Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
AR 177.2	110-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	AHA	Approved (6/16/2026)

AR177.2 Tracking #110-25 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

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

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-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 AR106.15).

~~c~~***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 AR106.18)

~~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.

~~e~~***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.

~~f~~***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.)

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

~~h~~***i***. For the Arabian Division, adult amateurs are defined as those no longer eligible to compete as junior exhibitors DR119.3 does not apply.

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

~~j~~***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.

(…)