Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
AR 148.2	116-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)

AR148.2 Tracking #116-25 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

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

Arabian

Contact Information

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Linked Rules

Comments

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/27/2026

Member Comments

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.~~

3*1*. 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.

4*2*. When using romal or when ends of split reins are held in hand not used for reining, no finger between reins is permitted.

~~5~~*3*. 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.~~