

## Abuse, Unethical Treatment, Welfare Rules

<a href="#"><u>GR838</u></a>	<b>Unethical Treatment of the Horse</b>	<p>1. Any Participant engaging in the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse is subject to penalty. Except in exigent circumstances, the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse is defined as any action or inaction that may negatively compromise the Covered Horse's health, safety, or well-being. It may include any action(s) or inaction(s) that causes or is likely to cause a horse pain, a state of obvious distress, or unnecessary discomfort. Examples of Unethical Treatment of a Horse may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Misuse or excessive use of a whip, spur, or bit;</li> <li>b. Misuse of any equipment or device, including tack;</li> <li>c. Creation of hyper or hypo-sensitization of any physical part of a Covered Horse to enhance performance;</li> <li>d. Any practice or use of devices or objects used to enhance a Covered Horse's performance based on fear or intimidation;</li> <li>e. Training, riding, or competing a Covered Horse with raw, bleeding, or irritated skin or welts consistent with excessive, persistent, or inappropriate use of equipment, including spurs; and</li> <li>f. Continued riding, driving, or lunging an obviously exhausted, lame, or injured Covered Horse.</li> </ul> <p>2. A Participant is subject to penalty for the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse that occurs at or in connection with a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition. Additionally, any person who directs another as to the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse is subject to penalty.</p>
<a href="#"><u>GR702</u></a>	<b>Violations</b>	1.f Physical assault upon a person and/or unethical treatment to the horse as defined in GR838, cruelty, or abuse to the horse
<a href="#"><u>GR1031</u></a>	<b>General</b>	<p>(10-H Regulating Governing Officials)</p> <p>2. Any official found guilty of cruelty to a horse or to have killed, abandoned, mistreated, neglected, or otherwise abused a horse, by an administrative agency, body, humane society, or court of law, whether such court or tribunal is civil, criminal, or administrative may have their license(s) revoked</p>
<a href="#"><u>GR1033</u></a>	<b>Stewards and Technical Delegates</b>	2. The following are required responsibilities and duties of Stewards and Technical Delegates: a. Safeguard the welfare of the horse against violations of the Federation's Drugs and Medications rules, any of the Federation's prohibited practices, and instances of abuse as defined in GR838.
<a href="#"><u>GR1217</u></a>	<b>Rules</b>	<p>(12-F Duties Concerning Enforcement of Federation Rules)</p> <p>4. Prevent the abuse of a horse anywhere on the grounds and to see that GR844 and GR839 are rigidly enforced.</p>

<a href="#"><u>AL101</u></a>	<b>Eligibility to Compete</b>	<p>3. All horses entered must be serviceably sound, show no signs of lameness and be in good condition. Horses with loss of sight in one eye may compete in performance classes only</p> <p>8. No horse may be shown under saddle until it is at least three years old.</p> <p>9. No horse may be shown in a driving class until it is at least two years old. The use of or the application of, to or into any horse (other than legal levels of allowed medications) any foreign or caustic substance, such as</p>
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<a href="#"><u>AL246</u></a>	<b>Judging Criteria</b>	<p>6. Eliminations:</p> <p>c. Evidence of fresh injuries or blood on the horse's nose, mouth, back or sides.</p> <p>d. Lameness of horse.</p> <p>e. Abuse of horse in the show ring and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred prior to or during the exhibition of a horse in competition.</p>

