friesian Carriage Pleasure Driving section within their chapter, by using much of the same verbiage from the Carriage Pleasure Driving chapter, but it has come to the committee's attention that this causes discrepancies among Carriage Pleasure Driving exhibitors competing in both Open CPD and FR CPD when rule changes are made in the CPD chapter, but not the FR CPD section. This rule change will remove all current verbiage from the FR CPD section and simply reference to the CPD section with a list of exceptions in the Friesian chapter. This will keep further discrepancies between the CPD chapter and the FR CPD section from occurring.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

Friesian

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules      Comments

## SUBCHAPTER FR-18 CARRIAGE DRIVING

### FR182 Carriage Pleasure Driving

#### 1. General Rules

- a. Excessive use of the voice, shouting, or whistling to the horse may be penalized, at the judge's discretion. The driver must control the horse's movements with discreet use of vocal aids.
- b. Drivers should strive to maintain a safe distance from other vehicles both during the competition, in the warm-up and parking areas.
- c. In the case of an accident or equipment failure, which requires repair or readjustment, all groomers or passengers carried on the vehicle must dismount the vehicle. They should not remount until the repair has been completed and the turnout deemed fit to continue. The exception would be in the case of a minor adjustment (e.g., trace down), only the groomer need dismount. Appropriate penalties will be assessed according to class specifications.
- d. It is the responsibility of each driver to ensure that the harness and vehicle are in good repair, structurally sound, and safe for competition conditions. Turnouts without braking mechanisms (such as breeching, brakes, or tug stops with wrap girths) may be restricted from certain classes for safety reasons. The judge must eliminate an unsafe entry from any class. Repeated offenses may incur disqualification.
- e. The driver must sit on the right hand side of the vehicle unless construction of the vehicle prevents this.
- f. Either the one- or two-handed method of driving is permitted in all Carriage Pleasure Driving classes, including Reinmanship.
- g. Please refer to the USEF Carriage Pleasure rules (CP Chapter) for rules not covered within the FR-18 Carriage Driving subchapter.

#### 2. Vehicles

- a. Marathon & CDE Vehicles may be used in all Carriage Pleasure Driving Classes with exception of Carriage Pleasure Driving Turnout and Concours D'Elegance.
- b. Any four-wheeled vehicle (carriage) is permitted. Please refer to the CP division — Appendix CP-C Turnout and Appointments.
- c. Wire-wheeled and pneumatic-tired vehicles are permitted.

3. Attire. It is the responsibility of the driver to see that the driver and all attendants, groomers, passengers and horses are appropriately attired and turned out for the class in question. Refer to Appendix CP-C, Turnout and Appointments for additional information.

##### a. Attire for drivers, groomers, and passengers:

I. Drivers: Dress must conform to the type of turnout (i.e., Formal, Park, Country, Sporting, Commercial). Less traditional attire (example: Combined Driving Marathon attire) is permitted only if it is allowed in the class description, otherwise a penalty or elimination may result. Except for certain commercial turnouts:

1. Gentlemen must wear a coat or jacket while appearing in any class unless excused from doing so by the judge and/or Show Manager. When accepting awards, gentlemen are required to remove their hats.
2. Ladies must wear a conservative dress, tailored suit, or slacks. Floppy hats are prohibited.
3. Unless otherwise specified, the driver must wear a hat, an apron or knee rug and gloves.

II. Groomers: Groomers may wear stable livery in any but the more formal vehicles where full livery is appropriate. Where it is specifically allowed in the Omnibus/Prize List or class description, less formal attire may be appropriate, must always be neat and clean. In all classes, groomers must wear a hat or protective headgear.

##### 1. Stable Livery consists of one of the following:

- a. A conservative suit, white shirt, dark tie, derby, dark shoes and leather gloves.
- b. A conservative jacket, jodhpurs or drill trousers, jodhpur or paddock boots, white shirt, stock or four-in-hand tie, leather gloves, derby or conservative cap.
- c. Hunting attire with a hunting derby or bowler.

d. Full Livery consists of a close-fitting body coat with buttons of yellow or white metal to match the furnishings of the harness used (if possible), white breeches, black boots with tan tops, white stock, black top hat and brown leather gloves. The color of the coat remains the owner's preference, but must be conservative in nature and, where possible, complementary to the color of the vehicle.

III. Passengers: Dress should conform to the type of turnout (i.e., Formal, Park, Country, Sporting). Except for certain Coaching and Commercial turnouts, all passengers should wear a hat, an apron or knee rug, and gloves.

#### 4. Tack

##### a. Harness

I. The harness must be in good condition, clean, fit properly and be appropriate for the style of vehicle.

II. Bridles must fit snugly to prevent catching on the vehicle or other pieces of harness.

III. A throatlatch and a full noseband are mandatory. A full noseband is defined as a noseband fully encircling the nose. Flash nosebands are strongly discouraged in pleasure driving classes. The use of gullet straps is acceptable.

IV. Black harness is considered appropriate with:

1. painted vehicles;
2. natural wood vehicle with iron parts painted any color except brown;
3. dash, fender, shaft and pole trimmings should match the harness.

V. Russet harness is considered appropriate with:

1. natural wood vehicle with brown or black iron;
2. painted vehicle with natural wood panels with any color iron; or
3. vehicle that is painted brown with brown iron;
4. dash, fenders, shaft, and pole trimmings should match the harness.

VI. The collars of four-in-hand leaders are not to be tied together.

VII. Boots—Bell boots, shin boots and wraps are allowed in Pleasure Drive classes and may be permitted at the discretion of the judge in other classes due to local conditions. Boots protecting the sole of the foot are allowed in any pleasure class.

VIII. Standing martingales are allowed for Stanhope or Park Gate Gig vehicles and George IV Phaetons, except in obstacle classes.

IX. Check reins and martingales (except false martingales) are prohibited in Obstacle classes. Failure to comply will incur elimination. In other classes, check reins and martingales may be appropriate turnout for certain vehicles. See Appendix CR-C, Turnout and Appointments

X. Kicking straps are permitted but they should match the harness being used.

b. Protective Headgear: All juniors in all competitions must wear properly fastened protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carry the SEI tag. It must be properly fitted with harness secured. Failure to comply will result in elimination. All competitors, attendants, grooms and passengers are encouraged to use of protective headgear.

c. Additional Safety Equipment: Body protectors are permitted for all participants and are not to be penalized.

d. A whip must be carried in hand at all times while driving. A driver not in compliance may be eliminated or disqualified. The thong of the whip should be long enough to reach the shoulder of the farthest horse. A driver not in compliance with the above may be penalized. A whip with its thong tied in a manner which renders it incapable of reaching the farthest horse is not allowed. Failure to comply must be severely penalized.

#### 5. Description of Gaits. Cantering and galloping are prohibited unless clearly stated in the prize list.

a. The walk is a free, regular, and unconstrained walk of moderate extension is ideal. The horses should walk energetically, but calmly, with even and determined pace. The walk is a four beat gait.

b. The trot is a two beat, diagonal gait.

i. Slow Trot: The horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The trot is slower and more collected, but not to the degree required in the dressage collected trot. However, the horse should indicate willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady

cadence.

ii. Working Trot: This is the pace between the strong and the slow trot and more round than the strong trot. The horse goes forward freely and straight; engaging the hind legs with good hock action; on a taut, but light, rein; the position being balanced and unconstrained. The steps should be as even as possible. The hind feet touch the ground in the footprints of the fore feet. The degree of energy and impulsion displayed at the working trot denotes clearly the degree of suppleness and balance of the horse.

iii. Strong Trot: This is a clear, but not excessive, increase in pace and lengthening of stride while remaining well balanced and showing appropriate lateral flexion on turns. Light contact to be maintained. Excessive speed must be penalized.

c. Halt: Horses and vehicle should be brought to a complete and square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt, horses should stand attentive, motionless, and straight with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs and be ready to move off at the slightest indication from the driver.

d. Reinback is defined as a backward movement in which the legs are raised and set down simultaneously in diagonal pairs with the hind legs remaining well in line. To be performed in two parts:

i. The horse must move backward at least four steps in an unhurried manner with head flexed and straight, pushing the vehicle back evenly in a straight line. The driver should use quiet aids and light contact.

ii. Move forward willingly to former position using the same quiet aids.

iii. Road Coaches and Park Drags are not to be asked to back up in the show ring.

e. The canter is a controlled three-beat gait consisting of three evenly spaced footfalls followed by the "suspension" phase when all four legs are off the ground. The three beats and suspension are considered one stride.

f. The gallop is a four-beat gait, faster than a canter.

g. A stride is defined as the cycle of movements that is completed when the horse's legs regain their initial positions. Length of stride refers to the amount of ground covered by an entire sequence.

h. Show Your Horse: At this command, the driver has the privilege of showing the Horse(s) to its best advantage at the trot, but speed will be penalized.

## 6. Class Specifications

### a. Turnout

I. A Pleasure Driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the performance and quality of each turnout.

II. Horses are to be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot, and strong trot. Horses are to stand quietly and to rein back.

III. Entries are to be judged on the following:

1. 70% on the condition, fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle, spares and appointments, neatness and appropriateness of attire and overall impression.
2. 30% on performance, manners, and way of going.

### b. Working

I. A Pleasure Driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the suitability of the horse to provide a pleasant drive.

II. Horses are to be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. To stand quietly, both on the rail and while lined up, and to rein back.

III. All entries chosen for a workout may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute appropriate tests.

IV. Entries to be judged on the following:

1. 70% on performance, manners, and way of going of the horse(s).
2. 20% on the condition and fit of harness and vehicle.
3. 10% on neatness of attire.

### c. Reinsmanship

I. A Pleasure Driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the ability and skill of the driver.

II. Horses to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. Drivers must be required to rein back.

III. All drivers chosen for a workout may be worked at any gait requested by the judge and may be

asked to execute appropriate tests.

IV. The driver must be seated comfortably on the box so as to be relaxed and effective.

V. Any style of rein handling is permitted. Common to any method, the elbows and arms should be close to the body with an allowing but steady hand enabling a consistent "feel" with the horse's mouth.

VI. Entries to be judged on the following:

1. 75% on handling of reins and whip, control, posture, and overall impression of driver.

2. 25% on the condition of harness and vehicle and neatness of attire.

VII. See CP224.7 for a list of tests from which the judges may choose for individual workouts, including asking for any maneuver to be driven one handed.

VIII. For Friesian Novice Reinsmanship, the below movements may be called for in a pattern. For example patterns, see the Friesian page of the Federation's Website.

**a. Movements for any class**

I. Figure Eight

II. Transitions Slow Trot to Working Trot

III. Change Directions across Diagonal at Walk

IV. No Strong Trot asked for in class

V. Halt on Rail, Stand Quietly with no Rein Back

VI. No one Handed tests asked for in Class

VII. Headers Allowed

**b. Movement for Amateur and Junior exhibitor classes**

I. Figure 8 at working trot or slow trot

II. No strong trot in class

III. Transition walk to slow trot; slow trot to walk

IV. Transition walk to working trot; working trot to walk

V. Headers Allowed, required for junior drivers

VI. Halt and stand quietly for 5 seconds

VII. Halt, reinback 3 steps, stand quietly

VIII. Change directions across diagonal at walk

IX. Halt salute at beginning and conclusion of pattern

**c. Movements for Open classes**

I. Figure 8 at working trot or slow trot

II. Figure 8 first loop/circle slow trot, second loop/circle working trot

III. Figure 8 first loop/circle working trot, second loop/circle slow trot

IV. Transitions walk to working trot; working trot to walk

V. No headers allowed (exception: a header is required for Junior drivers)

VI. One handed performance of test permitted

VII. Halt and stand quietly for 5 seconds

VIII. Reinback 5 steps, halt, step forward to starting point, halt

IX. Change directions across diagonal at slow trot

X. Halt, 90 degree pivot to either right or left (2 wheel vehicles only)

XI. Halt salute at beginning and conclusion of pattern

**d. Drive and Ride. Drive and Ride class requires a single horse to be shown in two concurrent sections, harness and under saddle.**

I. In the harness section, horses are to be shown to a suitable pleasure driving vehicle, and are to be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot, and strong trot. Horses are to stand quietly and to rein back.

II. In the under saddle section, horses must be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, trot (or jog), and canter (or lope). Horses are to stand quietly and to rein back.

III. Entries to be judged on the following:

1. 50% on performance, manners, way of going and suitability in harness.

2. 50% on performance, manners, and way of going under saddle.

**e. Concours d'Elegance**

I. The class may be judged:

1. As a separate class;
2. In conjunction with a specific class or classes or pleasure drives as designated by the organizer; or
3. By overall impression throughout the competition.

ii. The essence of this class is the word "Elegance." The winner will be the turnout which, in the opinion of the judge, presents the most elegant effect. This will include vehicle, harness, appointments, horse(s), driver, passengers, groom(s), etc., but above all, general impression is most important. Vehicle and harness may be inspected to ensure thoughtful restoration and careful maintenance. Attention must be paid to the personal appearance of the driver, groom(s), and passengers as it contributes to the overall picture. Period costumes are prohibited, unless otherwise stated in the Omnibus/Prize List. Performance will not be judged unless it detracts from the elegance of the turnout.

## 7. Pleasure Obstacle Driving Classes

### a. General Rules

- i. A horse must not be entered more than once in the same obstacle class, except as part of a pair or multiple.
- ii. A groom/passenger may compete as a driver on the same course.
- iii. A practice obstacle must be provided for use in a specified area. Times for the use of the area may be controlled by the manager.
- iv. Unless expressly permitted by the manager, driving, leading, or riding horses on any course used for competition at any time prior to or after the competition is prohibited. Failure to comply incurs elimination from any classes using that course.
- v. Within any division, schooling entries may be permitted at the discretion of the manager as published in the prize list. These entries are not eligible for competition and will receive no score or placing in any class. At the discretion of the manager, a horse and/or driver may drive as a Schooling Entry on the same courses used in competition after they have competed those courses.

b. Attire. Drivers must dress appropriately when competing in any Pleasure Driving class including obstacles. This must be show attire unless otherwise specified in the Omnibus / Prize List.

### c. Course information

#### i. Course Walk

1. Drivers must be allowed time to walk the course prior to the start of a class and to inspect each obstacle.
2. Only officials and the Organizer may alter or work on any part of the course. If any athlete or person associated with them alters the course in any way, the athlete must be disqualified.

#### ii. Course description See Appendix CP-B for an example of Obstacles.

1. The course must consist of Start and Finish markers, decorative materials, and driveable obstacles consisting of number markers, paired cones, or other materials such as rails, fence panels, barrels, etc. Cone pairs may be numbered with red and white markers placed on the cones themselves.
2. Unless otherwise specified in class rules, each obstacle on a prescribed course must be numbered consecutively and marked red on the right, and white on the left.
3. Scurry obstacles must not be numbered.
4. A course diagram and applicable time allowed must be posted at least two hours before the start of the class.
5. Start and finish lines for all obstacle courses should be a minimum of 10 feet (3 meters) wide.

#### iii. Width of obstacles

1. The track width is measured at ground level on the widest track width of the vehicle. An allowance may be added for pair or multiple horses that are wider than the wheel width of the vehicle.
2. Clearance: a. The minimum/maximum obstacle clearances include: 8" - 10" (20 - 25 cm) for classes emphasizing precision 12" - 16" (30 - 40 cm) for classes emphasizing speed 16" - 20" (40 - 50 cm) for Four in hand classes

b. At the discretion of the competition manager or judge, wider clearances are permitted for Junior, Maiden, Novice, and Limit classes and/or for safety concerns.

iv. Measurement of Obstacles

1. When using "traffic cones," the following adjustments are:

1. When measuring, the track width of each vehicle should be taken at the ground on the widest pair of wheels. The allowance is added and the cones are aligned and adjusted from corner to corner. This allows the greatest distance between the corner of the base and the upright portion of the cone. The taper of the cone provides clearance for normal hubs, whiffle trees, or splinter bars.

2. If a whiffle tree, splinter bar, or the wheel hubs prove to be too wide for this arrangement, the cones must be adjusted using the widest measurement plus the appropriate allowance.

2. On cones with perpendicular sides, adjustment for the widest part of the vehicle at the highest part of the cones may be made.

3. It is the responsibility of the Technical Delegate to ensure that each set of cones is properly adjusted.

d. Class Specifications

i. Timed Obstacles

1. Entries must be driven over a prescribed course of obstacles. The number of obstacles must be proportionate to the dimensions of the driving area. The course must not exceed 20 obstacles.

2. After passing the starting line, the driver must proceed in order through each obstacle until reaching the designated finish line.

3. Course faults are assessed as penalty seconds and are added to the driver's elapsed time. (see CP245)

4. Placings are determined on a low total time basis. (see CP242.1a)

ii. Scurry Obstacle

1. Entries must be driven over a course of unnumbered obstacles consisting of cones and balls, or the equivalent. The course must not exceed 10 obstacles.

2. After passing through the start markers from any direction, the driver must proceed through each obstacle from any direction, in any order. Each obstacle must be driven once. Upon completion of the course, the driver must pass through the finish markers from any direction, where time will be taken.

3. Refusals and run-outs must not be penalized.

4. Course faults will be scored as penalty seconds and added to the driver's elapsed time. (see CP245)

5. Placings will be determined on a low total time basis (see CP242.1a). Unless otherwise stated in the Omnibus/prize list, ties for first place will be broken by a drive-off.

8. Rules for Driven Dressage. Driven Dressage classes held in the Friesian Division are to be conducted in accordance with the Carriage Pleasure Driving chapter, sub chapter 20 Governing Regulations, in its entirety.

Carriage Pleasure Driving classes held in the Friesian Division are to be conducted in accordance with the Carriage Pleasure Driving Chapter (CP) except as stated herein:

1. Exception to CP205.8 – The driver must sit on the right-hand side of the vehicle unless construction of the vehicle prevents this.
2. Exception to CP Chapter – Vehicles:
  - a. Marathon and CDE vehicles may be used in all Carriage Pleasure Driving classes with the exception of Carriage Pleasure Driving Tumout and Concours D'Elegance.
  - b. Any four wheeled vehicle (carriage) is permitted. Please refer to Appendix CP-C Tumout and Appointments.
  - c. Wire-wheeled and pneumatic-tired vehicles are permitted.
3. Exception to CP207.1 – Attire:
  - a. Drivers: Dress must conform to the type of tumout (i.e. Formal, Park, Country, Sporting, Commercial). Less traditional attire (example: Combined Driving Marathon attire) is permitted only if it is allowed in the class description, otherwise a penalty or elimination may result.  
Except for certain Commercial tumouts:
    - i. When accepting awards, gentlemen are required to remove their hats.
    - ii. For ladies, floppy hats are prohibited.
4. Exception to CP207.3(b) – Tack:
  - a. Bridles must fit snugly to prevent catching on the vehicle or other pieces of harness.
5. Friesian Novice Reinsmanship
  - a. The strong trot is not to be asked for in this class.
  - b. Headers are permitted in the line-up and are required for junior drivers.
  - c. One-handed tests are not to be called for in this class.
  - d. The following movements may be called for in a pattern:
    - i. All classes:
      1. Figure 8 at the working trot or slow trot
      2. Transitions from the walk to the working trot; from working trot to walk
      3. Halt and stand quietly for five seconds
      4. Halt, salute at the beginning and conclusion of the pattern
    - ii. Amateur and Junior Exhibitor classes only:
      1. Figure 8 at the working trot or slow trot
      2. Transition from walk to slow trot; from slow trot to walk
      3. Halt, reinback three steps, and stand quietly
      4. Change directions of the arena across the diagonal at a walk
    - iii. Open classes only:
      1. Figure 8 at the working trot or slow trot
      2. Figure 8 the first loop/circle at the slow trot and the second loop/circle at the working trot or vice versa (working trot then slow trot)
      3. Reinback five steps, halt, step forward to the starting point of the reinback, and halt
      4. Change directions of the arena across the diagonal at a slow trot
      5. Halt, and pivot 90 degrees in either direction (two wheeled vehicles only)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/10/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

To alleviate pressure on smaller shows and new start-up shows with the goal of encouraging sport growth.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USHJA

Katie Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules Comments

## HJ 105 Safety and Welfare

### e. Veterinarian:

1. The official competition veterinarian must be on grounds or on call with a contractual written agreement stating that the veterinarian will be on the grounds or on call during the competition. The contractual agreement must be signed by competition management and the veterinarian who will be on duty.

A veterinarian is required on grounds if the competition meets the following criteria and/or rating:

- a. All Premier rated and/or Jumper Level 5/6 competitions.
- b. A competition in which the previous year's horse entry number exceeds ~~300~~ 200 (HU115 and JP105.5); or
- c. A first-year multi-day National rated competition ~~with Premier~~ or **on days with more than three competition rings scheduled to run simultaneously.**

### HU115 Veterinarian

In reference to GR1211.5.a., every competition must have a qualified veterinarian present throughout the competition if the previous year's competition's entry number was ~~300~~ 200 horses or greater.

### JP105 Officials

5. Veterinarian. In reference to GR1211.5.a. every competition must have a qualified veterinarian present throughout the competition if the previous year's competition's entry number was ~~300~~ 200 horses or greater.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/2/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The purpose is for the protection of the horse. The scientific study Mechanical Effect of Performance Pressure Boots on Cadaveric Equine Hindlimb Fetlock Biomechanics, March 30, 2021, demonstrates that increased fetlock stiffness demonstrates the impact of pressure boots applied to the hind limbs of showjumping horses on the fetlock biomechanics and concludes via research that pressure boots increased fetlock stiffness and load, suggesting a potential enhancement of tensile loading on palmar tendons and ligaments, which could lead to musculoskeletal injury. Therefore, the Hunter Working Group concludes that the Hunter Schooling rules for hind boots should mirror the Jumper rules as Jumper Rules Working Group is currently proposing in the best interest of the horse.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USHJA

Katie Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules Comments

## Appendix A. U SEF Hunter Schooling Rules

[...]

25. Any action deemed not in the best interest of the horse will not be allowed.

26. The total maximum weight of equipment allowed to be added to a horse's leg, front or hind (single or multiple boots, fetlock rings, etc.), is 500 grams or 17.637 ounces (shoe excluded). Failure to comply with this paragraph will incur disqualification.

*a. The following also applies to hind boots while schooling. Fasteners may only be Velcro, stud type, or hook type. No mechanism that allows the fastener to double back on its elf or any kind of leverage to be applied to the fastener is permitted. No additional elements may be added to or inserted in the boot its elf. The inside of the boot must be non-abrasive and smooth, that is, the surface must be even and there may not be any pressure points on the inside of the boot. Sheepskin linings are allowed.*

27. The use of drawreins, chambons, de gogues, or similar tack when schooling over fences must be done in a safe manner. If draw reins, chambons, de gogues, or other similar tack attach to the girth between the legs, they must be run through a yoke or neck strap, and if attached on the side, they must be attached to the saddle or billets.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/13/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Effective 12/1/2024, adults have been permitted to show ponies at competitions where a junior is also showing the pony. To address confusion about eligible sections, the committee recommends clarifying that the sections are not limited to rated sections.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
National Hunter Committee	Jennifer Day jday@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## **HU101 Ponies Shown By Juniors**

Ponies shown by a junior in any ~~rated~~ pony hunter sections (i.e. Children's Hunter Pony, Green Pony Hunter, Regular Pony Hunter), WHS Pony Equitation, or USEF Pony Medal may be shown by an adult at the same competition. (See also EQ103.6)

### **EQ103.6 EQ103 Eligibility to Compete**

6. Ponies shown in Adult Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation classes, suitability to count; may cross enter into WHS Pony Equitation or USEF Pony Medal or any ~~rated~~ Pony Hunter section. See also HU101.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/30/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

To further clarify and educate on the appropriate use of martingales in the hunter show ring.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USHJA

Katie Patrick

[kpatrick@ushja.org](mailto:kpatrick@ushja.org)

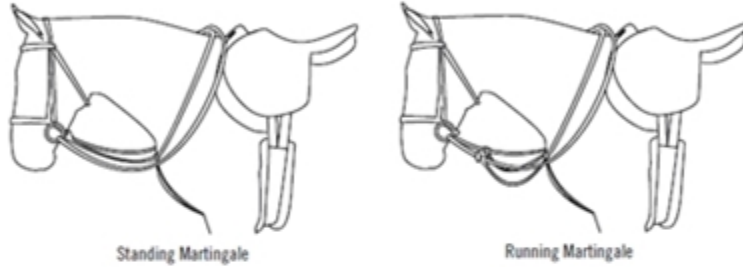
Linked Rules Comments

## HU105 Tack

[...]

3. Horses must return to the ring for conformation or soundness wearing a snaffle, pelham or full bridle with a cavesson noseband.

4. Martingales of any type are prohibited in under saddle, ~~hack and tie breaking~~ classes. Standing and running martingales used in the conventional manner are allowed for all over fences classes. All other martingales are considered illegal. A judge must eliminate a horse or pony that competes in a martingale other than a standing or running martingale used in the conventional manner. ***The following martingales used in this manner are allowed:***



a. Cable or metal tie downs are prohibited for use on horses and ponies.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/13/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This change will align with standard welfare practices, ensuring all horses and ponies are sound at the conclusion of their hunter over fences rounds.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

National Hunter Committee

Jennifer Day

[jday@usef.org](mailto:jday@usef.org)

Linked Rules      Comments

### HU118 General (Judging)

3. In all classes over obstacles, all horses being considered for an award must jog for soundness using either Option A or Option B below. ~~(Exception: sections or classes with specifications that do not require horses to jog, and unrated classes).~~ Management must state in the competition prize list which method of jogging will be used. Horses/ponies that are unsound will be eliminated and ineligible for an award in that class. The judge's decision regarding soundness is final.

### HU130 Non-rated Classes

1. The following classes have no point value for Championships or for Horse of the Year Awards. Judging percentages are left to the discretion of competition management. (Exception: Hunter Hack for Ladies Side Saddle.) ~~Unrated classes are not required to jog for soundness.~~
  - a. MAIDEN, NOVICE, LIMIT HUNTERS. Open to horses which have not won a blue ribbon, three blue ribbons, six blue ribbons in Hunter over fences classes at Regular Competitions.
  - b. HUNTER HACK. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. At least eight horses, if available, are required to jump two obstacles and gallop one way of the ring. Horses are not to gallop in Green Hunter classes.
  - c. BRIDLE PATH HACK (Hunter type). To be shown at a walk, trot and canter and hand gallop. To back easily and stand quietly. Emphasis is placed on actual suitability to purpose.
  - d. THREE-YEAR-OLD HUNTER. Section must include two or three Over Fences classes and one Under Saddle class with a Championship and Reserve Championship awarded. If possible, this section should be held immediately after the Three-Year-Old Hunter Breeding class. Courses are to be simple. One Over Fences class must be judged on at least 25% conformation.
  - e. Walk-Trot
    1. Classes that the exhibitor is asked to walk and trot only. These classes are exempted from nonmember fees per GR901.9(5).
    2. The horse must give the appearance of being a safe and suitable mount for the class. The safety of all exhibitors is of primary concern in walk-trot Hunter, walk-trot pleasure and walk-trot equitation classes.

### HU134 Young Hunter Sections

1. A horse may compete in only one Young Hunter fence height section at any one competition.
- ~~2. Young Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.~~
3. A Handy Hunter class may be offered in the Young Hunter sections but is not required.

### HU135 High Performance, Performance, Small Hunter and Thoroughbred Hunter – Definition and Classifications

5. Small Hunter
  - a. Fences set at 3'.
  - b. Championships must be offered in accordance with HU154.
  - c. Individual classes may be entered.
  - d. A small Hunter is a horse over 14.2 hands and not to exceed 16 hands.
  - e. A measurement card is required for all horses entered as per HJ127.
  - ~~f. Small Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.~~
6. Thoroughbred Hunter
  - a. Thoroughbred restricted classes are open only to horses that are registered with USHJA and are in possession of Breed Registry papers. Horses must have been either registered with The Jockey Club or meet one of the criteria below. All horse shows must require riders to verify registration on the day of the horse show through one of the following methods:
    1. The Jockey Club Certificate of Foal Registration or a copy thereof
    2. The horse's lip tattoo, the horse's 5-cross pedigree and the successful tattoo lookup result from The Jockey Club's Tattoo Identification Services, (located at [www.registry.jockeyclub.com](http://www.registry.jockeyclub.com))
    3. If neither of the above is available, a letter from The Jockey Club verifying the horse's identity.
  - b. Cross entry into other sections is allowed unless otherwise stated in the prize list.
  - c. Championships must be offered in accordance with HU154.
  - d. This section will be rated for Zone Horse of the Year Awards as per GR312.6.
  - ~~e. Thoroughbred Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.~~
  - f. Individual classes may be entered. (Exception: Under Saddle classes. See HU129.2).

### **HU151 Ladies Side Saddle Classes**

1. To be ridden by ladies who are no longer eligible to compete as junior exhibitors.
2. Stallions not permitted.
3. To be judged on performance and soundness with emphasis on manners 75%; formal hunting attire, appointments and general overall appearance of horse and rider 25%. Judges should give particular consideration to quality, condition and cleanliness of tack. Mane and tail must be braided, (Exception: roached manes or pulled tails). Judges must line up exhibitors in order of preference before checking appointments.
4. All horses being considered for an award must be serviceably sound, **but are not required to jog for soundness.**
5. Over Fences: To be shown over a course of at least eight fences 3' in height. No in and out to be used.
6. Under Saddle: To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring in formal hunting attire with appointments. See HU151-HU153. If the Under Saddle class is not scheduled as the first class of the section, the schedule must allow at least two hours to prepare before the start.
7. Hunter Hack: To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Judges may ask for a hand gallop but no more than eight to hand gallop at one time. To jump two fences at 2'6". To be judged on performance and soundness with an emphasis on manners. Under Saddle performance to count 50%, Over Fences performance to count 50%.

8. Three classes must be offered: Over Fences, Under Saddle and Hunter Hack.
  - a. All three classes will count equally for the Championship.
  - b. In cases of ties, horses are to hack off for Champion and Reserve.
  - c. HOTY points will be awarded in the Over Fences classes to entries that place, provided that there are at least three horses entered and shown in the Over Fences class.
9. At least three entries must compete in the Under Saddle class and the Hunter Hack class for HOTY points to count. Individual classes may be entered. (Exception: Under Saddle classes. See HU129.2).

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/3/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

To streamline and make consistent the processes and procedures for hunter breeding with those for pony breeding as much as possible, making it easier for judges, officials and competitors to know what is expected.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USHJA

Katie Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules Comments

## HU148 Hunter & Pony Hunter Breeding General

1. **Hunter Breeding** classes will only accumulate Federation Horse of the Year Points from January 1 to November 30 of the current showyear (see GR1115). (Exception: Pony Hunter Breeding will accumulate Zone Horse of the Year points.)

2. **The following specifications will apply for the Hunter Breeding and Pony Hunter Breeding Division unless addressed by a specific USHJA Zone specifications (available at [www.ushja.org](http://www.ushja.org)).**

*[renumber accordingly]*

2. Classes must be offered as printed in the prize list. Classes may not be combined however they may be split if the number of entries warrant.

3. Ribbons in all classes must be presented to the winners while in the ring.

4. At Premier and National rated competitions a handler may not exhibit more than one horse **or pony** in any Hunter Breeding classes listed in HU149 or HU150. At these competitions the same handler must **present lead** the horse **or pony** in all phases of the class, (*ie. including conformation, the jog, and lineup*). **Entries must be presented for conformation, walked, and/or trotted under the review of the judge.** Horses **or ponies** must be **judged presented** for conformation before being walked and/or trotted. After completing a review of each horse **or pony** in the class, the judge(s) must line up the entries in order of preference (*exception see HU148 for ponies*). Judge(s) then **have one last opportunity** to review the horses **or ponies** collectively, and may move horses **or ponies** in the lineup as preferred based on the Hunter Breeding judging standards.

5. At Regional rated competitions a handler may exhibit multiple horses **or ponies** in any Hunter Breeding classes listed in HU149 HU 148 and HU150. ~~At these competitions the same handler must present the horse in all phases of the class, including the jog (exception, lineup). Entries must be presented for conformation, walked, and/or trotted under the review of the judge.~~ Horses **or ponies** must be **judged led by the same handler** for conformation before being walked and/or trotted **and then walk and trot**. After completing a review of each horse **or pony** in the class, the judge(s) may line up the entries in order of preference (*exception see HU150 for ponies*). **Handlers exhibiting multiple horses or ponies are allowed to have assistant handlers to hold horses/ponies.** Judge(s) then **have one last opportunity** to review the horses **or ponies** collectively, and may move horses **or ponies** in the lineup as preferred based on the Hunter Breeding judging standards.

6. A competition may not offer more than one Hunter Breeding division to count for National **or and** Zone HOTY Awards and one Pony Hunter Breeding division to count for Zone HOTY awards.

7. Additional classes and championships may be offered but will not count towards National or Zone ~~Horse of the Year~~ **HOTY Awards, with the exception of annual USHJA Zone Horse of the Year Championships and USEF/USHJA Hunter Breeding Championships.** The prize list must clearly state which classes count for ~~Horse of the Year~~ **HOTY Awards.**

### 8. Class Specifications.

a. **Pony Hunter Breeding classes are open to ponies. Ponies in the Pony Hunter Breeding Division are not required to have a measurement card. However, a pony shall be subject to measurement by the competition steward to verify a height that does not exceed 14.2 hands.**

b. **Hunter Breeding classes are open to horses.**

c. **Breeding classes are judged on conformation, athleticism, way of moving, quality, substance, soundness and suitability to become or in the case of sires and dams apparent ability to produce or beget Hunters. Possible inheritable conformational defects are not to be considered. Horses/ponies that are not sound are ineligible for an award. Horses/ponies are to be judged for conformation before being walked and trotted. Horses/ponies that are not sound are ineligible for an award.**

d. **Ponies may wear leather halters. All horses of yearling status and older must be shown in a bridle. Only a snaffle or straight bar bit may be used. A properly fitted in-hand leather lead and chain, such as a new market or "V" shank type may be substituted for reins. A properly fitted in-hand leather lead may also be substituted for reins. A properly fitted chain should be short enough to prevent the horse/pony from getting it in its mouth and should never be placed over the nose or tightly under the chin.**

e. **Four classes must be offered for horses and four for ponies: Yearlings, Two-Year-Olds, Three-Year-Olds and Best Young Horse or Best Young Pony. Classes may not be combined. Pony and Horse classes may be divided by sex. Hunter Breeding classes may also be divided by breeding, for example Thoroughbred and Other than Thoroughbred. Competition management is encouraged to divide classes where entries warrant. Only these Hunter Breeding classes will count for Federation and USHJA Horse of the Year Awards, and only these Pony Breeding classes will count for USHJA Zone Pony of the Year Awards.**

#### f. Pony Breeding Division of Classes

1. **Yearlings (colts/geldings or fillies); Two-Year-Olds (colts/geldings or fillies); Three-Year-Olds (colts/geldings or fillies).**

#### g. Hunter Breeding Division of Classes

1. **Division of Classes. Yearlings, Two-year-olds, and Three-year-olds classes may be divided by gender (colts/geldings or fillies).**

2. Yearlings, Two-year-olds and Three-year-olds classes may be divided. Breeding classes may be divided as to breed such as a) Thoroughbred, and b) other than Thoroughbred.
3. Horses shown as a Thoroughbred must have been either registered with The Jockey Club or meet one of the criteria below. All competitions must require verification of registration on the day of the competition through one of the following methods:
- The Jockey Club Certificate of Foal registration or a copy thereof
  - Jockey Club recognized microchip
  - If neither of the above is available, a letter from The Jockey Club verifying the horse's identity.

*h. A Best Young Horse/ Pony class must be offered and judged as a separate class. Yearlings, Two-Year-Olds and Three-Year-Olds are to walk and trot. Winners in all qualifying classes may show in the Best Young Horse/Pony class. Second place winners may return. Federation and USHJA Zone Horse of the Year points will be awarded in the Best Young Horse class regardless of the number of entries. USHJA Zone Horse of the Year points will be awarded in the Best Young Pony class regardless of the number of entries.*

**9. Non Pointed Classes.** These classes do not count toward HOTY Awards and winners are not eligible for the Best Young Horse or Best Young Pony classes.

- Other breeding classes may be offered for Horses: Foals (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Mares (three-years-old or over, with or without foal); Mares (three-years-old or over, without foal but having been bred); Broodmares (with foal at foot; 50% mare and 50% foal or 75% mare and 25% foal); Stallions (three-years-old and over); Stallion (with 1, 2 or 3 of get; 50% stallion and 50% get or 75% stallion and 25% get). See also HU149.1 and GR906.2 for breed registry requirements.
- Other breeding classes may be offered for Ponies: 1. Foals (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Broodmares (with foal at foot and/or bred with a breeding certificate); Stallions (Three-Year-Olds and over); Produce of Dam (two ponies produced by the same mare); Get of Sire (two ponies sired by the same stallion). Ponies shown in the Produce or Get classes must be three years of age or younger.
- Breeding classes are judged on conformation, athleticism, way of moving, quality, substance, soundness and suitability and in the case of sires and dams apparent ability to produce or beget Hunters. Possible inheritable conformational defects are only to be considered in the case of sires and dams or prospective sires and dams. Horses/ponies that are not sound are ineligible for an award.
- For class procedure, see numbers 4 and 5. Exception: Broodmares and weanlings are to walk only.
- For tack, see number 8d. Exception: Weanlings may wear leather halters.
- Amateur/Junior Handler. Open to Amateur and/or Junior exhibitors. Class may be split if entries warrant. Adult handlers must possess a current USEF amateur certification. A handler may not exhibit more than one horse/pony. A horse/pony of any age or breed are eligible (exception: intact colts and stallions are prohibited). This class is judged 100% on the presentation of the horse and handler: conformation, athleticism, way of moving, quality, substance, and suitability to become a hunter are not to count. Horses/ponies that are not sound are ineligible for an award. Tack shall be as in section 8.d. Entries must be presented in a line, walked, and then trotted under the review of the judge. After completing a review of each horse/pony in the class, the judge(s) will line up the entries in order of preference. Judge(s) then review the horses or ponies collectively, and may move horses or ponies in the lineup as preferred.

10. Individual classes may be entered.

#### **HU149 Hunter Breeding**

1. The Hunter Breeding Section is open to horses only.

a. Horses shown as a Thoroughbred must have been either registered with The Jockey Club or meet one of the criteria below. All competitions must require verification of registration on the day of the competition through one of the following methods:

- The Jockey Club Certificate of Foal registration or a copy thereof
- The horse's lip tattoo, the horse's 5 cross pedigree and the successful tattoo lookup result from The Jockey Club's Tattoo Identification Services, (located at [www.registry.jockeyclub.com](http://www.registry.jockeyclub.com))
- If neither of the above is available, a letter from The Jockey Club verifying the horse's identity.

2. Division of Classes. Breeding classes may be divided as to a) thoroughbred, and b) other than thoroughbred and include: Foals (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Yearlings (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Two-Year-Olds (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Three-Year-Olds; Mares (3-years-old or over, with or without foal); Mares (3-years-old or over, without foal but having been bred); Broodmare (with foal at foot; 50% mare and 50% foal or 75% mare and 25% foal); Stallions (3-years-old and over); Stallion (with 1, 2 or 3 of get; 50% stallion and 50% get or 75% stallion and 25% get). See also HU149.1 and GR907.2 for breed registry requirements.

3. Class Specifications.

a. Breeding classes are judged on conformation, athleticism, way of moving, quality, substance, soundness

and suitability to become or in the case of sires and dams apparent ability to produce or beget Hunters. Possible inheritable conformational defects are only to be considered in the case of sires and dams or prospective sires and dams. Horses are to be judged for conformation before being walked and/or trotted. Broodmares and weanlings are to walk. Yearlings, Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds are to walk and trot. Horses that are not sound are ineligible for an award. Entries should be lined up in the order of preference before the ribbons are pinned.

b. Foals in Breeding classes may wear leather halters. All animals of yearling status and older must be shown in a bridle. Only a snaffle or straight bar bit may be used. A properly fitted in hand leather lead and chain, such as a new market or "V" shank type may be substituted for reins. A properly fitted in hand leather lead may also be substituted for reins. A properly fitted chain should be short enough to prevent the horse from getting it in its mouth and should never be placed over the nose or tightly under the chin.

c. Four classes must be offered consisting of Yearlings, Two Year Olds, Three Year Olds and Best Young Horse. Classes may not be combined. Classes may be divided by sex and/or breeding and competition management is encouraged to divide classes where entries warrant. Only these classes will count for Federation Horse of the Year Awards. A Best Young Horse class must be offered and judged as a separate class. Winners in all qualifying classes may show in the Best Young Horse class. Second place winners may return. Federation Horse of the Year points will be awarded in the Best Young Horse class regardless of the number of entries.

4. Individual classes may be entered.

#### **HU150 Pony Hunter Breeding**

1. Pony Hunter Breeding classes are open to ponies.

2. The following specifications will apply for the Pony Hunter Breeding Division unless addressed by specific USHJA Zone specifications (available at [www.ushja.org](http://www.ushja.org)):

a. Ponies in the Pony Hunter Breeding Division are not required to have a measurement card. However, a pony shall be subject to measurement by the competition steward to verify a height that does not exceed 14.2 hands.

b. Division of Classes. Foals (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Yearlings (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Two Year Olds (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Three Year Olds (colts, geldings and/or fillies); Broodmares (with foal at foot and/or bred with a breeding certificate); Stallions (Three Year Olds and over); Produce of Dam (two ponies produced by the same mare); Get of Sire (two ponies sired by the same stallion). Animals shown in the Produce or Get classes must be three years of age or younger.

3. Class Specifications.

a. Breeding classes are judged on conformation, athleticism, way of moving, quality, substance, soundness and suitability to become Pony Hunters. Transmissible unsoundness is only to be considered in the case of sires and dam or prospective sires and dams. Ponies are to be judged for conformation before being walked and/or trotted. Broodmares and weanlings are to walk. Yearlings, Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds are to walk and trot. Ponies that are not sound are ineligible for an award. Entries should be lined up in order of preference before the ribbons are pinned.

b. All entries may either be shown in a bridle or a leather halter.

c. Four classes must be offered consisting of Yearlings, Two Year Olds, Three Year Olds and Best Young Pony. Classes may not be combined. Classes may be divided by sex. Management is encouraged to divide classes where entries warrant. Only these classes will count for USHJA Zone Horse of the Year awards.

d. A Best Young Pony class must be offered and judged as a separate class. Yearlings, Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds are to walk and trot. Winners in all qualifying classes may show in the Best Young Pony Class. Second place winners may return. USHJA Zone Horse of the Year points will be awarded in the Best Young Pony class regardless of the number of entries.

