

| Rule     | Tracking | Draft | Proposal Type | Effective Date | Proponent | Status                  |
|----------|----------|-------|---------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| AR 183.1 | 222-25   | 1     | Extraordinary | 9/1/2026       | AHA       | Approved<br>(6/16/2026) |

| 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

AHA

## Contact Information

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

**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.

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