<p><b><u>AR105</u></b></p>	<p><b>Conduct, Specifications, Soundness and Welfare of the Horse</b></p>	<p>1. All horses, except horses entered in Sub-Chapter 28 Equitation and Sub-Chapter 29 Showmanship classes, must be serviceably sound.</p> <p>a. All horses must be in good condition. All horses must have vision in at least one eye in order to compete in any class except Breeding/Gelding In-Hand classes, where horses must have vision in both eyes.</p> <p>b. The official veterinarian's decision, if requested by the judge as to the serviceable soundness of a horse (i.e., whether the horse shows evidence of lameness, broken wind, or complete loss of sight in either eye), will be final for the purpose of awarding ribbons in the class for which the veterinarian has been called</p> <p>3. Ginger, Capsaicin, and Other Irritants.</p> <p>a. No horse may compete in a class in the Arabian Division with any chemical or other irritant of any kind present on its anus, vulva, rectal area or vaginal area, regardless of the origin of the irritant and whether it was applied or its presence resulted from dietary, environmental or unknown origins, and whether the horse's tail carriage was affected by its presence.</p> <p>b. The trainer (See GR148 Trainer Definition and GR404 Responsibility and Accountability of Trainers), owners, and their agents, of a horse entered to compete in a class in the Arabian Division are insurers of the horse's condition and compliance with this Rule, and accordingly they are responsible and accountable for safeguarding the horse and controlling its diet and environment prior to, during and following the class, and at the time of the sampling provided for below, so as to prevent exposure to a chemical or other irritant of any kind, regardless of its origin, whether exposure was intentional, and whether the horse's tail carriage was affected by its presence. These individuals/entities are subject to disciplinary action should the sampling and testing provided for below be positive for the presence of a chemical or irritant of any kind.</p> <p>c. Any trainer, owner, agent or other person who administers, attempts to administer, instructs, aids, conspires with another to administer, or employs anyone who administers or attempts to administer a chemical or other irritant of any kind onto the anus, vulva, rectal area or vaginal area of a horse entered to compete in a class in the Arabian Division shall be subject to penalties as provided for in f. below.</p> <p>d. The Federation may cause the collection of swab samples and have tested substances present on the anus, vulva, rectal area or vaginal area of horses following their exit from the ring, in connection with a class in the 6. All results will be reported to the Federation Drugs &amp; Medication Administrator only. e. The trainer, owner, and their agents of a horse competing in a class in the Arabian Division must submit to the above sample collections performed by representatives of competition management, and they must do so with no unnecessary delays. They must cooperate with the sample collection personnel as defined above exhibiting polite attitude and actions toward them and must assist them by helping to restrain the horse properly during the sample collections).</p> <p>4. Any action(s) against a horse by an exhibitor, which are deemed excessive by a judge, Federation steward or competition veterinarian, in the competition ring or anywhere on the competition grounds may be punished by official warning, elimination, or other sanctions which may be deemed appropriate by the show committee. Such action(s) could include, but are not limited to excessive use of whip, spurs, or bamboo poles.</p> <p>5. Judges must eliminate from judging consideration any horse which shows aggression or discontent toward its handler, rider or any person in</p>
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		<p>the ring. A judge must order from the ring any rider, driver or handler who exhibits inappropriate or dangerous behavior or whose actions would in any way threaten the safety of any exhibitor, their entries or the safety of class officials.</p> <p>6. Horses showing signs of undue stress or inhumane treatment must be penalized. The exhibition of a horse that has a cut or abrasion showing clear evidence of fresh blood in the mouth, nose, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank or hip area must be considered to be ineligible to receive an award in that respective class. Judges must excuse from the ring any horse that possesses a whip mark (welt) on any portion of the horse. A whip mark or welt is an inflammation of skin and subcutaneous tissue resulting in a swelling and in extreme cases is an abrasion or laceration.</p> <p>a. The cardinal signs of inflammation include heat, pain, (sensitivity to palpation) and swelling.</p> <p>b. The judge(s)' finding of fact with respect to the presence or absence of a whip mark (welt) evident during a class shall be final and no appeal may be taken thereon.</p> <p>c. In a class that is judged by more than one judge, if a judge in that class believes that an entry has a whip mark, that entry must be examined by all judges of that class and each judge must determine if a whip mark exists. If a majority of the judges of that class determine that a whip mark exists, then the entry must be excused from the ring, according to the specifications set forth in this Rule. If a majority of the judges determine there is not a whip mark, then each judge who is of the minority opinion shall have the authority to eliminate said entry from further consideration.</p>
<a href="#"><u>AR115</u></a>	<b>Penalties</b>	<p>1. There can be no contact of the whip to the horse, any contact shall result in elimination from judging consideration by the Judge.</p> <p>"Intimidation": A horse that appears to be intimidated by its handler will be penalized. This may include but is not limited to, crouching, cowering, quivering, withdrawing and buckling their knees. Judge(s) may excuse any entry deemed in violation of any of these restrictions</p> <p>2. A Breeding/In-Hand competitor must be eliminated for: (also see AR105 Soundness and Welfare.) a. Removal of eyelashes; b. Changing the natural color of the mane and/or tail (AR106); or c. Applying a product to a horse's hoof to hide or conceal a conformation defect. Only clear or transparent products may be used on the hooves of horses while being shown in Breeding and/or In-Hand classes.</p> <p>3. An entry must be penalized for: a. Excessive amounts of oil, grease or other similar substance; b. Balding the area around the eyes or proximal to the muzzle and nostrils; or © USEF 2025 AR - 25 c. Excessive use of the whip or actions that may disturb other entries.</p>
<a href="#"><u>AR228</u></a>	<b>Trail Scoring</b>	<p>No Score 1. Prohibited equipment. (AR148). This includes any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail. 2. Abuse to the animal inside or outside the competition arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred. This includes lameness and/or fresh blood in the mouth, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank, or hip areas. 3. Disrespect or misconduct by exhibitor. 4. Use of whips in In-Hand Trail.</p>
<a href="#"><u>AR247</u></a>	<b>Ranch Horse Scoring</b>	<p>d. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): 1. Lameness 2. Abuse 3. Prohibited equipment 4. Disrespect or misconduct 5. Leaving working area before pattern is complete 6. Fall of horse/exhibitor</p>