4. Individual classes may be entered.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/30/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The Best Young Horse/Pony class is intended to be a championship class of the division, providing an opportunity for the top horses/ponies from each age class to compete head to head where they can be evaluated by the judge(s). This rule change provides clarification as to the guidelines and conduct of that class to ensure that all horses/ponies are evaluated simultaneously and the best in the division can be selected as Best Young Horse/Pony. Link HU149.3.c with HU150.3.d.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

USHJA

Katie Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules      Comments

#### HU149 Hunter Breeding

1. The Hunter Breeding Section is open to horses only.  
[.]
3. Class Specifications.  
[...]
- c. Four classes must be offered consisting of Yearlings, Two-Year-Olds, Three-Year-Olds and Best Young Horse. Classes may not be combined. Classes may be divided by sex and/or breeding and competition management is encouraged to divide classes where entries warrant. Only these classes will count for Federation Horse of the Year Awards. ~~A Best Young Horse class must be offered and judged as a separate class. Winners in all qualifying classes may show in the Best Young Horse class. Second place winners may return. Federation Horse of the Year points will be awarded in the Best Young Horse class regardless of the number of entries.~~
- d. Best Young Horse: A Best Young Horse class must be offered and judged as a separate class.***
  1. *The Best Young Horse class may not be held as an open card.*
  2. *First place winners in all qualifying classes may show in the Best Young Horse class.*
  3. *Second place winners may return.*
  4. *All entries in Best Young Horse must be walked and trotted. Entries should then be lined up in the order of preference before the ribbons are pinned*
  5. *Any eligible horse that does not return for the Best Young Horse class is not eligible for the Best Young Horse or Reserve Best Young Horse awards*
  6. *Federation Horse of the Year points will be awarded in the Best Young Horse class regardless of the number of entries.*
4. Individual classes may be entered.

#### HU150 Pony Hunter Breeding

1. Pony Hunter Breeding classes are open to ponies.  
[.]
3. Class Specifications.  
[...]
- ~~d. A Best Young Pony class must be offered and judged as a separate class. Yearlings, Two Year Olds and Three Year Olds are to walk and trot. Winners in all qualifying classes may show in the Best Young Pony Class. Second place winners may return. USHJA Zone Horse of the Year points will be awarded in the Best Young Pony class regardless of the number of entries.~~
- Best Young Pony: A Best Young Pony class must be offered and judged as a separate class.***
  1. *The Best Young Pony class may not be held as an open card.*
  2. *First place winners in all qualifying classes may show in the Best Young Pony class.*
  3. *Second place winners may return.*
  4. *All entries in Best Young Pony must be walked and trotted. Entries should then be lined up in the order of preference before the ribbons are pinned*
  5. *Any eligible horse that does not return for the Best Young Pony class is not eligible for the Best Young Pony or Reserve Best Young Pony awards*
  6. *USHJA Zone Horse of the Year points will be awarded in the Best Young Pony class regardless of the number of entries.*
4. Individual classes may be entered.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/30/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The national championship should be the most prestigious event for the Hunter Breeding division. The top horses in the country should strive to compete at the championship. In order to recognize and reward those competing at the Hunter Breeding National Championship and increase the prestige of the event point allocations reflect the increased prestige of the event. This should help to increase participation and acknowledge the best Hunter Breeding horses in the country for competing at a larger event against more horses.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

USHJA

Katie Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules      Comments

### HU167 USEF Hunter Breeding National Championships

1. In order to compete in the USEF Hunter Breeding National Championship, the horse and owner must be recorded with the Federation and registered with USHJA on or before the first day of the competition. The owner must be an Active member of the Federation and USHJA.

2. Points for the USEF Hunter Breeding National Championship for Yearlings, Two-Year-Olds and Three-Year-Olds will be awarded as follows:

Number in Class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
4	2	-	-	-	-	-
2	4	2	-	-	-	-
3-10	40	6	4	2	-	-
11+	20	12	8	4	3	2

Number in Class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
1-2	30	20						
3-8	36	26	20	16	14	12	10	8
9-15	46	36	30	22	20	18	16	14
16+	56	46	38	28	26	24	22	20

Points awarded for the Championship and Reserve Championship are based on the total number of horses entered in all rated classes of the Hunter Breeding section.

Total Number	BYH	RBYH
1-14	40	6
15 or more	20	12

- a. *Best Young Horse to be awarded 2.0 times the first place point total based on the total number of horses shown*
- b. *Reserve Best Young Horse to be awarded 1.2 times the first place point total based on the total number of horses shown*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	8/28/2025	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Historically, the full qualifying criteria and Official Specifications for the USEF Junior Hunter National Championships and USEF Pony Hunter National Championship were finalized before the qualifying period began for the future year, but before the current year competition took place. During the current year's championship, USEF staff receive valuable feedback that is worth implementing directly into the future year's championship. A timeline change for the specifications review was proposed to continually improve these USEF championships and provide the ability to impact the following competition year with any needed adjustments based on current year feedback. This change is to align with the approach to championship criteria for the FEI disciplines.

Proponent Details Contact Information

CEO - Bill Moroney

Jennifer Day

[jday@usef.org](mailto:jday@usef.org)

Linked Rules Comments

#### **HU168 USEF Pony Hunter National Championship**

1. For Full qualifying criteria and Official Specifications ~~see will be posted on the Federation website (www.usef.org) at least 30 days prior to the start of the qualifying period.~~

#### **HU169 USEF Junior Hunter National Championship**

1. For Full qualifying criteria and Official Specifications ~~see will be posted on the Federation website (www.usef.org) at least 30 days prior to the start of the qualifying period.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/10/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Currently competitions are requesting Presidential Modifications to comply with this rule, and this proposal would eliminate the need for competitions to repeatedly apply for Presidential Modifications.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USHJA

Katie Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules Comments

HU 174 Hunter Classics

6. To be eligible, horses must have entered, ~~shown and completed the course in~~ at least two classes in the Hunter section. All horses being considered for an award must be serviceably sound and may be jogged if so stated in the prize list. ***Any horse that does not complete the course in at least two classes in their Hunter section will forfeit any points and money won in the Open Hunter Classic.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule is based on the FEI's Jumping Article 201 and initially for Young Horse classes. The intent is to expand this safety rule to all classes. If passed, Schooling Rule #10 is no longer necessary. Wording from FEI Jumping Art 201.4.5: For Competitions where the maximum obstacle height is 1.40m or less, the obstacles in the practice arena may not exceed in height and width ten centimetres more than the actual maximum height and width of the obstacles of the Competition in progress. If the obstacle height of the Competition in progress is greater than 1.40 m, the obstacles in the practice arena may not exceed 1.65 m in height and 1.80 m in width.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Jumper

Jennifer Haydon

[jhaydon@usef.org](mailto:jhaydon@usef.org)

Linked Rules Comments

## USEF JUMPER SCHOOLING RULES

5. When schooling for ***classes of 1.40m or below***, ~~a Young Jumper class in progress,~~ jumps in the schooling area may not exceed the height or width by more than 10cm of the jumps ~~in the class~~ ***for the class in progress. For classes over 1.40m, jumps in the schooling area may not exceed 1.65m in height and 1.80m in width.***

~~10. Jumps in the schooling area may not exceed 1.60m (5'3") in height, 1.80m (5'11") in width.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/30/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

To ensure schooling for classes offering \$10,000 or more in prize money occurs in an approved area monitored by a Certified Schooling Supervisor (CSS) or C-1 Steward. Currently, the rules require a CSS or C-1 Steward monitoring the class entrants warming up, but no requirement for entrants to use that specific warm-up area currently exists.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USHJA

Katie Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules Comments

JP103 Schooling

[...]

2.Schooling Supervisor Requirements

[...]

***f. Within 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the class, any schooling over obstacles by an entry in a jumper class of \$10,000 or more in prize money, must be done in the designated area.***

Appendix A

USEF Jumper Schooling Rules

[...]

***6. Within 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the class, any schooling over obstacles by an entry in a jumper class of \$10,000 or more in prize money, must be done in the designated area.***

(renumber accordingly)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The boot rule has been in place for Ranking List classes since December of 2023. The purpose is for the protection of the horse. This rule proposes expanding that protection to all Jumper classes not just Ranking List classes.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Jumper	Jennifer Haydon jhaydon@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## JP111 Tack and Attire

[....]

5. The total maximum weight of equipment allowed to be added to a Horse's leg, front or hind (single or multiple boots, fetlock rings, etc.), is 500 grams or 17.637 ounces (shoe excluded). Failure to comply with this paragraph will incur disqualification.

a. See JP 117.2 for Classes Restricted by Age of Horse.

b. ~~For classes to be included in the USEF Ranking List, t~~ The following will also apply to hind boots during and while schooling for ~~a~~ the class. Fasteners may only be Velcro, stud type, or hook type. No mechanism that allows the fastener to double back on itself or any kind of leverage to be applied to the fastener is permitted. No additional elements may be added to or inserted in the boot itself. The inside of the boot must be non-abrasive and smooth, that is, the surface must be even and there may not be any pressure points on the inside of the boot. Sheepskin linings are allowed.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

There was confusion over blinkers since 'hooded' blinkers were separate from regular blinkers. Additionally, there was confusion regarding the wording for "cover the horse's eye" since it could be interpreted to mean fully covering the eye as in the horse could no longer see at all. This clarifies the language.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Jumper	Jennifer Haydon jhaydon@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## JP111 Tack and Attire

[....]

12. ~~Hooded blinkers, sunglasses, fly masks, and goggles, etc.~~ that cover the horse's eyes are only allowed with a veterinary certificate stating the necessity. Blinkers or cheek pieces attached to the bridle may not exceed 5cm (2").

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The FEI allows an exception for 14-15 year olds to do U25 classes if height does not exceed 1.40m so this will make the rules consistent.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Jumper

Jennifer Haydon

[jhaydon@usef.org](mailto:jhaydon@usef.org)

Linked Rules Comments

### **JP120 U25 (25 and Under) Jumper Sections/Classes**

1. U25 classes are open to riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 25. ***From the year in which they reach their 14th birthday until the end of the year in which they reach their 15th birthday, riders may participate in U25 classes providing the height of obstacles in the initial round does not exceed 1.40m.*** Amateur classification is not a factor for entry into a U25 class.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This proposal changes the level of difficulty for classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money. The conforming to level of difficulty rule in JP 123.5 is separated into two sections to allow flexibility for the Course Designer at 1.50m or higher. The change moves from the four defined Standards to a specific fence height of 1.40m or higher. This alleviates confusion among competitors as it specifically states what to expect in the class. This is more in line with the FEI as well. This appears to be a long rule change but it just includes all rules associated with the specific change to JP 123.4 and is presented in numerical order.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

Jumper

Jennifer Haydon

[jhaydon@usef.org](mailto:jhaydon@usef.org)

Linked Rules      Comments

Intent:

### JP123 Fence Dimensions

1. At Licensed Competitions the Level of Difficulty for each class must be indicated in the prize list and on the course plan. This may be shown as either
  - a. specific height in feet/inches or metric measure or a height range of not more than 5cm or 3" (i.e. 1.30m to 1.35m or 4'3" to 4'6"). If a range is indicated, fence heights may not be lower than the low height specified (except the first fence or the first element of a combination, and High Jump, Puissance, Gambler's Choice, and Accumulator classes). If a range is shown, the higher height will determine how the class is counted toward HOTY awards, etc. **Exception, see JP 123.1.b below for classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money.**
  - b. ~~as one of the "Standards" defined below for~~ Classes of \$25,000 or more **must be offered at one specific height at 1.40m or above.** Spreads must be set as noted below.
  - c. Management may choose to run a class over two different heights (not more than 10 cm of difference), permitting competitors to elect at which height to compete. The conditions for such classes must be stated in the prize list unless the two-height class results from the combining of classes due to insufficient entries (defined as less than six entries in either grouping) See JP108.7. The steward's report must indicate any two-height class held, and the official results submitted to the Federation must accurately state at which height each entrant competed. **Exception, see JP 123.1.b above for classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money.**
  
3. Width:
  - a. All courses require a minimum of three obstacles in which the spread exceeds the height by 5 cm (2") up to 15 cm (6"). (See JP125.7)
  
4. Standards: Any class offering \$25,000 or more in prize money must be offered at one **specific height of 1.40m or above.** ~~of the following standards delineated below: Regional, American, National, or High Performance. Heights alone do not apply to these classes and the standard must be clearly stated in the prize list.~~ Competitions must apply to the Jumping Sport Committee for permission to offer \$25,000 or more in prize money in any class **held below 1.40m.** ~~if it does not meet one of the following:~~
  - a. ~~Regional Standard: 1.35m—1.40m with spreads to 1.55m, excluding Triple Bar, Water Jump and the first fence on course. At least 6 Verticals and 4 Oxers must be set at 1.40m. The maximum spread for the Triple Bar is 1.85m, and the maximum spread for the Water Jump is~~

3.60m.

b. American Standard: 1.40m—1.45m with spreads to 1.60m, excluding Triple Bar, Water Jump and the first fence on course. At least 4 Verticals and 2 Oxers must be set at 1.45m. The maximum spread for the Triple Bar is 1.90m, and the maximum spread for the Water Jump is 3.80m.

c. National Standard: 1.45m – 1.50m with spreads to 1.70m, excluding Triple Bar, Water Jump and the first fence on course. At least 4 Verticals and 2 Oxers must be set at 1.50m\*. The maximum spread for the Triple Bar is 2.00m, and the maximum spread for the Water Jump is 4.00m. \*If conditions warrant (deterioration of footing, inclement weather, insufficient lighting, fewer than 10 entries at the time declarations are due), the Course Designer after consultation with Management and Judges, may use a 5cm variance up or down for these 6 required efforts.

d. High Performance Standard: 1.45m—1.60m with spreads to 1.80m, excluding Triple Bar, Water Jump and the first fence on course. At least 2 Verticals must be set at 1.60m, and at least 4 Oxers must be set at 1.50m+\*, excluding Triple Bar and Water Jump. The maximum spread for the Triple Bar is 2.20m, and the maximum spread for the Water Jump is 4.00m. \*If conditions warrant (deterioration of footing, inclement weather, insufficient lighting, fewer than 10 entries at the time declarations are due), the Course Designer after consultation with Management and Judges, may use a 5cm variance up or down for these 6 required efforts.

5. Conforming to Level of Difficulty. (Does not apply to the Standards listed above in JP123.4 except as noted above by \*). ***Water jumps, first fence on course, and the first fence of a combination are excluded from the required percentages below. Exception to Level of Difficulty rule: Gambler's Choice and Derbies.***

a. ***In all classes offered below 1.50m, 60% of the fences in the first round of a class must be set at the required height indicated, and the remaining 40% within a two-inch (5 cm) variance; water jump, first fence on course, and first fence of a triple combination excluded and are not part of the 60%.***

b. ***In classes offered at 1.50m or above, 50% of the fences in the first round must be set at the required height indicated, and the remaining 50% within a 5cm variance. (Exception: Gambler's Choice/Top Score, Derbys, and classes 1.50 m and above).***

6. Changing the Level of Difficulty from that published in prize list. The height at which a given competition is held may be altered from that listed in the prize list with the joint approval of the Course Designer, Judges and competition management; only in the case of inclement weather, or unsafe conditions. Changes in the height for any other reason may be done ONLY with the prior written consent of the majority of competitors in the class. See GR832.6 for class postponement due to weather conditions. All changes MUST be specifically noted in the Steward's report for the competition. ***For classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money,***

~~Standards~~, see JP151.

7. Certifying the Standard for USEF Show Jumping Ranking List Classes. Classes to be included in the USEF Show Jumping Ranking List must be certified by the following: A course plan showing the actual heights and spreads of all the fences, signed by the Course Designer and given to the Senior Judge. After the Senior Judge inspects the course, they must sign and give the course plan to the Course Designer. The Course Designer must submit the signed course plan to the Ryegate Show Services within 48 hours of the completion of the competition/event. The Senior Steward must submit the USEF Show Jumping Ranking List Steward's Report to Ryegate Show Services within 48 hours of the completion of the competition/event. If the class is held at a different **height standard** than that listed in the prize list, the Steward must certify in both the USEF Steward's Report and the USEF Show Jumping Ranking List Steward's Report that the requisite rules and procedures of JP151.1 were correctly followed.

#### **JP118 Sections/Classes Restricted to Junior, Amateur or Young Riders**

##### 6. Restrictions

b. Any athlete that competes in a CSI4\*, a CSI-W or CSIO is ineligible to compete in a Junior and/or Amateur Jumper class held below 1.40m at that same competition.

c. Any athlete that competes in a CSI5\* is ineligible to compete in a Junior and/or Amateur Jumper class at that same competition.

d. Any athlete competing in ~~open jumper classes held at the USEF High Performance Standard or a CSI3\*, or CSI4\*, or CSI5\*-FEI Grand Prix classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money~~ is ineligible to compete in any Junior and/or Amateur Jumper class held below 1.20m at the same competition.

e. At competitions offering multiple height sections of Junior and/or Amateur Jumper classes at 1.20m and above, athletes are ineligible to compete in the class offering the most prize money in the lowest height section at the same competition in which they compete in ~~the USEF High Performance Standard or a CSI3\*, or CSI4\*, or CSI5\*-FEI Grand Prix classes offering \$25,000.~~

#### **JP120 U25 (25 and Under) Jumper Sections/Classes**

##### 2. Specifications:

a. U25 courses must be set at 1.40m or above.

~~b. U25 classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money must be held at a Regional, American National, or High Performance Standard (per JP123.4).~~

c. If a competition offers only one U25 class, it must be scored as a jump-off class.

### 3. U25 Overlay Class.

a. A U25 Overlay Class is defined as additional money specifically for U25 riders entered in an Open Jumper Class offering \$25,000 or more held at **1.40m or above** ~~the Regional, American, National or High Performance Standard~~ (see JP123.4).

### JP121 Open Jumper Sections/Classes

2. Difficulty. The specific height ~~(classes up to \$24,999) or standard (classes of \$25,000 or more)~~ at which the class or section is being offered must be stated in the prize list.

### JP125 Jumper Courses

2. Height ~~or Standard~~. All courses must be accurately set according to the Height ~~or Standard~~ published in the prize list.

### JP134 Judge(s) Inspection of Courses

1. The judge should assure that the course has been properly set according to specifications indicated in the prize list, and that it has been measured and the Time Allowed calculated properly, and call attention to any errors that would result in unfair or inappropriate courses. The judge should also ensure that any or all obstacles have been appropriately reset after disruption of any kind during the competition. For all classes of \$25,000 or more, the Senior Judge must physically inspect the course to ensure that the obstacles are set at the correct **height dimensions (Standard)** as stated in the prize list.

### JP151 Classes Offering \$25,000 or more in prize money

1. Specifications. Once the specifications for a class have been printed in the prize list, the class conditions may not be changed. The **Standard height** may only be changed in the case of inclement weather or unsafe conditions. In exceptional circumstances, permission for a change in specifications may be granted upon the approval of the Jumping Sport Committee Chairman, or their designee, and two additional Jumping Sport Committee members. Any changes must be noted in the Steward's Report.

2. Officials.

b. Judges. For classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money a total of two Federation licensed 'R' judges are required, one of whom will act as official timer. The third judge is necessary if an open water jump is used; this can be a 'r' judge. In addition, two back up timers with digital stop watches are required. (Note: A timer technician may also be utilized as per JP106.2; however one of the two 'R' judges must be responsible for the official time recorded for each entry.) For all classes of \$25,000 or more, the Senior Judge must physically inspect the course to ensure that the obstacles are set at the correct **height dimensions (Standard)** as stated in the prize list.

10. Open Classes of \$25,000 or more.

a. The prize list and the official results must clearly indicate the **height Standard** for any such class. Should a prize list fail to indicate at what **height Standard** the class is to be conducted, the correct information must be posted prominently at the competition office prior to the closing of declarations, and both the Steward's Report and the Official Results must clearly indicate **the height Regional, American, National or High Performance Standard**. Should this requirement not have been met, the competition results shall be recorded as though the class had been conducted at **1.40m the Regional Standard**.

Index

Standards ————— JP123.4

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This will include the procedure for tack specifications when combining heights where there may be different requirements for the two combined heights.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Jumper

Jennifer Haydon

[jhaydon@usef.org](mailto:jhaydon@usef.org)

Linked Rules Comments

## JP123 Fence Dimensions

1. At Licensed Competitions the Level of Difficulty for each class must be indicated in the prize list and on the course plan. This may be shown as either

c. Management may choose to run a class over two different heights (not more than 10 cm of difference), permitting competitors to elect at which height to compete. ***Entries in each height will adhere to the applicable tack rules for that height.*** The conditions for such classes must be stated in the prize list unless the two-height class results from the combining of classes due to insufficient entries (defined as less than six entries in either grouping) See JP108.7. The steward's report must indicate any two-height class held, and the official results submitted to the Federation must accurately state at which height each entrant competed.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This defines how scoring will work in the event of a fall for the various jumper tables.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Jumper

Jennifer Haydon

[jhaydon@usef.org](mailto:jhaydon@usef.org)

Linked Rules Comments

## **JP 140 Falls**

1. The first fall of horse or rider results in elimination, except in classes in which special rules apply. (Fault and Out, Top Score, etc.)
2. A rider is considered to have fallen when they are separated from their horse, which has not fallen, in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle.
3. A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground or an obstacle and the ground.
4. In the case of a fall at any time in the competition ring, the rider may not remount.
5. *In the event of a fall of a Horse and/or Rider at any time from the moment the Horse/Rider combination enters the competition ring, whether or not the signal to start has been given, the combination will not be permitted to start in the round or class in question.*
6. *In a Table II, Sec. 2(a), (e) or (f) Class, if a fall of a Horse and/or Rider occurs following a clear first round, after passing through the finish markers, the competitor will be allowed to compete in the jump-off.*
7. *In a Table II, Sec. 2(b) Class, if a fall of a Horse and or Rider occurs following a clear first round, after passing though the finish markers, the competitor will not be allowed to compete in the jump-off and will be placed according to their score in the first round.*
8. *In a Table II, Sec. 2(a/b) Class, if a fall of a Horse and/or Rider occurs following a clear first round, after passing through the finish markers, the competitor must exit the ring and treat class as a Table II,2(a), returning after all other competitors have completed the first round.*
9. *In a Table II, Sec. 2(c) Class, if a fall of a Horse and/or Rider occurs in the first phase, the competitor is eliminated. If a fall occurs in the second phase, the competitor is placed according to their score in the first phase.*
10. *In a Table II, Sec. 2(d) Class, if a fall if Horse and/or Rider occurs in either the first or second phase, the competitor is eliminated.*
11. *In a Table 2, Sec. 3 Class, if a fall of a Horse and/or Rider occurs following a clear first or second round, after passing through the finish markers, the competitor will be allowed to compete in the following round or jump-off.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The FEI is removing the tables for Fault and Out, Knock Out, Take Your Own Line, and Relays since they are not used anymore, and this proposal follows that reasoning.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Jumper

Jennifer Haydon

[jhaydon@usef.org](mailto:jhaydon@usef.org)

Linked Rules Comments

## JP146 TABLE II—Classes scored on Faults and Time

~~5. Fault and Out (Table II, Sec. 4)—These competitions are timed and take place over medium sized single obstacles (combinations are not permitted). The competitor's round finishes with the first fault incurred under Table II. Points are awarded instead of faults, two points being awarded for each obstacle jumped clear and one point for the obstacle knocked down. The winner is the competitor who scores the greatest number of points. Time will decide in the event of equality of points.~~

~~a. If the fixed time is reached at the moment when the horse is already taking off, this obstacle counts whether it is knocked down or not. If a fall or disobedience occurs after landing, the horse is scored as though the fault had occurred at the next obstacle. When the penalty of elimination is incurred, the rider is credited with obstacles cleared.~~

~~b. When an obstacle is knocked down or the Time Allowed, if there is one, has been reached, a signal is sounded. The competitor must then jump the next obstacle and the clock is stopped at the moment the horse's forefeet touch the ground. No points are scored for obstacles jumped after the signal has been sounded.~~

~~c. When a fault constitutes a disobedience or fall, or when the rider is eliminated or does not jump the obstacle at which the clock should have been stopped, the signal is sounded, and the competitor is placed last of those gaining an equal number of points.~~

~~d. Fault and Out classes can be conducted in one of two ways; which must be designated on the course plan as either:~~

~~1. Once Around, in which case the maximum number of obstacles to be jumped is fixed, and the clock is stopped when the competitor crosses the finish line, or~~

~~2. With a Fixed Time Allowed which must not be set at less than 50 seconds, nor more than 60 seconds. If the competitor has jumped all the obstacles before the expiration of the Time Allowed, they start around the course again but is not required to go back through the start markers.~~

## JP147 TABLE II—Classes scored on Faults Only

~~1. Knock Down and Out (Table II, Sec. 5) The winner to be the competitor clearing the most obstacles without a fault.~~

## JP150 Special Classes

2. **Take Your Own Line.** This competition takes place over a course of about ten obstacles scored under Table 2 or 3 as stated in the prize list. After crossing the start line, the competitor must jump each obstacle in either direction, in any order and cross the finish line.

a. If a competitor incurs a refusal, they may proceed to another obstacle. However, if the standard or flag is knocked down or displaced, the judge gives an audible signal, the clock is stopped and six seconds added to the time taken by the competitor to complete their round. The time is restarted at the moment when the horse leaves the ground at its next obstacle. Upon signal to proceed, the competitor may continue their round, re-attempting the obstacle refused or any other obstacle on the course not previously jumped.

b. A first refusal is penalized only by time. The second refusal incurs elimination. (Exception, see JP145.4 and .5)

#### **JP150 Special Classes**

4. **Match Race.** This class is run under Table III, faults converted into seconds, with each knockdown and the first refusal penalized by the addition of three (3) seconds. A competitor may ride only one horse. See JP Appendix B for Order of Starting in Qualifying Rounds. The following conditions apply:

a. Two competitors will compete against each other simultaneously over two identical courses, with each competitor timed separately. Combinations are not allowed. If a particular competitor finds that their opponent has withdrawn from any round, the competitor remaining in the class must complete the round in question alone. If one competitor enters the other competitor's course and as a result interferes with that competitor, the competitor responsible for the interference will be eliminated.

b. In each round in the case of a first refusal with or without a knock-down the competitor will continue their round without jumping that obstacle or waiting until it has been rebuilt, however 3 seconds will be added to their time. The second refusal will eliminate a competitor. A competitor passing an obstacle without attempting to jump it will be eliminated.

c. The competitor who has the fastest time will be qualified for the next round and so on until the two finalists meet to decide the winner. Losing competitors in corresponding rounds will be placed equal.

d. A member of the judge's panel must be stationed at the starting line to give the starting signal.

e. If there is a dead heat between two competitors, the round must be started again.

5. Rotating Pair Relay. This competition is for teams of two. A horse can only compete once in this class, but a rider may compete on more than one horse. The entire course must be jumped twice in the correct order by either competitor. The competitor who crosses the start line must jump the first obstacle and the competitor who jumps the last obstacle must cross the finish line.

a. One change is mandatory. Competitors may change over as often as they wish. A change is obligatory whenever a fault is incurred. A fault is indicated by an audible signal at which time the other competitor continues the course from the next obstacle. In the event of a disobedience, the other competitor must first jump the obstacle which has not been jumped by their partner and then continue the course.

b. Faults incurred are penalized by adding four seconds for each occurrence to the time of the round. The first two disobediences are penalized only by time, the third disobedience incurs elimination. Should a competitor jump an obstacle before their partner has landed over preceding obstacle, the pair will be eliminated.

c. The fastest overall time wins. In case of a tie for first place only, there will be a compulsory jump off over a shortened course.

6. Other Relays—See the FEI Rules for Jumper Events.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This clarifies the procedure when one or more competitors decide not to compete in the Jump-off.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Jumper

Jennifer Haydon

[jhaydon@usef.org](mailto:jhaydon@usef.org)

Linked Rules Comments

**JP146 TABLE II—Classes scored on Faults and Time**

[....]

**3. Time first jump-off**

f. Table II Sec.2(e) - Time first jump-off with designated number of competitors to jump-off. The first round is decided by adding together the faults incurred over the course and any penalties for exceeding the Time Allowed, if any. Following the first round a predetermined number of competitors based on faults and time will compete in one timed jump-off round in which time will decide in the event of equality of total faults from both rounds. ***If one or more competitors qualified for the jump-off choose not to compete, they will not be replaced.*** One of the following options must be used:

[....]

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/30/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Current optimum time classes result in horses that go over time by a small increment are penalized a lot more than horses that go under time by a much larger increment. This rule change proposal rewards horses that are truly closest to the optimum time, regardless of being over or under, creating a fairer system and better fulfilling what the class is meant to do.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USHJA	Katie Patrick kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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#### JP149 TABLE IV - OPTIMUM TIME CLASSES

Classes are scored on Faults; however, all ties are broken on the basis of Optimum Time.

1. Optimum time in First Round (Table IV Sec. 1) – The first round is decided by adding together faults incurred over the course ~~and any penalties for exceeding the time allowed~~ **no time penalties will be assessed for exceeding the Time Allowed.** In case of equality of faults ties will be broken on the following basis: an Optimum Time (defined as 4 seconds less than the Time Allowed for the course) will be posted on the course plan; the horse with the time closest to this Opt. Time (over or under) will prevail in the tie, next closest next, etc.
2. Optimum Time in First Jump-Off
  - a. Table IV Sec.2(a)- The first round ~~and the jump-off~~ will be decided by adding together faults incurred over the course and any penalties for exceeding the time allowed. Clear rounds will return for a Jump-Off which will be scored as follows: In case of equality of faults, ties will be broken on the following basis: an Optimum Time (defined as 4 seconds less than the Time Allowed Those with the time closest to the Optimum Time (over or under) will prevail in the tie, next closet next etc. **NO TIME PENALTIES WILL BE ASSESSED FOR EXCEEDING THE TIME ALLOWED IN THE JUMP-OFF ROUND.**
  - b. Table IV Sec. 2(b) The first round ~~and the jump-off~~ will be decided by adding together the faults incurred over course and any penalties for exceeding the Time Allowed. If a competitor has gone clear in the first round, the competitor will, without leaving the ring, upon an audible signal commence the designated jump-off course. In the case of a fall of a Rider and/or Horse after crossing the finish line of the first round, the Rider/Horse combination may not continue to the jump-off, and will be placed according to their Score in the first round. A competitor with a clear round may dismount, and with assistance if necessary, adjust tack and/or equipment; however, upon the audible signal to begin their round, the competitor is responsible to adhering to the 45 second rule as per JP137.3. A competitor who leaves the after a clear round( before or after the tone) will be considered to have withdrawn from the jump-off (exception JP 138.1). In the case of equality of faults in the jump-off, ties will be broken on the following basis: an Optimum Time (defined as 4 seconds less than the Time Allowed for the course) will be posted on the course plan; the horse with the time on course closest to the Optimum Time (over or under) will prevail in the tie, next closest, next, etc. **NO TIME PENALTIES WILL BE ASSESSED FOR EXCEEDING THE TIME ALLOWED IN THE JUMP-OFF ROUND.** If there are no rounds in the first round and a tie exists, the results will be determined by the scores and time from that round. It is recommended that no more than twelve numbered obstacles be included in the first round when the class is scored under this table.
  - c. Table IV Sec. 2 (c) – Two Phase Competitions – The first phase to consist of 8-10 jumping efforts and the second phase of 5 to 7 jumping efforts. Scores are decided by adding together the faults incurred over the course and any penalties for exceeding the Time Allowed if any. If a competitor has gone clear in the first phase, they will, upon crossing the finish line, commence the second phase course. Time starts as the horse crosses the finish line of the first phase. In the case of equality of faults in the second phase ties will be broken on the following basis: an Optimum Time (defined as 4 seconds less than the Time Allowed for the course) will be posted on the course plan; the horse with the time closest to this Optimum Time (over or under) will prevail in the tie, next closest, next, etc. **NO TIME PENALTIES WILL BE ASSESSED FOR EXCEEDING THE TIME ALLOWED IN THE SECOND PHASE.** If there are no clear rounds in the first phase, the results will be determined by the scores and time in the first phase ~~using the basis described above.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/11/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The Paso Fino Committee in conjunction with PFHA nominated a working group to fully re-write the Paso Fino rulebook chapter for better clarity and understanding. The chapter was re-organized to provide better usability and consistent verbiage throughout. This rule change is a complete strike-out of the old chapter and re-write of the entire chapter.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Paso Fino

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

CHAPTER PF PASO FINO HORSE DIVISION

SUBCHAPTER PF 1 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

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SUBCHAPTER PF 3 BELLAS FORMAS (CONFORMATION) CLASSES

PF120 Class Specifications & Qualifying Gait PF121

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PF124 Showing

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PF140 Classes within this Division

~~SUBCHAPTER PF 8 PASO FINO COUNTRY PLEASURE (RESTRICTED TO AMATEURS)~~

~~PF141 Class Specifications PF142~~

~~Procedures.~~

~~PF143 Appointments.~~

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~~SUBCHAPTER PF 9 SPECIALITY CLASSES~~

~~PF145 Paso Versatility Class~~

~~PF146 Paso Western Pleasure~~

~~PF147 Paso Trail~~

~~PF148 Paso Costume~~

~~PF149 Paso Pleasure Driving Class~~

~~SUBCHAPTER PF 10 AMATEUR ADULT EQUITATION~~

~~PF150 Paso Equitation~~

~~PF151 Amateur Adult Horsemanship~~

~~SUBCHAPTER PF 11 CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES~~

~~PF152 Championship Classes~~

~~SUBCHAPTER PF 12 SHOW CONDUCT~~

~~PF153 Concurrent Classes PF154~~

~~Competitions~~

~~PF155 Grand National Championship Show~~

## CHAPTER PF PASO FINO HORSE DIVISION

### SUBCHAPTER PF 1 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

#### 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 horses registered with PFHA after 2018 must be microchipped to be eligible to compete. 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 horse's 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.
  - b. If the participant has submitted their entries via the PFHA online entry system then the following credentials must be made available to Competition Management and the steward, and copies of said credentials must be presented at time of check in:
    1. All other papers and health documents required by law or by competition management
    2. Copies of applicable lease agreements
    3. Affidavits of sales contracts
    4. USEF membership card (may be electronically verified when possible by the competition secretary).
2. Definition of an Amateur Owner. Each exhibitor in an Amateur Owner Class must be an amateur, certified as an Amateur by the Federation and be the owner of the horse being ridden or a member of the owner's family (GR106 and GR123). In the case of a corporate owner, the stockholders of the corporation shall be considered the owners for purposes of this definition. A horse that is the subject of a lease to an amateur is not considered owned by that amateur for purposes of this definition. The purchaser of a horse under an installment method of payment shall be considered the owner of the horse for purposes of this definition, if the purchaser, either before or at the time of the competition in question, files an affidavit on a form provided by the Paso Fino Horse Association for this purpose that describes certain relevant information about the purchase.
3. No artificial appliances are allowed. Artificial appliances include, but are not limited to leg/fetlock ankle chains (leather, sting, plastic, rubber chain, wood, etc.) of any weight. These are prohibited on the showgrounds and exhibitors using such appliances are subject to penalties and expulsion from the showgrounds. Normal grooming preparations including the use of black or clear polish on hooves are allowed, but make up, (other than on hooves), and glitter are prohibited. All horses must be in good condition. The color of a horse or the color of the horse's eyes will not be a consideration in judging a horse.
4. Soring of a horse is prohibited. Any physical evidence, including but not limited to scars or blisters, of training with heavy shoes or artificial devices or soring shall cause the horse to be disqualified.
5. Inspection. At the line up in all classes, Judges will carefully inspect the horses for artificial devices, training scars, raw or bleeding sores, soundness, marked lameness, and welts from whips or spurs in accordance with these rules. At all PFHA approved shows, the Judge may, at their discretion, inspect any horse for evidence of soring. Any evidence of soring shall disqualify the horse for the class and remainder of the show.
6. Prohibited: Any injection of any foreign substance or drug or any surgical procedure that could affect the horse's performance or alter its natural conformation or appearance, except for those surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the horse. Upon discovery that prohibited surgery or injection of a foreign substance or drug has occurred, show management shall immediately disqualify the horse and report the matter to the PFHA for further investigation.
  - a. This rule shall not apply to castration or to the cosmetic alteration of the horse's tail. However, the horse's tail may not be altered by the insertion of a foreign object, foreign substance or drug. Under no circumstances may a horse with a "dead tail" be shown at a PFHA sanctioned show.

7. Examination of Horse Required. Every owner and exhibitor shall, upon request of show management, permit examination of a horse for determination of the presence of prohibited surgery or foreign drug or substance. Refusal to comply with such request shall: (1) constitute grounds for disqualification of the horse from further participation at the show or from further approved events pending hearing of the PFHA Hearing Committee; (2) bar the horse from participation in future approved events or shows for such period as determined by the PFHA Hearing Committee; and (3) constitute grounds for suspension of PFHA membership of the owner and trainer.
8. To be eligible to show in a Performance Championship class a horse must have been properly entered, shown and judged in one qualifying class in the same division or section.

#### PF102 General Rules

1. Horse's Age. A horse's age requirement will be counted in months. For purposes of determining the appropriate class at a horse show a horse's age is determined in months from the foaling date to the end of the month preceding the month of the show.
2. Ring Conduct. The ring conduct of any exhibitor shall not be such as to affect adversely the exhibition of any other exhibitor's horse in the ring. Horses should be spirited, display refinement and beauty, but must be obedient. In all mounted classes, the riders shall space their mounts in such a manner so as to avoid bunching up and shall maintain such relative positions during such class demonstrations.
3. In the Paso Fino division the following will apply:
  - a. Excused:
    1. Completes the class and remains in the ring at the lineup. Horse is qualified for the championship.
    2. Junior youth exhibitor may be excused from a class if exhibitor's horse does not meet the requirements of the class.
    3. Any horse that becomes unruly, ill-mannered, or unsafe during a work off shall be excused from the ring.
  - b. Disqualified:
    1. Horse will be disqualified from the class and will be ineligible for the championship under the following circumstances:
      - a. Not meeting requirements of the class. (In Bellas Forma)
      - b. While the class is working, horse is required to leave the ring by the exhibitor or by the judge. Horse is not qualified for championship.
      - c. Unruly
      - d. Illegal tack
      - e. Refusal to back (Western Pleasure)
      - f. Shoe weight
      - g. Fall of horse and/or rider due to bad manners of the horse.
      - h. Uneoundness
    2. Horse will be disqualified from the entire competition under the following the circumstances:
      - a. Horse exits the arena without permission
      - b. Abuse/cruelty
      - c. Ineligible exhibitor due to relationship with judge
      - d. Ineligible horse due to relationship with judge
      - e. Undue stress on horse
      - f. Spring
4. Enforce General Rules: Report Violations & Facilitate Correction. The judge shall have the responsibility to enforce the class and competition rules, and also rules relating to the soundness of horses at any competition at which they are judging. The rules are to be enforced by any of the following means:
  - a. Requiring the violation to be corrected.
  - b. Excusing the horse and exhibitor from the class.
  - c. Prohibiting the horse and exhibitor from participating in the class.
  - d. Other appropriate action.
 

It is the purpose and intent of this rule to permit and further competition. Therefore, correction of violations should be permitted where practical and where correction may be done without undue delay of the competition and without being unfair to other competitors. The Judge shall report to the Steward any violations noted under this rule.
5. Calling Class Placement. After a class has been pinned and Judge's Card turned in, any non placing horses shall be excused from the ring. Non winners of ribbons in any class should remain in the ring until excused. The placement of the class shall be called starting with honorable mention seventh (7th) and proceeding sixth (6th) through first (1st). For

Championship classes, placements are called starting with honorable mention (5<sup>th</sup>), then fourth (4<sup>th</sup>), place through first (1<sup>st</sup>) place. The first (1<sup>st</sup>) place horse shall have the option of making a victory ride once around the ring. The first (1<sup>st</sup>) and second (2<sup>nd</sup>) places shall have the option of going down the sounding board.

6. In a class with a single entry a judge may have the horse perform all required gaits one way of the ring and pin it or excuse it in accordance with the rules. Exception: In a youth class, the class shall be worked as if there were several horses.
7. Delay and/or Commencement of Classes.
  - a. Commencement see GR109. Delay see GR831.
  - b. Show management may apply one of the following procedures in order to ensure timely commencement of classes:
    1. When horses are competing collectively, if the first horse does not enter the in-gate within one minute after the in-gate is opened the class is cancelled.
    2. When the first horse enters the in-gate within one minute and there are remaining exhibitors who have not entered the ring, a three-minute warning may be issued. If the remaining horses do not enter at the end of the three-minute warning, the gate will be closed.
    3. Judging must commence upon closure of the gate.
8. Jumps. In all classes calling for jumps, the jumps may be either horizontal bar jumps or cross rails. The horizontal bar jumps must include two (2) vertical poles, appropriate jump cups, a horizontal bar for the jump, and a bar for a ground line. All material should be white or some other color that is in contrast to the ring. Jump rails for the horizontal bar jump must sit firmly in jump cups and cannot be on the cup edges. Ground lines must be on the approach side of the jump and no farther than two (2) feet away from the horizontal jump crossbar. The horizontal bar jump shall be a minimum of eighteen (18) inches and a maximum of two (2) feet. The height of a cross rail may not exceed eighteen (18) inches and shall be measured at the top of the center of the intersection of the poles. The height of the jump cups should be set so the angle of the pole does not exceed approximately 30 degrees. Hay bales cannot be used as jumps. All jumps in warm-up areas must conform to the above guidelines.
9. Withdrawing from Competition. No exhibitor may withdraw a horse from a sanctioned competition after it has commenced, or remove the horse from the competition grounds, without the permission of the competition secretary. An exhibitor who has entered the ring may request permission of the judge to exit the ring before judging is completed. If an exhibitor voluntarily removes a horse from the ring without the permission of the judge, except in deference to safety, the Show Committee will disqualify the exhibitor and all their entries from all future classes at that competition and all prizes and entry fees for the entire competition shall be forfeited.
10. Same Rider on Two Horses/Two Different Riders on Same Horse Prohibited. A rider must not show more than one horse in a class, with the exception of a trail class. For a trail class, a rider is permitted to show more than one horse if there is a handler for each horse. When accepting a ward for a trail class, the rider with multiple horses will ride one horse into the arena and the other horses are to be led in by a handler, one per each horse. In any saddle class, the rider is not to be changed during the class.
11. An exhibitor may not use any type of electronic, mechanical or similar communication or mechanical device in the show ring while being judged, except for an exhibitor who is hearing impaired and who normally uses a sound enhancing device to achieve normal hearing.
12. Showing a horse with raw or bleeding sores or raw or bleeding abrasions around the muzzle, nose, chin groove, or jaw is considered an act of abuse. Horses showing signs of undue stress or inhumane treatment must be disqualified from the competition.
13. Soundness. All horses must be serviceably sound for competition purposes. A horse must not show evidence of lameness, or broken wind. Animals with complete loss of sight in either eye may be found serviceably sound at the Judge's discretion.
14. Extremes of temperature or climate conditions, may modify the requirements for attire as specified in various sections of these rules. Competition management will determine the modification and need thereof.
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).

