Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
AR 138.1	108-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	AHA	Approved (6/16/2026)

AR138.1 Tracking #108-25 Draft #1 Approved

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

AHA

Contact Information

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Linked Rules

Comments

Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/16/2026

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/27/2026

Member 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
Country 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 (AR105.6) lame (AR105.1 - must be serviceably sound) whip marks (AR105.6) abusive treatment (AR105.4) dangerous to other exhibitors (AR105.5) rearing, running backwards, bucking, out of control (AR105.5 - these would be examples of dangerous to others and possibly rider) fall of horse or rider, if due to bad manners of horse (AR109.1-3)
Country 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	
Country Canter	straight and true	crooked varied speed	chargy wrong lead cross cantering high action	
Country Hand Gallop	true change of gait longer stride	minimal change of stride	cross cantering change of lead extreme speed	
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 chargy or no walk no lowered frame no relaxed lowered frame major resistance to the gathering of reins	
			Horses with an unnatural tail carriage (see AR105.2b) 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.