<a href="#"><u>AR258</u></a>	<b>Versatility Ranch Horse Division Scoring</b>	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.
<a href="#"><u>AR262</u></a>	<b>VRH Ranch Riding Scoring</b>	d. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): 1. Lameness 2. Abuse 3. Prohibited equipment 4. Disrespect or misconduct 5. Leaving working area before pattern is complete 6. Improper western attire
<a href="#"><u>AR266</u></a>	<b>VRH Ranch Trail Scoring</b>	5. 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.
<a href="#"><u>AR271</u></a>	<b>VRH Ranch Reining Scoring</b>	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.
<a href="#"><u>AR274</u></a>	<b>VRH Ranch Cow Work Scoring</b>	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.
<a href="#"><u>AR277</u></a>	<b>VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work Amateur/Youth (Box-Drive-Box-Drive) Scoring</b>	5. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): Lameness; abuse; prohibited equipment; disrespect or misconduct; leaving arena before pattern is complete; improper western attire; fall of horse/exhibitor.
<a href="#"><u>AR280</u></a>	<b>VRH Ranch Cutting Scoring</b>	5. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): Lameness; abuse; prohibited equipment; disrespect or misconduct; leaving arena before pattern is complete; improper western attire; fall of horse/exhibitor.
<a href="#"><u>CP104</u></a>	<b>Abuse</b>	<p>1. Abuse of any animal by any person at a recognized competition is forbidden and an offender is subject to disqualification. (see GR838)</p> <p>2. All animals must be serviceably sound, and must not show evidence of lameness, broken wind, physical distress or impairment of vision in both eyes. In the case of an appeal on this ground, the judge will have the animal in question examined by the official veterinarian or designee for a decision by the judge or jury which will be final.</p> <p>3. The Federation neither encourages nor discourages dogs accompanying an entry. Unless allowed by class rules, dogs are not allowed to run alongside, behind or under the vehicle during competition. In no circumstances may a dog be tied or in any way attached to the vehicle . 4. Caged or tethered animals are not allowed as part of or along the path of an obstacle course.</p>
<a href="#"><u>CP202</u></a>	<b>Name of Class</b>	Such classes should be clearly explained in the Omnibus or Prize List. (GR902-GR904) and must include the "house rules" and judging criteria. These conditions should conform to the spirit and intent of the Federation general rules for safety, conduct and cruelty.
<a href="#"><u>DR124</u></a>	<b>Elimination</b>	illegal equipment, non-compliance with protective headgear rules, not wearing a number, cruelty and abuse
<a href="#"><u>DR308</u></a>	<b>Saddlery</b>	1. Athletes must use snaffle or double bridles. Athletes whose riding appears to near the level of abuse to the horse, whether intentionally or not, will be asked to make changes by the Technical Delegate in consultation with Competition Management, or Judge.