#### PF103-Shoeing Regulations

If a horse is shown unshod, hooves will be neatly trimmed to a short natural length, not to exceed four (4) inches. If a horse is shown shod, the length of the hooves is not to exceed four and one half (4 1/2) inches, including shoes. All four (4) feet must

be shod with the same type of shoe of the same material, weight, and thickness although front and back hooves may be shod in different sizes. Aluminum shoes and rim shoes are permitted. Each shoe cannot exceed ten (10) ounces. Weighted shoes, trailers, heel caulks, and any style of pads are prohibited. Toe and/or side clips drawn from the shoe are allowed as long as the clips are an integral part of the plate shoe. All horses showing in Classic Fino must be shown shod.

#### PF104 Type and Conformation

The Paso Fino horse reflects its Spanish heritage through its proud carriage, grace and elegance. Modern care and selective breeding have enhanced its beauty, refinement and well-proportioned conformation that conveys strength and power without extreme muscling.

1. **Head:** The head should be refined and in good proportion to the body of the horse, neither extremely small nor large with the preferred profile being straight. Eyes are large and well-spaced, very expressive and alert, and should not show excessive white around the edges. Ears are comparatively short, set close and curved inward at the tips. The lips should be firm and the nostrils large and dilatable. Jaws are defined but not extreme. The impression should be of a well-shaped, alert, and intelligent face.
2. **Neck:** The neck is gracefully arched, medium in length and set on at an angle to allow high carriage, breaking at the poll. The throat latch should be refined and well-defined.
3. **Forehand:** Shoulders are sloping into the withers with great depth through the heart. Chest is moderate in width. Withers are defined but not pronounced and slope smoothly into the back.
4. **Midsection:** The midsection is moderate in length with a well-sprung rib cage. The top line should be proportionately shorter than the underline. The back should be strong and muscled. The midsection should join the forehand and the hindquarters so as to give the horse a pleasing, proportioned appearance.
5. **Hindquarters:** The croup is slightly sloping with rounded hips, broad loins, and strong hocks. The tail is carried gracefully when the horse is in motion.
6. **Legs:** The legs are straight with refined bones and strong, well-defined tendons and broad, long forearms with shorter cannone. The thigh and gaskin are strong and muscled but not exaggerated. Standing slightly under in the rear is acceptable. Pasterns are sloping and medium in length. Bones are straight, sound, and flat, and joints are strong and well-defined. Hooves are well rounded, proportionate in size and do not show excessive heel.
7. **Mane, Tail and Forelock:** Mane, tail, and forelock are as long, full, and luxurious as nature can provide. No artificial additions or alterations are allowed. A bridle path not exceeding 4" is acceptable. Horses under 12 months will not be penalized for having clipped manes or tails.
8. **Size:** Paso Fino horses are 13 to 15.2 hands with 13.3 to 14.2 being the most typical size with weight ranging from 700 to 1100 pounds. Full size may not be attained until the fifth year.
9. **Color:** Every equine color can be found, with or without white markings.
10. **Disposition:** The Paso Fino is an extremely willing horse that truly seems to enjoy human companionship and strives to please. It is spirited and responsive under tack while sensible and gentle at hand.

#### PF105 Gaits

1. The Paso Fino is born with a gait unique to the breed, and its attitude seems to transmit to the observer that this horse knows its gait is a very special gift that must be executed with style and pride! The gait, being totally natural, does not exhibit the catapulting or exaggerated leg action of man-made gaits; rather the movements are smooth, rhythmic, purposeful, straight, balanced in flexion and synchronous front to rear, resulting in unequaled comfort and smoothness for the rider. The Paso Fino is a graceful, agile and supple equine athlete that uses all four legs with precision and harmony. With its definite but controlled spirit, natural gait and presence, and responsive attitude, the Paso Fino is, indeed, a rare and desirable equine partner.
2. The gait of the Paso Fino horse is an evenly spaced four-beat lateral gait with each foot contacting the ground independently in a regular sequence at precise intervals creating a rapid, unbroken rhythm. Executed perfectly, the four hoofbeats are absolutely even in both cadence and impact. Footfall is in the same sequence as a natural equine walk, i.e., left rear, left fore, right rear, right fore. Propulsion is primarily from the hind limbs and the horse's motion is absorbed in its back and loins, resulting in unequaled smoothness and comfort for the rider.
3. In all classes, special attention shall be afforded to the rhythmic consistency and smoothness of the Paso gait. While style of execution may vary with horses, any style of execution that reduces smoothness and consistency shall be penalized. In addition, a horse shall be excused for failure to perform any gait prescribed in a class. Any tendency to mix gaits, the loss of even cadence or lack of smoothness, as evidenced by an up and down or side to side movement of the horse's croup or of the rider, shall be penalized. Horses who fight the bit, flatten their ears or swish their tails shall be penalized.

4. In all qualifying gaits, light contact on the reins is required. Horses requiring undue restraint or "holding" in gait or collection shall be penalized. While the degree of collection required varies from class to class, in no gait should the horse go "strung-out" behind, squat down in the rear, jut out its nose, lug, or work behind the headgear. Exaggerated leg action (excessive fold, over-reaching, unnaturally high front leg action, etc.) is not desirable. The ideal Paso Fino should track straight; however, some slight winging or paddling is acceptable and should be penalized only if it is severe or a result of conformation faults. In all classes and all gaits, the Paso Fino should give the appearance of naturalness and ease combined with a degree of the pride and elegance that is characteristic of the Paso Fino breed.
5. The Paso Fino gait is performed at three forward speeds (Classic Fino, Paso Corto, Paso Largo) and with varying degrees of collection. In all speeds of the gait, the rider should appear virtually motionless in the saddle, and there should be no perceptible up and down motion of the horse's croup.
6. Qualifying Gaits
  - a. Walk—Smooth, steady, evenly spaced four-beat gait.
    1. Collected Walk—Evenly spaced four-beat gait, cadenced, straight, brisk, animated and rhythmic. This gait is executed with collection, style and brilliance. This gait is called for in the Paso Performance class.
    2. Flat Walk—True, evenly spaced four-beat, flat-footed, smooth gait executed with mild collection. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed. This gait is called for in Paso Pleasure, Paso Trail, and Paso Western Pleasure classes.
  - b. Classic Fino—Smooth, steady, evenly spaced four-beat gait. Extension is absolutely minimum, forward speed is very slow and footfall is extremely rapid. It should be animated, exciting and executed with brilliance and style. Horse must be fully collected and balanced, putting its complete dynamic energy into its carriage and quickness of its footfall. Flexion and extension should be harmonious in all four legs, and the horse must present a picture of symmetry and fluidness of motion. The horse must perform naturally and willingly and any indication that the horse is being excessively restrained or held in gait shall be penalized.
  - c. Paso Corto—Evenly spaced four-beat gait executed with moderate forward speed and extension. Horse should be smooth, balanced and exhibit symmetry in flexion and stride. Forward speed is ground-covering but unhurried. Movements should be fluid, willing, relaxed, balanced and free-moving. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.
    1. Collected Paso Corto—an evenly spaced four-beat lateral gait with moderate forward speed and extension. This gait is smooth, supple, cadenced, animated and brilliant, with the horse well-collected, fully balanced, and exhibiting symmetry in flexion and extension. The horse should demonstrate pride, style, elegance and enthusiasm, along with good manners and ready response.
    2. In the Paso Performance class the horse is well-collected, animated, proud and brilliant.
    3. In the Paso Pleasure, Paso Versatility, Paso Trail and Paso Western Pleasure classes collection and carriage are natural and relaxed with slightly more collection required in the Paso Pleasure class.
  - d. Paso Largo—Forward speed is rapid and the gait is executed with longer extension and faster cadence than the Paso Corto. Extension and flexion must be harmonious with no tendency to become light on the front or strung-out behind. A definite change of speed from the Paso Corto must be observed. A significant difference will be rewarded. The even four-beat cadence must be retained. Forward speed varies with the individual horse, since each horse should attain its top speed in harmony with its own natural stride and cadence.
    1. Collected Paso Largo, which is an evenly spaced four-beat lateral gait. This gait is smooth, balanced, collected, bold and animated, with rapid forward motion. Extension and flexion must be harmonious with no tendency to become "light" on the front or "strung-out" behind. The horse should appear eager and willing to move out, and a definite change of speed from the Paso Corto to the Paso Largo must be observed, yet a willingness to reduce speed on command must be demonstrated. All transitions between gaits should be performed evenly and smoothly. An even, four-beat cadence must be maintained, together with style, presence, boldness, and brilliance. Loss of form, cadence, or smoothness due to excessive speed shall be penalized. In this class, the horse should combine style and spirit along with obedience and good manners. The horse should move out willingly, and stand quietly when requested.
    2. In Paso Performance, the gait is collected, bold and animated.
    3. In Paso Pleasure and Paso Versatility classes, collection is mild and carriage is natural and relaxed.
  - e. Lope—True, three-beat gait, slow, cadenced, smooth, straight on both leads, with no tendency to mix gaits. Horse should be balanced going with mild collection.
  - f. Canter—True, three-beat gait, cadenced, straight on both leads, smooth and unhurried with no tendency to mix gaits. The canter should be executed with collection; the head well-elevated and set.

#### SUBCHAPTER PF 2 PASO FINO YOUTH SECTION

#### PF106 General

1. An exhibitor's age for Youth classes shall be determined by the exhibitor's age on September 1 of the current competition year, and this age shall remain the same throughout the competition year.
  - a. If a competition is in progress on September 1, an individual's age at the start of the competition will be maintained throughout the competition.
2. Junior. Junior riders shall be 13-17 years of age.
3. Sub-Junior. Sub-Junior riders shall be 7-12 years of age.
4. Walk-Corto-Leadline. Walk-Corto-Leadline riders shall be 3-9 years of age.
5. Safety Headgear. All exhibitors 12 years of age and under as determined by the current competition year, including walk-corto-leadline riders, are required to wear Safety Headgear at all times while on horseback or driving or while in the driving cart. (GR801)
6. Handling Stallions. A child under thirteen years of age as determined by the current competition year shall not at any time ride, handle or exhibit a colt or stallion on the showgrounds during an Association sanctioned show. This rule applies to all classes, point or non-point, specifically including leadline classes. The adult responsible for such a child who violates this rule will be subject to dismissal from the showgrounds and forfeiture of any remaining fees.
7. Ineligible for Championship. Riders in the youth classes are not eligible for the championship classes because of riding in the Youth division classes.
8. Youth Championship Classes. Championship classes may be offered for youth riders in any division in which two or more qualifying classes are offered at a given competition. Youth Championship classes may be divided into Junior Youth (13-17 years of age) and Sub-Junior Youth (7-12 years of age) or held as Youth (7-17 years of age). To be eligible for entry into a championship class, a horse/rider combination must have been properly entered, shown, and judged in one of the qualifying classes. To be considered shown and judged, a horse must perform all required gaits both ways of the ring in the original class and must remain in the ring until either placed or excused by the judge(s).
9. A Junior Youth rider may be excused from a class if the rider's horse does not meet the requirements of the class.
10. Suitability. In all youth classes, special attention should be paid to the suitability of the horse for its rider. Horses should not appear unmanageable or too excitable for their riders, nor should they be unwilling to work for their riders. Good disposition is paramount for a youth horse.

#### PF107 Class Separations

1. Any youth class may be offered as open to all youth or may be divided into age groups as follows: (Exception: International Paso Equitation, see PF119.1)
  - a. Divided into Junior Youth (13-17) and into Sub-junior Youth (7-12)
  - b. Divided into Junior Youth Level I (13-15), Junior Youth Level II (16-17), Sub-junior Youth Level I (7-9) and Sub-junior Youth Level II (10-12)

#### PF108 Walk-Corto-Leadline

This class is open to children three (3) to nine (9) years of age and to physically or mentally disabled adults or children who are unable to show in other classes. Exhibitors in the Walk-Corto-Leadline class shall not cross enter into other classes with exception of the Costume class. Tack and attire will be the same as that for the Paso Pleasure class except riders are required to wear Safety Headgear. See GR801 for the definition of Safety Headgear. No belt or other type implement shall be used to hold a child in the saddle. The horses must enter the ring with the child mounted and an adult holding a leadline attached to a leather or nylon halter worn over the bridle or holding the pisador attached to the bridle. The leadline is for control only if necessary and should remain slack during the class if possible. The child should control the horse. This class is to be judged the same as the Equitation class except that no dismount/mount or tests will be asked for and the horses will be requested only to perform at a Paso Corto gait and at a walk. All exhibitors shall receive participant ribbons for this class and there shall be no points awarded for riders or horses. In addition, there shall be no point requirement to enter this class in the National Show.

#### PF109 Paso Equitation

1. The class is to be judged 100% on equitation. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them.
2. Basic Position. The rider shall convey the impression of effective and complete control at all times, showing both the horses and the rider to the rider's best advantage. A complete picture of the whole is of major importance.
3. Arm and Hand Position. The arm should hang naturally with the elbows not extending outward beyond a perpendicular line even with the rider's shoulders. The reins shall be held in one of the following manners:

- a. The reins should be held one (1) rein in each hand entering at the bottom below the little finger and extending upward with the bight (excess) of the rein hanging on the off (right) side of the horse.
  - b. The rein must pass directly from the bit, between the little and third fingers, the thumb being placed on top. It is important that the third finger holds the edges of the rein in the joints nearest the palm and that the fingers are closed securely but without tension. Bight (excess) of the rein should be on the off (right) side. The rider's hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle and should show sympathy, adaptability and control. The height the rider's hands are held above the horse's withers is determined by the head carriage of the individual horse. However, extremely high or low hand positions are improper. The rider's hands should not pass over or behind the pommel of saddle. The rider shall make every effort to achieve as straight a line as possible from the elbow through the forearm, hand and rein to the bit. Hands and wrists should be flexible and not held extremely separated.
4. Head Position. The rider's head should be held erect with the chin up. The rider's eyes should look straight forward.
  5. Back Position. The rider's back should be straight, but not stiff. The rider's shoulders should be square.
  6. Feet and Leg Position. The rider's leg should hang naturally with a slight bend at the knee. The rider's lower leg should be under the rider's body and not flared outward. Flaring of lower leg shall be penalized. The rider's feet should be parallel with the horse's body with the heels slightly lowered (approximately 1 inch). The ball of the rider's foot should rest directly over the stirrup iron with even pressure on the entire iron with heel, hip and point of shoulder in line. The rider's foot position should be natural (neither extremely in nor out).
  7. Position in Motion. The rider's position in motion should be natural, coordinated and graceful. The rider should remain almost motionless at all gaits. From the side a straight line should be able to be drawn perpendicular to the ground through the rider's head, shoulder, hip and ankle. The rider's toe should never be more forward than their knee, thereby keeping their center of balance directly above their feet and ankles. The rider's upper arms should fall naturally from the shoulders toward the hip bones and should be flexible, never clutched to the body, extended forward, or spread away from the body. The rider should appear to have a natural flow downward into the saddle and show no side to side movement of upper body. At all gaits the rider should remain in the center of the saddle and not slip back on the cantle.

#### RF110 Tests

The rider may be required to perform the following tests:

1. Ride without stirrups at a Paso Corto, maintaining the proper position. The stirrups may be crossed over the pommel of the saddle if so desired.
2. Back their horse smoothly and under control. The horse's mouth should remain closed and horse should not throw its head.
3. Dismount and mount. To dismount, the rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration. To remount, the rider shall check the curb chain and girth and adjust them if necessary. The rider shall gather the reins in their left hand with gentle pressure. The rider shall stand diagonally facing the front of the horse. The rider shall place their left hand in front of the horse's withers without holding the mane, turn the stirrup toward the rider with their right hand and place their left foot in the stirrup. The rider shall place their right hand either on the far side of the saddle at the waist or on the front arch (pommel), and spring lightly up, straightening both knees. The rider shall ease into the saddle and place their right foot in stirrup without locking down.
4. Perform a figure eight at Paso Corto (see diagram for pattern). The rider shall always turn and face the Judge unless otherwise instructed. The Judge may tell exhibitors whether they prefer large or small diameter circles.
5. Move their horse from Paso Largo to walk on a quiet rein.
6. Answer questions on parts of the horse and tack. See line drawings. Judge must refer to these drawings in asking questions.

#### RF111 Procedures

1. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until asked to reverse or change gait. Entries will space themselves, maintain the same relative position and avoid bunching up. Entries will be penalized for bunching up or for not working on the rail. The sequence of the gait will be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, walk, reverse, and repeat. The reverse will be executed toward the center of the ring. A halt will be called at least once during the Paso Corto. Entries will execute the above class requirements and, in addition, Judges are encouraged to call for at least two (2) of the tests provided above, of the top contestants. Each of the tests is to be performed individually.
  - a. Judges must select only from test numbers 2, 5 and/or 6 for Sub-Junior riders. Junior riders may be asked to perform any of the tests.
  - b. For the safety of the other entries, Judges are required to excuse any rider who is unable to control their mount.

#### PF112 Appointments

The tack shall be English type. Schooling tack is not acceptable. The stirrup leathers must not exceed five centimeters (5cm) or two inches (2in) in width. The stirrups can be metal or leather. Stirrups must be symmetrical in all parts, including the footrest. The attire must be: black leather boots, black trousers with a length that does not surpass the heel of the boot while the rider is mounted, black jacket, and a white or cream hat with black or white ribbon; any other type of hat is prohibited.

#### PF113 Classic Fino Youth

Qualifying gaits, procedures and appointments, except for Safety Headgear (GR801), if applicable, are the same as described under the Classic Fino Division.

#### PF114 Paso Performance Youth

Qualifying gaits, procedures and appointments, except for Safety Headgear (GR801), if applicable, are the same as described under the Paso Performance Division.

#### PF115 Paso Pleasure Youth

Qualifying gaits, procedures and appointments, except for Safety Headgear (GR801), if applicable, are the same as described under the Paso Pleasure Division.

#### PF116 Youth Horsemanship

Regional Group shows may offer this class at their discretion. This class shall be judged: 50% on horsemanship of rider, 40% 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.

#### PF117 Procedures

Exhibitors will enter the ring to the right at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until asked to reverse or change gait. The entries will space themselves, maintain the same relative position and avoid bunching up. Entries will be penalized for bunching up or for not working on the rail. The sequence of the gait will be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, walk, reverse, and repeat. The reverse will be executed toward the center of the ring. A halt will be called at least once during the Paso Corto. Entries will execute the above class requirements. Horses that do not perform the paso gait will be eliminated after lining up. Judges will line up exhibitors and require exhibitors to perform the chosen tests individually.

##### Gaits:

Walk: slightly collected and maintained at an even pace with no hesitations  
Corto: collected, with sustained cadence and rhythm

Largo: collected, with good transitions to and from corto, sustained cadence and rhythm.

#### PF118 Tests

1. Stop: The rider should quietly stop the horse and keep the horse still and parallel to the rail.
2. Serpentine: At a corto, the rider will serpentine through cones without touching cones while maintaining gait, cadence, and rhythm.
3. Circles: At a corto, the rider will perform two (2) circles through cones while maintaining gait, cadence, and rhythm.
4. Figure Eights: In a distance of nine (9) feet between two (2) cones with the horse at a corto, the rider will perform the number of figure eights as described in the designated pattern while maintaining gait, cadence and rhythm without touching the cones.
5. Back: The horse shall back four (4) to six (6) steps in a straight line.
6. Sounding Board: At a corto, the rider shall put 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.

The course shall be posted approximately two (2) hours before the class. Off pattern: a rider will not be disqualified for failure to complete the pattern in the correct sequence but must be placed accordingly.

#### PF119 International Paso Equitation

The Paso Horse Equitation highlights the style, grace, rhythm of the Paso horse, and the special relationship between the horse and rider. Paso Equitation is the art of effectively and correctly riding a horse using effective aids to achieve the best performance of the horse while maintaining correct posture, seat and balance that enhances the oneness between rider and horse. This event is judged 100% on the international equitation parameters and rules as defined herein.

Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method, skills and aids used in obtaining the best performance of the horse.

1. Class Separation: Classes may be offered as an Open class or can be divided into age groups as follows:
  - a. Divided into International Paso Equitation Mini (4-5), International Paso Equitation (6-8), International Paso Equitation (9-11), International Paso Equitation (12-14), International Paso Equitation (15-17)
  - b. Divided into International Paso Equitation Mini (4-8), International Paso Equitation (9-12), International Paso Equitation (13-17)
    1. The "mini" category must use a protective riding vest without any posture aids.
    2. In the 4-5 and 6-8 age groups, there should be a minimum of four helpers in the arena for safety, designated by the Technical Committee, and music kept low
2. Riders Position while the Horse is in Motion: The rider's position while the horse is in motion should be natural, coordinated and graceful. From the side, a straight line should be able to be drawn perpendicular to the ground through the rider's head, shoulder and ankle. The center of balance should be kept directly above the feet and ankles. The rider's upper arms should fall naturally from the shoulders toward the hip bones and should appear flexible, never tight against the body, reaching forward and/or spread away from the body. The rider should appear relaxed, comfortable and natural. The upper body should not appear to be rocking from side to side. The rider must maintain a centered seat on the saddle and not slip backwards on/over the cantle regardless of the modality/gait of the horse being ridden. The rider should appear to have a natural flow downward into the saddle and the body should not interfere with the movement of the horse.
3. Posture: The rider shall have a balanced, natural and correct position on the horse that promotes the best performance of the horse. The rider shall convey the impression of effective and complete control of the horse at all times, handling the horse in the most appropriate/effective manner while maintaining a high degree of elegance, style and oneness with the horse.
4. Seat: The rider seat should have a natural flow downward into the saddle so that the torso, pelvis and legs are balanced and symmetrical. The body of the rider should not interfere with the movement and balance of the horse, but it should promote a good performance. The rider should be centered on the saddle and aligned with the horse's dorsal line. The seat must appear natural and comfortable at all times, highlighting the union with the horse. The seat should never appear rigid or tense.
5. Head: The rider's head must be held straight at all times, with the chin up, looking forward in the direction of travel so as to maintain full control of the horse while in motion.
6. Back: The rider's back should be straight, but not tense or stiff. The position of the back must look natural and it should not be arched, leaning forward or backward. The rider's shoulders should be square, but not tense or stiff. From behind, the rider's back should be aligned with the horse's dorsal line.
7. Arm and Hand Position: The arms should hang naturally with the elbows not extending forward, backward or outward beyond a perpendicular line even with the rider's shoulders. The reins shall be held in one of the following ways (riders twelve (12) years of age and under may use a, b, or c. Riders thirteen (13) and over must use c.):
  - a. One rein in each hand entering at the bottom below the little finger and extending upward with the bight (excess) of the rein hanging to the right side of the horse.
  - b. The reins must pass directly from the ring of the bit, between the little and ring fingers, with the thumb being placed on top holding down the reins. It is important that the ring finger holds the edges of the rein in the joints (knuckles) nearest to the palm and that the fingers are closed securely, but without tension. The bight (excess) of the rein should hang to the right side of the horse. The rider's hands should be held in an easy and natural position, horizontal to the saddle, and should convey softness, adaptability and control. The appropriate height the rider's hands are held above the horse's withers is determined by the head carriage of the rider's horse. However, it is improper to maintain hands in an extremely high or low position. The rider must make every effort to achieve as straight of a line as possible from the elbow through the forearm; from the forearm to the hand; from the hand to the rein; and to the ring of the bit. The hands and wrists should remain flexible and not too far apart from each other.
  - c. The rider may also hold both reins in one hand. The other hand should take the reins from over or underneath the first hand so that both hands have control of the reins. The reins should be close together with the bight (excess) of the rein always hanging to the right side of the horse.
8. Leg and Feet Position: The rider's leg should hang naturally. The rider's lower leg should be under the rider's body and should not be extended forward or backwards; that is, it should follow a straight line from the knee down to the stirrup. Extending the leg forward, backward or not keeping a straight line from the knee to the stirrup shall be penalized. The

rider's feet should be maintained parallel to the horse's body with the heels slightly lower than the toes (approximately one inch). The ball of the rider's foot should rest directly on the stirrup while exerting even pressure on the entire stirrup. The rider's foot position should appear natural and be as parallel as possible to the horse's body. The foot's position should not appear to be forced inwards and/or the toes pointing outwards. Those riders that appear to be forcing the foot position or maintain the toes pointing towards the body of the horse (inwards) or outwards; shall be penalized.

#### 9. Judging Criteria

This class shall be judged: 60% on horsemanship/ riding skills and individual tests, 40% on the equitation posture of the rider as follows:

Handling/Riding Skills	
Handling of the horse, control, confidence, focus, skills and ability to maintain the horse in gait throughout the class.	30 points
Effective use of aids	10 points
Individual Tests	
Figure Eight (Including Entrance and Halt)	7 points
Back	3 points
Serpentine	5 points
Sounding Board	5 points
Subtotal	60 points
Posture/Equitation	
Head Position	4 points
Seat	8 points
Back	6 points
Arms and Elbows	6 points
Hands	6 points
Legs	6 points
Feet	4 points
Subtotal	40 points
Grand Total	100 points

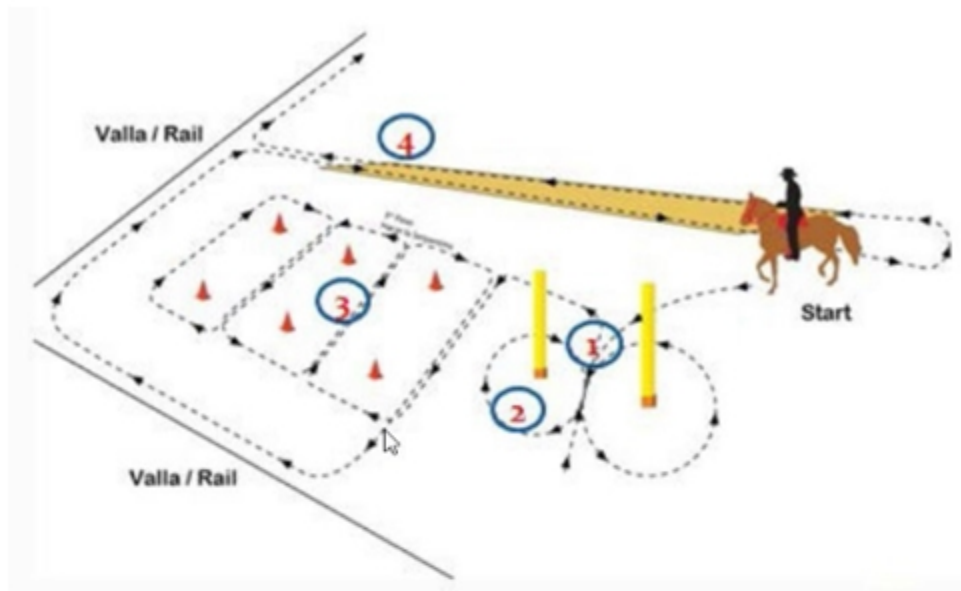
- a. The individual tests start at the figure eight and ends after completion of the Sounding Board test. The individual test must be completed in its entirety.
- b. Participants that don't follow the sequence of the tests shall be penalized with 15 points under the Handling and focus area.
- c. In the event that a participant omits or does not complete a test, the participant shall be penalized with up to five points under the Focus area plus five points for each incomplete test.
- d. The rider's seat should appear centered on the saddle and aligned with the horse's dorsal line. The seat must appear natural and comfortable at all times highlighting the oneness with the horse. The seat should never appear rigid and/or tense. A seat that does not appear to be natural and uneven/off center shall be penalized with up to eight points.
- e. The rider's foot position should appear natural and be as parallel as possible to the horse's body. The foot's position should not appear to be forced inwards and/or the toes pointing outwards. The feet position should appear natural. Those riders that appear to be forcing the foot position, or that maintain the toes pointing towards the body of the horse (inwards) or outwards shall be penalized with up to four points.

#### 10. Class Procedures

- a. All exhibitors must maintain horses at a Corte or Fino while being judged.
- b. Participants shall enter the arena to the right, close to the rail and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. Participants should maintain their horses on the rail. The rail should not have any obstacles that may prevent the continuous movement of participants, including personnel and/or judges. At the

discretion of the Judge, the participants will be ordered to complete various circles in one direction until instructed to reverse to be evaluated clockwise. The reverse will be executed toward the center of the ring returning to the rail in the opposite direction. The turn should not exceed an area of three meters. The rider should maintain their horses in gait during the reverse. Judges will observe the rider's skills, focus, handling and ability to maintain the horse in gait during its movement on a straight line as well as during the turns. Participants will then be asked to line up their horses in a predetermined area of the arena where they will wait to be asked to go over the sounding board one by one in both directions and exit to the Holding/Line up area where they will wait for their individual tests.

- c. Regardless of where the participants start from, participants shall approach the Figure Eight from in between the sounding board and the Figure Eight poles. After completing the Figure Eight and Back, the participants shall exit the figure eight in a straight line from the middle of the two poles and head towards the Serpentine test. After completing the serpentine, the riders will head to the rail in a straight line and proceed to the sounding board. The sounding board test must be completed in both directions. Not performing the tests in the sequence established herein shall be penalized with the corresponding loss of points. Participants must maintain the horses in gait at all times.
- d. Each participant will perform individually in order the following mandatory tests:
1. Figure Eight
  2. Halt and Back
  3. Serpentine
  4. Sounding Board
- e. Figure Eight. Participants shall execute three Figure 8s around the poles (two in one direction and one in the opposite direction). The start and end of each figure eight will be in the center (midpoint) of the two poles. Participants shall enter the figure eight from in between the sounding board and the first figure eight pole to cross over the midpoint to the second pole and complete two figure eights in one direction, followed by a straight line (towards the entry point) from one pole to the next and then complete one more Figure Eight in that direction. At the completion of the last Figure Eight, participants will halt in between the two poles facing the judges. Participants that turn in circles around one of the poles during the Figure Eight test to show off shall be disqualified in classes over nine years of age. Younger ages shall be penalized. Participants shall be penalized if they enter the Figure Eight incorrectly or, perform more or less than three figure eights in the manner described herein.
- During the Figure Eight test, the Judge will evaluate the softness of the hands on the reins, the use of aids balancing the body on the horse during the turns, and the rider's ability to maintain the horse in gait throughout the test. Participants shall be penalized if the rider opens and widens the position of the hands and arms while turning (except in classes of youth less than 12 years old), using a leading rein on/or close to the horse's neck, using excessive aids (kicking, slapping the reins, etc.), if their mount veers off track during the turns, or does not maintain gait during the test.
- f. Halt and Back. Once the figure eights are completed, participants must halt in the middle of the two Figure Eight poles and back their horses a minimum of four steps and a maximum of six steps. Judges will evaluate the smoothness of the command to halt, the rider's seat (relaxed natural seat, balance, and proper position), the way the rider guides the horse backwards with subtle commands, and in a straight line using even diagonal steps until halting the horse to complete the back. After completing the required back, the participant must come to a full stop and command the horse to move forward with softness, focus and determination. This is accomplished with the use of the proper aids and the rider's balance on the horse. After completing the halt and back, the rider should head in straight line in between the poles towards the serpentine.
- g. Serpentine. After completing the "Halt and Back" test, participants must perform a Serpentine in an area designated for such. This test allows the Judges to evaluate the riders' use of aids and the ability to maintain their horses in gait, with cadence and flexibility during the straight lines and turns. The serpentine test consists of alternating straight line movements and half circle turns. During the half circle turns, the horse's body should bend toward the center of the circle. During the transition from straight lines to half circle turns, the horse must not move over the tangent, in zigzag or sinusoid patterns (Refer to diagram below). The serpentine pattern will be marked with three rows of cones to ensure that the test is performed correctly. The use of bright yellow objects is recommended (refer to diagram below).

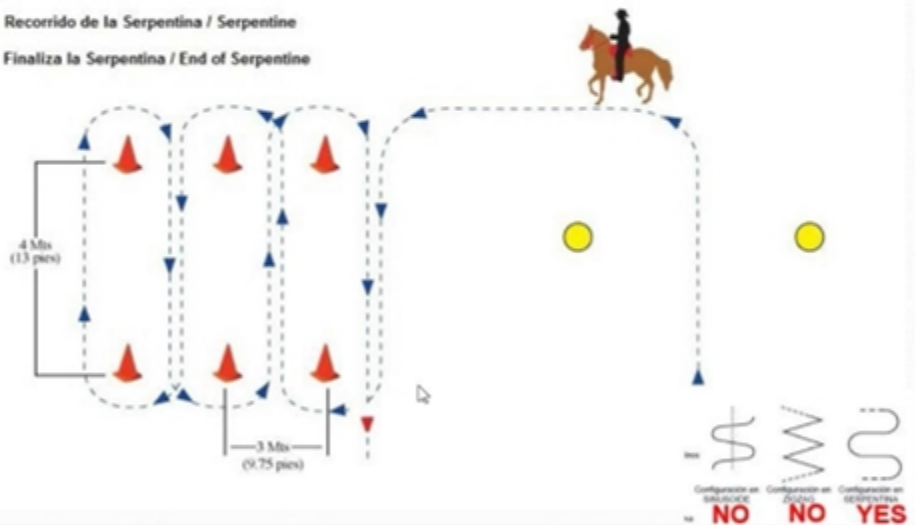


## Serpentina / Serpentine

### LEYENDA / LEGEND

- Postes / Poles
- ▲ Conos / Cones
- ▲ Recorrido de la Serpentina / Serpentine
- ▲ Finaliza la Serpentina / End of Serpentine

### Tabla Sonora / Sounding Board



h. Sounding Board. The board shall be placed at ground level. If this is not possible, then there must be access ramps. Once the serpentine test is completed, participants must go over the sounding board in both directions with the horse centered in the middle of the board and straight tracking throughout. Participants must traverse the sounding board in one direction, come off completely (in any direction) and return in the opposite direction. Not performing the test in the manner reference above shall be penalized. The Judges shall evaluate the rider's ability to maintain the horse in gait, the ability to keep the horse in a straight line trajectory over the sounding board. Participants shall be penalized for not maintaining their horses in gait; or allowing the horse to move sideways (not straight) over the sounding board; or allowing the horse to step off (one leg) the sounding board. Participants in categories of nine years of age and older shall be disqualified for turning on the sounding board or stepping more than one leg off the sounding board. Participants in categories under nine years of age shall be penalized for turning on the sounding board.

i. Additional Test/ Work Off. Judges may request optional tests/ work offs between two or more participants. These

tests shall be randomly selected (from tests 1, 2, 3, 4) through a lottery system prior to the competition and will be performed independently one at a time until the judges are ready to pin the class.

1. ~~Reverse Four Calls for Reverse~~
  2. ~~Parallel Comparison~~
  3. ~~Circles (three circles around the poles in one direction, reverse towards the pole and three circles around the poles in the opposite direction)~~
  4. ~~Dismount and Remount (can only be requested for participants 13 years of age and older). Riders must follow the procedure outlined.~~
- j. ~~Dismount/Remount Procedure.~~
1. ~~To dismount, the rider may slide down off the saddle or use the stirrups. The participant's height must be taken into consideration.~~
  2. ~~Before mounting, the rider must check, and if necessary, readjust the curb chain and the cinch.~~
  3. ~~The rider should hold the reins in the left hand using little pressure on the reins and stand diagonally by the side of the horse facing front and looking at the horse's withers.~~
  4. ~~The participant should then place their left hand on the horse's withers while holding on to the mane or the pommel.~~
  5. ~~Turn the stirrup towards their body using the right hand and put the left foot into the stirrup.~~
  6. ~~Holding the opposite side of the saddle (candle) or on the front panel (the pommel or the horn) with the right hand, the rider should smoothly lift themselves up to the saddle, straighten both knees and cross the right leg over the seat of the saddle, and then ease down into the seat while placing the right foot into the stirrup without looking down.~~
  7. ~~Judges must take into consideration the training and manners of the horse. A participant may not be penalized for the behavior of the horse during the dismount and remount procedure.~~

## SUBCHAPTER PF-3 BELLAS FORMAS (CONFORMATION) CLASSES

### PF120 Class Specifications & Qualifying Gait

The choice of gait is optional, either Classic Fino or Paso Corto, and one form of the gait shall not be given preference over the other. Both conformation and gait shall be judged in this class. Transmissible faults, such as buck knee, calf knee, base wide, base narrow, cow hocks, sickle hocks, toe in, toe out, offset knees, standing under, camped out in front, too straight behind, etc., shall be counted heavily against breeding stock. A horse with a swayback or fallen crest will be heavily penalized. A horse must be serviceably sound to be considered for placement. Any horse that fails to demonstrate the Paso gait so that the Judge can evaluate shall be disqualified from placement. This class shall be judged: 60% on conformation, 30% on quality and naturalness of gait, and 10% on appearance, grooming, and manners.

### PF121 Procedures

1. ~~Entries of any age may be shown with a halter and single or double lead line. If two lines are used, they shall be long and shall be one on either side of the halter; if two lines are used, the horse may be handled by one attendant holding both lines or by two (2) attendants one holding each line. If one line is used, only one (1) attendant is allowed. No attendants other than those actually holding the lines are allowed. Lines may end in a smooth link chain (minimum width 3/8") which may be crossed over the nose and/or under the jaw. The horse must demonstrate the Classic Fino or the Paso Corto gait whenever moving. In the lineup, the horse must stand square, not stretched, and remain quiet without undue restraint.~~
2. ~~Horses shall enter the ring one at a time in the order that show management designates. The horse shall proceed to the right and circle the arena in a counter clockwise direction on the rail.~~
3. ~~Quality of gait, that is, smoothness, symmetry of action, harmony of cadence, and naturalness, that is, consistency, absence of undue restraint, will be judged during rail work. After completing one circle, or when instructed by the Ringmaster, the horse will line up in the center of the ring for conformation inspection. The Judge shall penalize a horse if the handler uses their hands on the horse's leg below the knee to position the hoof in the lineup.~~
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.~~

### PF122 Appointments

1. ~~A horse will be shown in a leather show halter without a bit, nameplate or inscription thereon. The halter will be English or Colombian type leather, flat, rolled, or braided (3/8, 1/2, or 5/8 inch) with a matching stitched or plain nose piece with~~

optional browband not to exceed one (1) inch in width. A matching lead line, or long lines, as described in Section A above is required. A riding crop or whip not exceeding 30" in length including the lash may be carried. No other devices may be used.

2. Attendants will be attired in the official Paso Fino show costume.

#### PF123 Classes within this Division

Classes within this Division may be separated into one of the following categories:

1. Open Bellas Formas (all ages and all sexes);
2. Yearlings Up to 23 months Bellas Formas (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Colts, Geldings, and Fillies), and/or Bellas Formas 24 to 35 months (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Colts, Geldings, and Fillies), and/or Bellas Formas 36 to 48 months (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Colts, Geldings and Fillies), and/or Bellas Formas 49 months and Older (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Mares, Geldings and Stallions); or
3. Bellas Formas 49 months and Older (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Mares, Geldings, and Stallions); and/or Bellas Formas 48 months and younger (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Colts, Geldings, and Fillies) or further divided as described above.

In a show where Bellas Formas classes are offered by age groups, e.g., 36 to 48 months colts, a younger horse must be shown in the class corresponding to its age group and cannot be shown in a mares, geldings, or stallions class.

#### SUBCHAPTER PF 4 PERFORMANCE CLASSES (UNDER SADDLE)

##### PF124 Showing

1. Horses shall be shown at all required gaits both ways of the ring. In all classes except Classic Fino and Costume all horses shall enter the ring at paso corto. Exception: see PF102.6
2. Only one hand may be used on reins when the horse is shown under Western tack and hands must not change except in Trail Classes. Rider may hold romal or end of split reins to keep from swinging.

##### PF125 Schooling Classes

1. Horse Must be 30 Months No horse may be ridden in a saddle class, whether a Schooling class or regular class, until it is at least thirty (30) months old, based on the actual date of foaling.
2. Schooling Class Sections. Schooling classes may be offered in the Fino, Performance and Pleasure Divisions, including the Amateur Classes. There may be open schooling classes for horses 36 to 60 months old. Alternatively, there may be two Schooling age sections within a Division for: (1) horses that are 36 to 48 months, and (2) horses that are 49 to 60 months. In addition to age sections, classes may also be divided into two sections for: (1) fillies, and (2) colts and geldings; or into three sections for: (1) fillies, (2) colts, and (3) geldings. The horse's age for purposes of determining the appropriate class shall be determined under GR102.1a
3. Crediting of Points. In a show that does not offer Schooling classes, a schooling horse may compete in the regular appropriate class and still retain its schooling status, and any show points awarded to such horses shall be computed and credited as points awarded in the appropriate Schooling class.
4. A schooling horse (36-60 months) must be shown in classes appropriate for its age, with the exception of championships or open classes that have no age restrictions.

##### PF126 Junior Riders, Youth and Amateur Classes

1. Riders under the age of thirteen may not ride stallions and/or exhibit a colt or stallion on the competition grounds during a Federation sanctioned competition. This rule applies to all classes, point or not-point, specifically including lead line classes.
2. Youth Classes. Youth classes are offered where the award goes to the rider and not the horse. Youth riders must be seventeen years old or under. Youth classes shall be Junior (ages thirteen to seventeen) and Sub-Junior (ages seven to twelve). Horses entered in Youth classes may be cross-entered in other classes in the same section.
3. Amateur Classes. Horses entered in Amateur classes may be cross-entered in other classes in the same section.
4. When horses that are at least thirty (30) months old but no older than sixty (60) months old are shown in Amateur or Youth classes (not including Equitation and Horsemanship), schooling headgear is allowed.
5. Entries in Youth classes in a division are not eligible for Championship classes in that division unless otherwise qualified.

1. Bridle

- a. Metal on Nosepiece/Bosal/Cavesson and Alzador/Bargada. A curb chain or curb strap is permitted but shall not be cruelly tight. Bumps, balls, and knots are not allowed in either nose piece or chin pieces in any class. Except for Schooling classes in the Classic Fino and Paso Performance divisions, metal is not permitted in, under, over or attached to the cavesson nosepiece except for necessary buckles. In all Paso Pleasure classes, including schooling classes, metal is not permitted in, under, over or attached to the cavesson nosepieces and headstall, except for necessary buckles.
- b. Metal on bridles and breast straps/breast collars. Flat and/or engraved metal decoration is allowed on browbands, cavessons and/or cheek pieces of bridles as well as on the straps of breast straps/breast plates. No reflective vinyl is allowed on headgear, breast straps, or breastplates.

2. Schooling Headgear. Schooling headgear is defined as a bosal and barbada or alzador 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 36 to 60 month old horses in Youth classes, except Equestrian 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. Bite. (All Divisions)

- a. Bites are required in all classes except Schooling Classes or other classes as specified. Bites 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 mouth pieces 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 bites 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 and a half (3 1/2) 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 bite with shanks must have a curb strap or curb chain attached and used for leverage. Snaffle bites 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 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.

#### 4. Saddles.

- a. Plantation Saddle—Pleasure type saddle allowed in all pleasure classes. If a saddle pad is used, it will be conservative in color and does not necessarily need to conform to the overall shape of the saddle.
- b. Galapagos Saddle—Legal in Fino and Performance classes with English type stirrups and leather. Legal in Pleasure classes with Western type stirrup. If saddle pad is used, it will be conservative in color and conform to the shape of the saddle.
- c. Side Saddle—Legal in Pleasure classes and Costume class.
- d. Forward Seat—Legal only where a jump is required.

#### 5. English Tack.

- a. Saddle. In all classes where English tack is designated, saddles may be of any English type. If a saddle pad is used, it will be conservative in color and conform to the shape of the saddle. Stirrups for classes requiring English tack must conform in overall shape to commonly regarded English tack.
- b. Bridle. Bridles can be Colombian or English type headstalls, flat, rolled, or braided. Bridles must be leather, goatskin or flat rawhide. Twisted rawhide is allowed in schooling classes only. Goatskin bridles with white or cream colored reins matching the bridles may be used. Cheek pieces may be 3/8 to 5/8 inch with a matching, plain or stitched, cavesson and matching browband. The browband and cavesson nose piece may not exceed one (1) inch in width and must be a minimum of 3/8" wide or in diameter. Dropped nosebands, tie downs, and martingales are prohibited. Headstalls may have a throatlatch with a picador. The picador may be rawhide. Throat latches may tie rather than buckle.
- c. Reins. Reins may be leather, flat, rolled or braided. Nylon or other natural or man-made fiber reins may be used (hereafter referred to "nylon"). When nylon reins are used, they must be the same color as the headstall or conservative in color. Combination leather/nylon buckle back reins may be used. Snaps that attach the reins to the bit or bosal may be used except in Equitation and Horsemanship classes. Reins with buckle attachments and without snaps must be used in all Equitation and Horsemanship classes.

#### 6. Western Tack.

- a. In all classes where Western tack is designated, the tack shall consist of a good working stock saddle with horn. If a saddle pad is used, it will be conservative in color and Western type. Western saddles are allowed in those classes requiring Western tack and in pleasure classes if Western tack is used and Western attire is worn. Silver equipment is permitted but must not predominate. The head stall shall be of the Western type customarily used with a stock saddle. Western Pleasure horses under the age 60 months and under may use a snaffle or bosal; horses 61 months and over must use a curb bit. In Paso Pleasure when using Western style tack, Colombian and Western hackamore, mecate, sidepulls, curb, and snaffle bits may be used. Cavessons and nose bands are prohibited. Western Style Breastplates, which may exceed one inch, are permitted. See specific class descriptions and appointments for additional requirements concerning tack.

#### 7. Crops and Spurs.

- a. A riding crop not exceeding thirty (30) inches in length including the lash may be used.
- b. Spure may not be used in any Paso Fino competition except Blunt spure may be used in speciality classes.

#### 8. Special Tack, Attire or Considerations.

- a. An individual requiring special show considerations shall submit a request to the show secretary who will note appropriate judges' cards accordingly and inform the steward of same. These special considerations may include the exemption from dismounting and mounting in Paso Pleasure classes. When a dismount/remount is called for during the lineup in any Paso Pleasure class, any exhibitor may request the use of a mounting block to complete the test. Each show will have a mounting block available in center ring which will be provided to an exhibitor upon request.

#### 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 jacket of approximate hip length, which does not touch the saddle, and full length riding pants or jumpsuit which cover(s) the boots. The 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. 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 a bowtie, western bowtie or bolo. The exhibitor must wear a 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. ~~Conservative Colors. Conservative colors (including trim) are black, white, darker/muted shades of gray, blue, green, red, brown, and purple. Bright shades of any color (hot pink, lime green, fuchsia, fluorescent orange etc.) are not considered conservative. Reflective stitching and fabric with reflective glitter threads are not considered conservative.~~
3. ~~Western Attire. In classes requiring Western dress, the rider shall wear a Western type hat, long sleeved Western type shirt, full length trousers, Western boots together with chaps, shotgun chaps or chinks. A jacket or vest is optional. When a long sleeve jacket is worn, the rider may wear a long sleeve, short sleeve, or sleeveless shirt underneath.~~
4. ~~Safety Headgear. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty in any class. (GR801) In classes that may require a jump (Trail and Versatility), approved protective headgear is required. All riders twelve (12) years of age and under, including walk-corto leadline riders, are required to wear approved protective headgear at all times while on horseback at any competition.~~

## SUBCHAPTER PF.5 CLASSIC FINO DIVISION

### PF129 Class Specifications

In this class, horses shall demonstrate the fully collected Classic Fino gait whenever they are being judged. This class shall be judged: 65% on execution and naturalness of the Classic Fino gait; 15% on appearance, conformation and way of going, 10% on manners and 10% on the sounding board when available. If a sounding board is not available, the class shall be judged: 75% on execution and naturalness of the Classic Fino gait, 15% on appearance, conformation and way of going, and 10% on manners. All horses showing in Classic Fino must be shown shod.

### 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 reverse, 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.~~

### PF131 Appointments

~~The tack shall be English type. The attire shall be the official Paso Fino show costume.~~

### PF132 Classes within this Division

1. ~~Classic Fino Schooling. Schooling classes may be offered. These classes are to be conducted in exactly the same manner as the Classic Fino classes except that they will be limited to schooling horses. Tack and attire shall be the same as in Classic Fino with the exception of the headgear, which may be schooling headgear. (GR 801). Schooling classes, if offered, may be separated as follows:~~
  - a. ~~May be open; or~~
  - b. ~~May be divided into Open Schooling 36 to 48 months and Open Schooling 49 to 60 months; or~~
  - c. ~~May be divided into 36 to 48 months Schooling Fillies, 36 to 48 months Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated), 49 to 60 months Schooling Fillies, and 49 to 60 months Schooling Colts and~~

Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated).

2. Classic Fino. These classes may be separated as follows;
  - a. May be Open (includes all ages and all sexes);
  - b. May be divided into Open Schooling 36 to 48 months and Open Schooling 49 to 60 months; or
  - c. Schooling classes may be divided as provided in Section 1 above and Classic Fino divided into Mares, Geldings, and Stallions.
  - d. Schooling classes may be divided as provided in Section 1 above and Classic Fino divided into Mares 61 to 84 months, Mares 85 months and over, Geldings 61 to 84 months, Geldings 85 months and over, Stallions 61 to 84 months, Stallions 85 months and over.
  - e. Amateur classes may also be offered. They may be Open or divided, as provided in Section 2 above.
  - f. Amateur Owned and Trained classes may also be offered. They will be open for all age horses. Exhibitor must be an Amateur and horse must not have been trained by a professional for six months. Horse must be owned by exhibitor or their family. This class does not qualify for Amateur Fine Championship.

## SUBCHAPTER PF 6 PASO PERFORMANCE DIVISION

### PF133 Class Specifications

This class shall be judged: 30% on collected Paso Corto; 30% on collected Paso Largo; 10% on the walk; 10% on appearance, conformation and way of going; 10% on manners; and 10% on sounding board when available.

Special attention shall be afforded to brilliance, form, smoothness, and rhythmic consistency of the gaits. If a sounding board is not available, the class shall be judged: 30% on collected Paso Corto; 30% on collected Paso Largo; 10% on the walk; 20% on appearance, conformation and way of going; and 10% on manners.

### 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.

### PF135 Appointments

The tack shall be English type. The attire shall be the official Paso Fino show costume.

### PF136 Classes within this Division

1. Paso Performance Schooling. Schooling classes may be offered. These classes are to be conducted in exactly the same manner as the Paso Performance classes except that they will be limited to schooling horses. Tack and attire shall be the same as in Paso Performance with the exception of the headgear, which may be schooling headgear. See PF127.2 for the definition of schooling headgear. Schooling classes, if offered, may be separated as follows:
  - a. May be Open; or
  - b. May be divided into Open Schooling 36 to 48 months and Open Schooling 49 to 60 months; or
  - c. May be divided into 36 to 48 months Schooling Fillies, 36 to 48 months Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated), 49 to 60 months Schooling Fillies, and 49 to 60 months Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated).
2. Paso Performance. These classes may be separated as follows;
  - a. May be Open (includes all ages and all sexes);
  - b. May be divided into Open Schooling 36 to 48 months and Open Schooling 49 to 60 months; or
  - c. Schooling classes may be divided as provided in Section 1 above and Paso Performance divided into Mares, Geldings, and Stallions; or
  - d. Schooling classes may be divided as provided in Section 1 above and Paso Performance divided into Mares 61 to 84 months, Mares 85 months and over, Geldings 61 to 84 months, Geldings 85 months and over, Stallions 61 to 84 months, Stallions 85 months and over.

- e. Amateur classes may also be offered. They may be Open or if divided, they must be divided into Mares 61 to 84 months, Mares 85 months and over, Geldings 61 to 84 months, Geldings 85 months and over and Stallions 61 to 84 months, Stallions 85 months and over. Amateur Schooling classes may be offered and may be divided the same as provided in this Section 1 above.
- f. Amateur Owned and Trained classes may also be offered. They will be open for all age horses. Exhibitor must be an Amateur and horse must not have been trained by a professional for six months. Horse must be owned by exhibitor or their family.

## SUBCHAPTER PF-7 PASO PLEASURE DIVISION

### PF137 Class Specifications

1. The horse will be required to flat walk, Paso Corto, Paso Largo, line up and back. The back should be straight, calm and controlled, and refusal to back will result in the horse being excused from placement. Riders may not ride without stirrups.
2. This class shall be judged: 20% on Paso Corto; 20% on Paso Largo; 20% on flat walk; 5% on back, 25% on manners, conformation, attitude and way of going and 10% on sounding board when available. If a sounding board is not available, the class shall be judged: 20% on collected Paso Corto; 20% on Paso Largo; 20% on flat walk; 5% on back; and 35% on manners, conformation, attitude and way of going.

### 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 gait 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.

### PF139 Appointments

The tack and headgear for the horses must be English or Western as described in PF127 including without limitation a side saddle and leather covered stirrups. A bit is not required. Metal is not permitted in, under, over or attached to the cavesson nosepieces and headrisers, except for necessary buckles. Attire shall be in keeping with the type of tack used. Where Western style tack is used, riders shall dress as specified under requirements for Western attire described at PF128.3, with the exception that chaps or chinks are optional in this class. Where English style or Plantation type tack is used, the rider's attire shall consist of a long sleeved shirt, full length trousers, tailored jacket or vest, hat and riding boots. When a long sleeve jacket is worn, the rider may wear a long sleeve, short sleeve, or sleeveless shirt underneath. Riders that use English tack cannot wear chaps.

Sweater vests are not allowed. A tie is optional. Women riders may wear skirts, culottes, jodhpurs or gaucho pants that are long enough to cover the knees while seated in a saddle along with knee high boots. Sequins, and rhinestones or other similar reflective adornment, except glitter and mirrors, may be used as an accent or buttons on a jacket, vest, or hat band, but must not predominate. Reflective adornment is not permitted on shirts or blouses, except functional buttons at the cuffs and the front of the garment. Riders shall not wear any part of their official Paso Fino costume except riders are permitted to wear riding boots, jumpsuit, and pants. If the rider wore tuxedo style pants as part of the official Paso Fino costume, tuxedo style pants are permitted.

### PF140 Classes within this Division

1. ~~Paso Pleasure Schooling. Schooling classes may be offered. These classes are to be conducted in exactly the same manner as the Paso Pleasure classes except that they will be limited to schooling horses. Tack and attire shall be the same as in Paso Pleasure with the exception of the headgear, which may be schooling headgear. See PF127.2 for the definition of schooling headgear. Schooling classes, if offered, may be separated as follows:
 
  - a. ~~May be Open; or~~
  - b. ~~May be divided into Open Schooling 36 to 48 months and Open Schooling 49 to 60 months; or~~
  - c. ~~May be divided into 36 to 48 months Schooling Fillies, 36 to 48 months Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated), 49 to 60 months Schooling Fillies, and 49 to 60 months Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated).~~~~
2. ~~Paso Pleasure. These classes may be separated as follows:
 
  - a. ~~May be Open (includes all ages and all sexes);~~
  - b. ~~May be divided into Open Schooling 36 to 48 months and Open Schooling 49 to 60 months; or~~
  - c. ~~Schooling classes may be divided as provided in Section 1 above and Paso Pleasure divided into Mares, Geldings, and Stallions; or~~
  - d. ~~Schooling classes may be divided as provided in Section 1 above and Paso Pleasure divided into Mares 61 to 84 months, Mares 85 months and over, Geldings 61 to 84 months, Geldings 85 months and over and Stallions 61 to 84 months, Stallions 85 months and over; or~~
  - e. ~~Geldings will be split out from colts at the Grand National Championship; or~~
  - g. ~~Amateur classes may also be offered. They may be Open or, if divided, they must be divided into Mares 61 to 84 months, Mares 85 months and over, Geldings 61 to 84 months, Geldings 85 months and over and Stallions 61 to 84 months, Stallions 85 months and over. Amateur Schooling classes may be offered and may be divided the same as provided in this Section 1 above.~~
  - f. ~~Amateur Owned and Trained classes may also be offered. They will be open for all age horses. Exhibitor must be an Amateur and horse must not have been trained by a professional for six months. Horse must be owned by exhibitor or their family. This class does not qualify for Amateur Pleasure Championship.~~~~

#### SUBCHAPTER PF.8 PASO FINO COUNTRY PLEASURE. (RESTRICTED TO AMATEURS.)

##### PF141 Class Specifications.

1. ~~The Paso Fino Country Pleasure Horse should be a calm, mild-mannered, 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. 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.~~

##### PF142 Procedures.

~~The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right of the rail at a Paso Corto, and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. Sequence of gaits will be: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, walk, reverse and repeat, then line up. When requested by the Judge, the rider will back the horse out of the line up, dismount from the left side, walk around to the front of the horse checking the headgear and/or bridle appointments, then remount from the right side and return to the line up. Rider's style of dismount and mount is not to be emphasized; rather, emphasis is placed on the horse's willingness to back in a calm controlled manner and to stand quietly. While executing all gaits, entries should space themselves to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail except to pass. When western style tack is used, the rider may use either one or two hands.~~

##### PF143 Appointments.

~~Tack and attire are to be appropriate for Paso Pleasure Class, at all times neat, clean and in good taste. Bits are not required in the Paso Fino Country Pleasure Class. The tack and headgear for the horses may be of any variety that would be appropriate and practical for pleasure riding. Attire shall be in keeping with the type of tack used. Where Western style tack is~~

used, riders shall dress as specified under requirements for Western attire described in PF128 with the exception that chaps or chinks are optional in this class. Where English style or Plantation type tack is used, the rider's attire shall consist of a long sleeved shirt, full length trousers, tailored jacket or vest, hat and riding boots. When a long sleeve jacket is worn, the rider may wear a long sleeve, short sleeve, or sleeveless shirt underneath. Riders who use English tack cannot wear chaps. Sweater vests are not allowed. A tie is optional. Women riders may wear skirts, culottes, jodhpurs or gaucho pants that are long enough to cover the knees while seated in a saddle along with knee high boots. Jeans and baseball style hats are prohibited. Riders shall not wear any part of their official Paso Fino costume except riders are permitted to wear riding boots, jumpsuit, and pants. If the rider wore tuxedo style pants as part of the official Paso Fino costume, tuxedo style pants are permitted. Exhibitors should remember that even though this is a Paso Country Pleasure Class, it is a horse show class and not just a ride for pleasure.

#### PF144 Classes within this Division

1. Country Pleasure Schooling. A schooling class may be offered. This class is to be conducted in exactly the same manner as the Country Pleasure classes except that the class will be limited to schooling horses age 36—60 months, all sexes. Tack and attire shall be the same as in Country Pleasure. Where Western style tack is used, riders are allowed to use two (2) hands when using schooling type headgear.
2. Country Pleasure. These classes may be separated as follows:
  - a. May be Open (includes all ages and sexes).
  - b. May be divided into Schooling 36 to 60 months olds all sexes, and 61 months & Older all sexes.
  - c. May be divided into Schooling 36 to 60 months all sexes, Country Pleasure Mares 61 months & older, and Country Pleasure Geldings & Stallions 61 months olds & older.
3. If at least two qualifying classes are offered at a given competition, an open Country Pleasure Championship Class may be offered.

#### SUBCHAPTER PF 9 SPECIALITY CLASSES

These classes are open to all horses regardless of age or sex unless otherwise prohibited in these rules.

#### PF145 Paso Versatility Class

1. Class Specifications.
  - a. In this class, the horse will be asked to demonstrate balance, flexibility, coordination and manners while performing the various gaits, tests, and maneuvers. Manners and willingness are very important. The back must be controlled and smooth. Failure to properly execute the Paso Corto and Paso Largo, demonstrating an evenly spaced four-beat lateral gait, will automatically disqualify the horse, and it will not be asked to do the individual work out, executing a figure eight maneuver at a Paso Corto and taking the jump from the canter. Failure to take the correct lead in the canter shall be penalized. One refusal to take the jump will cause a lowering of the horses placing within the class. Two refusals to take the jump will automatically disqualify an entry from the class. The figure eight is to be performed at the Paso Corto and should be smooth, consistent in gait, and supple. A jump that is a minimum of eighteen (18) inches and a maximum of two (2) feet will be taken from the canter.
  - b. The class shall be judged: 20% on the Paso Corto; 20% on the Paso Largo; 10% on the walk; 10% on the canter; and 40% on back, jump, manners, and figure eight.
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. The sequence of gaits shall be: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, flat walk, canter, flat walk, reverse and repeat. While executing the walk, riders shall space themselves to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail. In the remaining gaits, exhibitors shall remain on the rail except to pass. Riders shall be asked individually to back, execute a figure eight maneuver at a Paso Corto, and take a jump from the canter.
3. Appointments. The tack and headgear are to be English type, with a bridle and cavesson. No schooling headgear allowed. Forward seat saddles are also allowed. Attire is to be English style as described in the Paso Pleasure Division (PF139). Safety Headgear is required. (GR801)
4. Class separations. Shall be offered as Open (includes all ages and all sexes) and Amateur.

#### PF146 Paso Western Pleasure

1. Class Specifications
  - a. In this class, the horse should move in the working cow horse image, while still retaining the air of pride and grace that is typical of the Paso Fino. In all gaits, the horse must be smooth and responsive, and both horse and rider should appear comfortable and relaxed. The horse must work on a very light rein, but some contact should be

maintained. Gait transitions should be taken on the first stride, and the horse should maintain its speed and cadence without restraint by the rider. Failure to take the correct lead in the lope shall be penalized.

b. This class shall be judged: 35% on Paso Corto; 30% on lope; 10% on flat walk; and 25% on manners, attitude, and way of going.

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. Appointments. The tack and attire are to be Western type. Horses 60 months and under may use a snaffle or bozal. Horses 61 months and over must use a curb bit. Australian stock saddles are prohibited but Western saddles made in Australia (with a horn) are allowed. See PF127 concerning Western tack.

4. Class separations. Shall be offered as Open (includes all ages and all sexes) and Amateurs.

#### PF147 Paso Trail

1. Class Specifications.

a. This class shall be judged 100% on the obstacle course; there is no rail work. This includes the distance from the beginning of an obstacle to the beginning of the next obstacle.

b. Entry will be evaluated on willingness, responsiveness, correctness, and general attitude while negotiating through the obstacle course. Obstacles occurring in a natural trail environment only are to be used to break a tie.

c. Horses are to be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching the obstacles. Judges are encouraged to advance on to the next obstacle any horse taking excessive time at an obstacle.

d. Any horse not properly performing the gait required between the obstacles or any horse that fails to follow the prescribed obstacle or follow the prescribed course of travel through the obstacle should be penalized in the same manner as not completing the obstacle.

e. Qualifying gaits include: Flat Walk, Paso Corto, Paso Largo. It is not required to use all the qualifying gaits.

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). 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, sidestepping, 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. The course is to include a minimum of six (6) obstacles and a maximum of eight (8) obstacles. (See WS126, as may be amended from time to time, for dimensions of trail obstacles only, does not include section on Unacceptable Obstacles.)
3. Appointments. The tack and type of attire are optional; tack and attire as described for either the Paso Western Pleasure class or the Paso Pleasure class are permitted. Safety Headgear is required if a jump is included in the class. See GR801. Only one hand may be used on the reins except that both hands may be used to negotiate an obstacle.
4. Class separations. Shall be offered as Open (includes all ages and all sexes) and Amateurs. Classes may be run concurrently but judged separately.

#### PF148 Paso Costume

1. The purpose of this class is to create interest in the Paso Fino Breed by establishing and demonstrating its Latin American or Spanish origin by means of the various costumes for the rider employed in the respective countries of origin, for the diversion and enjoyment of the public. In this class, horses will be required to demonstrate their favorite Paso gait and stand in a line up on display. They shall be judged: 80% on attractiveness of costuming and appropriateness of same to the horses and the completeness of the costuming idea; 10% on the brilliance of gait and on the carriage of the horse; and 10% on manners of the horse. Points in this class shall be assigned to the rider. Riders entering the costume class must be members in good standing of the Association. Procedures. Entries must submit a brief statement of approximately 100 words or a maximum of two (2) minutes on the cultural significance of their costume. This will be read as each entrant, one by one, enters the ring in their favorite paso gait (Classic Fino, Paso Corto, Paso Largo). Every exhibitor must circle the ring once in a counterclockwise manner and line up head to tail in the center of the ring. An attendant/handler is allowed. Such attendant/handler must be appropriately attired and in keeping with the costume of the rider. The rider's attire will not be offensive or detract from the main purpose of the Class.
2. Appointments. No specific tack for the horse is required, but all should be in keeping with the costume of the rider. Costume of the rider must be Latin American or Spanish related, but no specific country of origin need be identified.

#### PF149 Paso Pleasure Driving Class

1. General
  - a. This class is open to Paso Fino horses thirty six (36) months of age or older, as determined by the actual date of foaling.
  - b. In this class, the horses should combine style and spirit along with obedience and good manners. They should move out willingly and stand quietly when requested. The horses will be required to perform at a walk, Paso Corto and Paso Largo. The gait should be smooth in each speed, evidenced by a lack of an up and down movement of the horse's croup. This class shall be judged: 30% on Paso Corto; 30% on Paso Largo; 10% on walk; 15% on appearance; and 15% on manners.
  - c. Carts must reverse by turning to the center of the ring and angling to the opposite side to avoid accidents.
  - d. In the walk, the horse should be smooth, alert and graceful. In the Paso Corto, the horse shall move at a moderate rate of speed and the carriage of the horse should be proud, with only mild extension and the gait should be smooth and steady without hopping or breaking of rhythm. In the Paso Largo, the horse shall move more rapidly, and evidence a readily detectable marked difference in speed from the Paso Corto. Excessive speed, however, that might tend to create a safety hazard, may, at the discretion of the Judge, be penalized. The footfall, as always, must remain a four beat lateral gait and pacing and/or trotting will be penalized.
2. Procedures. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until required by the Judge to reverse or change gait. Sequence of the gaits shall be: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, walk, reverse and repeat. All horses being considered for an award are required to back in a straight line.
3. Appointments. The horse is to be shown in light driving harness, bridle (blinkers, overcheck and overcheck bit are optional), and hitched to a two or four wheeled vehicle suitable to the horse. Bits may be of the snaffle type, either regular, straight bar or jointed, or liverpools. Liverpools may be used "in the half cheek" or one hole only below. The check rein should not interfere with free way of going. The horse's forelock may be braided. Sulkies will not be allowed. Definition of a sulky is a two wheeled vehicle with no place for the driver's feet except in stirrups. A basket will be allowed for the feet. A standard buggy whip will be allowed in this class.

The attire of the driver in the driving class shall be the same as that prescribed for in the Paso Fino Pleasure class. A driving apron may be used. One attendant without a whip is permitted to head each horse during the lineup. Attendants will be neatly attired and a groom's smock is optional. The attendant may uncheck the horse and then must stand back two paces. Only the driver is permitted in the cart except when a sub-junior is showing the entry, in which case an adult must accompany

the sub-junior driver.

## SUBCHAPTER PF 10 AMATEUR ADULT EQUITATION

### PF150 Paso Equitation

1. The Paso Equitation seat enhances the particular and special style, grace, rhythm and oneness of horse and rider. The class is to be judged 100% on equitation. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them. Horses shown in this class will perform the required Paso gaits.
2. See PF109 for rider position.
3. See PF110 for tests
4. Procedures. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until asked to reverse or change gait. Entries will space themselves, maintain the same relative position and avoid bunching up. Entries will be penalized for bunching up or for not working on the rail. The sequence of the gait will be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, walk, reverse and repeat. The reverse will be executed toward the center of the ring. A halt will be called at least once during the Paso Corto. Entries will execute the above class requirements and, in addition, judges are encouraged to call for at least two (2) of the tests provided above, of the top contestants. Each of the tests is to be performed individually.
  - a. Riders may be asked to perform any of the tests.
  - b. For the safety of the other entries, judges are required to excuse any rider who is unable to control their mount.
5. Appointments. The tack shall be English type. Schooling tack is not acceptable. The attire shall be the official Paso Fino show costume.
6. Age requirement. The rider must be considered an Adult for the competition year.

### 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. Procedures. Exhibitors will enter the ring to the right at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. The sequence of the gait will be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, Walk, reverse and repeat. The reverse will be executed toward the center of the ring. A halt will be called at least once during the Paso Corto. Entries will execute the above class requirements. Horses that do not perform the Paso Fino gait will be excused after lining up. Judges will line up exhibitors and require exhibitors to perform the chosen tests individually.
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 at least two (2) hours 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. Off Pattern. A rider will not be disqualified for failure to complete the pattern in the correct sequence, but must be placed accordingly.
5. Appointments. The tack shall be English type. Schooling tack is not acceptable. The attire shall be the official Paso Fino show costume.

### PF152 Amateur Adult International Equitation Class

Regional Group shows are permitted to offer this class at their discretion. The class specification, judging criteria, procedures, and appointments will follow the International Paso Equitation Divisions (PF119). Class Separations may be offered as Adult Open 18 & Older.

## SUBCHAPTER PF 11 CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES

### PF153 Championship Classes

1. ~~Eligibility. To be eligible for entry into a Championship class, a horse must have been properly entered, shown and judged in one of the qualifying classes. To be considered shown and judged, a horse must perform all required gaits both ways of the ring in the original class and must remain in the ring until either excused or placed by the judge. An entry disqualified by the judge for any reason may not use that class as a qualifier for the championship class. Entries qualified for Championship classes in Amateur classes must compete in the Amateur Championship classes in that Division, if offered. If Amateur Championship classes are not offered, an entry that qualifies for the Championship class in the Amateur class may compete in the regular Championship class in the Division for which they are qualified. From these entries a Champion, Reserve Champion, Third Champion and Fourth Champion shall be chosen. A fifth place, also called honorable mention, may be awarded in case of disqualification of any of the top four placing champions.~~
2. ~~Procedures. The championship classes will be conducted in the same manner as the qualifying class. Horses will remain in the ring until excused by the Judge.~~
3. ~~Classes Offered. Except in an All-Breed Show, Championship classes shall be offered in a division when at least two qualifying classes have been offered at a show. If Bellas Formas classes are divided into colts/stallions, geldings, and fillies/mares classes, only the following Bellas Formas championship classes can be offered:~~
  - a. ~~Fillies and Mares All Ages.~~
  - b. ~~Geldings All Ages.~~
  - c. ~~Colts and Stallions All Ages.~~
  - d. ~~In shows where there are only open Bellas Formas classes, there can be only an open championship.~~
  - e. ~~Youth. Entries in a youth class do not qualify that exhibitor for amateur or open championship classes.~~

## SUBCHAPTER PF 12 SHOW CONDUCT

### PF154 Concurrent Classes

1. ~~Competition management may choose to hold classes concurrently (one performance, multiple judges, multiple sets of placings) provided both classes are held in accordance with all applicable Federation rules.~~
2. ~~Competition management may choose to run two separate classes in the arena at the same time provided:~~
  - a. ~~There are no duplicate riders;~~
  - b. ~~The class specifications are the same for both classes;~~
  - c. ~~The combined class size does not exceed 25 horses;~~
  - d. ~~The same judges are adjudicating both classes and turn in separate cards for each class.~~

### PF155 Competitions

1. ~~Federation PFHA "AB" Sanctioned Shows.~~

An All-Breed ("AB") show shall have PFHA sponsored classes which are part of an All-Breed Federation Regular Member show. The co-sponsoring PFHA Regional Group is responsible to make sure that all required paperwork is received by the PFHA office in the required time.

Federation PFHA sanctioned shows shall be judged by a Federation PFHA certified Judge. Federation PFHA sanctioned shows shall be stewarded by one steward with both Federation and PFHA certification or by one Federation steward and one PFHA steward. In Federation PFHA sanctioned shows when any PFHA Rule conflicts with a Federation Rule, the Federation Rule will prevail. Thus, even if class specifications differ, Federation Rules will be followed and PFHA points will be recorded for that class.
2. ~~Classification. For the purpose of equalizing competition for High Point awards and Society of Merit awards, and to promote PFHA Federation All-Breed shows, PFHA approved shows shall fall into one of four classifications: All-Breed ("AB"), All-Paso ("AP"), and Local ("L"). These shows must be sponsored by a recognized Regional Group. These do not include the PFHA National Championship Show.~~
3. ~~Show Applications~~

Initial Application. Before a show date may be sanctioned by the PFHA, and "Reserved," the following must be received by the PFHA Office:

  - a. ~~PFHA Form, Application for Approval, signed by the designated person of the sponsoring Regional Group, obtainable from the PFHA office, containing the date of the show, location, and classification (AP, AP/Federation, L,~~

AB/Federation) and contact person, sent to the attention of the PFHA Executive Director. Appropriate show application fees must be submitted.

- b. Approval of Show. Before a show date can be "Approved" by the PFHA Executive Director, the following must be submitted by the contact person or President of the sponsoring Regional Group and received by the PFHA: The names of the Judge(s) and Steward(s) (in writing); and List of Classes
- c. The PFHA must receive the items required under subsections 1 and 2, above, at least sixty (60) days before the scheduled show date; if not received by that date, show fees will be doubled. Notice of show approval or disapproval, signed by the PFHA Executive Director, will be sent to the contact person for the sponsoring Regional Group.
- d. Responsibilities. PFHA Regional Groups shall have full responsibility for promoting and conducting all shows sponsored by such organizations.

#### 4. Show Reports.

- a. Show Summary. A show summary must be submitted for each show by the show secretary listing class number, class name, horse placements, full registered names of horses, registration numbers of horses, exhibitors' names and membership numbers, and current recorded owner(s)' name(s) and/or farm name under which the horses are shown and their membership numbers. All fees due to the PFHA in connection with the show must either (i) accompany this summary or (ii) be sent to the PFHA no later than submission of the summary. See PFHA concerning fees due to the PFHA).
- b. Record Of Points. The sponsoring Regional Group's show secretary shall record the points earned during sponsored shows and forward the same together with the Judge's Cards, roster and show summary by First Class mail to the PFHA Office, postmarked within fifteen (15) calendar days of the completion of such show. Failure to do so will subject the Regional Group to an appropriate fine and forfeiture of the remainder of the approved shows until compliance with the rule is met. The PFHA shall maintain a record of points awarded for all horses and riders.
- c. Fees Due the PFHA. The Regional Group sponsoring the show shall collect all fees and proceeds of each respective "AP" show and maintain a record thereof. The Regional Group also shall pay all incurred show obligations and pay to the PFHA the appropriate fees along with a copy of the accounting of all receipts and expenses due to the PFHA.
- d. Committee/Officials Reports. Within thirty (30) days after each approved show the Show Committee shall file a report on the quality of judging and actions of other show officials on forms provided by the PFHA. This report is to be mailed to the PFHA office. Failure to do so can result in a fine.
- e. Penalties. The Regional Group that sponsors a PFHA approved show shall be subject to a penalty or fine for failure to conduct a show in accordance with PFHA rules, for failure to meet show requirements or for failure to file the necessary reports in a timely manner.

#### PF155 Grand National Championship Show

##### 1. Specifications

- a. Each Grand National Championship show will operate under the rules that were in effect during that show's qualifying year.
- b. Date and Location. The date and location of the Grand National Championship Show are to be selected by the Association Board of Directors. The competition dates must commence within one of the following months: July, August, September or October.
- c. Selection of Judges. The selection of the National Show's judging system shall be made for the next National Show at the January Board of Director's meeting and the judges shall be selected at the Spring Board of Director's meeting. The selection of judges shall be made from a list of qualified judges supplied by the Judges and Stewards Committee. Conferencing of judges shall be allowed if desired by the Board of Directors. However, each judge will individually present their placements on a judge's card. Each judge shall be a Certified judge of the Association and hold a Federation recorded 'r', Registered 'R', or a Guest Judge card. No judge shall be eligible to judge two (2) consecutive Association National Championship Shows. Those judges elected must be in good standing with the Association at the time of selection and at the time of the Grand National Championship Show. Judges that submit their names for consideration to officiate at the Grand National Championship Show will provide a résumé for the Board of Directors through the Judges and Stewards Committee. Divisional judging may be used for the National Show if approved by the PFHA Board of Directors.
- d. Selection of Stewards. The selection of the Association National Show Stewards shall be voted on by the Board of Directors from a list of names submitted for consideration along with resumes and photos. A minimum of three stewards will be used. All stewards shall be PFHA Senior-Certified or USEF recorded (r) or Registered (R) C2 Stewards. At least two stewards must be dually licensed PFHA Senior-Certified and USEF C2 Stewards. Those stewards elected must be in good standing with the Association at the time of selection and at the time of the Grand National Championship Show.

- e. ~~Federation Sanctioned. The Association National Championship Show shall be a Federation sanctioned show~~
- f. ~~Eligibility. Except as provided in the next sentence, to be eligible for entry and competition in the Association National Championship Show, an entry must have accumulated, in the specific division in which they are entering, a minimum of twenty (20) points in Association sanctioned shows during that show year. The Walk-Corte-Leadline class, Paso Costume Class, and the Paso Pleasure Driving Class have no entry requirements.~~
- g. ~~Hoof Inspection. All horses entered in any classes at the National Show shall have their hoofs inspected before entering the ring by a committee of three appointed by the Show Chairperson, consisting of an impartial farrier, a veterinarian, and a member of the Show Committee. Any evidence that the hooves have been trimmed too closely, which is a practice called "soring," shall disqualify the entry for the remainder of the show.~~
- h. ~~Grand National Champions: Grand National Championships will be divided by gender (Stallions, Mares, Geldings) in the Classic Fino, Paso Performance, and Paso Pleasure divisions in both Open and Amateur classes. To be eligible for entry into the Grand National Championship class, a horse must have been properly entered, shown and judged in one of the qualifying classes.~~
- i. ~~The Association National Show shall be an "A" rated USEF licensed competition.~~

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## CHAPTER PF PASO FINO HORSE DIVISION

For further information regarding the conduct of Paso Fino competitions, contact the Paso Fino Horse Association (PFHA), 1003 Twilight Trail, Suite 2, Frankfort, KY, 40601, (859)689-3700, or [pfha.org](http://pfha.org).

### SUBCHAPTER PF-1 GENERAL RULES

For rules not covered in this chapter, regarding Paso Fino competitions, please refer to the latest edition of the PFHA rules.

#### PF101 Definitions

1. **PARTICIPANT.** Owners, agents, lessees, trainers, coaches, riders, exhibitors, and handlers.
2. **DISQUALIFIED.** The horse/exhibitor did not complete the class, therefore is not eligible for placement or to compete in the relevant championship class.
  - a. **COMPLETE A CLASS.** The horse/exhibitor has completed a class if they have completed all requirements of the class and have moved to the line-up.
3. **EXCUSED.** The horse/exhibitor completed the class, but is not eligible for placement. They are qualified to compete in the relevant championship class.
4. **SHOWN AND JUDGED.** To be considered shown and judged, a horse/exhibitor must perform all required gaits both directions of the arena and remain in the arena until either placed or excused by the judge(s).
5. **OPEN CLASSES.** Open refers only to the horse. Horses of any age and all sexes are permitted to compete in Open classes.
6. **AMATEUR CLASSES.** Classes are only open to amateur exhibitors, as defined in GR1306 and GR1307. Horses entered in Amateur Classes may cross enter in other classes in the same section.
7. **AMATEUR OWNER.** Each exhibitor in an Amateur Owner class must be an amateur, as defined by Federation rules. Horses competing in Amateur Owner classes must be owned by the exhibitor or a member of the exhibitor's family (GR106 and GR123).
  - a. In the case of a corporate owner, the stockholders of the corporation are considered the owners for purposes of this definition.
  - b. A horse that is the subject of a lease to an amateur is not considered owned by that amateur for purposes of satisfying the owner requirements of this class.
  - c. The purchaser of a horse under an installment method of payment is considered the owner of the horse for purposes of this definition, if the purchaser, either prior to or at the time of the competition, files an affidavit using the form provided by PFHA describing relevant information of the purchase.
8. **AMATEUR OWNED AND TRAINED.** The exhibitor must be an Amateur Owner (PF101.7) and the competing horse must not have been trained by a professional (GR1306) in the past six months. Amateur Owned and Trained classes are open to horses of any age. These classes do not qualify a horse for amateur championship classes.
9. **HORSE AGE.** A Paso Fino horse's age is calculated in months, from the foaling date to the end of the month preceding the month of the competition. No horse may compete in any under-saddle class until it is at least 30 months old.
10. **SCHOOLING HORSE.** A schooling horse is 36 to 60 months old (PF101.9). The horse must compete in classes appropriate for its age. Exceptions:
  - a. Championships or open classes that have no age restrictions.
  - b. For a competition that does not offer schooling classes, a schooling horse may compete in the appropriate non-schooling class and retain its schooling status.
11. **CONSERVATIVE COLORS.** Black, white, darker or muted shades of gray, blue, green, red, brown, and purple are permitted. Bright shades of any color (hot pink, lime green, fuchsia, fluorescent orange, etc.) are prohibited. Reflective stitching and fabric with reflective glitter threads are not considered conservative.
12. **SOUNDING BOARD.** A solid, ground level, hard surface sounding board of 48' or longer. If ground leveling is not possible, there must be access ramps provided. The sounding board is used to exhibit the rhythmic consistency of the horse's cadence and impact. When available for use, the performance of the horse on the sounding board must not be given preference over the horse's work on the rail. During the competition, exhibitors are prohibited from tuming while on the sounding board. The judge is prohibited from requiring a horse to perform the Paso Largo on the sounding board.

#### PF102 Eligibility

1. To be eligible to compete in a competition, a horse must be registered with PFHA and must be entered and exhibited under its full registered name and registration number.
2. Participants must be current members of, and in good standing with, PFHA.

3. *The following credentials must be made available to competition management and the steward, and copies of these credentials must accompany the entry form, however membership cards and horse registration papers may be electronically verified, when possible, by the competition secretary:*
  - a. *Each participant's PFHA and Federation membership card.*
  - b. *The exhibitor's PFHA and Federation amateur card, if applicable.*
  - c. *A copy of each horse entry's registration papers or PFHA competition validation certificate.*
  - d. *Papers and health documents required by law or competition management.*
  - e. *Copies of applicable lease agreements.*
  - f. *Affidavit of sale contracts, if applicable.*
4. *If the participant has submitted their entries via the PFHA online entry system, the following credentials must be made available to competition management and the steward, and copies of said credentials must be presented at the time of check in:*
  - a. *Papers and health documents required by law or competition management.*
  - b. *Copies of applicable lease agreements.*
  - c. *Affidavit of sale contracts, if applicable.*
  - d. *Federation membership (may be electronically verified, when possible, by the competition secretary).*

#### **PF103 General**

1. *Artificial appliances are prohibited. Artificial appliances include, but are not limited to, leg/feet/lock chains (leather, string, plastic, rubber chain, wood, etc.) of any weight. These are prohibited on the competition grounds and exhibitors using artificial appliances are subject to penalties and removal from the competition grounds.*
2. *Grooming preparations, including the use of black or clear polish on hooves, are permitted, but make-up, other than on hooves, and glitter are prohibited.*
3. **Horse Welfare**
  - a. *Horses must be serviceably sound for competition purposes. A horse must not show evidence of lameness or broken wind. Horses with complete loss of sight in either eye may be found serviceably sound at the judge's discretion. The color of a horse or the color of the horse's eyes will not be considered when placing a class.*
  - b. *Soring of a horse is prohibited. Any physical evidence, including but not limited to, scars or blisters, training with weighted shoes or artificial devices, or soring must result in the horse's elimination from the competition.*
  - c. *Competing a horse with sores or abrasions that are raw or bleeding around the muzzle, nose, chin groove, or jaw is considered an act of abuse. Horses showing signs of undue stress or abuse/inhumane treatment must be eliminated from the competition.*
  - d. *Injection of any foreign substance or drug or any surgical procedure that could affect the horse's performance or alter its natural conformation or appearance is prohibited. Upon discovery, that a prohibited surgery or injection has occurred, competition management must immediately eliminate the horse from the competition.*  
*Exception: Surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the horse, including castration of the horse and cosmetic alterations of the horse's tail. However, the horse's tail may not be altered by the insertion of a foreign object, foreign substance, or drug. Under no circumstances may a horse with a "dead tail" compete.*
    - i. *Upon request by Competition Management, the owner and exhibitor must make the horse available for examination to determine the presence of a prohibited surgery, foreign drug, or substance. Refusal to comply with the request will result in penalty.*
4. *An exhibitor may not use any type of electronic, mechanical, or similar communication device in the competition arena while being judged, except for an exhibitor who is hearing impaired and who regularly uses a sound enhancing device to achieve adequate hearing.*
5. *Prior to competing, individuals requiring special competition considerations must submit a written certification from a treating medical professional's office certifying the need for special consideration and identifying the accommodation necessary for the exhibitor to compete safely. The certification is submitted to the competition secretary, who will note the appropriate judges' cards and inform the steward. A copy of the written certification is attached to the steward's report. These special considerations may include exemption from the dismounting and mounting test in Paso Pleasure classes.*

#### **PF104 Youth**

1. *A YOUTH exhibitor must be 17 years of age or under.*

- a. **JUNIOR YOUTH.** Junior Youth exhibitors are 13-17 years of age.
- b. **SUB-JUNIOR YOUTH.** Sub-Junior Youth exhibitors are 7-12 years of age.
- c. An exhibitor's age for Youth classes is determined by the exhibitor's age on September 1 of the current competition year (GR115.1a) and this age is retained throughout the competition year.
  - i. If a competition is in progress on September 1, an exhibitor's age as of the first day of competition is maintained throughout the competition.
2. Horses entered in Youth classes may cross enter in other classes within the same section.
3. Youth classes may be offered as open to all Youth or divided into age groups as follows: (Exception: International Paso Equitation, see PF141)
  - a. Junior Youth and Sub-Junior Youth; or
  - b. Junior Youth Level I (13-15 years of age), Junior Youth Level II (16-17 years of age), Sub-Junior Youth Level I (7-9 years of age) and Sub-Junior Youth Level II (10-12 years of age).
4. A Youth 12 years of age and under (PF104.1), as determined by the current competition year, must not ride, handle, or compete a colt or stallion at any time on the competition grounds. The adult responsible for the Youth who violates this rule, is subject to dismissal from the competition grounds and forfeiture of any remaining fees.