<a href="#"><u>DC918</u></a>	<b>Welfare of the Horse (Abuse of Horse and Doping)</b>	<p>1. Cruelty – Definition</p> <p>1.1 Abuse of horse means and action or omission that causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse including, but not limited to: a. Excessive pressing of exhausted horses; b. Excessive use of a whip; c. An unacceptably severe, badly fitting, broken or damaged bit; d. Badly fitting harness which might cause distress to the horse; e. Damage to a carriage which might cause injury to the horse.</p> <p>2. Wounds and Lacerations</p> <p>2.1 Blood on horses may be an indication of abuse of horse and must be investigated case by case by any member of the Ground Jury.</p> <p>2.2 Such horses may be eliminated from the competition. In extreme cases where abuse is evident, further sanctions will be taken against the athlete, such as a Yellow Warning Card.</p> <p>2.3 In minor cases of blood in the mouth, such as where a horse appears to have bitten its tongue or lip, or minor bleeding on limbs, after investigation the athlete may be authorized to continue. See GR 122 for horse falls.</p> <p>3. Reporting Stewards, or any other official, must report any instance of abuse of the horse to any member of the Ground Jury as soon as possible.</p> <p>4. Penalty Acts deemed as abuse of horse will result in the imposition by the Ground Jury of any or a combination of the following penalties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yellow Warning card</li> <li>2. Fine</li> <li>3. Elimination</li> <li>4. Disqualification from the event.</li> </ol>
<a href="#"><u>DC919</u></a>	<b>Stable Security</b>	<p>1. The Organizer is responsible for the control of all stable areas so that the following minimum security requirements are met:</p> <p>1.1 The welfare of the horse is the first priority.</p> <p>1.4 No horse may be stabled overnight inside a truck or trailer. Only the Technical Delegate in consultation with the official veterinarian may grant exceptions in extreme circumstances or wet ground conditions in the stable area.</p>

<a href="#"><u>EN</u></a>	<b>Chapter EN Endurance Riding Division</b>	<p>Horsemanship and horse welfare are the core of Endurance riding [...]A well-designed Endurance course will contain elements that permit a rider to demonstrate their skills against the track, distance, terrain, climate, and clock, without compromising the welfare of the horse [...]but also successful completion at all mandatory veterinary inspections, highlighting a well-trained and conditioned horse, while observing standards of horse welfare.</p> <p>As the primary focus of Endurance riding, horse welfare and safety are the guiding principles to all participants in Endurance competition. All riders, trainers, owners, crew members, support personnel, and officials are tasked with prioritizing horse welfare above all else</p>
<a href="#"><u>EN103</u></a>	<b>Saddlery and Equipment</b>	<p>2. Tack condition: Horse tack must be in safe condition and correctly fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury to the horse. It is the rider's responsibility to ensure that their tack is safe and fits correctly. Officials may require any ill-fitting tack/equipment to be removed or altered. The use of any ill-fitting equipment that risks causing (or causes) pain or injury to the horse may be considered as horse abuse (see also GR838)</p>



<a href="#"><u>EN107</u></a>	<b>Competition Officials</b>	b. Veterinary Panel: [...]taking the safety and welfare of the horses into consideration the Veterinary Panel may include a total of three (3) or more veterinarians.
<a href="#"><u>EN108</u></a>	<b>Categories of Endurance Competitions and Pulse Criteria</b>	4. The pulse criteria may be reduced during the ride if, in the opinion of the Veterinary Panel and Steward, they believe there is a risk to the safety and welfare of the horses.
<a href="#"><u>EN110</u></a>	<b>The Course</b>	2. [...]the Steward must approve Competition Management's alternative finish line which must uphold fair-play, safety and horse welfare. It must be situated as close to the Vet Gate as possible
<a href="#"><u>EN112</u></a>	<b>Modification of the Course and Rescheduling/Delay or Cancellation of Competitions</b>	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.
<a href="#"><u>EN115</u></a>	<b>Veterinary Control</b>	1. The Veterinary Panel and Steward, in consultation with the Competition Management, have absolute control on all matters concerning horse safety and welfare.
<a href="#"><u>EN116</u></a>	<b>Horse Inspections and Examinations</b>	2. Veterinary Assessment after each competition: 1. Details of a horse's completed distance to the nearest Vet Gate, reasons for elimination (metabolic, irregular gait or both), treatments at the venue, and any other comments necessary to protect the horse's future safety and welfare deemed necessary by the Veterinary Panel must be recorded on the Vet Card.