#### PF105 Breed Standards

The Paso Fino horse reflects its Spanish heritage through its proud carriage, grace, and elegance. Modern care and selective breeding have enhanced its beauty, refinement, and well-proportioned conformation that conveys strength and power without extreme musculing.

1. **Head:** The head is refined and in good proportion to the body of the horse, neither extremely small nor large with a straight profile. Eyes are large and well-spaced, very expressive and alert, and should not show excessive white around the edges. Ears are comparatively short, set close, and curved inward at the tips. The lips are firm and the nostrils large and dilatable. Jaws are defined but not extreme. The overall impression is of a well-shaped, alert, and intelligent face.
2. **Neck:** The neck is gracefully arched, medium in length, and set at an angle to allow high carriage, breaking at the poll. The throat latch is refined and well-defined.
3. **Forehand:** Shoulders slope into the withers with great depth through the heart. The chest is moderate in width. Withers are defined, but not pronounced, and slope smoothly into the back.
4. **Midsection:** The midsection is moderate in length with a well-sprung rib cage. The top line is proportionately shorter than the underline. The back is strong and muscled. The midsection joins the forehand and the hindquarters giving the horse a pleasing, proportional appearance.
5. **Hindquarters:** The croup is slightly sloping with rounded hips, broad loins, and strong hocks. The tail is carried gracefully when the horse is in motion.
6. **Legs:** The legs are straight with refined bones and strong, well-defined tendons and broad, long forearms with shorter cannons. The thigh and gaskin are strong and muscled but not exaggerated. Standing slightly under in the rear is acceptable. Pasterns are sloping and medium in length. Bones are straight, sound, and flat, and joints are strong and well defined. Hooves are well rounded, proportionate in size, and do not show excessive heel.
7. **Mane, Tail, and Forelock:** The mane, tail, and forelock are as long, full, and luxurious as nature can provide. Artificial additions are prohibited. A bridle path not exceeding 4" in length is permitted. Horses under 12 months of age will not be penalized for having clipped manes or tails.
8. **Size:** Paso Fino horses are 13 to 15.2 hands, with 13.3 to 14.2 being the most typical size, with weight ranging from 700 to 1100 pounds. Full size may not be attained until the horse's fifth year of age.
9. **Color:** Every equine color can be found, with or without white markings.
10. **Disposition:** The Paso Fino is an extremely willing horse that truly seems to enjoy human companionship and strives to please. It is spirited and responsive under tack, while sensible and gentle in hand.

#### PF106 Gaits

1. The Paso Fino is born with a gait unique to the breed. This gait is smooth, rhythmic, purposeful, straight, balanced in flexion, and synchronous front to rear. The gait of the Paso Fino horse is an evenly-spaced four-beat lateral gait with each foot contacting the ground independently, in a regular sequence, at precise intervals creating a rapid, unbroken rhythm. Executed perfectly, the four hoof beats are even in both cadence and impact. The footfall is in the same sequence as a natural equine walk, i.e. left rear, left fore, right rear, right fore. Propulsion is primarily from the hind limbs and the horse's motion is absorbed in its back and loins, resulting in unequalled smoothness and comfort for the rider.
2. The Paso Fino gait is performed at three forward speeds (Classic Fino, Paso Corto, Paso Largo) and with

varying degrees of collection. In all speeds of the gait, the rider should appear virtually motionless in the saddle and there should be no perceptible up and down motion of the horse's croup.

### 3. Gaits

- a. **Walk.** A smooth, steady, evenly spaced four-beat gait.
  - i. **Collected Walk.** A cadenced, straight, brisk, animated, and rhythmic walk executed with collection, style, and brilliance.
  - ii. **Flat Walk.** A true, flat-footed, smooth walk executed with mild collection and natural, relaxed head carriage.
- b. **Classic Fino.** A smooth, steady, evenly spaced four-beat gait. Extension is minimal, forward speed is very slow, while footfalls are extremely rapid. The classic fino should be animated, exciting, and executed with brilliance and style. The horse is fully collected and balanced, putting its complete dynamic energy into its carriage and quickness of its footfall. Flexion and extension are harmonious in all four legs and the horse presents a picture of symmetry and fluidness of motion. The horse performs naturally and willingly, and any indication that the horse is being excessively restrained or held in gait will be penalized.
- c. **Paso Corto.** An evenly-spaced four-beat gait executed with moderate forward speed and extension. The horse is smooth and balanced, and exhibits symmetry in flexion and stride. Forward speed is ground-covering, but unhurried. Movements are fluid, willing, relaxed, balanced, and free-moving, demonstrating pride, style, elegance, and enthusiasm, along with manners and ready response. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.
  - i. **Collected Paso Corto.** The Collected Paso Corto is performed with animation and brilliance and the horse well-collected.
- d. **Paso Largo.** An evenly spaced four-beat gait where collection is mild, head carriage is natural and relaxed, forward speed is rapid and executed with longer extension and faster cadence than the Paso Corto. Extension and flexion is harmonious with no tendency to become light on the forehand or strung-out behind. The horse appears eager and willing to move out and exhibits a definite change of speed from the Paso Corto. A significant difference in speed is rewarded, and a willingness to reduce speed on command is demonstrated. Forward speed varies per horse, as each horse attains its top speed in harmony with its own natural stride and cadence. Loss of form, cadence, or smoothness due to excessive speed will be penalized.
  - i. **Collected Paso Largo.** The Collected Paso Largo is performed with style, presence, boldness, animation, and brilliance and the horse well-collected.
- e. **Lope.** A true three-beat gait that is slow, cadenced, smooth, and straight on both leads, with no tendency to mix gaits. The horse should be balanced with mild collection.
- f. **Canter.** A true three-beat gait that is smooth, cadenced, unhurried, and straight on both leads, with no tendency to mix gaits. The canter should be executed with collection and the head (poll) elevated.
- g. **Back.** The horse should back in a straight line maintaining proper head position, showing evidence of a good mouth, and be readily responsive.
- h. **Transitions.** All transitions between gaits should be performed evenly and smoothly.

#### PF107 Shoeing Regulations

1. If a horse competes unshod, hooves must be neatly trimmed to a short, natural length, not to exceed 4".
2. If a horse competes shod, the length of the hooves must not exceed 4 1/2", including shoes.
  - a. All four hooves must be shod using the same type of shoe, of the same material, weight, and thickness, although front and back hooves may be shod to different sizes.
  - b. Aluminum shoes and rim shoes are permitted.
  - c. Each shoe must not exceed ten ounces in weight.
  - d. Weighted shoes, trailers, heel caulks, and any style of pad are prohibited.
  - e. Toe and side clips drawn from the shoe are permitted, as long as the clips are an integral part of the plate shoe.
  - f. Horses competing in Classic Fino classes must be shod.

#### PF108 Appointments and Attire

1. **Bridles**
  - a. Nose and chin pieces must not have bumps, balls, or knots.
  - b. Metal is not permitted in, under, over, or attached to the cavesson nosepiece or headriser, except for necessary buckles.
  - c. Flat and/or engraved metal decoration is permitted on browbands, cavessons, and cheek pieces of bridles, as well as on the straps of breast straps/plates.

- d. *No reflective vinyl is permitted on headgear or breast straps/plates.*
2. **Schooling Headstall.** *Consists of a bosal with a barbada or alzador, attached to the appropriate bridle for the section.*
- a. *Bare metal, except for curb chains or parts of buckles, is prohibited, but metal may be used in a nosepiece or under the chin if sufficiently covered or wrapped to ensure comfort for the horse and must not be considered cruel or inhumane by the judge or Show Committee. Exception: Paso Pleasure.*
  - b. *A schooling headstall is permitted for use in schooling classes and on horses 30-60 months old. Exception: A Schooling Headstall is prohibited in Paso Versatility, Equitation, and Horseman's hip classes.*
3. **Bits.** *Only curb and snaffle bits are permitted. See the Paso Fino Tack Guide for details.*
- a. *All mouthpieces must be smooth or latex wrapped.*
  - b. **Standard Curb Bit.**
    - i. *Length. A standard curb bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length of 8 1/2", as measured in a straight line from the inside of the uppermost part of the headstall attachment, to the point on the bit's ring where the rein pulls when pressure is applied.*
    - ii. *Curb Chain or Strap. When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required and must be at least 1/2 inch in width and lie flat along the chin groove of the horse (the part of the jaw behind the bulge of the chin). Soft cover or wrap may be used on the curb chain but wire, rawhide, or added metal must not be used in conjunction with, or as part of, the chin strap or curb chain.*
    - iii. *Type. The mouthpiece must consist of a metal bar 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter as measured 1" inward from the attached shank. The bars may be inlaid but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing, designed to intimidate the horse, may protrude above or below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions, prongs, or rivets. Rollers attached to the center of the bit are permitted and may extend below the bar. Jointed mouthpieces are permitted and may consist of two or three pieces and 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 from top to bottom with a maximum length of 2", which lies flat in the mouth, or a roller or port. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2" maximum with roller(s) and covers acceptable, as measured from the bottom of the mouthpiece to the top of the port or spoon. Measurement is taken by placing a straight edge at the bottom of the bars, to give an accurate line when measuring the height. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds, and spade bits are considered standard. Straight bar bits must have rounded edges or be wrapped. The diameter or thickness of the straight bar must not exceed 3/4". The width (flat surface) of the straight 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 the center of the cross bar are prohibited.*
    - iv. *Alterations. Anything that alters the intended use of the equipment is considered an artificial appliance, therefore prohibited. 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.*
  - c. **Standard Snaffle Bit.**
    - i. *Type and Diameter. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center jointed, single, rounded, unwrapped, smooth, metal mouthpiece of 5/16" to 3/4" diameter as measured from the ring to 1" in from the ring, with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The rings may be 2" to 4" in diameter, of either the loose type, eggbutt, d-ring, or center mounted without cheeks. The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb, or headstall attachment hooks.*
    - ii. *Curb Chain or Strap. Snaffle bits do not require a curb chain or curb strap. If a curb chain or strap is used it must be attached below the reins, measure at least 1/2" in width, and lie flat along the chin groove of the horse (the part of the jaw behind the bulge of the chin). Soft cover or wrap may be used on the curb chain and no wire, rawhide, or added metal may be used in conjunction with, or as part of, the curb strap or curb chain.*
4. **Saddles**
- a. *Plantation Saddle. A pleasure type saddle permitted in pleasure classes. If a saddle pad is used, it must be conservative in color (PF101.11) and does not need to conform to the overall shape of the saddle.*
  - b. *Galapagos Saddle. Permitted in Classic Fino and Paso Performance classes with English type stirrups and leathers. Permitted in Paso Pleasure classes with Western type stirrups. If a saddle pad is used, it must be conservative in color (PF101.11) and conform to the shape of the saddle.*
  - c. *Side Saddle. Permitted in Paso Pleasure and Paso Costume classes.*
  - d. *Forward Seat. Permitted only in a class requiring a jump.*

- e. *English.* In classes designating English tack, saddles may be of any English type, except Forward Seat. If a saddle pad is used, it must be conservative in color (PF101.11) and conform to the shape of the saddle. Stirrups must conform to commonly regarded English tack in their overall shape.
  - f. *Western.* In classes designating Western tack, saddles must be working stock saddles with a horn. Australian Stock Saddles without a horn are prohibited. If a saddle pad is used, it must be conservative in color (PF101.11) and Western type. Western saddles are permitted in pleasure classes with conforming Western tack and Western attire. Silver equipment is permitted but must not predominate.
5. **English Tack**
- a. *Bridle.* Bridles may be Colombian or English type headstalls, flat, rolled, or braided. Bridles must be made of leather, goatskin, or flat rawhide. Twisted rawhide is permitted in schooling classes only. Goatskin bridles with white or cream colored reins, matching the bridles, are permitted. Cheek pieces may be 3/8" to 5/8" in width with a matching, plain or stitched, cavesson and matching browband. The browband and cavesson nosepiece may not exceed 1" in width and must be a minimum of 3/8" wide or diameter. Dropped nosebands, tie downs, and martingales are prohibited. Headstalls may have a throatlatch with a pisador and the pisador may be made of rawhide. Throat latches may tie or buckle.
  - b. *Reins.* Reins may be leather, flat, rolled, or braided. Nylon or other natural or man-made fiber reins may be used (hereafter referred to as "nylon"). When nylon reins are used, they must be the same color as the headstall or conservative in color (PF101.11). Combination leather/nylon buckle-back reins are permitted. Snaps that attach the reins to the bit or bosal are permitted, except in Equitation and Horsemanship classes which require reins with buckle attachments.
  - c. *Breastplate.* An English breastplate or breast strap, not to exceed one inch in width, is permitted. Flat and/or engraved metal adornments are permitted, but vinyl or reflective vinyl is prohibited.
  - d. *Saddle.* See PF108.4(e).
6. **Western Tack**
- a. *Bridle.* The headstall must be of Western type that is customarily used with a stock saddle. Cavessons and nosebands are prohibited. Horses under the age of 60 months may wear a snaffle or bosal in Western Pleasure classes; horses age 61 months and over must wear a curb bit. When competing in Western style tack in Paso Pleasure classes, Colombian and Western hackamores, mecates, sidepulls, curb, and snaffle bits are permitted.
  - b. *Breastplate.* A Western style breastplate or breast strap is permitted.
  - c. *Saddle.* See PF108.4(f).
  - d. *Adornments.* Silver adorned equipment is permitted, but must not predominate.
7. **Whips and Spurs.**
- a. A riding whip or crop, not exceeding 30 inches in length is permitted.
  - b. Spurs are prohibited, except blunt spurs are permitted in Paso Versatility, Paso Western Pleasure, Paso Trail, and Paso Costume classes.
8. **Official Paso Fino Show Costume.** The whole effect of the exhibitor's costume is to be of good taste, promoting the horse. Attire consists of:
- a. *Jacket, Shirt, and Pants.* A long-sleeved, hip-length jacket, which does not touch the saddle, and full-length riding pants or jumpsuit which cover(s) the boots. The jacket and pants or jumpsuit must be conservative in color (PF101.11) and may include contrasting trim and embroidery. A long-sleeved, short-sleeved, or sleeveless shirt or blouse may be worn under the long-sleeved jacket.
  - b. *Adornments.* Slightly reflective or non-metallic buttons, such as pearl, glass, or burnished metal, trim, adornments, and threading are permitted, so long as they do not predominate the attire. Sequins, glitter, or other similar reflective adornments are prohibited.
  - c. *Necktie.* Male exhibitors must wear a bow tie, western bow tie, or bolo.
  - d. *Hat.* The exhibitor must wear a felt, leather, or suede hat with a flat or slightly rolled brim, with a matching or contrasting hatband. Small adornments on the hatband, such as metallic buttons or symbols, are permitted.
9. **English Attire.** The attire consists of a long-sleeved shirt, full-length trousers, tailored jacket or vest, hat, and riding boots. Sweater vests, chaps, shotgun chaps, and chinks are prohibited and a tie is optional. When a long-sleeved jacket is worn, the exhibitor may wear a long-sleeved, short-sleeved, or sleeveless shirt underneath. Exhibitors are permitted to wear the riding boots, jumpsuit, and pants of their Official Paso Fino Show Costume. Exception: Tuxedo style pants are prohibited.
- a. *Female exhibitors* may wear skirts, culottes, jodhpurs, or gaucho pants, long enough to cover the knees while seated in a saddle, and with knee-high boots.
  - b. *Adornments.* Sequins and rhinestones or other similar reflective adornments, except glitter and mirrors, may be used as an accent or buttons on a jacket, vest, or hat band, but must not predominate. Reflective adornment is not permitted on shirts or blouses, except for functional buttons at the cuffs.

and the front of the garment.

10. **Western Attire.** The attire consists of a Western type hat, long-sleeved Western type shirt, full length trousers, Western boots, and chaps, shotgun chaps, or chinks. A jacket or vest is optional. When a long-sleeved jacket is worn, the exhibitor may wear a long-sleeved, short-sleeved, or sleeveless shirt underneath.
11. **Protective Headgear.** Protective headgear may be worn without penalty in any class. (GR801.1)
  - a. Protective headgear is required for Paso Versatility classes.
  - b. In Paso Trail classes protective headgear is only required when the obstacles include a jump.
  - c. All Youth 12 years of age and under are required to wear protective headgear while on horseback or while in the driving cart.

#### **SUBCHAPTER PF-2 BELLAS FORMAS (CONFORMATION) SECTION**

##### **PF109 Appointments and Attire**

1. **Halter.** Horses must compete in a leather show halter, without a bit, with an optional nameplate or inscription. The halter must be English or Colombian-type, flat, rolled, or braided, with cheekpieces and matching stitched or plain nosepiece all measuring 3/8", 1/2", or 5/8" in width. A browband is optional and must not exceed 1" in width.
2. **Line(s).** A matching lead line or long line(s) is required. A smooth link chain measuring no less than 3/8" in width, may be crossed over the horse's nose and/or under its jaw.
  - a. When only one line is used, only one attendant is permitted.
  - b. When using two lines, the horse may be handled either by one attendant holding both lines, or by two attendants with each attendant holding one line.
3. **Whip or Crop.** A riding whip or crop, not exceeding 30" in length, including the lash, may be carried.
4. **Attire.** Attendants are attired in the Official Paso Fino Show Costume (PF108.8).

##### **PF110 Conduct and Procedures**

1. Horses must enter the arena one at a time, in the order of go designated by competition management.
2. The horses must proceed to the right and circle the arena in a counter-clockwise direction on the rail.
3. After completing one circle around the arena, or when instructed by the ringmaster, the horses must line up in the center of the arena for conformation inspection.
4. **Work-offs** may be required, at the judge's discretion, and may include the use of the sounding board (PF101.12) to exhibit a horse's cadence. During work-offs, the horses must remain on the rail, except to pass or traverse the sounding board, if requested.

##### **PF111 Class Specifications**

1. The horse must demonstrate the Classic Fino or the Paso Corto gait when moving.
2. In the lineup, the horse must stand square, not stretched, and remain quiet without undue restraint.

##### **PF112 Judging Criteria**

1. Both conformation and gait are judged with 60% on conformation, 30% on quality and naturalness of gait, and 10% on appearance, grooming, and manners.
  - a. Quality of gait, such as smoothness, symmetry of action, and harmony of cadence;
  - b. Naturalness, such as consistency and absence of undue restraint.
  - c. The choice of gait, either Classic Fino or Paso Corto, must not be given preference over the other.
2. **Rail-Work Penalties.**
  - a. Any horse that fails to demonstrate the Paso Fino gait, in order for the judge to properly evaluate, must be disqualified from placement.
  - b. The judge must penalize a horse if the handler uses their hands on the horse's leg, below the knee, to position a hoof in the lineup.
3. **Conformation Penalties.** Hereditary faults in a horse's conformation must be heavily penalized, such as buck-kneed, calf-kneed, base-wide, base-narrow, cow hocks, sickle hocks, toe-in, toe-out, offset knees, standing under, camped out in front, too straight behind, swayback, fallen crest, etc.

##### **PF113 Classes Within This Section**

1. A horse must compete in its appropriate age group and/or sex group when classes are divided by age and/or sex.
2. Classes may be offered using one of the following methods:
  - a. Open Bellas Formas;
  - b. Divided by age of the horse:

- i. Yearlings Up to 23 months, 24 to 35 months, 36 to 48 months, and 49 months and Older; OR
- ii. 49 months and Older, and 48 months and Younger.
- c. Divided by sex of the horse:
  - i. Colts, Geldings, Fillies; AND/OR
  - ii. Stallions, Geldings, Mares.
- d. Divided by both age and sex of the horse, following the methods listed above.

**SUBCHAPTER PF-3 UNDER SADDLE SECTION**

**PF114 Under Saddle Classes Within Each Section**

1. Classic Fino, Paso Performance, and Paso Pleas ure classes may be offered as:
  - a. Open (PF101.5),
  - b. Amateur (PF101.6), AND/OR
  - c. divided by the horse's sex as follows:
    - i. Mares,
    - ii. Stallions, AND
    - iii. Geldings.
    - iv. OR, Stallions and Geldings may also be combined into one class
  - d. divided by the horse's age as follows:
    - i. 61-84 months, AND
    - ii. 85 months and over
  - e. divided by, both, the horse's age and horse's sex as follows:
    - i. Mares 61 to 84 months,
    - ii. Mares 85 months and over,
    - iii. Geldings 61 to 84 months,
    - iv. Geldings 85 months and over,
    - v. Stallions 61 to 84 months, AND
    - vi. Stallions 85 months and over
    - vii. OR, Stallions and Geldings may also be combined into one class per age group
  - f. OR, Amateur Owned and Trained (PF101.8),
  - g. OR, Youth (PF104.1).
2. Paso Country Pleas ure classes may be offered as:
  - a. Amateur Open, OR
  - b. Amateur divided by the horse's sex as follows:
    - i. Mares
    - ii. Geldings and Stallions.
3. Paso Vers atility, Paso West ern Pleas ure, and Paso Trail classes may be offered as:
  - a. Open, AND/OR
  - b. Amateur Open.
  - c. Paso Trail classes may be run concurrently, but judged separately.
4. Paso Costume may be offered as Open.
5. Schooling Classes. Classes are to be conducted in the same manner as the relevant section classes. Appointments and attire must conform to those listed in the relevant section, with the exception that schooling headstalls are permitted (PF108.2).
  - a. Schooling classes may be offered in the Classic Fino, Paso Performance, and Paso Pleas ure sections, and may be divided as follows:
    - i. Open schooling classes,
    - ii. Amateurs chooling classes,
    - iii. Divided by horse age: horses 36 to 48 months and horses 49 to 60 months,
    - iv. Divided by sex of the horse: fillies, and colts/geldings OR fillies, colts, and geldings, AND/OR
    - v. Divided by both the horse's age and sex.
  - b. Schooling classes may be offered in the Paso Country Pleas ure section as Amateur Open.
6. For all under saddle classes, exhibitors should space themselves in a manner to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail, except to pass.

**PF115 Classic Fino**

1. Appointments and Attire.
  - a. Appointments are English type (PF108.5).
  - b. Attire is the Official Paso Fino Show Costume (PF108.8).

2. **Conduct and Procedures.**
  - a. Exhibitors will enter the arena to the right, on the rail, at a Classic Fino, and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until instructed to reverse or halt.
  - b. Horses must work both directions, reverse, halt, and traverse the sounding board (PF101.12), when available.
  - c. **Optional Tests.** The following tests may be called for by the judge:
    - i. A figure eight to demonstrate flexibility, responsiveness, and steadiness of gait, but diminishing circles are prohibited. 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.
    - ii. A serpentine.
    - iii. Exhibitors work parallel, together.
    - iv. Backing of horses.
3. **Class Specifications.**
  - a. In this class, horses demonstrate the Classic Fino gait while being judged.
4. **Judging Criteria.**
  - a. This class is judged: 65% on execution and naturalness of the Classic Fino gait, 15% on appearance, conformation, and way of going, 10% on manners, and 10% on traversing the sounding board (PF101.12), when available. If a sounding board is not available, the class is judged: 75% on execution and naturalness of the Classic Fino gait, 15% on appearance, conformation, and way of going, and 10% on manners.
  - b. Penalties. Breaking gait during the reverses, stops, or starts must be penalized.

**PF116 Paso Performance**

1. **Appointments and Attire.**
  - a. Appointments are English type (PF108.5).
  - b. Attire is the Official Paso Fino Show Costume (PF108.8).
2. **Conduct and Procedures.**
  - a. Exhibitors will enter the arena to the right, on the rail, at a Collected Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until instructed to reverse or change gait.
  - b. The sequence of gaits is: Collected Paso Corto, Collected Paso Largo, Collected Walk, reverse, repeat, and traverse the sounding board (PF101.12), when available.
  - c. **Optional Testing.** At the judge's discretion, tests for a work-off may include: a serpentine and/or figure eight performed at a Collected Paso Corto
3. **Judging Criteria.**
  - a. This class is judged: 30% on the Collected Paso Corto, 30% on the Collected Paso Largo, 10% on the Collected Walk, 10% on appearance, conformation, and way of going, 10% on manners, and 10% on traversing the sounding board (PF101.12), when available. If a sounding board is not available, the class is judged: 30% on the Collected Paso Corto, 30% on the Collected Paso Largo, 10% on the Collected Walk, 20% on appearance, conformation, and way of going, and 10% on manners.
  - b. Special attention should be afforded to brilliance, form, smoothness, and rhythmic consistency of the gaits.

**PF117 Paso Pleasure**

1. **Appointments and Attire.**
  - a. Appointments are English Tack (PF108.5) or Western Tack (PF108.6).
    - i. A side saddle (PF108.4[c]) and/or leather covered stirrups are permitted.
    - ii. A bit is not required (PF108.6[a]).
  - b. Attire must be in keeping with the type of tack used. Western Tack requires Western Attire (PF108.10) Exception: chaps, shotgun chaps, or chinks are optional. English Tack or a Plantation saddle requires English Attire (PF108.9).
2. **Conduct and Procedures.**
  - a. Exhibitors will enter the arena to the right, on the rail, at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until instructed to reverse or change gait.
  - b. The sequence of gaits is: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, flat walk, reverse, repeat, and traverse the sounding board, when available (PF101.12).
  - c. Each exhibitor is asked to demonstrate the back, from the line-up.
  - d. **Optional Testing.** At the judge's discretion, exhibitors may be asked to individually perform a test, demonstrating a horse's submissive manners, willingness, and quiet temperament. Tests may include, but are not limited to, any combination of the following:

- i. *Dis mount and remount, from the left side of the horse, either in the line-up or along the rail. The exhibitor may request the use of a mounting block. Exception: This test must not be used in Youth classes;*
  - ii. *Perform a serpentine at the Paso Corto;*
  - iii. *Traverse the sounding board at the Paso Corto;*
  - iv. *Back while on the sounding board; and/or*
  - v. *Back while on the rail.*
3. **Class Specifications.**
- a. *Exhibitors are prohibited from riding without stirrups.*
4. **Judging Criteria.**
- a. *This class is judged: 20% on the Paso Corto, 20% on the Paso Largo, 20% on the flat walk, 5% on the back, 25% on manners, conformation, attitude, and way of going, and 10% on traversing the sounding board (PF101.12), when available. If a sounding board is not available, the class is judged: 20% on the Paso Corto, 20% on the Paso Largo, 20% on the flat walk, 5% on the back, and 35% on manners, conformation, attitude, and way of going.*
  - b. *When the dismount/remount test is used, the exhibitor's style of dismount and mount is not to be penalized, rather, emphasis should be placed on the horse's willingness to stand quietly.*
  - c. *Penalties. Refusal to back will result in the horse being excused from placement.*

**PF118 Paso Country Pleasure**

1. **Appointments and Attire.**
- a. *Appointments are English Tack (PF108.5) or Western Tack (PF108.6).*
    - i. *A bit is not required (PF108.6.[a]).*
    - ii. *When Western Tack is used, the exhibitor may use either one or two hands on the reins.*
  - b. *Attire must be in keeping with the type of tack used. Western Tack requires Western Attire (PF108.10) Exception: Chaps, shotgun chaps, or chinks are optional. English Tack or a Plantation saddle requires English Attire (PF108.9).*
2. **Conduct and Procedures.**
- a. *Exhibitors will enter the arena to the right, on the rail, at a Paso Corto, and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until instructed to reverse or change gait.*
  - b. *The sequence of gaits is: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, flat walk, reverse, repeat, and line up.*
  - c. *Required Testing. When requested by the judge, the exhibitor must back the horse out of the line-up, dismount from the horse's left side, walk around to the front of the horse, check the head stall and/or bridle appointments, remount from the horse's right side, and return to the line-up.*
3. **Class Specifications.**
- a. *This class is open to amateurs only.*
  - b. *Cross entering of the horse and/or rider, in any other class, is permitted.*
  - c. *Horses must work on a light rein, without resistance.*
  - d. *Horses must stand quietly and back readily, when requested.*
4. **Judging Criteria.**
- a. *This class is judged: 20% on the Paso Corto, 20% on the Paso Largo, 20% on the flat walk, 10% on the back, 10% on appearance and way of going, and 20% on manners.*
  - b. *Type. The Paso Fino Country Pleasure horse should be a calm, mild-mannered, safe-presenting pleasure horse maintaining balance, ease, and freedom of movement. Horses must demonstrate flawless manners and be agreeable to the commands and directions of the exhibitor. 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. Special attention is afforded to form, smoothness, rhythmic constancy of the gaits, and tractable attitude.*
  - c. *The exhibitor's style of dismount and mount is not to be penalized, rather, emphasis should be placed on the horse's willingness to stand quietly.*
  - d. *Penalties. Horses indicating aggressiveness, over-collection, or excessive animation must be severely penalized.*

**PF119 Paso Versatility**

1. **Appointments and Attire.**
- a. *The appointments are English Tack (PF108.5).*
  - b. *Attire is English Attire (PF108.9).*
2. **Conduct and Procedures.**
- a. *Exhibitors will enter the arena to the right, on the rail, at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a*

*counterclockwise manner until instructed to reverse or change gait.*

- b. The sequence of gaits is: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, flat walk, Canter, flat walk, reverse, and repeat.*
- c. Individual Testing. Exhibitors are asked to back, execute a figure eight at the Paso Corto, and take a jump at the canter.*

**3. Class Specifications.**

- a. The jump must be between 18 inches to 24 inches in height.*

**4. Judging Criteria.**

- a. The class is judged: 20% on the Paso Corto, 20% on the Paso Largo, 10% on the flat walk, 10% on the Canter, and 40% on manners and the individual testing (figure eight, back, and jump).*
- b. Type. The horse should demonstrate balance, flexibility, coordination, and manners while performing the various gaits and individual testing. The Paso Corto is performed with mild collection. Manners and willingness are very important. The individual testings should be smooth, controlled, consistent in gait, and supple.*
- c. Penalties.*
  - i. Failure to properly execute the Paso Corto and Paso Largo must disqualify the horse prior to individual testing.*
  - ii. Failure to take the correct lead in the canter must be penalized.*
  - iii. Jump Refusals. One refusal to take the jump must result in lowering the horse's placing in the class. Two refusals to take the jump automatically disqualifies an entry from the class.*

**PF120 Paso Western Pleasure**

**1. Appointments and Attire.**

- a. The appointments are Western Tack (PF108.6).*
  - i. Only one hand may be used on the reins when using a curb bit and the hands must not be changed. The exhibitor may hold the romal or the slack of split reins to keep them from swinging, with the hands at least 12 inches apart. The bight (excess) of the reins must drape to the same side of the horse as the hand that is holding the reins.*
- b. The attire is Western Attire (PF108.10).*

**2. Conduct and Procedures.**

- a. Exhibitors will enter the arena to the right, on the rail, at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until instructed to reverse or change gait.*
- b. The sequence of the gaits shall be: Paso Corto, flat walk, Lope, flat walk, reverse, and repeat.*
- c. Each exhibitor is required to demonstrate the back, from the line-up.*
- d. Optional Tests. The judge may require each exhibitor to dismount and remount, from the horse's left side, while in the line-up. The judge may also require any of the following tests to be performed by any individual exhibitor or all exhibitors:*
  - i. Demonstrate a straight back for up to 15 feet;*
  - ii. Lope and stop, either on the rail or on the center line;*
  - iii. Perform a figure eight at the lope, on the correct lead per circle, demonstrating a simple change of lead. A simple change of lead requires the horse to come down to the halt and restart into the lope, on the appropriate lead, from either the halt or a walk. The judge may require one or two figure eights be executed; and/or*
  - iv. Traverse the sounding board (PF101.12) at the Paso Corto.*

**3. Class Specifications**

- a. The horse must work on a light rein, but some contact should be maintained.*
- b. Gait transitions should be taken on the first stride, and the horse should maintain its speed and cadence without restraint by the rider.*

**4. Judging Criteria.**

- a. This class is judged: 35% on the Paso Corto, 30% on the Lope, 10% on the flat walk, and 25% on manners, attitude, and way of going.*
- b. Type. The Western Pleasure horse should move in the working cow horse image, while retaining the air typical of the Paso Fino. In all gaits, the horse must be smooth and responsive, and both horse and rider should appear comfortable and relaxed.*
- c. When the dismount/remount test is called for, the exhibitor's style of dismount and mount is not to be penalized, rather, emphasis should be placed on the horse's willingness to stand quietly.*
- d. Penalties.*
  - i. Failure to take the correct lead in the lope must be penalized.*
  - ii. If the hands are changed on the reins or if two hands are used with a curb bit, the exhibitor must be penalized.*

- iii. Failure to back in a straight line, during the back maneuver required of the class, excuses the horse from placement.
- iv. Refusal to back disqualifies the horse.

#### PF121 Paso Trail

1. **Appointments and Attire.**
  - a. The appointments are English Tack (PF108.5) or Western Tack (PF108.6).
    - i. Only one hand may be used on the reins except while negotiating an obstacle, in which two hands may be used.
  - b. The attire must be in keeping with the tack used. Western Tack requires Western Attire (PF108.10) and English Tack requires English Attire (PF108.9).
2. **Conduct and Procedures.**
  - a. This class does not include rail work.
  - b. Designated courses through obstacles are performed individually, with only one horse in the arena at a time.
3. **Class Specifications.**
  - a. Gaits. Required gaits in the course may include: Flat Walk, Paso Corto, and/or Paso Largo.
  - b. Trail Course Requirements.
    - i. A course will be created by competition management and reviewed and approved by the judge(s). An exhibitor in this class is prohibited from designing or setting up the course.
    - ii. The trail pattern must show the line of travel through each obstacle, the gait required to perform each obstacle, and specify how a horse is to negotiate or travel between obstacles.
    - iii. The trail pattern must be posted at least two hours prior to the class. Once posted, revisions are prohibited.
    - iv. For order of go requirements, see WS103.4.
    - v. The course must include a minimum of six obstacles with a maximum of eight obstacles.
    - vi. For required dimensions of Trail obstacles, see WS126. (Exception: WS 126.10 Unacceptable Obstacles)
  - c. Trail Course Obstacles. Obstacles may include, but are not limited to: negotiating a gate, carrying an object from one part of the arena to another, crossing through water, over logs or simulated brush, negotiating a ditch without lunging or jumping, crossing a bridge, backing through obstacles, side-passing, mounting and dismounting from either side of the horse, and performing any reasonable trail maneuvers.
    - i. If a coat or jacket is to be put on by the exhibitor as an obstacle, the garment must be open in the front and not require putting on over the head.
    - ii. Unnatural-type obstacles, such as a fire extinguisher, perforated plywood in water boxes, or exotic animals are prohibited.
    - iii. A sounding board (PF101.12) may be used as an obstacle.
4. **Judging Criteria.**
  - a. This class is judged 100% on negotiating the obstacle course. Entries will be evaluated on willingness, responsiveness, correctness, and general attitude while negotiating through the obstacle course.
  - b. Breaking Ties. Only obstacles occurring in a natural trail environment are to be used for breaking a tie.
  - c. Penalties.
    - i. Horses must be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching the obstacles. Judges are encouraged to ask the exhibitor to advance to the next obstacle for a horse taking excessive time to negotiate an obstacle.
    - ii. Any horse not properly performing the required gait between the obstacles, failing to follow the prescribed obstacle, or failing to follow the prescribed course of travel through the obstacle must be penalized in the same manner as if the horse did not complete the obstacle.

#### PF122 Paso Costume

1. **Appointments and Attire.**
  - a. No specific style of tack for the horse is required.
  - b. The attire is a costume of the Latin American or Spanish relation, but no specific country of origin need be identified.
    - i. The attire must not be offensive or detract from the class.
    - ii. Attire of the optional attendant/handler must be in keeping with the costume of the exhibitor.
2. **Conduct and Procedures.**
  - a. Prior to the class, exhibitors must submit a brief statement of approximately 100 words or a maximum

*of two minutes when read describing the cultural significance of their costume. This statement will be announced as the exhibitor enters the arena.*

- b. Exhibitors enter the arena one at a time as their statement is announced, performing their preferred gait of either the Classic Fino, Paso Corto, or Paso Largo.*
- c. Exhibitors circle the arena once in a counterclockwise manner and line-up head-to-tail in the center of the arena.*
  - i. One attendant/handler is permitted per exhibitor while in the line-up. The attendant/handler must be appropriately attired in keeping with the exhibitor's costume.*

**3. Class Specifications.**

- a. The purpose of this class is to create interest in the Paso Fino breed, by establishing and demonstrating its Latin American or Spanish origin, by means of the various costumes of the exhibitors for the enjoyment of the public.*

**4. Judging Criteria.**

- a. This class is judged: 80% on attractiveness of costuming, appropriateness of the costume with the horse, and completeness of the costuming idea, 10% on the brilliance of gait and carriage of the horse, and 10% on manners.*

**SUBCHAPTER PF-4 PLEASURE DRIVING SECTION**

**PF123 Appointments and Attire**

**1. Appointments.**

- a. Harness. The harness must be of light driving harness type.*
- b. Bridle and Bit. Blinkers, overcheck, and overcheck bit are optional. The check rein must not interfere with the horse's way of going. Bits may be liverpools or snaffle type, either regular, straight bar, or jointed. When a liverpool bit is used, the driving lines must attach to either the bit's half cheek or the first rein attachment slot down from the half cheek.*
- c. Vehicle. A two or four-wheeled vehicle, suitable to the horse, is required. An attached basket, for the driver's feet, is permitted. Sulkies, a two-wheeled vehicle with no place for the driver's feet except in stirrups, are prohibited.*
- d. Whip. A standard buggy whip is permitted. The attendant is prohibited from carrying a whip.*

**2. Attire.**

- a. The attire is Western or English Attire (PF108.9/10).*
- b. A driving apron is permitted.*
- c. Attendants should be neatly attired and a groom's smock is optional.*

**PF124 Conduct and Procedures.**

- 1. Exhibitors will enter the arena to the right, at the Paso Corto, circling the arena in a counterclockwise manner until required by the judge to reverse or change gait.*
- 2. The sequence of gaits is: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, walk, reverse, and repeat.*
- 3. Vehicles must reverse toward the center, angling toward the opposite side of the arena.*
- 4. All horses being considered for an award are required to back in a straight line.*
- 5. One attendant is permitted to head each horse during the line-up. The attendant must stand back from the horse two paces, except to uncheck the horse, if desired.*

**PF125 Class Specifications.**

- 1. This class is open to horses 36 months of age and older (PF101.9).*
- 2. Only the exhibitor is permitted in the vehicle. Exception: A Sub-Junior exhibitor must be accompanied by an adult.*
- 3. Braiding of the horse's forelock is permitted.*

**PF126 Judging Criteria.**

- 1. This class is judged: 30% on the Paso Corto, 30% on the Paso Largo, 10% on the walk, 15% on appearance, and 15% on manners.*
- 2. Type. In this class, horses should combine style and spirit along with obedience and good manners. They should move out willingly and stand quietly, when requested.*
- 3. Penalties.**
  - a. Excessive speed, at the discretion of the judge, may be penalized.*
  - b. Pacing and trotting must be penalized.*

**PF127 Classes within this Section**

1. Classes may be offered as Paso Pleasure Driving Open.

#### **SUBCHAPTER PF-5 EQUITATION SECTION**

*Equitation highlights the style, grace, and rhythm of the Paso Fino horse and the relationship between horse and rider. Equitation is the art of effectively and correctly riding a horse, using effective aids to achieve the best performance of the horse, while maintaining correct posture, seat, and balance enhancing the oneness of rider and horse.*

##### **PF128 Exhibitor Position**

1. **Posture.** The riders should have a balanced, natural, and correct position on the horse that promotes the best performance of the horse. The rider should convey the impression of effective and complete control of the horse while maintaining a high degree of elegance and style. From the profile view, a straight line, perpendicular to the ground, through the rider's head, shoulder, and ankle should be observed. The center of balance should be kept directly above the feet and ankles. The upper body should not appear to be rocking from side to side with the movement of the horse.
2. **Seat.** The rider's seat should have a natural flow downward into the saddle with the torso, pelvis, and legs balanced and symmetrical. The body of the rider should not interfere with the movement and balance of the horse, but it should promote a good performance. The rider should be centered on the saddle, aligned with the horse's dorsal line and not slip backwards on or over the cantle. The seat should never appear rigid or tense.
3. **Head.** The rider's head should be held straight, with the chin up, and looking forward in the direction of travel.
4. **Back.** The rider's back should be straight, look natural, and should not be arched, or leaning forward or backward. The rider's shoulders should be square, but not tense or stiff. When viewing from behind, the rider's back should be aligned with the horse's dorsal line.
5. **Legs.** The rider's leg should hang naturally with the lower leg under the rider's body, while not extending forward or backward, but be a straight line from the knee to the stirrup.
6. **Feet.** The rider's feet should be parallel to the horse's body, with the heels slightly lower than the toes by approximately one inch. The foot's position should not appear to be forced inward nor the toes pointing outward. The ball of the rider's foot should rest directly on the stirrup pad, exerting even pressure on the entire stirrup.
7. **Arms.** The rider's arms should fall naturally from the shoulders toward the hip bones and should appear flexible, never tight against the body, with the elbows in a perpendicular line with the shoulders, not extending forward, backward, or outward.
8. **Hands.** The rider's hands should be held neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle. The height at which the rider's hands are held, above the horse's withers, is determined by the head carriage of the individual horse. The rider's hands should remain in line with the pommel of saddle, with a straight line from the elbow through the forearm, hand, and rein, to the bit. Hands and wrists should be flexible and not held extremely separated.

##### **PF129 Paso Equitation Exhibitor Position**

1. The exhibitor's position follows the description in PF128.
2. **Methods of Holding the Reins.** The reins must be held using one of the following methods:
  - a. One rein in each hand, entering below the little finger, extending upward to the thumb, with the bight (excess) of the rein hanging to the right side of the horse.
  - b. One rein in each hand, with the reins entering between the little and ring fingers, extending upward to the thumb, with the bight (excess) of the reins hanging to the right side of the horse.

##### **PF130 Paso Equitation Appointments and Attire**

1. **Appointments.** The appointments are English type (PF108.5).
2. **Attire.** The attire is the Official Paso Fino Show Costume (PF108.8).

##### **PF Paso Equitation Conduct and Procedures**

1. Exhibitors will enter the arena to the right, on the rail, at a Paso Corto, and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until asked to reverse or change gait.
2. Exhibitors must space themselves to avoid bunching up and maintain the same relative position on the rail.
3. The sequence of gaits is: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, walk, reverse, and repeat.
4. The reverse is executed toward the center of the arena.
5. A halt will be called at least once during the Paso Corto.
6. **Optional Individual Testing.** Judges are encouraged to call for at least two tests (PF132) of the top exhibitors.

##### **PF132 Paso Equitation Tests**

1. *Individual testing from which the judge may choose: (Exception: Sub-Junior exhibitors may only be asked to perform tests b, e, and/or f.)*
  - a. *Ride without stirrups at a Paso Corto. The stirrups may be crossed over the pommel of the saddle, if desired.*
  - b. *Back the horse.*
  - c. *Dismount and mount. To dismount, the rider may either step down or slide down (size of the rider must be taken into consideration). To remount, the rider must first check the curb chain and girth, adjusting them if necessary. The rider gathers the reins in their left hand, with gentle pressure. The rider, standing diagonally facing the front of the horse, places their left hand in front of the horse's withers, without holding the mane, turns the stirrup towards them with their right hand, and places their left foot in the stirrup. The rider then places their right hand either on the far side of the saddle or on the pommel, and springs lightly up, straightening both knees, and crossing the right leg over the seat of the saddle. The rider eases into the saddle and places their right foot in the stirrup, without looking down.*
  - d. *Perform a figure eight at a Paso Corto. The rider must always turn and face the judge, unless otherwise instructed, and the judge may instruct exhibitors whether to perform large or small diameter circles.*
  - e. *Transition the horse from the Paso Largo to the walk on a quiet rein.*
  - f. *Answer questions from the judge on parts of the horse and tack. Judge must refer to PFHA's designated drawings when asking questions. (Parts of the horse and tack figures can be found at PFHA.org.)*

#### **PF133 Paso Equitation Judging Criteria**

1. *The class is judged 100% on equitation.*
2. *Results, shown through the performance of the horse, are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them.*
3. *For the safety of the other exhibitors, judges must excuse any rider who is unable to control their mount.*
4. *Penalties.*
  - a. *Bunching up or not working on the rail.*
  - b. *The rider extending their leg forward, backward, or not keeping a straight line from the knee to the stirrup.*
  - c. *Riders that appear to be forcing their foot position or consistently have their toes pointing inwards or outwards.*

#### **PF134 Classes Within the Paso Equitation Section**

1. *Paso Equitation classes may be offered as follows:*
  - a. *Youth Paso Equitation. (PF104.1) Offered using one of the following methods:*
    - i. *Youth (PF104.1),*
    - ii. *Sub-Junior 7-12 years of age and Junior 13-17 years of age, OR*
    - iii. *Sub-Junior 7-9 years of age, Sub-Junior 10-12 years of age, Junior 13-15 years of age, and Junior 16-17 years of age.*
  - b. *Amateur Adult Paso Equitation. (PF101.6)*

#### **PF135 International Paso Equitation Exhibitor Position**

1. *The exhibitor's position follows the description in PF129.*
2. *Methods of Holding the Reins. The reins must be held using one of the following methods:*
  - a. *One rein in each hand, entering below the little finger, extending upward to the thumb, with the bight (excess) of the rein hanging to the right side of the horse.*
  - b. *One rein in each hand, with the reins entering between the little and ring fingers, extending upward to the thumb, with the bight (excess) of the reins hanging to the right side of the horse.*
  - c. *Both reins in the left hand, entering below the little finger and extending upward to the thumb. The right hand placed under the left, holding the right rein only, the rein entering below the little finger and extending upward to the thumb. The bight (excess) of the reins hanging to the right side of the horse.*
  - d. *Riders 12 years of age and under may use any of the three listed methods (PF135.2[a, b, or c]).*
  - e. *Riders 13 years of age and over must use the method listed above in PF135.2(c).*

#### **PF136 International Paso Equitation Appointments and Attire**

1. *Appointments. The appointments are English type (PF108.5).*
  - a. *The stirrup leathers must not exceed 2" in width.*
  - b. *The stirrups can be metal or leather, and must be symmetrical in all parts, including the footrest.*

**2. Attire.**

- a. *The attire is black leather boots, black trousers (length not to surpass the heel of the boot when mounted), black jacket, and a white or cream hat with black or white ribbon.*
- b. *International Paso Fino Equitation Mini (PF141.1[a][ii]) riders must wear a protective riding vest, without any posture aids.*

**PF137 International Paso Equitation Conduct and Class Procedures**

1. *Exhibitors will enter the arena to the right, on the rail, at a Classic Fino or Paso Corto, and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner, until instructed to reverse.*
2. *While being judged, exhibitors must maintain the Classic Fino or Paso Corto.*
3. *Exhibitors should maintain the same relative position on the rail.*
4. *The reverse is executed toward the center of the arena, not exceeding an area of three meters, while maintaining the horse's gait.*
5. *Exhibitors will be instructed to line-up, in a predetermined area of the arena and await instruction to individually traverse the sounding board, in both directions. Exhibitors will then exit the arena to the holding/line-up area to await their individual testing.*

**PF138 International Paso Equitation Class Specifications**

1. *For safety purposes in classes for riders aged four to eight, there must be at least four designated assistants in the arena, appointed by the competition management. Also, the arena music volume must be lowered during the class.*

**PF139 International Paso Equitation Tests**

1. *Required Individual Testing. Exhibitors must perform the tests in their entirety and in the following order:*
  - a. *Figure Eight*
    - i. *Exhibitors must approach the Figure Eight from the space in between the sounding board and the Figure Eight poles, and execute three Figure Eights around the poles: two Figure Eights in one direction and one Figure Eight in the opposite direction.*
    - ii. *The start and end of each Figure Eight will be in the center (midpoint) of the two poles. Exhibitors enter the Figure Eight crossing over the midpoint moving toward the left pole and complete two figure eights in this direction, followed by a reverse of direction by executing a half circle around the left pole, to a straight line toward the right pole, with another half circle around the right pole, to then enter the Figure Eight in the reversed direction, completing one Figure Eight in that direction.*
  - b. *Halt and Back*
    - i. *Exhibitors must Halt at the center point of the Figure Eight poles and back their horse four to six steps.*
    - ii. *After the back, exhibitors must Halt, coming to a complete stop, before moving forward in a straight line, in between the Figure Eight poles, towards the Serpentine. The horse should move forward with softness, focus, and determination, accomplished with the use of proper aids and the rider's balance on the horse.*
  - c. *Serpentine*
    - i. *Exhibitors must execute a Serpentine in the designated area and then proceed to the rail, in a straight line, toward the Sounding Board.*
    - ii. *A Serpentine consists of alternating straight-line movements and half-circle turns. During the half-circle turns, the horse's body should bend toward the center of the circle. During the transition from straight-lines to half-circle turns, the horse should not move over the tangent, creating zigzag or sinusoid patterns (Refer to the Serpentine diagram in PF Appendix A). The Serpentine's pattern is marked using three rows of cones. The use of bright yellow objects as markers is recommended.*
  - d. *Sounding Board*
    - i. *Exhibitors must traverse the sounding board in one direction, come off the board completely, turn around, and return traversing the Sounding Board in the opposite direction.*
2. *Exhibitors must maintain gait at all times.*
3. *Optional Testing. Judges may request additional tests between two or more exhibitors for a work-off. The following tests will be randomly selected, by means of a lottery system, prior to the competition and are performed independently until the judge(s) is satisfied to place the class:*
  - a. *Reverse. Four reverse calls.*
  - b. *Parallel comparison of exhibitors.*

- c. *Circles. Execute three circles, around the outside of the figure eight poles, in one direction, reverse toward the circle's center, and execute another three circles, around the outside of the figure eight poles, in the opposite direction.*
- d. *Dismount and Remount. Riders must follow the dismount and remount procedure outlined in PF132.1(c), with the exception that riders may hold the mane or the saddle's pommel to assist their remounting. The dismount and remount test may only be requested of participants 13 years of age and older.*

**PF140 International Paso Equitation Judging Criteria**

- 1. *This class is judged 60% on horsemanship, riding skill, and individual testing, and 40% on the equitation posture of the rider.*
- 2. *The following points system must be utilized:*

<b>Horsemanship and Riding Skill</b>	
<i>Handling of the horse, control, confidence, focus, skills, and ability to maintain the horse in gait throughout the class</i>	<b>30 points</b>
<i>Effective use of aids</i>	<b>10 points</b>
<b>Individual Testing</b>	
<i>Figure Eight (including the entrance and halt)</i>	<b>7 points</b>
<i>Back</i>	<b>3 points</b>
<i>Serpentine</i>	<b>5 points</b>
<i>Sounding Board</i>	<b>5 points</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>60 points</b>
<b>Equitation Posture</b>	
<i>Head</i>	<b>4 points</b>
<i>Seat</i>	<b>8 points</b>
<i>Back</i>	<b>6 points</b>
<i>Arms</i>	<b>6 points</b>
<i>Hands</i>	<b>6 points</b>
<i>Legs</i>	<b>6 points</b>
<i>Feet</i>	<b>4 points</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>40 points</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100 points</b>

- 3. *Evaluation of the Testing.*
  - a. *Figure Eight. Judges evaluate the softness of the rider's hands on the reins, the use of aids, balancing their body on the horse during turns, and their ability to maintain the horse in gait throughout the test.*
  - b. *Halt and Back. Judges evaluate the smoothness of the rider's command to halt, their seat, their manner of guiding the horse backwards using subtle commands, and backing in a straight line until halting the horse.*
  - c. *Serpentine. Judges evaluate the rider's use of aids and their ability to maintain the horse in gait during straight lines and turns, with cadence and flexibility.*
  - d. *Sounding Board. Judges evaluate the rider's ability to maintain the horse in gait and their ability to keep the horse in a straight-line trajectory over the sounding board.*
  - e. *Dismount and Remount. Judges must take into consideration the training and manners of the horse. A participant will not be penalized for the behavior of the horse during the dismount and remount procedure.*
- 4. *Penalties.*
  - a. *Not completing the individual testing in the prescribed sequence will be penalized 15 points under handling of the horse.*
  - b. *Omitting or not completing a portion of the individual testing will be penalized up to five points under*

- handling of the horse, plus five points under each incomplete test maneuver.
- c. Exhibitors ten years of age or older will be disqualified and exhibitors nine years of age or younger will be penalized for executing extra circles during the Figure Eight test in an attempt to gain attention.
  - d. Exhibitors will be penalized for entering the figure eight incorrectly or performing more or less than three figure eights
  - e. When performing the figure eight, riders will be penalized for opening or widening their hands and/or arms while turning, using a leading rein on or close to the horse's neck, using excessive aids, and if their horse veers off-track during the turns or does not maintain gait throughout the test. Exception: Youth riders 12 years of age and under must not be penalized for opening or widening their hands.
  - f. When traversing the sounding board, riders will be penalized for not maintaining their horse in gait, allowing the horse to traverse sideways over the sounding board, or allowing the horse to step one hoof off the sounding board.
  - g. Riders nine years of age and older will be disqualified for tuming while on the sounding board or stepping more than one hoof off the sounding board.
  - h. Riders under nine years of age will be penalized for tuming while on the sounding board.

#### **PF141 Classes Within the International Paso Equitation Section**

1. Classes may be offered as follows:
  - a. Youth.
    - i. Youth, OR
    - ii. Divided by age as follows:
      1. Mini (ages 4 to 5), ages 6 to 8, ages 9 to 11, ages 12 to 14, ages 15 to 17; OR
      2. Mini (ages 4 to 8), ages 9 to 12, ages 13 to 17.
  - b. Adult Amateur. (PF101.6) Regional PFHA competitions are permitted to offer this class, at their discretion.

#### **SUBCHAPTER PF-6 HORSEMANSHIP SECTION**

##### **PF Appointments and Attire**

1. Appointments. The appointments are English type (PF108.5).
2. Attire. The attire is the Official Paso Fino Show Costume (PF108.8).

##### **PF143 Conduct and Procedures**

1. Exhibitors will enter the arena to the right, at a Paso Corto, and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until asked to reverse or change gait.
2. The sequence of gaits is: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, walk, reverse, repeat, and line-up. A halt will be called at least once during the Paso Corto. The reverse must be executed toward the center of the arena.
3. Exhibitors will space themselves, maintain the same relative position on the rail, and avoid bunching up.
4. Required Testing. From the line-up, exhibitors will be required to perform a designated course of tests individually.

##### **PF144 Class Specifications**

1. Regional Group competitions may offer this class at their discretion.
2. Paso Horsemanship Course Requirements.
  - a. A course will be created by competition management and reviewed and approved by the judge(s).
  - b. The course must be posted at least two hours prior to the start of the class.

##### **PF145 Horsemanship Course Tests**

1. When performing the testing, exhibitors must maintain gait, cadence, and rhythm and must not touch the cones.
2. The course must include a sequence of all the following tests:
  - a. Halt. The exhibitor should quietly halt the horse and keep the horse still and parallel to the rail.
  - b. Serpentine. At a Paso Corto, the exhibitor will serpentine through cones.
  - c. Circles. At a Paso Corto, the exhibitor will perform two circles through cones.
  - d. Figure Eights. At a distance of nine feet between two cones, at a Paso Corto, the exhibitor will perform the designated number of figure eights.
  - e. Back: The horse must back four to six steps in a straight line.
  - f. Sounding Board (PF101.12). At a Paso Corto, the exhibitor must traverse the sounding board. The exhibitor will circle at the end of the board and return down the sounding board.

#### PF146 Judging Criteria

1. *This class is judged: 50% on horsemanship of the exhibitor, 10% on the suitability of the horse to the exhibitor, and 40% on the performance of the horse.*
2. *Penalties.*
  - a. *Exhibitors will be penalized for bunching up or not working on the rail.*
  - b. *Horses that do not perform the Paso Fino gait will be eliminated after lining-up.*
  - c. *Off Pattern. An exhibitor is not disqualified for failure to complete the pattern in the correct sequence but must be placed accordingly.*

#### PF147 Classes Within This Section

1. *Paso Fino Horsemanship classes may be offered as follows:*
  - a. *Youth Paso Fino Horsemanship. Offered using one of the following methods:*
    - i. *Youth (PF104.1),*
    - ii. *Sub-Junior 7-12 years of age and Junior 13-17 years of age, OR*
    - iii. *Sub-Junior 7-9 years of age, Sub-Junior 10-12 years of age, Junior 13-15 years of age, and Junior 16-17 years of age.*
  - b. *Amateur Adult Paso Fino Horsemanship (PF101.6).*

#### SUBCHAPTER PF-7 COMPETITION OPERATIONS

##### PF148 General Competition Operations

1. *Methods of Class Placement. Exhibitors will be given one placement per class. Classes must be judged using one of the following procedures:*
  - a. *One judge per class;*
  - b. *Conferring or a panel of judges submitting a single judge's card; OR*
  - c. *A panel of three or five judges whose placements are averaged for final placement of the class.*
2. *Announcing Class Placement.*
  - a. *After a class has been judged and judge's card(s) turned in, any non-placing horses will be excused from the arena.*
  - b. *The placement of the class is announced starting with honorable mention seventh proceeding with sixth through first.*
  - c. *For championship classes, placements are announced starting with honorable mention fifth and proceeding with fourth through first*
  - d. *Victory Ride.*
    - i. *The first place horse has the option of making a victory ride one lap around the arena.*
    - ii. *The first and second place horses have the option of traversing the Sounding Board.*
3. *Delay and/or Commencement of Classes.*
  - a. *Commencement. Refer to GR109.*
  - b. *Delay. Refer to GR831.*
  - c. *At the discretion of competition management, the following procedures may be used to ensure timely commencement of classes:*
    - i. *When competing collectively, if the first exhibitor does not enter the arena within one minute of the gate being open, the class is cancelled.*
    - ii. *When the first exhibitor enters the arena and there are remaining exhibitors who have not entered the ring, a three minute warning will be issued. If the remaining exhibitors do not enter by the end of the three minute warning, the gate will be closed. Judging will commence upon closure of the gate.*
4. *Withdrawing from Competition. Refer to GR1305.*
5. *Withdrawing from a Class. An exhibitor who has entered the arena may request the judge's permission to withdraw from the class, prior to the completion of judging.*
  - a. *If an exhibitor exits the arena without the judge's permission, competition management will disqualify (PF101.2) the exhibitor. The exhibitor will forfeit their entries and prizes from the entire competition. Exception: An exhibitor will not be disqualified when exiting the arena in deference to safety.*
6. *Multiple Riders or Horses.*
  - a. *Two differing riders competing the same horse in a class is prohibited.*
  - b. *A rider must not show more than one horse in a class, with the exception of Paso Trail.*
    - i. *In a Paso Trail class, a rider is permitted to compete more than one horse, but must have a handler present for each horse. When accepting awards, the rider will ride one horse into the arena and the rider's other horse(s) will be led into the arena by a handler, one per horse.*

7. **Modified Attire.** In instances of extreme temperature or climate conditions, competition management may modify the attire requirements at their discretion.
8. **Mounting Block.** Competition Management must provide a mounting block in center ring, to be made available to any exhibitor, upon request, during the dismount/remount test.
9. **Jumps.** In classes requiring jumps, the jumps may be either horizontal bar jumps or cross rails.
  - a. **Horizontal Bar Jump.** The horizontal bar jump must include two jump standards, appropriate jump cups, a horizontal bar to jump, and a bar for a ground line.
    - i. Jump rails for the horizontal bar jump must sit firmly in jump cups and cannot be on the cup edges.
    - ii. Ground lines must be on the approach side of the jump and no farther than two feet away from the horizontal jump bar.
    - iii. The height of a horizontal bar jump must be between 18 inches to two feet.
  - b. **Cross Rail.** The cross rail must include two jump standards, appropriate jump cups, and two diagonal bars for the cross of the jump.
    - i. The height of a cross rail may not exceed 18 inches as measured at the top of the center intersection of the poles.
    - ii. The height of the jump cups must be set so the angle of the poles do not exceed 30 degrees.
  - c. All jumps provided in warm-up areas must conform to the above guidelines.

#### PF149 Concurrent Classes

1. Competition management may hold classes concurrently (one performance with two classes in the arena simultaneously and multiple judges, provided the classes are held in accordance with all applicable Federation rules).
2. Competition management may choose to hold classes concurrently provided:
  - a. No exhibitor is entered in both concurrent classes;
  - b. The class specifications are the same for both classes;
  - c. The combined class size does not exceed 25 horses; AND
  - d. The same judges are adjudicating both classes and submit a card for each class.

#### PF150 Championship Classes

1. **Championship Classes Offered.** Championship classes for Fillies/Mares, Colts/Stallions, and Geldings may be offered for each section. Championship classes may be offered in a section when at least two qualifying classes have been offered at the competition. Exception: In multi-breed competitions, only one qualifying class is necessary to offer a championship class.
  - a. **Bellas Formas Championship.** In competitions only offering open Bellas Formas classes, only an open championship may be offered. If Bellas Formas classes are divided into colts/stallions, geldings, and fillies/mares classes, only the following Bellas Formas championship classes may be offered:
    - i. Fillies and Mares All Ages;
    - ii. Geldings All Ages; AND
    - iii. Colts and Stallions All Ages.
2. **Eligibility.** To be eligible to compete in a championship class, the horse/exhibitor must have been properly entered, shown, and judged (PF101.4) in at least one qualifying class in the same section at the competition. Exception: Youth classes cannot be used as qualifiers for Amateur or open championship classes.
  - a. **Amateur Championships.** Entries qualified from Amateur classes must compete in the Amateur championship classes in the section for which they are qualified. If Amateur championship classes are not offered, a qualified entry may compete in the open championship class in the section for which they are qualified.
  - b. **Youth Championship Classes.** Championship classes may be offered for youth riders in any section in which two or more qualifying classes are offered at a given competition. Youth Championship classes may be divided into Junior Youth and Sub-Junior Youth or held as Youth (PF104).
3. **Procedure.** Championship classes are conducted in the same manner as the qualifying class.
4. **Placement.** Championship classes will place a Champion, Reserve Champion, Third Champion, and Fourth Champion. A fifth place, also known as honorable mention, may be awarded.

#### PF151 Grand National Championship

1. The PFHA National Championship Competition must be a Federation licensed "A" rated competition (GR312.3).
2. The National Championship competition will operate under the rules that were in effect during that competition's qualifying year.
3. **Eligibility.** To be eligible for entry, an entry must have accumulated, in the specific section in which they are

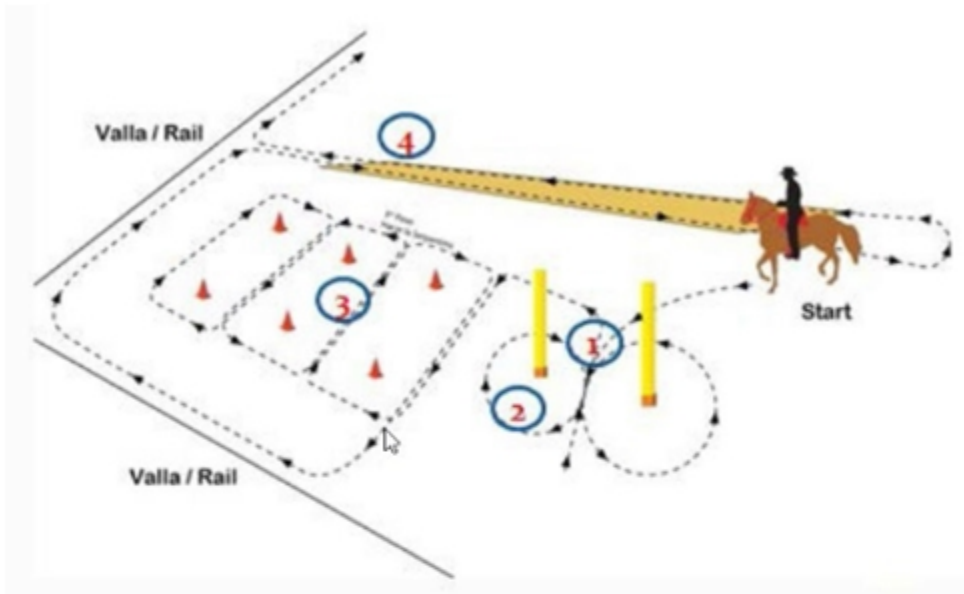
entering, a minimum of 20 PFHA points at PFHA sanctioned competitions during that competition year. Exception: Walk-Corto Leadline, Paso Costume, and Paso Pleasure Driving classes have no eligibility requirements.

4. **Hoof Inspection.** All horses entered in the PFHA National Competition must have their hooves inspected before entering the arena by a committee of three appointed by competition management, consisting of an impartial farrier, a veterinarian, and a member of competition management. All horses must be found in compliance with the shoeing regulations found in PF107 and show no evidence of soring (PF103.3).
5. **Grand National Champions.**
  - a. **Separation of Classes.** Grand National Championship classes will be divided by horse sex (Stallions, Mares, Geldings) in the Classic Fino, Paso Performance, and Paso Pleasure sections for both Open and Amateur classes.
  - b. **Eligibility.** To be eligible for entry into the Grand National Championship class, a horse must have been properly entered, shown and judged (PF101.4) in one of the qualifying classes.

## **SUBCHAPTER PF-8 LICENSED OFFICIALS**

### **PF152 Competition Conduct**

1. **General Penalties.** In the Paso Fino division the following will apply:
  - a. **Excused (PF101.3):**
    - i. During a work-off, any horse that becomes unruly, ill-mannered, or unsafe;
    - ii. The horse does not meet the requirements of the class. Exception: Sub-Junior exhibitors.
  - b. **Disqualified from the class (PF101.2):**
    - i. A horse that is unruly;
    - ii. Non-conforming tack with the section rules;
    - iii. Weighted shoes on a horse;
    - iv. Fall of horse and/or rider due to bad manners of the horse;
    - v. Unsoundness.
2. **Paso Fino Judging Standards.** Special attention is afforded to the rhythmic consistency and smoothness of the Paso Fino gait.
  - a. **Penalties.**
    - i. While style of execution may vary per horse, any style of execution that reduces smoothness and consistency is penalized.
    - ii. In addition, a horse must be excused (PF101.3) for failure to perform any gait prescribed in a class. Exception: Sub-Junior exhibitors.
    - iii. Any tendency to mix gaits, the loss of even cadence, or lack of smoothness is penalized.
    - iv. Horses that fight the bit, flatten their ears, or swish their tails are penalized.
    - v. In all qualifying gaits, light contact on the reins is required, but a horse requiring undue restraint or "holding" in gait or collection is penalized.
    - vi. A horse that goes "strung-out" behind, squats down in the rear, juts out its nose, lugs, or works behind the bit is penalized.
    - vii. Exaggerated leg action (excessive fold, over-reaching, unnaturally high front leg action, etc.) is not desirable. The ideal Paso Fino should track straight, however, slight winging or padding is acceptable and is penalized only if severe or a result of conformation faults.
3. **Inspection.**
  - a. In the line-up of all classes, judges will inspect horses for artificial devices, training scars, raw or bleeding sores, soundness, marked lameness, evidence of soring, and welts from whips or spurs in accordance with PF103.3.
  - b. The steward or judge may select any exhibitors from a section or an entire class for inspection, requiring riders to dismount and drop their horse's bits. This inspection may take place in the arena or as the horses exit the arena.
4. **Single Entry Class.** In a class with a single entry, the judge may ask the exhibitor to perform all required gaits of the class one direction of the arena and place it or excuse the exhibitor in accordance with the rules.
  - a. Exception: Youth classes with a single entry must complete all requirements of a class both directions of the arena.
5. **Youth Horse Suitability.** In Youth classes, special attention should be paid to the suitability of the horse for its rider. Horses should not appear unmanageable or too excitable for their riders, nor should they be unwilling to work for their riders. Good disposition is paramount for a Youth horse.

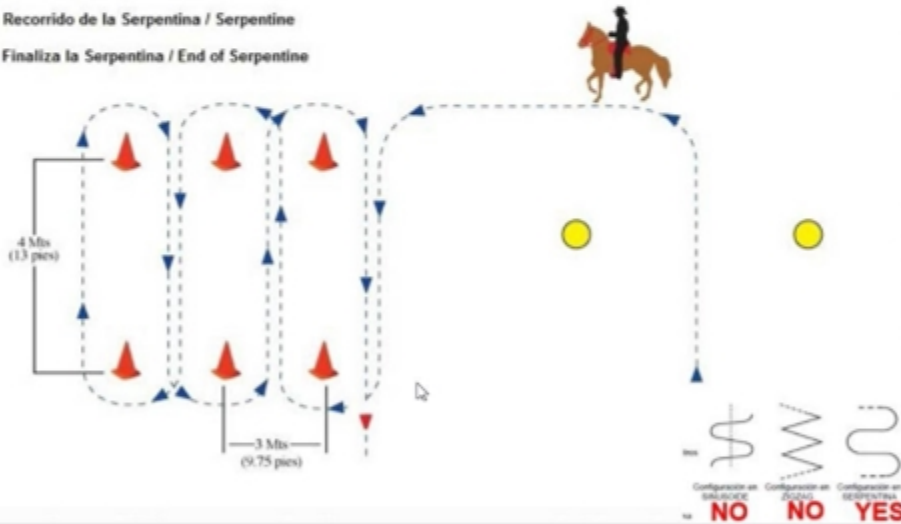


### Serpentina / Serpentine

**LEYENDA / LEGEND**

- Postes / Poles
- ▲ Conos / Cones
- ▲ Recorrido de la Serpentina / Serpentine
- ▲ Finaliza la Serpentina / End of Serpentine

### Tabla Sonora / Sounding Board



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/9/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule change removes the International Equitation section from the chapter. Exhibitors are limited to only riding Paso Fino horses in the rulebook. Many exhibitors want to compete their diagonal horses in these classes, therefore competitions must currently offer recognized and un-recognized classes to allow for other horses to compete besides only Paso Finos. By eliminating the International Equitation sections from the rulebook, competition management may offer these classes as one grouping of international equitation riders instead of splitting to allow for other breeds/types.

(PFHA 3-1 A&B)

Proponent Details Contact Information

PFHA

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

## SUBCHAPTER PF-2 PASO FINO YOUTH SECTION

### PF119 International Paso Equitation

The Paso Horse Equitation highlights the style, grace, rhythm of the Paso horse, and the special relationship between the horse and rider. Paso Equitation is the art of effectively and correctly riding a horse using effective aids to achieve the best performance of the horse while maintaining correct posture, seat and balance that enhances the oneness between rider and horse. This event is judged 100% on the international equitation parameters and rules as defined herein.

Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method, skills and aids used in obtaining the best performance of the horse.

1. Class Separation: Classes may be offered as an Open class or can be divided into age groups as follows:

a. Divided into International Paso Equitation Mini (4-5), International Paso Equitation (6-8), International Paso Equitation (9-11), International Paso Equitation (12-14), International Paso Equitation (15-17)

b. Divided into International Paso Equitation Mini (4-8), International Paso Equitation (9-12), International Paso Equitation (13-17)

1. The "mini" category must use a protective riding vest without any posture aids.

2. In the 4-5 and 6-8 age groups, there should be a minimum of four helpers in the arena for safety, designated by the Technical Committee, and music kept low

2. Riders Position while the Horse is in Motion: The rider's position while the horse is in motion should be natural, coordinated and graceful. From the side, a straight line should be able to be drawn perpendicular to the ground through the rider's head, shoulder and ankle. The center of balance should be kept directly above the feet and ankles. The rider's upper arms should fall naturally from the shoulders toward the hip bones and should appear flexible, never tight against the body, reaching forward and/or spread away from the body. The rider should appear relaxed, comfortable and natural. The upper body should not appear to be rocking from side to side. The rider must maintain a centered seat on the saddle and not slip backwards on/over the cantle regardless of the modality/gait of the horse being ridden. The rider should appear to have a natural flow downward into the saddle and the body should not interfere with the movement of the horse.

3. Posture: The rider shall have a balanced, natural and correct position on the horse that promotes the best performance of the horse. The rider shall convey the impression of effective and complete control of the horse at all times, handling the horse in the most appropriate/ effective manner while maintaining a high degree of elegance, style and oneness with the horse.

4. Seat: The rider seat should have a natural flow downward into the saddle so that the torso, pelvis and legs are balanced and symmetrical. The body of the rider should not interfere with the movement and balance of the horse, but it should promote a good performance. The rider should be centered on the saddle and aligned with the horse's dorsal line. The seat must appear natural and comfortable at all times, highlighting the union with the horse. The seat should never appear rigid or tense.

5. Head: The rider's head must be held straight at all times, with the chin up, looking forward in the direction of travel so as to maintain full control of the horse while in motion.

6. Back: The rider's back should be straight, but not tense or stiff. The position of the back must look natural and it should not be arched, leaning forward or backward. The rider's shoulders should be square, but not tense or stiff. From behind, the riders back should be aligned with the horse's dorsal line.

7. Arm and Hand Position: The arms should hang naturally with the elbows not extending forward, backward or outward beyond a perpendicular line even with the rider's shoulders. The reins shall be held in one of the following ways (riders twelve (12) years of age and under may use a, b, or c. Riders thirteen (13) and over must use c.):

a. One rein in each hand entering at the bottom below the little finger and extending upward with the bight (excess) of the rein hanging to the right side of the horse.

b. The reins must pass directly from the ring of the bit, between the little and ring fingers, with the thumb being placed on top holding down the reins. It is important that the ring finger holds the edge of the rein in the joints (knuckles) nearest to the palm and that the fingers are closed securely, but without tension. The bight (excess) of the rein should hang to the right side of the horse. The rider's hands should be held in an easy and natural position, horizontal to the saddle, and should convey softness, adaptability and control. The appropriate height the rider's hands are held above the horse's withers is determined by the head carriage of the rider's horse. However, it is improper to maintain hands in an extremely high or low position. The rider must make every effort to achieve as straight of a line as possible from the elbow through the forearm; from the forearm to the hand; from the hand to the rein; and to the ring of the bit. The hands and wrists should remain flexible and not too far apart from each other.

c. The rider may also hold both reins in one hand. The other hand should take the reins from over or underneath the first hand so that both hands have control of the reins. The reins should be close together with the bight (excess) of the rein always hanging to the right side of the horse.

8. Leg and Feet Position: The rider's leg should hang naturally. The rider's lower leg should be under the rider's body and should not be extended forward or backwards; that is, it should follow a straight line from the knee down to the stirrup. Extending the leg forward, backward or not keeping a straight line from the knee to the stirrup shall be penalized. The rider's feet should be maintained parallel to the horse's body with the heels slightly lower than the toes (approximately one inch). The ball of the rider's foot should rest directly on the stirrup while exerting even pressure on the entire stirrup. The rider's foot position should appear natural and be as parallel as possible to the horse's body. The foot's position should not appear to be forced inwards and/or the toes pointing outwards. Those riders that appear to be forcing the foot position or maintain the toes pointing towards the body of the horse (inwards) or outwards; shall be penalized.

9. Judging Criteria This class shall be judged: 60% on horsemanship/riding skills and individual tests, 40% on the equitation posture of the rider as follows:

#### CHART

a. The individual tests start at the figure eight and ends after completion of the Sounding Board test. The individual test must be completed in its entirety.

b. Participants that don't follow the sequence of the tests shall be penalized with 15 points under the Handling and focus area.

c. In the event that a participant omits or does not complete a test, the participant shall be penalized with up to five points under the Focus area plus five points for each incomplete test.

d. The rider's seat should appear centered on the saddle and aligned with the horse's dorsal line. The seat must appear natural and comfortable at all times highlighting the oneness with the horse. The seat should never appear rigid and/or tense. A seat that does not appear to be natural and uneven/off-center shall be penalized with up to eight points.

e. The rider's foot position should appear natural and be as parallel as possible to the horse's body. The foot's position should not appear to be forced inwards and/or the toes pointing outwards. The feet position should appear natural. Those riders that appear to be forcing the foot position, or that maintain the toes pointing towards the body of the horse (inwards) or outwards shall be penalized with up to four points.

#### 10. Class Procedures

a. All exhibitors must maintain horses at a Corto or Fino while being judged.

b. Participants shall enter the arena to the right, close to the rail and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. Participants should maintain their horses on the rail. The rail should not have any obstacles that may prevent the continuous movement of participants, including personnel and/or judges. At the discretion of the Judge, the participants will be ordered to complete various circles in one direction until instructed to reverse to be evaluated clockwise. The reverse will be executed toward the center of the ring returning to the rail in the opposite direction. The turn should not exceed an area of three meters. The rider should maintain their horses in gait during the reverse. Judges will observe the rider's skills, focus, handling and ability to maintain the horse in gait during its movement on a straight line as well as during the turns. Participants will then be asked to line up their horses in a predetermined area of the arena where they will wait to be asked to go over the sounding board one by one in both directions and exit to the Holding/ Line-up area where they will wait for their individual tests.

c. Regardless of where the participants start from, participants shall approach the Figure Eight from in between the sounding board and the Figure Eight poles. After completing the Figure Eight and Back, the participants shall exit the figure eight in a straight line from the middle of the two poles and head towards the Serpentine test. After completing the serpentine, the riders will head to the rail in a straight line and proceed to the sounding board. The sounding board test must be completed in both directions. Not performing the tests in the sequence established herein shall be penalized with the corresponding loss of points. Participants must maintain the horses in gait at all times.

d. Each participant will perform individually in order the following mandatory tests:

1. Figure Eight

2. Halt and Back

3. Serpentine

4. Sounding Board

e. Figure Eight. Participants shall execute three Figure 8s around the poles (two in one direction and one in the opposite direction). The start and end of each figure eight will be in the center (midpoint) of the two poles. Participants shall enter the figure eight from in between the sounding board and the first figure eight pole to cross over the midpoint to the second pole and complete two figure eights in one direction, followed by a straight line (towards the entry point) from one pole to the next and then complete one more Figure Eight in that direction. At the completion of the last Figure Eight, participants will halt in between the two poles facing the judges. Participants that turn in circles around one of the poles during the Figure Eight test to show off shall be disqualified in classes over nine years of age. Younger ages shall be penalized. Participants shall be penalized if they enter the Figure Eight incorrectly or perform more or less than three figure eights in the manner described herein. During the Figure Eight test, the Judges will evaluate the softness of the hands on the reins, the use of aids balancing the body on the horse during the turns, and the rider's ability to maintain the horse in gait throughout the test. Participants shall be penalized if the rider opens and widens the position of the hands and arms while turning (except in classes of youth less than 12 years old), using a leading rein on/or close to the horse's neck, using excessive aids (kicking, slapping the reins, etc.), if their mount veers off track during the turns, or does not maintain gait during the test.

f. Halt and Back. Once the figure eights are completed, participants must halt in the middle of the two Figure Eight poles and back their horses a minimum of four steps and a maximum of six steps. Judges will evaluate the smoothness of the command to halt, the rider's seat (relaxed natural seat, balance, and proper position), the way the rider guides the horse backwards with subtle commands, and in a straight line using even diagonal steps until halting the horse to complete the back. After completing the required back, the participant must come to a full stop and command the horse to move forward with softness, focus and determination. This is accomplished with the use of the proper aids and the rider's balance on the horse. After completing the halt and back, the rider should head in straight line in between the poles towards the serpentine.

g. Serpentine. After completing the "Halt and Back" test, participants must perform a Serpentine in an area designated for such. This test allows the Judges to evaluate the riders' use of aids and the ability to maintain their horses in gait, with cadence and flexibility during the straight lines and turns. The serpentine test consists of alternating straight line movements and half circle turns. During the half circle turns, the horse's body should bend toward the center of the circle. During the transition from straight lines to half circle turns, the horse must not move over the tangent, in zigzag or sinusoid patterns (Refer to diagram below). The serpentine pattern will be marked with three rows of cones to ensure that the test is performed correctly. The use of bright yellow objects is recommended (refer to diagram below).

#### SERPENTINE DIAGRAMS

h. Sounding Board. The board shall be placed at ground level. If this is not possible, then there must be access ramps. Once the serpentine test is completed, participants must go over the sounding board in both directions with the horse centered in the middle of the board and straight tracking throughout. Participants must traverse the sounding board in one direction, come off completely (in any direction) and return in the opposite direction. Not performing the test in the manner reference above shall be penalized. The Judges shall evaluate the rider's ability to maintain the horse in gait, the ability to keep the horse in a straight line trajectory over the sounding board. Participants shall be penalized for not maintaining their horse in gait; or allowing the horse to move sideways (not straight) over the sounding board; or allowing the horse to step off (one leg) the sounding board. Participants in categories of nine years of age and older shall be disqualified for turning on the sounding board or stepping more than one leg off the sounding board. Participants in categories under nine years of age shall be penalized for turning on the sounding board.

i. Additional Test/ Work Offs. Judges may request optional tests/ work offs between two or more participants. These tests shall be randomly selected (from tests 1, 2, 3, 4) through a lottery system prior to the competition and will be performed independently one at a time until the judges are ready to pin the class.

1. Reverse – Four Calls for Reverse

2. Parallel Comparison

3. Circles (three circles around the poles in one direction, reverse towards the pole and three circles around the poles in the opposite direction)

4. Dismount and Remount (can only be requested for participants 13 years of age and older). Riders must follow the procedure outlined.

j. Dismount/ Remount Procedure.

1. To dismount, the rider may slide down off the saddle or use the stirrups. The participant's height must be taken into consideration.

2. Before mounting, the rider must check, and if necessary, readjust the curb chain and the cinch.

3. The rider should hold the reins in the left hand using little pressure on the reins and stand diagonally by the side of the horse facing front and looking at the horse's withers.

4. The participant should then place their left hand on the horse's withers while holding on to the mane or the pommel.

5. Turn the stirrup towards their body using the right hand and put the left foot into the stirrup.

6. Holding the opposite side of the saddle (cantle) or on the front panel (the pommel or the horn) with the right hand, the rider should smoothly lift themselves up to the saddle, straighten both knees and cross the right leg over the seat of the saddle, and then ease down into the seat while placing the right foot into the stirrup without looking down.

7. Judges must take into consideration the training and manners of the horse. A participant may not be penalized for the behavior of the horse during the dismount and remount procedure.

*(Re-number all remaining sections accordingly)*

~~SUBCHAPTER PF 10 AMATEUR ADULT EQUITATION~~

~~PF152 Amateur Adult International Equitation Class~~

~~Regional Group shows are permitted to offer this class at their discretion. The class specification, judging criteria, procedures, and appointments will follow the International Paso Equitation Divisions (PF119). Class Separations may be offered as Adult Open 18 & Older.~~

*(Re-number all remaining subchapters and sections accordingly)*

*(PF Chapter Re-Write)*

#### SUBCHAPTER PF-5 EQUITATION SECTION

PF Exhibitor Position

~~PF Paso Equitation Exhibitor Position~~

~~PF Paso Equitation Appointments and Attire~~

~~PF Paso Equitation Conduct and Procedures~~

~~PF Paso Equitation Tests~~

~~PF Paso Equitation Judging Criteria~~

~~PF Classes within the Paso Equitation *this* Section~~

~~PF International Paso Equitation Position~~

~~PF International Paso Equitation Appointments and Attire~~

~~PF International Paso Equitation Conduct and Class Procedures~~

~~PF International Paso Equitation Class Specifications~~

~~PF International Paso Equitation Tests~~

~~PF International Paso Equitation Judging Criteria~~

~~PF Classes within the International Paso Equitation Section~~

*(Remove "Paso Equitation" from all Equitation section titles in the chapter as well)*

#### SUBCHAPTER PF-5 EQUITATION SECTION

Equitation highlights the style, grace, and rhythm of the Paso Fino horse and the relationship between horse and rider. Equitation is the art of effectively and correctly riding a horse, using effective aids to achieve the best performance of the horse, while maintaining correct posture, seat, and balance enhancing the oneness of rider and horse.