<a href="#"><u>EQ104</u></a>	<b>Horse Welfare (See also GR839)</b>	<p>1. The following acts are prohibited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Riding an exhausted horse.</li> <li>b. Lunging a visibly exhausted horse.</li> <li>c. Excessive pressuring of a tired horse.</li> <li>d. Riding or lunging an obviously lame horse.</li> <li>e. Chasing a horse with a whip or other inappropriate use of the whip.</li> <li>f. Appendages and attachments are prohibited, including but not limited to bags and flags.</li> <li>g. Excessive and/or disruptive cracking of the whip.</li> <li>h. Excessive use of a whip on any horse in a stall, aisle, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds. The use of a whip must be for a good reason, done at the appropriate time, in the proper place and with appropriate restraint. Excessive whipping will not be tolerated.</li> <li>i. Any striking of the horse's head (on the poll or forward of the poll) shall be deemed excessive.</li> <li>j. Repeated jerking on the reins and sawing on the bit unless applied to an unruly horse that is jeopardizing its own safety or the safety of its rider.</li> <li>k. Improper use of the bit resulting in bleeding, broken skin or broken mucous membrane.</li> </ul>
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<b><u>EV112</u></b>	<b>Unethical Treatment of the Horse</b>	<p>1. Unethical Treatment (See GR838). Any act or series of actions that, in the opinion of the Ground Jury, or in its absence the Technical Delegate, can clearly and without doubt be defined as Unethical Treatment of the Horse must be penalized by Disqualification. Such acts include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Riding an exhausted Horse;</li> <li>b. Continued pressing of a tired Horse;</li> <li>c. Excessive use of whip and/or spurs, and/or bit;</li> <li>d. Riding an obviously lame Horse.</li> </ul> <p>2. RAPPING. As an exception to GR839, all rapping (poling) is prohibited, and must be penalized by Disqualification.</p> <p>3. WHIP. The use of the whip must be reasonably administered at an appropriate time and in the right place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The whip must only be used as an aid to encourage the Horse forward.</li> <li>b. Time: As an aid, the only appropriate time is when a Horse is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of the seat and legs. Instances of inappropriate use of the whip include the whip used after Elimination,</li> </ul>
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		<p>after the last fence on course, and/or multiple times between Obstacles. © USEF 2025 - 10</p> <p>c. Place: The whip may be used down the shoulder or behind the Athlete's leg. It must never be used overhand (e.g., a whip in the right hand being used on the left flank). The use of a whip on a Horse's head, neck, etc., is always excessive use.</p> <p>d. Severity: A whip should never be hit more than two times for one incident. If a Horse's skin is broken or has visible marks from the use of the whip, that will be deemed excessive use. It must never be used to vent an Athlete's temper. Such use is always excessive.</p> <p>4. SPURS: Spurs must not be used to reprimand a Horse. Such use is always excessive, as is any use that results in a Horse's skin being broken.</p> <p>5. BIT. The bit must never be used to reprimand a Horse. Such use is always excessive.</p> <p>6. REPORTING. Licensed Officials must report instances of Unethical Treatment of the Horse immediately to the Ground Jury, supported by statements from witnesses, if possible.</p> <p>7. GROUND JURY. If Unethical Treatment of the Horse is reported, the Ground Jury must evaluate the evidence to determine if Disqualification is appropriate. If a member of the Ground Jury observes the Unethical Treatment of the Horse, they must disqualify the Athlete. There is no appeal against a Ground Jury's decision in a case of Unethical Treatment of the Horse. 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 Unethical Treatment of the Horse.</p>
<a href="#"><b>EV113</b></a>	<b>Dangerous Riding</b>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Riding out of control (Horse clearly not responding to the Athletes restraining or driving aids).</li> <li>b. Riding Obstacles too fast or too slow.</li> <li>c. Repeatedly standing off fences too far (pushing the Horse to the base of the Obstacle, firing the Horse to the fence).</li> <li>d. Repeatedly being ahead or behind the Horse's movement when jumping.</li> <li>e. Series of dangerous jumps.</li> <li>f. Severe lack of responsiveness from the Horse or the Athlete.</li> <li>g. Continuing after three clear refusals, a fall, or any form of Elimination.</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><b>HJ100</b></a>	<b>Types of Standards and Application</b>	<p>5. Unless the violation of HJS is intentional and/or is related to horse and human safety and welfare no fines relating to HJS standards will be assessed</p>
<a href="#"><b>HU100</b></a>	<b>Horse Welfare</b>	<p>1. The following acts are prohibited: a. Riding an exhausted horse. b. Lunging a visibly exhausted horse. c. Excessive pressuring of a tired horse. d. Riding or lunging an obviously lame horse. e. Chasing a horse with a whip or other inappropriate use of the whip. f. Appendages and attachments are prohibited, including but not limited to bags and flags. g. Excessive and/or disruptive crackling of the whip. h. Excessive use of a whip on any horse in a stall, aisle, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds. The use of a whip must be for a good reason, done at the appropriate time, in the proper place and</p>