##### PF Exhibitor Position

1. Posture. The rider should have a balanced, natural, and correct position on the horse that promotes the best performance of the horse. The rider should convey the impression of effective and complete control of the horse while maintaining a high degree of elegance and style. From the profile view, a straight line, perpendicular to the ground, through the rider's head, shoulder, and ankle should be observed. The center of balance should be kept directly above the feet and ankles. The upper body should not appear to be rocking from side to side with the movement of the horse.
2. Seat. The rider's seat should have a natural flow downward into the saddle with the torso, pelvis, and legs balanced and symmetrical. The body of the rider should not interfere with the movement and balance of the horse, but it should promote a good performance. The rider should be centered on the saddle, aligned with the horse's dorsal line and not slip backwards on or over the cantle. The seat should never appear rigid or tense.
3. Head. The rider's head should be held straight, with the chin up, and looking forward in the direction of

travel.

4. Back. The rider's back should be straight, look natural, and should not be arched, or leaning forward or backward. The rider's shoulders should be square, but not tense or stiff. When viewing from behind, the rider's back should be aligned with the horse's dorsal line.
5. Legs. The rider's leg should hang naturally with the lower leg under the rider's body, while not extending forward or backward, but be a straight line from the knee to the stirrup.
6. Feet. The rider's feet should be parallel to the horse's body, with the heels slightly lower than the toes by approximately one inch. The foot's position should not appear to be forced inward nor the toes pointing outward. The ball of the rider's foot should rest directly on the stirrup pad, exerting even pressure on the entire stirrup.
7. Arms. The rider's arms should fall naturally from the shoulders toward the hip bones and should appear flexible, never tight against the body, with the elbows in a perpendicular line with the shoulders, not extending forward, backward, or outward.
8. Hands. The rider's hands should be held neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle. The height at which the rider's hands are held, above the horse's withers, is determined by the head carriage of the individual horse. The rider's hands should remain in line with the pommel of saddle, with a straight line from the elbow through the forearm, hand, and rein, to the bit. Hands and wrists should be flexible and not held extremely separated.

#### PF Paso Equitation Exhibitor Position

~~1. The exhibitor's position follows the description in PF\_\_.~~

9. Methods of Holding the Reins. The reins must be held using one of the following methods:

- a. One rein in each hand, entering below the little finger, extending upward to the thumb, with the bight (excess) of the rein hanging to the right side of the horse.
- b. One rein in each hand, with the reins entering between the little and ring fingers, extending upward to the thumb, with the bight (excess) of the reins hanging to the right side of the horse.

(...)

#### PF International Paso Equitation Exhibitor Position

~~1. The exhibitor's position follows the description in PF\_\_.~~

~~2. Methods of Holding the Reins. The reins must be held using one of the following methods:~~

- ~~a. One rein in each hand, entering below the little finger, extending upward to the thumb, with the bight (excess) of the rein hanging to the right side of the horse.~~
- ~~b. One rein in each hand, with the reins entering between the little and ring fingers, extending upward to the thumb, with the bight (excess) of the reins hanging to the right side of the horse.~~
- ~~c. Both reins in the left hand, entering below the little finger and extending upward to the thumb. The right hand placed under the left, holding the right rein only, the rein entering below the little finger and extending upward to the thumb. The bight (excess) of the reins hanging to the right side of the horse.~~
- ~~d. Riders 12 years of age and under may use any of the three listed methods (PF\_\_2[a, b, or c]).~~
- ~~e. Riders 13 years of age and over must use the method listed above in PF\_\_2. c.~~

#### PF International Paso Equitation Appointments and Attire

~~1. Appointments. The appointments are English type (PF\_\_).~~

- ~~a. The stirrup leathers must not exceed 2" in width.~~
- ~~b. The stirrups can be metal or leather, and must be symmetrical in all parts, including the footrest.~~

~~2. Attire.~~

- ~~a. The attire is black leather boots, black trousers (length not to surpass the heel of the boot when mounted), black jacket, and a white or cream hat with black or white ribbon.~~
- ~~b. International Paso Fino Equitation Mini (PF\_\_1.a.ii) riders must wear a protective riding vest, without~~

any posture aids.

#### PF International Paso Equitation Conduct and Class Procedures

1. Exhibitors will enter the arena to the right, on the rail, at a Classic Fino or Paso Corte, and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner, until instructed to reverse.
2. While being judged, exhibitors must maintain the Classic Fino or Paso Corte.
3. Exhibitors should maintain the same relative position on the rail.
4. The reverse is executed toward the center of the arena, not exceeding an area of three meters, while maintaining the horse's gait.
5. Exhibitors will be instructed to line up, in a predetermined area of the arena and await instruction to individually traverse the sounding board, in both directions. Exhibitors will then exit the arena to the holding/line up area to await their individual testing.

#### PF International Paso Equitation Class Specifications

1. For safety purposes in classes for riders aged four to eight, there must be at least four designated assistants in the arena, appointed by the competition management. Also, the arena music volume must be lowered during the class.

#### PF International Paso Equitation Tests

1. Required Individual Testing. Exhibitors must perform the tests in their entirety and in the following order:
  - a. Figure Eight
    - i. Exhibitors must approach the Figure Eight from the space in between the sounding board and the Figure Eight poles, and execute three Figure Eights around the poles: two Figure Eights in one direction and one Figure Eight in the opposite direction.
    - ii. The start and end of each Figure Eight will be in the center (midpoint) of the two poles. Exhibitors enter the Figure Eight crossing over the midpoint moving toward the left pole and complete two figure eights in this direction, followed by a reverse of direction by executing a half circle around the left pole, to a straight line toward the right pole, with another half circle around the right pole, to then enter the Figure Eight in the reversed direction, completing one Figure Eight in that direction.
  - b. Halt and Back
    - i. Exhibitors must halt at the center point of the Figure Eight poles and back their horse four to six steps.
    - ii. After the back, exhibitors must Halt, coming to a complete stop, before moving forward in a straight line, in between the Figure Eight poles, toward the Serpentine. The horse should move forward with softness, focus, and determination, accomplished with the use of proper aids and the rider's balance on the horse.
  - c. Serpentine
    - i. Exhibitors must execute a Serpentine in the designated area and then proceed to the rail, in a straight line, toward the Sounding Board.
    - ii. A Serpentine consists of alternating straight line movements and half circle turns. During the half circle turns, the horse's body should bend toward the center of the circle. During the transition from straight lines to half circle turns, the horse should not move over the tangent, creating zigzag or sinusoid patterns (Refer to the Serpentine diagram in PF Appendix A). The Serpentine's pattern is marked using three rows of cones. The use of bright yellow objects as markers is recommended.
  - d. Sounding Board
    - i. Exhibitors must traverse the sounding board in one direction, come off the board completely, turn around, and return traversing the Sounding Board in the opposite direction.
2. Exhibitors must maintain gait at all times.
3. Optional Testing. Judges may request additional tests between two or more exhibitors for a work-off. The

following tests will be randomly selected, by means of a lottery system, prior to the competition and are performed independently until the judge(s) is satisfied to place the class:

- a. Reverse. Four reverse calls.
- b. Parallel comparison of exhibitors.
- c. Circles. Execute three circles, around the outside of the figure-eight poles, in one direction, reverse toward the circle's center, and execute another three circles, around the outside of the figure-eight poles, in the opposite direction.
- d. Dismount and Remount. Riders must follow the dismount and remount procedure outlined in PF\_\_\_1(c), with the exception that riders may hold the mane or the saddle's pommel to assist their remounting. The dismount and remount test may only be requested of participants 13 years of age and older.

**PF International Paso Equitation Judging Criteria**

1. This class is judged 60% on horsemanship, riding skill, and individual testing, and 40% on the equitation posture of the rider.
2. The following points system must be utilized:

-Horsemanship and Riding Skill	
Handling of the horse, control, confidence, focus, skills, and ability to maintain the horse in gait throughout the class	30 points
Effective use of aids	40 points
Individual Testing	
Figure Eight (including the entrance and halt)	7 points
Back	3 points
Serpentine	5 points
Sounding Board	5 points
Subtotal	60 points
Equitation Posture	
Head	4 points
Seat	8 points
Back	6 points
Arms	6 points
Hands	6 points
Legs	6 points
Feet	4 points
Subtotal	40 points
Grand Total	100 points

3. Evaluation of the Testing.
  - a. Figure Eight. Judges evaluate the softness of the rider's hands on the reins, the use of aids, balancing their body on the horse during turns, and their ability to maintain the horse in gait throughout the test.
  - b. Halt and Back. Judges evaluate the smoothness of the rider's command to halt, their seat, their manner of guiding the horse backwards using subtle commands, and backing in a straight line until halting the horse.
  - c. Serpentine. Judges evaluate the rider's use of aids and their ability to maintain the horse in gait during straight lines and turns, with cadence and flexibility.
  - d. Sounding Board. Judges evaluate the rider's ability to maintain the horse in gait and their ability to keep the horse in a straight line trajectory over the sounding board.
  - e. Dismount and Remount. Judges must take into consideration the training and manners of the horse. A participant will not be penalized for the behavior of the horse during the dismount and remount procedure.

4. Penalties.

- a. Not completing the individual testing in the prescribed sequence will be penalized 15 points under handling of the horse.
- b. Omitting or not completing a portion of the individual testing will be penalized up to five points under handling of the horse, plus five points under each incomplete test maneuver.
- c. Exhibitors ten years of age or older will be disqualified and exhibitors nine years of age or younger will be penalized for executing extra circles during the Figure Eight test in an attempt to gain attention.
- d. Exhibitors will be penalized for entering the figure eight incorrectly or performing more or less than three figure eights.
- e. When performing the figure eight, riders will be penalized for opening or widening their hands and/or arms while turning, using a leading rein on or close to the horse's neck, using excessive aids, and if their horse veers off track during the turns or does not maintain gait throughout the test. Exception: Youth riders 12 years of age and under must not be penalized for opening or widening their hands.
- f. When traversing the sounding board, riders will be penalized for not maintaining their horse in gait, allowing the horse to traverse sideways over the sounding board or allowing the horse to step one hoof off the sounding board.
- g. Riders nine years of age and older will be disqualified for turning while on the sounding board or stepping more than one hoof off the sounding board.
- h. Riders nine years of age and under will be penalized for turning while on the sounding board.

PF Classes Within the International Paso Equitation Section

1. Classes may be offered as follows:

- a. Youth.
  - i. Youth Open; or
  - ii. Divided by age as follows:
    1. Mini (ages 4 to 5), ages 6 to 8, ages 9 to 11, ages 12 to 14, ages 15 to 17; OR
    2. Mini (ages 4 to 8), ages 9 to 12, ages 13 to 17.
- b. Adult Amateur. (PF \_\_, 2) Regional PFHA competitions are permitted to offer this class, at their discretion.

*(Re-number any necessary sections accordingly)*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/17/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule change adds eligibility credentials to be provided to Competition Management upon entry. The requirement for participants to present a valid form of identification to verify their date of birth ensures accuracy and fairness in age-related classes. The Signature of Authorization form requirement ensures accountability, compliance, and proper authorization for minors and business participating in PFHA events.

(PFHA 2-6)

Proponent Details Contact Information

PFHA

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

## SUBCHAPTER PF-1 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

### 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 horses registered with PFHA after 2018 must be microchipped to be eligible to compete. 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, 3, 7, and ~~3 & 8~~ 8 may be electronically verified when possible by the competition secretary:

(...)

**7. A valid form of government-issued identification or other acceptable documentation verifying the participant's date of birth must be presented (e.g. driver's license, passport, birth certificate, or state-issued identification card).**

**8. Minors and businesses must have a Signature of Authorization form on file with the PFHA. If the PFHA office or Show Secretary cannot verify that a Signature Authorization form is on file, the minor or business must complete a form and submit it with the entry form.**

b. If the participant has submitted their entries via the PFHA online entry system then the following credentials must be made available to Competition Management and the steward, and copies of said credentials must be presented at time of check in:

(...)

(PF Chapter Re-Write)

## SUBCHAPTER PF-1 GENERAL RULES

### PF Eligibility

(...)

3. The following credentials must be made available to competition management and the steward, and copies of these credentials must accompany the entry form, however membership cards, and horse registration papers, **government issued identification, and Signature of Authorization Form** may be electronically verified, when possible, by the competition secretary:

(...)

***g. A valid form of government-issued identification verifying the participant's date of birth, such as a driver's license, passport, birth certificate, etc.***

***h. A Signature of Authorization form on file with PFHA for minors and businesses. If a form is not on file, the form must be submitted with the entry.***

4. If the participant has submitted their entries via the PFHA online entry system, the following credentials must be made available to competition management and the steward, and copies of said credentials must be presented at the time of check in:

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/9/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

There are some instances where horses have been exhibited in excess, jeopardizing the horse's welfare and the reputation of the Paso Fino breed. This rule change places a reasonable limit on the number of classes that a horse may compete in per day, at six classes, excluding Bellas Formas, Costume, Paso Pleasure Driving, and Walk-Corto classes.

(PFHA 2-5)

Proponent Details Contact Information

PFHA

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

(2026 Rule book)

SUBCHAPTER PF-1 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

PF102 General Rules

(...)

***17. Horses may compete in no more than six classes per day. Exception: Bellas Formas, Costume, Paso Pleasure Driving, and Walk-Corto classes do not count toward this limit.***

(PF Chapter Rewrite)

## SUBCHAPTER PF-1 GENERAL RULES

PF General

(...)

### 3. Horse Welfare

- a. **Horses are limited to competing in six or less classes per day. Exception: Bellas Formas, Costume, Paso Pleasure Driving, and Walk-Corto classes do not count toward this limit. (re-lettered already below)**
- b. Horses must be serviceably sound for competition purposes. A horse must not show evidence of lameness or broken wind. Horses with complete loss of sight in either eye may be found serviceably sound at the judge's discretion. The color of a horse or the color of the horse's eyes will not be considered when placing a class.
- c. Soring of a horse is prohibited. Any physical evidence, including but not limited to, scars or blisters, training with weighted shoes or artificial devices, or soring must result in the horse's elimination from the competition.
- d. Competing a horse with sores or abrasions that are raw or bleeding around the muzzle, nose, chin groove, or jaw is considered an act of abuse. Horses showing signs of undue stress or abuse/inhumane treatment must be eliminated from the competition.
- e. Injection of any foreign substance or drug or any surgical procedure that could affect the horse's performance or alter its natural conformation or appearance is prohibited. Upon discovery, that a prohibited surgery or injection has occurred, competition management must immediately eliminate the horse from the competition.  
Exception: Surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the horse, including castration of the horse and cosmetic alterations of the horse's tail. However, the horse's tail may not be altered by the insertion of a foreign object, foreign substance, or drug. Under no circumstances may a horse with a "dead tail" compete.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/9/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule change adds clarity and definition to Open classes within the Paso Fino Division.

(PFHA Glossary-1)

Proponent Details Contact Information

PFHA

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

(2026 Rule book)

SUBCHAPTER PF-1 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

PF102 General Rules

***17. In the Paso Fino Division, in reference to class type, "Open" means any horse or rider may compete, with no restrictions based on age or sex.***

*(PF Chapter Re-Write) – Re-Write already addresses this rule change; no change to the re-write is necessary*

## SUBCHAPTER PF-1 GENERAL RULES

### PF Definitions

5. OPEN CLASSES. Open refers only to the horse. Horses of any age and all sexes are permitted to compete in Open classes.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule change is clearing any confusion regarding the attire required for youth competing in Paso Equitation classes versus International Paso Equitation classes.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Paso Fino	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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2026 Rulebook:

SUBCHAPTER PF-2 PASO FINO YOUTH SECTION

PF112 Appointments

The tack shall be English type. Schooling tack is not acceptable. The stirrup leathers must not exceed five centimeters (5cm) or two inches (2 in) in width. The stirrups can be metal or leather. Stirrups must be symmetrical in all parts, including the footrest. The attire must be: ~~black leather boots, black trousers with a length that does not surpass the heel of the boot while the rider is mounted, black jacket, and a white or cream hat with black or white ribbon; any other type of hat is prohibited~~ *the Official Paso Fino Show Costume.*

PF119 International Paso Equitation

(...)

**9. The attire is black leather boots, black trousers with a length that does not surpass the heel of the boot while the rider is mounted, black jacket, and a white or cream hat with black or white ribbon; any other type of hat is prohibited.**

**910. Judging Criteria**

(...)

**4011. Class Procedures**

(...)

Rulebook Re-Write – no edits need to be made as this is covered in the re-write.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/9/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule change brings more clarity to the chapter regarding how section classes may be divided. Allowing this method of dividing classes will help smaller competitions. This proposal offers a "middle ground" between offering a full schedule of classes with all ages and sexes divided into separate classes and a highly condensed schedule of classes combining ages and sexes. At a smaller competition, a full schedule of divided classes results in many one horse classes, thus no actual competition for the exhibitors. The condensed schedule options will result in exhibitors experiencing more competition within their classes.

(PFHA 3-11)

Proponent Details Contact Information

PFHA

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

SUBCHAPTER PF-4 PERFORMANCE CLASSES (UNDER SADDLE)

PF125 Schooling Classes

(...)

~~2. Schooling Class Sections. Schooling classes may be offered in the Fino, Performance and Pleasure Divisions, including the Amateur Classes. There may be open schooling classes for horses 36 to 60 months old. Alternatively, there may be two Schooling age sections within a Division for: (1) horses that are 36 to 48 months, and (2) horses that are 49 to 60 months. In addition to age sections, classes may also be divided into two sections for: (1) fillies, and (2) colts and geldings; or into three sections for: (1) fillies, (2) colts, and (3) geldings. The horse's age for purposes of determining the appropriate class shall be determined under GR.102.1a~~

32. Crediting of P Points. In a show that does not offer Schooling classes, a schooling horse may compete in the regular appropriate class and still retain its schooling status, and any show points awarded to such horses shall be computed and credited as points awarded in the appropriate Schooling class.

43. A schooling horse (36-60 months) must be shown in classes appropriate for its age, with the exception of championships or open classes that have no age restrictions.

*PF127 Classes Within the Classic Fino, Paso Performance, and Paso Pleasure Sections*

*1. Schooling Classes in Classic Fino, Paso Performance and Paso Pleasure Sections*

*Schooling classes may be offered for horses that are 36 months to 60 months old. These classes are to be conducted in the same manner as the mature horse classes of the section, except they are limited to schooling horses. Tack and attire is the same, with the exception that schooling headgear is permitted. Schooling classes may be offered as follows:*

- a. May be Open 36-60 months (all horse sexes),*
- b. May be divided by age (all horse sexes): Open Schooling 36-48 months and Open Schooling 49-60 months,*
- c. May be divided by sex of the horse: 36-60 months Schooling Fillies and 36-60 months Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may be separated), OR*
- d. May be divided by both age and sex of the horse: 36-48 months Schooling Fillies, 36-48 months Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may be separated), 49-60 months Schooling Fillies, and 49-60 months Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may be separated).*

*2. Mature Horse Classes in Classic Fino, Paso Performance, and Paso Pleasure Sections*

*Mature horses are 61 months and older. Classes may be offered as follows:*

- a. Open (all horse ages and sexes),*
- b. May be divided by age (all horse sexes): Open 61-84 months, Open 85 months and Older,*
- c. May be divided by sex of the horse: 61 months and Older Mares, 61 months and Older Stallions and Geldings (or Stallions and Geldings may be separated), OR*
- d. May be divided by both age and sex of the horse: 61-84 months Mares, 61-84 months Stallions and Geldings (or Stallions and Geldings may be separated), 85 months and Older Mares, 85 months and*

*Older Stallions and Geldings (or Stallions and Geldings may be separated).*

3. Amateur classes may also be offered and if divided, must be in accordance with PF127.1-2.

4. Amateur Owned and Trained classes may also be offered. Classes are open to horses of all ages. The exhibitor must be an amateur and the horse must not have been trained by a Professional for the past six months. The horse must be owned by the exhibitor or their family. This class does not qualify for Amateur championship classes.

*(Re-number all remaining sections)*

#### SUBCHAPTER PF-5 CLASSIC FINO DIVISION

##### ~~PF132 Classes within this Division~~

~~1. Classic Fino Schooling. Schooling classes may be offered. These classes are to be conducted in exactly the same manner as the Classic Fino classes except that they will be limited to schooling horses. Tack and attire shall be the same as in Classic Fino with the exception of the headgear, which may be schooling headgear. (GR 801).~~

~~Schooling classes, if offered, may be separated as follows:~~

~~a. May be open; or~~

~~b. May be divided into Open Schooling 36 to 48 months and Open Schooling 49 to 60 months; or~~

~~c. May be divided into 36 to 48 months Schooling Fillies, 36 to 48 months Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated), 49 to 60 months Schooling Fillies, and 49 to 60 months Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated).~~

~~2. Classic Fino. These classes may be separated as follows:~~

~~a. May be Open (includes all ages and all sexes);~~

~~b. May be divided into Open Schooling 36 to 48 months and Open Schooling 49 to 60 months; or~~

~~c. Schooling classes may be divided as provided in Section 1 above and Classic Fino divided into Mares, Geldings, and Stallions.~~

~~d. Schooling classes may be divided as provided in Section 1 above and Classic Fino divided into Mares 61 to 84 months, Mares 85 months and over, Geldings 61 to 84 months, Geldings 85 months and over, Stallions 61 to 84 months, Stallions 85 months and over.~~

~~e. Amateur classes may also be offered. They may be Open or divided, as provided in Section 2 above.~~

~~f. Amateur Owned and Trained classes may also be offered. They will be open for all age horses. Exhibitor must be an Amateur and horse must not have been trained by a professional for six months. Horse must be owned by exhibitor or their family. This class does not qualify for Amateur Fino Championship.~~

*(Re-number all remaining sections)*

#### SUBCHAPTER PF-6 PASO PERFORMANCE DIVISION

##### ~~PF136 Classes within this Division~~

~~1. Paso Performance Schooling. Schooling classes may be offered. These classes are to be conducted in exactly the same manner as the Paso Performance classes except that they will be limited to schooling horses. Tack and attire~~

shall be the same as in Paso Performance with the exception of the headgear, which may be schooling headgear. See PF127.2 for the definition of schooling headgear.

Schooling classes, if offered, may be separated as follows:

- a. May be Open; or
- b. May be divided into Open Schooling 36 to 48 months and Open Schooling 49 to 60 months; or
- c. May be divided into 36 to 48 months Schooling Fillies, 36 to 48 months Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated), 49 to 60 months Schooling Fillies, and 49 to 60 months Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated).

2. Paso Performance. These classes may be separated as follows;

- a. May be Open (includes all ages and all sexes);
- b. May be divided into Open Schooling 36 to 48 months and Open Schooling 49 to 60 months; or
- c. Schooling classes may be divided as provided in Section 1 above and Paso Performance divided into Mares, Geldings, and Stallions; or
- d. Schooling classes may be divided as provided in Section 1 above and Paso Performance divided into Mares 61 to 84 months, Mares 85 months and over, Geldings 61 to 84 months, Geldings 85 months and over, Stallions 61 to 84 months, Stallions 85 months and over.
- e. Amateur classes may also be offered. They may be Open or if divided, they must be divided into Mares 61 to 84 months, Mares 85 months and over, Geldings 61 to 84 months, Geldings 85 months and over and Stallions 61 to 84 months, Stallions 85 months and over. Amateur Schooling classes may be offered and may be divided the same as provided in this Section 1 above.
- f. Amateur Owned and Trained classes may also be offered. They will be open for all age horses. Exhibitor must be an Amateur and horse must not have been trained by a professional for six months. Horse must be owned by exhibitor or their family.

*(Re-number all remaining sections)*

## SUBCHAPTER PF-7 PASO PLEASURE DIVISION

### PF140 Classes within this Division

1. Paso Pleasure Schooling. Schooling classes may be offered. These classes are to be conducted in exactly the same manner as the Paso Pleasure classes except that they will be limited to schooling horses. Tack and attire shall be the same as in Paso Pleasure with the exception of the headgear, which may be schooling headgear. See PF127.2 for the definition of schooling headgear.

Schooling classes, if offered, may be separated as follows:

- a. May be Open; or
- b. May be divided into Open Schooling 36 to 48 months and Open Schooling 49 to 60 months; or
- c. May be divided into 36 to 48 months Schooling Fillies, 36 to 48 months Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated), 49 to 60 months Schooling Fillies, and 49 to 60 months Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated).

2. Paso Pleasure. These classes may be separated as follows;

a. May be Open (includes all ages and all sexes);

b. May be divided into Open Schooling 36 to 48 months and Open Schooling 49 to 60 months; or

c. Schooling classes may be divided as provided in Section 1 above and Paso Pleasure divided into Mares, Geldings, and Stallions; or

d. Schooling classes may be divided as provided in Section 1 above and Paso Pleasure divided into Mares 61 to 84 months, Mares 85 months and over, Geldings 61 to 84 months, Geldings 85 months and over and Stallions 61 to 84 months, Stallions 85 months and over; or

e. Geldings will be split out from colts at the Grand National Championship; or g. Amateur classes may also be offered. They may be Open or, if divided, they must be divided into Mares 61 to 84 months, Mares 85 months and over, Geldings 61 to 84 months, Geldings 85 months and over and Stallions 61 to 84 months, Stallions 85 months and over. Amateur Schooling classes may be offered and may be divided the same as provided in this Section 1 above.

f. Amateur Owned and Trained classes may also be offered. They will be open for all age horses. Exhibitor must be an Amateur and horse must not have been trained by a professional for six months. Horses must be owned by exhibitor or their family. This class does not qualify for Amateur Pleasure Championship.

*(Re-number all remaining sections)*

## SUBCHAPTER PF-3 UNDER SADDLE SECTION

### PF Under Saddle Classes within Each Section

1. Classic Fino, Paso Performance, and Paso Pleasure classes may be offered as:
  - a. Youth (PF\_\_),
  - b. Open (PF\_\_),
  - c. Amateur (PF\_\_), AND/OR
  - d. divided by the horse's sex as follows:
    - i. Mares,
    - ii. Stallions, AND
    - iii. Geldings.
    - iv. OR, Stallions and Geldings may also be combined into one class
  - e. divided by the horse's age as follows:
    - i. 61-84 months, AND
    - ii. 85 months and over.
  - f. divided by, both, the horse's age and horse's sex as follows:
    - i. Mares 61 to 84 months,
    - ii. Mares 85 months and over,
    - iii. Geldings 61 to 84 months,
    - iv. Geldings 85 months and over,
    - v. Stallions 61 to 84 months, AND
    - vi. Stallions 85 months and over.
  - g. OR, Amateur Owned and Trained (PF\_\_).

(...)

5. Schooling Classes. Classes are to be conducted in the same manner as the relevant section classes. Appointments and attire must conform to those listed in the relevant section, with the exception that schooling headstalls are permitted (PF\_\_).

- a. Schooling classes may be offered in the Classic Fino, Paso Performance, and Paso Pleasure sections, and may be divided as follows:
  - i. Open schooling classes,
  - ii. Amateur schooling classes,
  - iii. Divided by horse age: horses 36 to 48 months and horses 49 to 60 months,
  - iv. Divided by sex of the horse: fillies, and colts/geldings OR fillies, colts, and geldings, AND/OR
  - v. Divided by both the horse's age and sex.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/9/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule change permits the use of full cheek snaffles. Full cheek snaffles generally do not attach to the bridle for extra leverage, therefore are not intimidating for the horse.

(PFHA 2-1)

Proponent Details	Contact Information
PFHA	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

(2026 PF Chapter)

## SUBCHAPTER PF-4 PERFORMANCE CLASSES (UNDER SADDLE)

### PF127 Tack

(...)

#### 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. **A full cheek snaffle, without keeper attachments, is permitted.** Snaffle bits do not require a curb chain. If a curb strap is used it must be attached below the reins.

(...)

(PF Chapter Re-Write)

## PF Appointments and Attire

(...)

3. Bits. Only curb and snaffle bits are permitted. See the Paso Fino Tack Guide for details.

(...)

### b. Standard Snaffle Bit.

i. Type and Diameter. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center jointed, single, rounded, unwrapped, smooth, metal mouthpiece of 5/16" to 3/4" diameter as measured from the ring to 1" in from the ring, with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The rings may be 2" to 4" in diameter, of either the loose type, **full cheek**, eggbutt, d-ring, or center mounted without cheeks. **Keeper attachments to the headstall are prohibited and the inside circumference of the a bit's ring must be free of rein, curb, or headstall attachment hooks.**

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/17/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule change is removing **all** required individual testing, the figure eight, **back**, and jump from the Paso Versatility class. Generally, Paso Fino horses are not proficient in jumping, such as a traditional walk, trot, canter horse would be. The jump in the Versatility class can be intimidating and dangerous for some riders. Removing the jump could encourage more participation in the class, which currently has seen declining entry numbers at competitions.

(PFHA 3-9 ABCD)

Proponent Details Contact Information

PFHA

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

(2026 Rule book)

#### SUBCHAPTER PF-4 PERFORMANCE CLASSES (UNDER SADDLE)

##### PF128 Attire and Appointments

(...)

4. Safety Headgear. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty in any class. (GR801) In classes that may require a jump (Trail and Versatility), approved protective headgear is required. All riders twelve (12) years of age and under, including walk-corto leadline riders, are required to wear approved protective headgear at all times while on horseback at any competition.

#### SUBCHAPTER PF-9 SPECIALITY CLASSES

##### PF145 Paso Versatility Class

###### 1. Class Specifications.

a. In this class, the horse will be asked to demonstrate balance, flexibility, coordination and manners while performing the various gaits, tests, and maneuvers. Manners and willingness are very important. ~~The back must be controlled and smooth.~~ Failure to properly execute the Paso Corto and Paso Largo, demonstrating an evenly-spaced four-beat lateral gait, will automatically disqualify the horse, ~~and it will not be asked to do the individual work out, executing a figure eight maneuver at a Paso Corto and taking the jump from the canter.~~ Failure to take the correct lead in the canter shall be penalized. ~~One refusal to take the jump will cause a lowering of the horse's placing within the class. Two refusals to take the jump will automatically disqualify an entry from the class. The figure eight is to be performed at the Paso Corto and should be smooth, consistent in gait, and supple. A jump that is a minimum of eighteen (18) inches and a maximum of two (2) feet will be taken from the canter.~~

b. The class shall be judged: 20% on the Paso Corto; 20% on the Paso Largo; 420% on the *flat* walk; 420% on the canter; and 420% on ~~back, jump, manners, and figure eight attitude.~~

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. The sequence of gaits shall be: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, flat walk, canter, flat walk, reverse and repeat. While executing the walk, riders shall space themselves to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail. In the remaining gaits, exhibitors shall remain on the rail except to pass. ~~Riders shall be asked individually to back, execute a figure eight maneuver at a Paso Corto, and take a jump from the canter.~~

3. Appointments. The tack and headgear are to be English type, with a bridle and cavesson. No schooling headgear allowed. Forward seat saddles are also allowed. Attire is to be English-style as described in the Paso Pleasure Division (PF139). ~~Safety Headgear is required. (GR801)~~

4. Class separations. Shall be offered as Open (includes all ages and all sexes) and Amateur.

(PF Chapter Re-Write)

## SUBCHAPTER PF-1 GENERAL RULES

### PF Appointments and Attire

(...)

11. Protective Headgear. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty in any class. (GR 801.1)

~~a. Protective headgear is required for Paso Versatility classes.~~

**b.a.** In Paso Trail classes protective headgear is only required when the obstacles include a jump.

**c.b.** All Youth 12 years of age and under are required to wear protective headgear while on horseback or while in the driving cart.

## SUBCHAPTER PF-3 UNDER SADDLE SECTION

### PF Paso Versatility

(...)

2. Conduct and Procedures.

a. Exhibitors will enter the arena to the right, on the rail, at a Collected Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until instructed to reverse or change gait.

b. The sequence of gaits is: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, flat walk, Collected Canter, flat walk, reverse, and repeat.

~~c. Individual Testing. Exhibitors are asked to back individually, execute a figure eight at the Collected Paso Corto, and take a jump at the canter.~~

~~3. Class Specifications.~~

~~a. The jump must be between 18 inches to 24 inches in height.~~

43. Judging Criteria.

a. The class is judged: 20% on the Paso Corto, 20% on the Paso Largo, 420% on the flat walk, 420% on the Collected Canter, and 420% on **the back**, manners, and **the individual testing (figure eight, back, and jump) attitude**.

b. Type. The horse should demonstrate balance, flexibility, coordination, and manners while performing the various gaits **and individual testing**. Manners and willingness are very important. **The individual testing should be smooth, controlled, consistent in gait, and supple.**

c. Penalties.

i. Failure to properly execute the Paso Corto and Paso Largo must disqualify the horse prior to individual testing.

ii. Failure to take the correct lead in the canter must be penalized.

iii. ~~Jump Refusals. One refusal to take the jump must result in lowering the horse's placing in the class. Two refusals to take the jump automatically disqualifies an entry from the class.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/9/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule change is adding clarification to permitted procedures in the Paso Trail class, such as the permitted gait when jumping an obstacle and permitting a course walk prior to the class.

(PFHA 3-2)

Proponent Details	Contact Information
PFHA	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

(2026 Rule book)

## SUBCHAPTER PF-9 SPECIALITY CLASSES

### PF147 Paso Trail

(...)

#### 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. ***A rider may exhibit more than one horse in the class, but must have a handler for each horse during the presentation of awards.***

b. A drawn course will be provided by show management, reviewed for compliance with required procedures and approved by the judge(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. ***Exhibitors will be permitted a pre-class walk through with the judge(s)/steward(s) immediately 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 WS 103.4 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. ***The canter or lope is prohibited as part of the course, but if a jump is called for as an obstacle in the course, the rider is permitted to canter or lope at their discretion to negotiate the jump obstacle.***

(...)

SUBCHAPTER PF-3 UNDER SADDLE SECTION

PF Paso Trail

3. Class Specifications.

- a. Gaits. Required gaits in the course may include: Flat Walk, Paso Corto, and/or Paso Largo.
- b. Trail Course Requirements.
  - i. A course will be created by competition management and reviewed and approved by the judge(s). An exhibitor in this class is prohibited from designing or setting up the course.
  - ii. The trail pattern must show the line of travel through each obstacle, the gait required to perform each obstacle, and specify how a horse is to negotiate or travel between obstacles.
  - iii. The trail pattern must be posted at least two hours prior to the class. Once posted, revisions are prohibited.
  - iv. **Exhibitors are permitted a course walk with the judge(s)/seward(s) immediately prior to the start of the class.**
  - v. For order of go requirements, see WS103.4.
  - vi. The course must include a minimum of six obstacles with a maximum of eight obstacles.
  - vii. For required dimensions of Trail obstacles, see WS126. (Exception: WS126.10 Unacceptable Obstacles)
- c. Trail Course Obstacles. Obstacles may include, but are not limited to: negotiating a gate, carrying an object from one part of the arena to another, crossing through water, over logs or simulated brush, negotiating a ditch without lunging or jumping, crossing a bridge, backing through obstacles, side-passing, mounting and dismounting from either side of the horse, and performing any reasonable conditions along the trail.
  - i. **If a jump obstacle is on the course, exhibitors are permitted to canter or lope while negotiating the jump.**
  - ii. If a coat or jacket is to be put on by the exhibitor as an obstacle, the garment must be open in the front and not require putting on over the head.
  - iii. Unnatural-type obstacles, such as a fire extinguisher, perforated plywood in water boxes, or exotic animals are prohibited.
  - iv. A sounding board (PF\_) may be used as an obstacle.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/9/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The Trail class determines how horses and riders handle obstacles that could be encountered on trail rides. The idea of the trail pattern being available to exhibitors days in advance of the class, allowing time for exhibitors to practice, defeats the purpose of the class. This rule change adds further detail to the timeline for posting the trail pattern and specifies that no obstacle will be available for practice prior to the class.

(PFHA 3-7)

Proponent Details Contact Information

PFHA

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

(2026 Rule book)

## SUBCHAPTER PF-9 SPECIALITY CLASSES

### PF147 Paso Trail

(...)

#### 2. Procedures.

(...)

b. A drawn course will be provided by show management, reviewed for compliance with required procedures and approved by the judge(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. **No course obstacle will be available for practice prior to the class.** The trail pattern must be posted at least two (2) hours prior to the class, **but no earlier than 6pm the day prior to the class.**

(...)

(PF Chapter Re-Write)

## SUBCHAPTER PF-3 UNDER SADDLE SECTION

### PF Paso Trail

(...)

#### 3. Class Specifications.

- a. Gaits. Required gaits in the course may include: Flat Walk, Paso Corto, and/or Paso Largo.
- b. Trail Course Requirements.
  - i. A course will be created by competition management and reviewed and approved by the judge(s). An exhibitor in this class is prohibited from designing or setting up the course.
  - ii. The trail pattern must show the line of travel through each obstacle, the gait required to perform each obstacle, and specify how a horse is to negotiate or travel between obstacles.
  - iii. The trail pattern must be posted at least two hours prior to the class, **but no earlier than six o'clock pm the day prior to the class**. Once posted, revisions are prohibited.
  - iv. For order of go requirements, see WS103.4.
  - v. The course must include a minimum of six obstacles with a maximum of eight obstacles.
  - vi. For required dimensions of Trail obstacles, see WS 126. (Exception: WS 126.10 Unacceptable Obstacles)
- c. Trail Course Obstacles. Obstacles may include, but are not limited to: negotiating a gate, carrying an object from one part of the arena to another, crossing through water, over logs or simulated brush, negotiating a ditch without lunging or jumping, crossing a bridge, backing through obstacles, side-passing, mounting and dismounting from either side of the horse, and performing any reasonable conditions along the trail.
  - i. If a coat or jacket is to be put on by the exhibitor as an obstacle, the garment must be open in the front and not require putting on over the head.
  - ii. Unnatural-type obstacles, such as a fire extinguisher, perforated plywood in water boxes, or exotic animals are prohibited.
  - iii. A sounding board (PF\_) may be used as an obstacle.
  - iv. **No obstacle will be provided for practice/schooling prior to the class.**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/9/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This rule change requires the Paso Trail Section to be offered at all Paso Fino competitions, offering both Open and Amateur Paso Trail classes. In the past, there have been several competitions that did not offer Paso Trail classes in their schedule, so exhibitors had to contact competition managers to request that Paso Trail classes be added to the competition schedule; at least one of the competitions refused to add the class to the schedule.

(PFHA 3-8)

Proponent Details Contact Information

PFHA

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

(2026 Rule book)

SUBCHAPTER PF-9 SPECIALITY CLASSES

PF147 Paso Trail

(...)

4. Class separations. ~~Shall be offered as Open (includes all ages and all sexes) and Amateurs. Classes may be run concurrently but judged separately.~~ **Trail classes must be offered at all competitions and must be separated as both Open and Amateur.**

(PF Chapter Re-Write)

#### SUBCHAPTER PF-3 UNDER SADDLE SECTION

##### PF Under Saddle Classes Within Each Section

(...)

3. Paso Versatility, **and** Paso Western Pleasure, ~~and Paso Trail~~ classes may be offered as:

- a. Open, AND/OR
- b. Amateur Open.
- c. ~~Paso Trail classes may be run concurrently, but judged separately.~~

**4. Paso Trail classes must be offered at all competitions and offered as both Open and Amateur.**

45. Paso Costume may be offered as Open.

56. **Schooling Classes.** Classes are to be conducted in the same manner as the relevant section classes. Appointments and attire must conform to those listed in the relevant section, with the exception that schooling headstalls are permitted (PF\_\_).

(...)

67. For all under saddle classes, exhibitors should space themselves in a manner to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail, except to pass.

#### SUBCHAPTER PF-7 COMPETITION OPERATIONS

##### PF General Competition Operations

(...)