		<p>with appropriate restraint. Excessive whipping will not be tolerated. i. Any striking of the horse's head (on the poll or forward of the poll) shall be deemed excessive. j. Repeated jerking on the reins and sawing on the bit unless applied to an unruly horse that is jeopardizing its own safety or the safety of its rider. k. Improper use of the bit resulting in bleeding, broken skin or broken mucous membrane. l. Excessive use of the spurs or spurring resulting in broken and bleeding skin. m. Rapping the legs of a horse with the butt end of a riding crop or other implement. n. Use of any substance to induce temporary heat causing hyper-sensitization. o. Poling. p. Use of a wire or chain in conjunction with any schooling jumps. q. Use of electronic shock devices in schooling or showing. r. Use of shackles, hock hobbles and similar devices, with the exception of kicking chains while the horse is in the stall or in transport. This does not prohibit the use of rubber or plastic exercising devices. s. Showing a horse with hypersensitive, raw or bleeding sores around the cornets, pasterns, legs or body. t. Use of laser beam devices anywhere on the competition grounds, except in an exhibition or if required in class specifications. (Exception: Lasers used in a therapeutic manner). u. Withholding of feed or water for prolonged periods. v. Letting blood from a horse for other than diagnostic purposes. w. Inhumane treatment of a horse in a stall, aisle, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds, by any person. x. Use of any device capable of emitting a flame or spark in and around the schooling/warm-up and competition rings during scheduled competition sessions. y. Use of any attention getting device that emits a spray, mist, or fog while competing in the ring, such as an aerosol can or spray bottle. 2. Competitors found to be in violation of these rules by the Competition Steward or other Federation Official shall be eliminated/disqualified from competing within the upcoming 24-hour period and shall forfeit all entry fees for such competition.</p>
<a href="#"><b>JP102</b></a>	<b>Horse Welfare</b>	<p>1. Conduct in the competition ring: a. Any action against a horse by a competitor in the ring, deemed excessive by the judge, may be penalized by any one or combination of the following: Yellow Warning Card, or elimination from the class. b. Such action(s) could include, but are not limited to, excessive or improper use of the whip, spurs, reins, rider's weight or rider's hands. c. In addition, after consultation with the Competition Manager and a Competition Steward, additional penalties, including one or more of the following: disqualification from competing within the upcoming 24- hour period, disqualification from the balance of the competition. d. All such violations must be recorded in the Steward's Report. 2. Conduct outside of the competition ring: Any action(s) against a horse by an exhibitor, deemed excessive by a judge, Federation Steward, Certified Schooling Supervisor or Competition Veterinarian anywhere on the competition grounds may be punished by Yellow Warning Card or elimination from the class. Such action(s) could include, but are not limited to: excessive or improper use of the whip, spurs, reins, rider's weight or rider's hands; lunging a visibly exhausted horse; lunging an obviously lame horse; chasing a horse with a lunge whip or other inappropriate use of the whip; the use of a lunge whip with any type of appendage or attachment, including but not limited to bags and flags; excessive and/or disruptive cracking of the whip. In addition, after consultation with the Competition Manager and a Competition Steward, additional penalties, including one or more of the following: the issuance of an Yellow Warning Card, disqualification from competing within the upcoming 24-hour period, or disqualification from the balance of the competition. All such violations must be recorded in the Steward's Report. 3. Disqualified competitors will forfeit all entry fees for disqualified classes. 4. The imposition of any of the above penalties will not preclude additional disciplinary action against the individual in accordance</p>

		with GR838 Cruelty and Abuse. 5. Soundness: In a case of unsoundness sufficiently severe to be considered abusive, the judge(s) must eliminate the competitor from that class and inform the competition manager, who in conjunction with the Official Veterinarian and the Steward, will evaluate disqualifying the horse from further participation in the competition.
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<a href="#"><b>PF101</b></a>	<b>Eligibility</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<a href="#"><b>PF102</b></a>	<b>General Rules</b>	<p>2. Horse will be disqualified from the entire competition under the following the circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Abuse/cruelty</li> <li>e. Undue stress on horse</li> <li>f. Soring</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