**9. Paso Trail Classes.** All competitions must offer the Paso Trail Section with both Open and Amateur classes offered.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	8/9/2025	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Each time competitors enter prior to competing the horse must be trotted on the circle to assess soundness. Horses may be uneven or unlevel when trotted on the circle, but may not display the same to both directions. The Judge at A always has the ability to eliminate based on this trot circle and the EVUSA Technical Committee believe it should be performed in the same direction the competitors will compete at. So if 3 vaulters enter, Vaulter 3 may not compete to the right with the other 2 going to the left. Vaulter 3 would have to enter on their own and displace a trot circle to the right prior to beginning the test.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

Kendel Edmunds

Kendel Edmunds

KE5554@YAHOO.COM

Linked Rules      Comments

## VA 110 Format

1. Competitors shall salute the Chief Judge upon entering and before exiting the arena.
2. ***While any test may be performed to either direction, Vaulters must all perform in the same direction when they enter in a group. The trot circle must be performed in the direction Vaulters are to compete.***
3. In all events, sections of the event(s) must be scheduled with a break between sections.
4. Order of go for all Events must be determined by draw for each section and round. Management may draw for all entrants.
  - a. Time of draw must be at least 1 hour before the start of the competition.
  - b. Time and place of draw to be announced in the prize list.
  - c. If more than one competitor is sharing a horse, the coach must specify the order of Vaulters.
5. Each 3\*A, 2\*B, and 1\*C Squad vaulter must wear a number from 1 through 7. Vaulters must vault in that order for the compulsories section. Numbers must be easily visible to the Judges.
6. Individual vaulters must wear a number, which has been assigned to them. Number may be worn on the right outside arm or outside leg and must be easily visible to the Judges. (Suggested dimensions and contrasts: Number band 2" - 2.5" (5-6.5cm) and numbers 1.5" - 2" high (4-5 cm); dark numbers on light band or light numbers on dark band.)
7. Music is recommended during all performances. Music with words and lyrics is allowed.
  - a. Music must be provided by the competitor in accordance with the specifications in the prize list.
  - b. Management must state in the prize list which system(s) will be available.
8. The dress of the vaulters must be suitable for equestrian sport. (See current FEI Rules for Vaulting)
9. Soft soled shoes are required.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/10/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The rules in the sections suggested for removal are mirrored in the FEI or EVUSA Rulebooks. Referring to these rulebooks will result in less discrepancies as changes happen in the other rulebooks.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Vaulting

Steven Morrissey

smorrissey@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

**Compulsories will follow the FEI Vaulting Rules for the equivalent level unless otherwise specified within these rules.**

- ~~1. Compulsory Test for 3<sup>A</sup> Squad is performed to the left or to the right~~
  - ~~a. Each vaulter, including the 3<sup>A</sup> Squad substitute, if there is one, must perform all compulsory exercises as follows:~~
    - ~~i. Vault on~~
    - ~~ii. Flag~~
    - ~~iii. Mill~~
    - ~~iv. Scissors Forward~~
    - ~~v. Scissors Backward~~
    - ~~vi. Stand~~
    - ~~vii. Flank 1<sup>st</sup> part (back to seat astride)~~
    - ~~viii. Swing off from the seat astride to the outside~~
- ~~2. Compulsory Test for 2<sup>B</sup> Squad is performed to the left or to the right~~
  - ~~a. Each vaulter, including the 2<sup>B</sup> Squad substitute, if there is one, must perform all compulsory exercises as follows:~~
    - ~~i. Vault On~~
    - ~~ii. Basic Seat~~
    - ~~iii. Flag~~
    - ~~iv. Mill~~
    - ~~v. Scissors Forward~~
    - ~~vi. Scissors Backward~~
    - ~~vii. Stand~~
    - ~~viii. Flank 1st Part, push off to the inside.~~
- ~~3. Compulsory Test for 1<sup>C</sup> Squads may be performed to the left or to the right~~
  - ~~a. Each vaulter, including the substitute, must perform all compulsory exercises as follows:~~
    - ~~i. Vault On~~
    - ~~ii. Basic Seat~~
    - ~~iii. Flag~~
    - ~~iv. Stand~~
    - ~~v. Swing Forward~~
    - ~~vi. Half Mill~~
    - ~~vii. Swing Backward, followed by dismount to inside.~~
- ~~4. Time allowed: For a 3<sup>A</sup> or 2<sup>B</sup> Squad that does not include a substitute, the maximum time for the performance of the Compulsory Test is six (6) minutes. If a substitute enters the arena with the 3<sup>A</sup> or 2<sup>B</sup> squad, they must perform the Compulsory Test and the maximum time allowed for the performance is seven (7) minutes. If a 1<sup>C</sup> Squad does not include a substitute, the maximum time for the performance of the Compulsory Test is five (5) minutes. If a substitute enters the arena with a 1<sup>C</sup> squad, they must perform the Compulsory Test and the maximum time allowed for the performance is six (6) minutes. Compulsory exercises begun after the time limit will receive a score of zero (0). The Judge at A will ring a bell signifying the end of time allowed.~~
- ~~5. Time for the Compulsories is taken from the moment the first vaulter touches the grips, until the last vaulter to perform touches the ground in the dismount, or the end of the time limit~~
- ~~6. Each vaulter must vault in order, according to their back number.~~
- ~~7. Each static compulsory exercise must be held for 4 full canter strides.~~
- ~~8. Time wasted will incur point deductions.~~

9. ~~All compulsory exercises for all Squad members must be scored in one section before that Squad's Freestyle may begin.~~
10. ~~Judged on:~~
  - a. ~~Performance—Mechanics, essence, form, scope, security, balance, continuity and harmony with the horse.~~
  - b. ~~Horse (See VA110.10)~~
11. ~~For 3\*A, 2\*B, and 1\*C Squads the Compulsory scores for the six (6) vaulters scores who perform in the Freestyle will be averaged to produce the squad's compulsory score. The scores for the seventh member of the squad who does not vault in the Freestyle will be dropped. Before the beginning of the Freestyle performance each squad must specify to management which six (6) vaulters will perform in the Freestyle.~~
12. ~~See section on Scoring for penalties and deductions.~~
13. ~~Compulsory exercises are described in the current FEI Guidelines for Judges.~~

#### VA 117 Freestyle

**Freestyles will follow the FEI Vaulting Rules for the equivalent level unless otherwise specified within these rules.**

1. ~~For 3\*A and 2\*B Squad a Freestyle routine of three and a half (3.5) minutes maximum is performed by the squad of six (6) vaulters who have been specified by the squad. For 1\*C Squad a Freestyle routine of three (3) minutes maximum is performed by the squad of six (6) vaulters who have been specified by the squad. Only six (6) vaulters are allowed to enter the arena for Squad Freestyle. Freestyle time begins when the first vaulter touches the surcingle, the pad, or the horse, and ends when the bell rings to indicate the end of time allowed, or when the last vaulter touches the ground.~~
2. ~~Over weighting and/or overloading the horse will be penalized under Artistic.~~
3. ~~Six (6) members of the squad must perform in the Freestyle or the squad will be penalized under General Impression and Artistic.~~
4. ~~For 3\*A and 2\*B Squad no more than three (3) vaulters may be on the horse at any time, or in any exercise whether actually on the horse or not. For 1\*C Squad no more than two (2) vaulters may be on the horse at any time, or in any exercise whether actually on the horse or not.~~
5. ~~There must be at least two (2) vaulters in contact with the horse during any triple exercise.~~
6. ~~Each static Freestyle exercise must be held for three (3) full canter strides in order to be counted in Degree of Difficulty. A static exercise is one in which contact, support, or holding points do not change. The count for each exercise commences when the final position is attained.~~
7. ~~Squad Freestyle is judged on~~
  - a. ~~Horse Score (25%)~~
  - b. ~~Technique Score (50%)~~
  - c. ~~Artistic Score (25%)~~
8. ~~Technique Score~~
  - a. ~~3\*A Squad~~
    - i. ~~Divided into Performance (70%) and DOD (30%).~~
    - ii. ~~Only the twenty-five (25) exercises with the highest Degree of Difficulty (DOD) will be counted. DOD-D exercises count 0.5 points, DOD-M exercises count 0.4 points, DOD-E Exercises count 0.1 points.~~
  - b. ~~2\*B Squad~~
    - i. ~~Divided into Performance (70%) and DOD (30%).~~
    - ii. ~~Only the twenty (20) exercises with the highest Degree of Difficulty (DOD) will be counted. DOD-D exercises count 0.5 points, DOD-M exercises count 0.4 points, DOD~~

~~exercises count 0.2 points.~~

~~c. 1<sup>\*</sup>C Squad~~

~~i. Represents only the Performance of the Freestyle exercises.~~

~~d. Performance~~

~~i. Mechanics, essence, form, scope, security, balance, continuity and harmony with the horse.~~

~~ii. The average of deductions for every exercise and transition is deducted from the maximum~~

~~score of 10.0.~~

~~iii. Deductions for falls are deducted from the Performance Score at the end (not averaged).~~

~~e. Degree of Difficulty (DOD).~~

~~i. For 3<sup>\*</sup>A and 2<sup>\*</sup>B Squad DOD is judged on height off horse, complication of movements, demands of suppleness, stretch and timing, number and security of holding points, changes in direction (forward, backward, across), changes in relation to the horse (on neck, on croup, inside, outside). 1<sup>\*</sup>C Squad has no DOD score.~~

~~ii. See FEI Code of Points for more information.~~

~~9. Artistic~~

~~a. Use of space, pace, variety, development, artistic, merit, and consideration for the horse.~~

~~b. 1<sup>\*</sup>C Squads may not have any triples. See section on Scoring (VA126.3.a2) for penalties and deductions.~~

~~10. Falls~~

~~a. Vaulters may continue after a fall. The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.~~

~~b. The clock may be stopped. It will be started when the first vaulter touches the grips.~~

~~11. See section on Scoring for penalties and deductions.~~

## SUBCHAPTER VA-3 INDIVIDUAL EVENT

VA 118 3\* Individual, 2\* Young Vaulters/Gold, 2\* Silver, 1\* Bronze, and Event Requirements

3\* Individual and 2\* Young Vaulters/Gold Events take place in one round, consisting of Compulsories, Technical Test, and Freestyle performed in separate sections. The 2\* Silver Event is one round consisting of Compulsories, Freestyle I and Freestyle II performed in separate sections. The 1\* Bronze Individual Events take place in one round, each round consisting of Compulsories and Freestyle and Compulsories to the Right performed in separate sections.

1. Competition must be offered at 3\* Individual, 2\* Young Vaulters/Gold, 2\* Silver and 1\* Bronze levels.
  - a. Women's and Men's divisions must be offered at each level.
  - b. Vaulters who hold EVUSA Gold Medals may not compete in the 2\* Silver or 1\* Bronze Division. Vaulters who hold EVUSA 2\* Silver Medals may not compete in the 1\* Bronze Division.
2. In 3\* Individual and 2\* Young Vaulters/Gold Events, the competition is at the canter to the left or to the right for Compulsory, Technical Test, and Freestyle sections.
3. In 2\* Silver Events, the competition is at the canter to the left or right for the Compulsory and Freestyle sections.
4. In 1\* Bronze Events, the competition is at the canter to the left for the Compulsory and Freestyle section and to the right for the second Compulsories section.
5. In the event there are more than 30 competitors in the 1\* Bronze and/or 2\* Silver Event, Competition Management, at its discretion, may limit the number of competitors who compete in the Compulsories to the Right section or Freestyle II. In this instance, the top 15 highest scoring

women and the top 15 highest scoring men in 1\*Bronze event and the top 15 highest scoring women and the top 15 highest scoring men in the 2\*Silver event will advance to compete in the Compulsories to the right section or Freestyle II.

#### VA119 Compulsories

**Compulsories will follow the FEI Vaulting Rules for the equivalent level unless otherwise specified within these rules.**

- ~~1. For 3\* Individual Event, all exercises are performed without interruption. Vaulters must perform all Compulsory exercises as follows:
  - a. Vault On
  - b. Flag
  - c. Mill
  - d. Scissors Forward
  - e. Scissors Backward
  - f. Stand
  - g. Flank 1<sup>st</sup> part (back to seat astride)
  - h. Swing off from seat astride to the outside~~
- ~~2. For Individual 2\* Young Vaulters/Gold, and 2\* Silver, all exercises are performed without interruption. Vaulters must perform all Compulsory exercises as follows:
  - a. Vault On
  - b. Basic Seat
  - c. Flag
  - d. Mill
  - e. Scissors Forward
  - f. Scissors Backward
  - g. Stand
  - h. Flank 1st Part, push off to the inside.~~
3. For Individual 1\* Bronze Event, all exercises are performed without interruption. Vaulters must perform all Compulsory exercises as follows:
  - a. Vault on
  - b. Basic Seat
  - c. Flag
  - d. Stand
  - e. Swing Forward
  - f. Half Mill
  - g. Swing Backward, followed by dismount to inside
- ~~4. All vaulters performing on the same horse must follow one another immediately without waiting for the bell.~~
- ~~5. Falls—The vaulter may continue after a fall. They must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue with the next exercise. The unsuccessful exercise receives a zero (0) and may not be repeated.~~
- ~~6. No time limit~~
- ~~7. Judged on:
  - a. Performance—Mechanics, essence, form, scope, security, balance, continuity and harmony with the horse.
  - b. Horse/GI—(See VA110.10)~~
- ~~8. See section on Scoring for penalties and deductions.~~
- ~~9. Compulsory exercises are described in the current FEI Vaulting Guidelines for Judges.~~

## VA120 Freestyle

**Freestyles will follow the FEI Vaulting Rules for the equivalent level unless otherwise specified within these rules.**

- ~~1. Freestyle is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises.~~
  - ~~a. Static exercises must be held for three (3) full canter strides in order to be counted in Degree of Difficulty.~~
  - ~~b. Vaulters must stay in contact with the horse, ground jumps and leaps above the horse are allowed.~~
  - ~~c. At 3\* Individual, 2\* Young Vaulters/Gold and 2\* Silver, only the ten most difficult exercises with a Degree of Difficulty R, D, or M will be counted in the degree of difficulty score. The maximum score for DOD is 10.~~
  - ~~d. At 1\* Bronze level, all exercises with a Degree of Difficulty D, M or E will be counted in the Degree of Difficulty. The maximum score for DOD is 9.0.~~
  - ~~e. Repetitions of exercises and compulsory exercises will not be counted.~~
- ~~2. Judged on:~~
  - ~~a. Horse (25%)— see VA110.10~~
  - ~~b. Technique (50%)~~
  - ~~c. Artistic (25%)~~
- ~~3. Technique Score is divided into Performance (70%) and DOD (30%)~~
  - ~~a. Performance~~
    - ~~i) Mechanics, essence, form, scope, security, balance, continuity and harmony with the horse.~~
    - ~~ii) The average of deductions for every exercise and transition is deducted from the maximum score (1) 10.0.~~
    - ~~iii) Deductions for falls are deducted from the Performance Score at the end (not averaged).~~
  - ~~b. Degree of Difficulty (DOD)~~
    - ~~i. DOD is judged on height off horse, complication of the movements, demands of suppleness, stretch and timing, number, and security of holding points, changes in direction (forward, backward, across), changes in relation to the horse (on neck, on croup, inside, outside).~~
    - ~~ii. See FEI Code of Points for additional information.~~
- ~~4. Artistic~~
  - ~~a. Use of space, pace, variety, development, artistic merit, and consideration for the horse.~~
- ~~5. Falls:~~
  - ~~a. Vaulters may continue after a fall. They must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue. The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.~~
  - ~~b. The clock may be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute for each fall. It will be restarted when the vaulter touches the grips.~~
- ~~6. See section on Scoring for final score, penalties and deductions.~~
- ~~7. See the current FEI Code of Points for additional information on DOD evaluation.~~

## VA121 Technical Test

**Technical Tests will follow the FEI Vaulting Rules for the equivalent level unless otherwise specified within these rules.**

1. ~~The Technical Test (3\* Individual) is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine consisting of five (5) Technical exercises and additional Freestyle exercises chosen by the vaulter.~~
2. ~~The Technical Test (2\* Young Vaulter/Gold) is a one (1) minute routine consisting of any three (3) of the five (5) Technical exercises and additional Freestyle exercises chosen by the vaulter. The Technical exercises may be shown in any order. Only the first three Technical exercises shown will be scored. Any other Technical exercises shown after the first three will be scored as additional freestyle exercises.~~
  - a. ~~The Technical exercises are from the following categories of motor skills:
 
    - i) ~~Balance (coordination)~~
    - ii) ~~Timing/Rhythm (coordination)~~
    - iii) ~~Strength (condition)~~
    - iv) ~~Jump Force (condition) May be shown as a mount or a ground jump.~~
    - v) ~~Suppleness~~~~
  - b. ~~The exercises included in each category are described in the current FEI Guidelines for Judges.~~
  - c. ~~One exercise from each category is designated by the FEI Vaulting Committee in the year before the World Championship, to be used during the two-year period following that World Championship. These five Technical Exercises will be announced on the FEI Website.~~
3. ~~3\* Individual Technical Test Judged on:
 
  - a. ~~The maximum score is 10.0. Decimals are allowed.~~
  - b. ~~The 3\* Technical Test receives 8 scores:
 
    - Five (5) Technical exercises, a Performance score an Artistic Score, and a Horse Score.
    - i) ~~Exercise (x50%)
 
      - (1) ~~The Exercises scores is made up of the five (5) separate performance scores for the designated Technical exercises (5 scores) and a sixth score for the performance of additional exercises. These six (6) scores are added together and divided by six (6) for the Exercises Score.~~~~
    - ii) ~~Artistic (x25%)~~
    - iii) ~~Horse score (x25%)~~~~
  - c. ~~The scores are added together.~~
  - d. ~~For deductions and scoring of the Technical Test, see the current FEI Rules for Vaulting Events and the current FEI Guidelines for Judges.~~~~
4. ~~2\* Young Vaulter/Gold Technical Test is Judged on:
 
  - a. ~~The maximum score is 10.0. Decimals are allowed.~~
  - b. ~~The 2\* Young Vaulter Technical Test receives six (6) scores:
 
    - Three (3) separate performance scores for the designated Technical exercises (3 scores), a fourth score for the performance of additional exercises, an Artistic Score and a Horse Score.
    - i) ~~Exercises (x50%)
 
      - (1) ~~The Exercises score is made up of the three (3) separate performance scores for the designated Technical exercises (3 scores) and a fourth score for the performance of additional exercises. These four (4) scores are added together and divided by four (4) for the Exercises Score.~~~~
    - ii) ~~Artistic (x25%)~~
    - iii) ~~Horse score (x25%)~~~~
  - c. ~~The scores are added together.~~~~

#### SUBCHAPTER VA-4 PAS DE DEUX EVENT

## VA122 Pas de Deux Event Requirements

Pas de Deux is composed of two vaulters. 3\* and 2\* Pas de Deux Consists of one (1) or two (2) rounds of Freestyle performed at canter to the left or to the right. 1\* Pas de Deux consists of one (1) round of compulsories and one (1) round of Freestyle.

## VA123 Compulsories

**Compulsories will follow the FEI Vaulting Rules for the equivalent level unless otherwise specified within these rules.**

### **~~1. Compulsory Test for 1\* Pas de Deux may be performed to the left or to the right.~~**

**~~Exercises to be shown:~~**

- ~~1. Vault on~~
- ~~2. Basic Seat~~
- ~~2. Flag~~
- ~~3. Stand~~
- ~~4. Swing Forwards~~
- ~~5. Half Mill~~
- ~~6. Swing Backwards followed by dismount to inside~~

## VA124 Freestyle

**Freestyles will follow the FEI Vaulting Rules for the equivalent level unless otherwise specified within these rules.**

- ~~1. 3\* Open Pas de Deux consists of two (2) minute freestyle routine with no requirements or restrictions.~~
- ~~2. 2\* Pas de Deux Freestyle and 1\* Pas de Deux Freestyle are 90 second routine with no requirements or restrictions.~~
- ~~3. Both vaulters must stay in contact with the horse, surcingle or each other, except for leaps above the horse. Ground jumps are recommended.~~
- ~~4. Static exercises must be held for three (3) canter strides.~~
- ~~5. Degrees of Difficulty (DOD)
  - ~~a. 3\* Open Pas de Deux, only the thirteen (13) exercises with the highest Degree of Difficulty (DOD) will be scored. Value is as follows:  
D \_\_\_\_\_ exercises count 0.8 points  
M \_\_\_\_\_ exercises count 0.4 points  
E \_\_\_\_\_ exercises count 0.0 points~~
  - ~~b. 1\* Pas de Deux has no DOD.~~~~
- ~~6. In 2\* Pas de Deux, only the ten (10) exercises with the highest Degree of Difficulty (DOD) will be scored. Value is as follows:  
D \_\_\_\_\_ exercises count 1.0 points  
M \_\_\_\_\_ exercises count 0.5 points  
E \_\_\_\_\_ exercises count 0.0 points~~
- ~~7. Judged on:
  - ~~a. Horse (25%) – see VA 110.10~~
  - ~~b. Technique (50%)~~
  - ~~c. Artistic (25%)~~~~
- ~~8. Technique Score is divided into Performance (70%) and DOD (30%)
  - ~~a. Degree of Difficulty (DOD)~~~~

~~i. DOD is judged on height off horse, complication of the movements, demands of suppleness, stretch and timing, number and security of holding points, changes in direction (forward, backward, across), changes in relation to the horse (on neck, on croup, inside, outside).~~

~~ii. See FEI Code of Points for additional information.~~

~~b. Performance~~

~~i. Mechanics, essence, form, scope, security, balance, continuity and harmony with the horse.~~

~~ii. The average of deductions for every exercise and transition is deducted from the maximum~~

~~score of 10.0.~~

~~iii. Deductions for falls are deducted from the Performance Score at the end (not averaged).~~

~~9. Artistic~~

~~a. Use of space, pace, variety, development, artistic merit, and consideration for the horse.~~

~~10. See section on Scoring for final score, penalties and deductions. Penalties are as for Individual Event~~

~~11. Falls:~~

~~a. Vaulters may continue after a fall. They must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue. The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.~~

~~b. The clock will be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute for each fall. It will be restarted when the first vaulter touches the grips.~~

SUBCHAPTER VA-5 SCORING

VA125 Judging Code. ~~(Listed in alphabetical order by term).~~

Judging Codes will follow the FEI Vaulting Rules for the equivalent level unless otherwise specified within these rules.

<b>AL</b>	<b>Alignment</b>
<b>A/L</b>	<b>Arm &amp; Leg</b>
<b>AB</b>	<b>Arched Back</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Arms</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Collapse</b>
<b>CD</b>	<b>Come Down</b>
<b>DL</b>	<b>Down-Leg</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Elevation</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>Extension</b>
<b>O</b>	<b>Fall</b>
<b>OD</b>	<b>Fall After Dismount</b>
<b>FT</b>	<b>Feet</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>Form</b>
<b>FK</b>	<b>Frog Kick</b>
<b>FH</b>	<b>Front High</b>

<b>FL</b>	<b>Flight</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>Ground Jump</b>
<b>HZ</b>	<b>Hands</b>
<b>HM</b>	<b>Harmony</b>
<b>H</b>	<b>Head</b>
<b>HH</b>	<b>Hit Horse</b>
<b>INT</b>	<b>Interruption</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>Kneel</b>
<b>KZ</b>	<b>Knees</b>
<b>L</b>	<b>Legs</b>
<b>LA</b>	<b>Legs Apart</b>
<b>LD</b>	<b>Late Dismount</b>
<b>LF</b>	<b>Legs Forward</b>
<b>LH</b>	<b>Land Heavily</b>
<b>MX</b>	<b>Mechanics</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>Mount</b>
<b>NC</b>	<b>Not Clear of Horse</b>
<b>NH</b>	<b>Not Held</b>
<b>NT</b>	<b>No Turn</b>
<b>OC</b>	<b>Off Center</b>
<b>OH</b>	<b>Off Horse</b>
<b>PD</b>	<b>Pad</b>
<b>PK</b>	<b>Pike</b>
<b>PL</b>	<b>Poor Landing</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>Posture</b>
<b>PB</b>	<b>Push Back</b>
<b>PT</b>	<b>Partial Turn</b>
<b>Q</b>	<b>Quick</b>
<b>R</b>	<b>Repeat</b>
<b>SC</b>	<b>Scope</b>
<b>SK</b>	<b>Security</b>
<b>SH</b>	<b>Shoulders</b>
<b>SL</b>	<b>Slow</b>
<b>SS</b>	<b>Side Seat</b>
<b>ST</b>	<b>Stiff</b>
<b>SX</b>	<b>Stretch</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>Timing</b>
<b>TG</b>	<b>Touched Ground</b>
<b>TI</b>	<b>Turned In</b>
<b>TW</b>	<b>Time Wasted</b>
<b>TZ</b>	<b>Toes</b>

**TH**      *Touched Horse*  
**TR**      *Transition*  
**UE**      *Uneven Elevation*  
**UR**      *Uneven Rhythm*  
**UW**      *Uneven Width*  
**WD**      *Width*  
**W**        *Wrap*

**Comments for Horse**

<b>BH</b>	<b>Behavior</b>
<b>CS</b>	<b>Circle Size</b>
<b>GT</b>	<b>Gait</b>
<b>LW</b>	<b>Lunger Walking</b>
<b>SB</b>	<b>Submission</b>
<b>TM</b>	<b>Tempo</b>

**FALL CODES (All of these codes will be circled on the scoresheet and list the deduction after the code):**

**F**  
**GJ**  
**IG**

**VA 126 Points and Values**

**Points and Values will follow the FEI Vaulting Rules for the equivalent level unless otherwise specified within these rules..**

<b>10</b> — <b>Excellent</b>	<b>5</b> — <b>Marginal</b>
<b>9</b> — <b>Very Good</b>	<b>4</b> — <b>Insufficient</b>
<b>8</b> — <b>Good</b>	<b>3</b> — <b>Fairly Poor</b>
<b>7</b> — <b>Fairly Good</b>	<b>2</b> — <b>Poor</b>
<b>6</b> — <b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>1</b> — <b>Very Poor</b>
<b>0</b> — <b>Not performed or as a result of deductions.</b>	

- 1. Scoring may be in tenths for all events. The maximum score is 10.0.**
- 2. Results are calculated to the 3rd decimal.**
- 3. Tie breakers:**
  - a. Squad and Individual Event.**
    - i) Compulsory: Score for Basic Seat, then Flag, etc. The Mount and Horse Score are not used. In 3<sup>rd</sup> A Squad 3<sup>rd</sup> Individual Events, the Basic Seat is not shown, therefore, the tie**

- ~~breaker begins with Flag.~~
- ~~ii) Freestyle: Score for Artistic, then Technique.~~
- ~~iii) Technical Test: Score for Artistic, then Technique.~~
- ~~iv) Overall: Compulsory Score~~
- ~~b. Pas de Deux Event.~~
  - ~~i) Freestyle: Score for Artistic, then Technique.~~
  - ~~ii) Overall: Score for Artistic, then Technique.~~

## VA127 Penalties and Deductions

**Penalties and Deductions will follow the FEI Vaulting Rules for the equivalent level unless otherwise specified within these rules.**

- ~~1. Compulsories— Pas de Deux, Squad and Individual Events:~~
  - ~~a. Up to one (1) point deducted for:~~
    - ~~i. Each landing other than on both feet only.~~
    - ~~ii. Arm and leg are not raised simultaneously in Flag.~~
  - ~~b. One (1) point deducted for:~~
    - ~~i. Each stride less than 4 (Basic Seat, Flag, Stand).~~
    - ~~ii. Each passing of the leg out of a 4-count rhythm in the Mill and the Half Mill.~~
    - ~~iii. Interfering with lunge line or side reins.~~
    - ~~iv. Touching neck in Flag without loss of form.~~
    - ~~v. No kneel (both knees) before Flag or Stand.~~
    - ~~vi. Legs not closed throughout flight in dismount Swing off from the seat astride to the outside~~
  - ~~c. Up to two (2) points deducted for:~~
    - ~~i. Time wasted: between taking grips and vaulting on, before commencing an exercise, and between parts of an exercise.~~
    - ~~ii. Landing heavily on horse's back.~~
    - ~~iii. Buttocks leaving horse during Mill or Half Mill.~~
  - ~~d. Two (2) points deducted for:~~
    - ~~i. Exercise fails, but vaulter stays on and repeats successfully.~~
    - ~~ii. Retaking grips in Basic Seat, Flag or Stand.~~
    - ~~iii. Touching horse with hand behind surcingle in Mill or Half Mill.~~
    - ~~iv. In Senior Events, when Basic Seat is shown, Flag receives the deduction.~~
    - ~~v. In Squad Events, a compulsory exercise shown out of order in which the vaulter stays on and repeats the correct exercise before dismounting.~~
    - ~~vi. Repeating mount (first attempt unsuccessful; second attempt successful).~~
  - ~~e. Score of zero (0) for:~~
    - ~~i. Coming off horse during a compulsory exercise.~~
    - ~~ii. Retaking grips twice.~~
    - ~~iii. Repeating a compulsory exercise twice.~~
    - ~~iv. After Swing Backward, performing dismount in wrong direction (to outside). Swing Backward receives the zero.~~
    - ~~v. Turning the wrong way in the Scissors Forward and/or Scissors Backward (not turning toward the lunge).~~
    - ~~vi. A compulsory, no part of which is performed at the required gait.~~
    - ~~vii. Each compulsory exercise not performed.~~

- viii. ~~In Individual Events, a compulsory exercise shown out of order. When two compulsories are transposed, the first exercise shown out of order receives the zero (0).~~
  - ix. ~~Repeating mount (attempting to mount twice but not successful); third attempt is successful, but receives a zero.~~
  - x. ~~In Individual Events, after third unsuccessful attempt to mount, the vaulter is excused from the ring.~~
  - xi. ~~In Squad Events after the third unsuccessful attempt to mount, the vaulter shall return to the line. They shall receive no scores.~~
  - xii. ~~In Squad Events, exercises begun after the time limit.~~
- 2. ~~Freestyle and Technical Test, Performance score—Squad, Pas de Deux and Individual Events:~~**
- a. ~~Falls: See FEI Guidelines, Section 3.5 Falls in Free Test and Technical Test~~
  - b. ~~One (1) point deducted for:~~
    - i. ~~In 3\* Individual and 2\* Young Vaulters/Gold Technical Tests, each stride held less than three (3) in the required static exercises.~~
- 3. ~~Freestyle and Technical Test, Artistic score—Squad, Pas de Deux and Individual Events:~~**
- a. ~~One (1) point deducted for:~~
    - i. ~~In all Events, any exercise (including the dismount) commenced after the time limit (See VA111.1).~~
    - ii. ~~1\*C Squad Events, for performing any triple exercise.~~
  - b. ~~Up to two (2) points deducted for:~~
    - i. ~~In squad competition, over weighting and/or overloading the horse.~~
  - c. ~~Two (2) points deducted for:~~
    - i. ~~Each vaulter not performing at least one exercise in addition to the vault on in Squad Freestyle.~~
- 4. ~~Not scored in Freestyle and Technical Test—Squad, Pas de Deux and Individual Events:~~**
- a. ~~Each static exercise held for less than three (3) canter strides.~~
  - b. ~~Compulsory exercises.~~
  - c. ~~An exercise no part of which is performed at canter.~~
  - d. ~~Repetition of any exercise.~~
  - e. ~~A triple exercise in which two (2) vaulters are not in contact with the horse.~~
- 5. ~~Technical Test, Technical Exercises, Artistic score, Performance score—3\* Individual Event and 2\* Young Vaulters/Gold.~~**
- a. ~~See current FEI Rules for Vaulting.~~
  - b. ~~See current FEI Guidelines for Judges.~~
- 6. ~~Horse:~~**
- a. ~~Deductions at the discretion of the judge for:~~
    - i. ~~Lack of balance, not straight on the circle, impure gaits, uneven and/or unlevel, poor condition, overloading, signs of discomfort, circle size, lunging and presentation.~~
    - ii. ~~Approaching the horse without the intention of mounting. “Approach”, in this instance, means leaving the lunge and moving out the lunge line towards the horse and/or leaving the outside of the circle and moving toward and with the horse as it canters on the circle.~~
- ~~See FEI Guidelines for Judges for additional information.~~
- 7. ~~Elimination—Squad, Pas de Deux and Individual Events:~~**
- a. ~~In 3\*A, 2\*B, and 1\*C Squad Event, entering ring with more than a lunge, Squad of 6 and 1 substitute for compulsories.~~
  - b. ~~In Squad Event, entering the ring with more than a lunge and 6 vaulters for Freestyle.~~

- c. ~~In 3\*A, 2\*B, and 1\*C Squad Event, if substitute enters the ring but does not perform the compulsories.~~
- d. ~~In Squad Event, entering the ring with less than a lunge and six vaulters for the Compulsory or Freestyle sections.~~
- e. ~~Assistance on to or off the horse from the ground in the Freestyle (boosting/spotting) (See VA112.3)~~
- f. ~~In Individual event, if vaulter enters circle before previous vaulter begins vault off, entering vaulter will be eliminated. Horse that is uneven and/or unlevel, in poor condition, or which shows signs of discomfort or fatigue.~~
- g. ~~Abuse of the horse.~~
- h. ~~An unforeseen circumstance.~~
- i. ~~More than three (3) vaulters on the horse at any one time or in any exercise whether actually on the horse or not~~
- j. ~~After the maximum number of vaulters allowed to use the horse in any day, all additional vaulters will be disqualified.~~
- k. ~~Use of non-allowable equipment~~
- l. ~~Squad or vaulter not saluting within one (1) minute of the Judge's signal to enter.~~
- m. ~~Squad or vaulter not commencing the performance within thirty (30) seconds of the judge's signal to begin.~~
- n. ~~Unauthorized assistance not specified elsewhere.~~
- o. ~~Use of dress other than defined.~~
- p. ~~If a horse or vaulter(s) appear unable to proceed with competition based on fitness, training or any other safety reason the Judge at A may eliminate and must state the reason on the scoresheet.~~
- q. ~~In the event the individual is eliminated, the judge should state their reason on the score sheet.~~

### **8. Squad Event Scoring:**

#### **a. Compulsory Section**

- i. ~~The Scores of the six (6) vaulters for each compulsory exercise are added and divided by 6 (averaged). (In 3\*A Squad, 2\*B Squad, and 1\*C Squad, these are the scores for the six (6) vaulters who perform in the Freestyle. The scores for the seventh vaulter are dropped.)~~
- ii. ~~For 3\*A Squad and 2\*B Squad the eight (8) averaged scores for the compulsory exercises are (x75%) and added to the Horse/ Score(x25%). This is the squad's score for the Compulsory section.~~
- iii. ~~For 1\*C Squad, the seven (7) averaged scores for the Compulsory exercises are added to the Horse/GI Score and divided by eight (8). This is the Squad's score for the Compulsory section.~~

#### **b. Freestyle Section**

#### **3\*A Squad and 2\* B Squad**

- 1. ~~Horse (x25%)~~
- 2. ~~Technique (x50%)~~
- 3. ~~Artistic (x25%)~~
- 4. ~~The three (3) Freestyle scores are added together. This is the squad's score for the Freestyle section.~~

#### **1\* C Squad**

- 1. ~~Horse (x25%)~~

- ~~2. Technique (x50%)~~
- ~~3. Artistic (x25%)~~
- ~~4. The three (3) Freestyle scores are added together. This is the squad's score for the Freestyle section~~

~~c. Final Score~~

~~The squad's Compulsory score and Freestyle score are added and divided by two (2). This is the squad's final score for the Event.~~

~~9. 3\* Individual and 2\* Young Vaulters/Gold Individual Event Scoring:~~

~~a. Compulsory Section (Score 1)~~

- ~~i) The eight (8) Compulsory scores added and divided by eight (8) (averaged).~~
- ~~ii) The eight (8) averaged scores for Compulsory exercises are (x75%) are added to the Horse Score (x25%).~~
- ~~iii) This is the score for the Compulsory Section.~~

~~b. Technical Test Section (Score 2)~~

- ~~i) Exercise (x50%)~~
- ~~ii) Artistic (x25%)~~
- ~~iii) Horse (x25%)~~
- ~~iv) The three (3) scores are added together. This is the final score for the Technical Test section.~~

~~c. Freestyle Section (Score 3)~~

- ~~i) Horse Score (x25%)~~
- ~~ii) Technique (x50%)~~
- ~~iii) Artistic (x25%)~~
- ~~iv) The three (3) scores are added together. This is the score for the Freestyle section.~~

~~d. Final Score~~

- ~~i) Score 1, Score 2 and Score 3 are added together. The total is divided by 3 to produce the final score for the event.~~

~~10. 2\* Silver Event Scoring:~~

~~a. Compulsory Section (Score 1)~~

- ~~i) The eight (8) Compulsory scores added and divided by eight (8) (averaged)~~
- ~~ii) The eight (8) averaged scores for Compulsory exercises are (x75%) are added to the Horse Score (x25%).~~
- ~~iii) This is the score for the Compulsory Section.~~

~~b. Freestyle Section (Score 2)~~

- ~~i) Horse Score (x25%)~~
- ~~ii) Technique (x50%)~~
- ~~iii) Artistic (x25%)~~
- ~~iv) Three (3) scores are added together. This is the score for the Freestyle section.~~

~~c. Compulsory to Right Section (Score 3)~~

- ~~i) The eight (8) Compulsory scores added and divided by eight (8) (averaged).~~
- ~~ii) The eight (8) averaged scores for Compulsory exercises are (x75%) are added to the Horse Score (x25%).~~
- ~~iii) This is the score for the Compulsory Section to the Right.~~

~~d. Final score~~

- ~~i) Score 1, Score 2, and Score 3 are added together. The total is divided by 3 to produce the final score for the event.~~

~~11. 1\* Bronze Event Scoring~~

~~a. Compulsory Section (Score 1)~~

- ~~i. The seven (7) Compulsory scores added and divided by seven (7) (averaged)~~
- ~~ii. The seven (7) averaged scores for Compulsory exercises are (x75%) are added to the Horse Score (x25%)~~
- ~~iii. This is the score for the Compulsory section~~
- b. Freestyle Section (Score 2)**
  - ~~i. Horse Score (x25%)~~
  - ~~ii. Technique (x50%)~~
  - ~~iii. Artistic (x25%)~~
  - ~~iv. The three (3) scores are added together. This is the score for the Freestyle section.~~
- c. Compulsory Section to the Right (Score 3)**
  - ~~i. The seven (7) Compulsory scores added and divided by seven (7) (averaged)~~
  - ~~ii. The seven (7) averaged scores for Compulsory exercises are (x75%) are added to the Horse Score (x25%)~~
  - ~~iii. This is the score for the Compulsory Section to the Right~~
- d. Final Score**
  - ~~i. Score 1, Score 2 and Score 3 are added together. The total is divided by 3 to produce the final score for the event.~~

**12. ~~3\* Open Pas de Deux and 2\* Pas de Deux Event Scoring:~~**

- a. ~~Freestyle I~~**
  - ~~i. Horse Score (x25%)~~
  - ~~ii. Technique (x50%)~~
  - ~~iii. Artistic (x25%)~~
  - ~~iv. The three (3) scores are added together. This is the score for the Freestyle section.~~
- b. ~~Freestyle II (Score 2):~~**
  - ~~i. Horse Score (x25%)~~
  - ~~ii. Technique (x50%)~~
  - ~~iii. Artistic (x25%)~~
  - ~~iv. The three (3) scores are added together. This is the score for the Freestyle Section.~~
- c. ~~Final Score~~**
  - ~~i. The scores for Freestyle I and Freestyle II are added and divided by 2 to produce the final score for the event if two rounds are offered.~~

**13. ~~1\* Pas de Deux Event Scoring:~~**

- a. ~~Compulsory Section (Score 1)~~**
  - ~~i. The seven (7) Compulsory scores added and divided by seven (7) (averaged)~~
  - ~~ii. The seven (7) averaged scores for Compulsory exercises are (x75%) are added to the Horse Score (x25%)~~
  - ~~iii. This is the score for the Compulsory section.~~
- b. ~~Freestyle Section (Score 2)~~**
  - ~~i. Horse Score (x25%)~~
  - ~~ii. Technique (x50%)~~
  - ~~iii. Artistic (x25%)~~
  - ~~iv. The three (3) scores are added together. This is the score for the Freestyle section.~~
- a. ~~Final Score~~**
  - ~~i. Score 1 and Score 2 are added together and then divided by two (2) to produce the final score for the event~~



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This proposal makes it clear that a Fiador made of acceptable materials are permitted in Western Dressage.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

Western Dressage

Lexie Stovel

lstovel@usef.org

Linked Rules      Comments

## SUBCHAPTER WD-5 APPOINTMENTS

### WD121 Tack

1. Bridles:
  - a. Any western type headstall must be used. This can include leather, leather-like, or nylon headstalls, any of which may be brightly colored.
  - b. A cavesson (braided or plain), or pencil bosal with space for two fingers placed between the cavesson and the jawl of the horse is allowed. The inside of the noseband must be smooth and free of any metal, other than the buckle.
  - c. A Hackamore (Bosal) is permitted on a horse of any age at any level. A hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible non-metallic core, attached to a suitable headstall. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with the bosal, i.e. steel, metal or chains. Bosals may be wrapped with smooth electrical tape to prevent rubbing. ***Use of a Fiador made of smooth, flexible leather, rope, or string is allowed.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This proposal would allow the shortening of the distance between the hands on a romal during reconnection after the lengthening required for an extended gait. Currently, competitors would be technically unable to shorten reins again efficiently due to the hands being required to be 16" apart at all times.

Proponent Details      Contact Information

Western Dressage

Lexie Stovel

lstovel@usef.org

Linked Rules      Comments

## SUBCHAPTER WD-5 APPOINTMENTS

### WD121 Tack

(...)

#### 5. Reins:

(...)

##### c. Hand Position on reins:

1. In the case of Romal reins, the Romal is held in one hand with no fingers between the individual reins. The end of the Romal may be held in the hand not used for reining to keep the Romal from swinging and to adjust the position of the rein. The reins must be held so that there is at least 16" of rein between the hands. ***However, for the purpose of reconnecting after a free or lengthened gait to a collected or working gait, a rider is allowed to bring their hands closer together only to adjust the length of the reins before resuming the maintenance of 16 inches between the hands.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Many competition management groups are holding both Western Dressage and classical Dressage competitions at the same competition grounds. The DR chapter has a rule allowing for a modified arena size to be used in certain instances. The Western Dressage committee wishes to mirror this rule for Western Dressage competitions, which would make it easier for competition management to run similar classes in the same modified arena that classical Dressage classes would be held in.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Western Dressage	Lexie Stovel  lstovel@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER WD-7 COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

### WD129 Requirements for Competition Management

(...)

#### 9. Specifications.

- a. The area should be on as flat and as level ground as possible.
- b. The Standard Arena is 60 meters long and 20 meters wide. The Small Arena is 40 meters long and 20 meters wide. Arena measurements are for the interior of the enclosure. The Small Arena is recommended for Western Dressage classes for the Introductory and Basic Levels.
- c. The Large Arena is required for Level 1 and above.
- d. The enclosure itself must consist of a low fence about 0.3 meters high and must be completely enclosed, except for the entrance at "A". The width of the entrance must be at least two meters.
- e. The fence should be such to prevent the horse's hooves from becoming entangled and arena stakes, if used, must be covered with a ball or similar object so as to prevent injury. Rope, concrete or unbreakable chain fencing is not allowed.
- f. A modified arena is one that is not exactly 20x60 meters or 20x40 meters, as required for the particular level and test. Use of a modified arena is permitted only when the dimensions of the arena to be used are clearly specified in the prize list. When a modified arena is used, it must not be shortened more than five meters in length or more than two meters in width. Arenas must never be shortened between M, F, H, and K, and their respective comers. However, all Freestyle classes must be held in an unmodified Standard size arena.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This proposal places restrictions on competitors within the new Walk/Jog division that was introduced this year in order to keep the division limited to rider and horse combinations that have no interest in loping in competition within the same competition year.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Western Dressage	Lexie Stovel lstovel@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER WD-8 TESTS

### WD130 General

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#### Walk/Jog Tests:

1. **Introductory Level.** Tests provide an introduction to the discipline of Western Dressage; the horse performs only at the gaits of walk and jog. The rider may sit or post the jog. The rider should demonstrate correct basic position, use of basic aids, and understanding of the figures. The horse should show relaxation and harmony between horse and rider is important. The horse accepts the aids and influence of the rider. The jog should be a natural gait within the horse's scope and should demonstrate a swinging back. **To be eligible for Intro Level, a horse/rider combination must not have shown in a Western Dressage Test at Level 1 or above in the same competition year.**
2. **Advanced Walk/Jog.** Tests provide a more advanced understanding of the aids. The rider should demonstrate correct position and use of the aids. The horse should demonstrate improved balance and the beginnings of engagement in the jog and show suppleness of the topline, a harmonious performance, and be softly on the aids. The regularity and quality of the gaits are considered in all movements. ***To be eligible for Advanced Walk/Jog, a horse/rider combination must not have shown in any Western Dressage class requiring a lope within the same competition year.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The proposal creates cross-entry restrictions in the equitation divisions to maintain skill levels consistent with the regular tests.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Western Dressage	Lexie Stovel lstovel@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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SUBCHAPTER WD-12 Western Dressage Seat Equitation

WD145 Western Dressage Seat Horsemanship Specifications

(...)

**6. Riders may only enter intermediate level Horsemanship if they have not shown in Level 2 or higher tests at the same competition.**

**7. Scoring:**

(...)

WD146 Western Dressage Seat Combined Equitation

(...)

3. Western Dressage Seat Combined Equitation has three divisions:

(...)

**e. Riders may only enter intermediate level Combined Equitation if they have not shown in Level 2 or higher tests at the same competition.**

**f. Cross entry between intermediate and advanced level Western Dressage Seat Combined Equitation is prohibited at the same competition.**