<a href="#"><b>RN103</b></a>	<b>Scoring</b>	<p>3. The following will result in result in no score:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. abuse of animal in competition arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred prior to or during the exhibition of a horse in competition;</li> <li>b. use of illegal equipment, including wire on bits, bosals or curb chains;</li> <li>c. use of illegal bits, bosals or curb chains;</li> <li>d. use of tack collars, tie downs or nose bands;</li> <li>e. use of whips or bats;</li> <li>f. use of any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail;</li> </ul>
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		<p>g. failure to dismount and/or present horse and equipment to the appropriate judge for inspection;</p> <p>h. disrespect or misconduct by the exhibitor</p> <p>i. infraction of any state or federal law which exists pertaining to the exhibition, care and custody of horses within the state or county where the Reining competition is conducted.</p> <p>j. The judge(s) may excuse a horse at any time while in the arena for unsafe conditions or improper exhibition pertaining to either the horse and/or rider.</p> <p>k. closed reins are not allowed except as standard romal reins and mecates on snaffle bits and bosals in classes where the use of two hands is allowed.</p>
<a href="#"><b>RD103</b></a>	<b>Soundness and Welfare</b>	<p>1. Horses and ponies must be serviceably sound. 2. Shoeing- to be directed to improving the comfort, balance, and soundness of the horse. Labored way of going due to shoeing to be penalized. a. Pads and wedges- are permitted to protect the feet and limbs from the impact of the horse's natural gait, and maintain the integrity of the hoof wall. b. Bands- protective hoof bands are permitted to protect the integrity of the hoof and prevent the loss of a shoe resulting in trauma to the hoof. 3. No horse may compete in a class in the Roadster Division with any chemical or other irritant of any kind present to alter the horse's tail carriage. 4. Horses showing signs of inhumane treatment will be eliminated from competition. See GR838.</p>

<a href="#"><b>SB103</b></a>	<b>General, Soundness, and Welfare</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>3. Shoeing- to be directed to improving the comfort, balance, and soundness of the horse. Labored way of going due to shoeing to be penalized.</p> <p>a. Pads and wedges- are permitted to protect the feet and limbs from the impact of the horse's natural gait, and maintain the integrity of the hoof wall. Exceptions: see English Country Pleasure, Western, and Hunter Country Pleasure sections.</p> <p>b. Bands- protective hoof bands are permitted to protect the integrity of the hoof and prevent the loss of a shoe resulting in trauma to the hoof. Exceptions: See English Country Pleasure, Western, and Hunter Country Pleasure sections.</p> <p>4. Horses may be shown with unset tails in any class without penalty.</p> <p>5. Surgical release of only the ventral sacrocaudal muscle is allowable if performed by a licensed veterinarian.</p> <p>6. No horse may compete in a class in the American Saddlebred Division with any chemical or other irritant of any kind present to alter the horse's tail carriage.</p> <p>11. Horses showing signs of inhumane treatment will be eliminated from competition. See GR838.</p>
<a href="#"><b>SB-22</b></a>	<b>Ranch Riding</b>	<p>Disqualification- disqualified entries do not receive a score and cannot be placed in the class. An entry is considered to be disqualified if one of these occur:</p> <p>a. Illegal equipment, braided or banded mane, tail extension;</p> <p>b. Willful abuse;</p> <p>c. Major disobedience or schooling;</p>

		d. Lameness
<a href="#"><u>SB227</u></a>	<b>Penalties</b>	Zero (0) score: a. Illegal equipment b. Willful abuse
<a href="#"><u>SP101</u></a>	<b>Soundness</b>	As a minimum requirement, all Shetlands must be serviceably sound for competition purposes. Any pony showing evidence of lameness, deformity in feet or broken wind shall be refused an award. Complete or partial loss of sight in either eye will not be a disqualification if the loss of sight results from traumatic injury. A licensed veterinarian must verify the deltiology of the sight loss as traumatic and such copy must accompany the horse's papers.

<a href="#"><u>VA127</u></a>	<b>Penalties and Deductions</b>	h. Abuse of the horse. j. More than three (3) vaulters on the horse at any one time or in any exercise whether actually on the horse or not. k. After the maximum number of vaulters allowed to use the horse in any day, all additional vaulters will be disqualified. l. Use of non-allowable equipment.
<a href="#"><u>WS124</u></a>	<b>Scoring Procedures (This Scoring System is Optional)</b>	NO SCORE 1. Infraction of any state or federal law which exists pertaining to the exhibition, care and custody of horses within the state or country where a Federation trail class is being held. 2. Abuse of an animal in the show arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred prior to or during the exhibition of a horse in competition. 3. Use of prohibited equipment, including wire on bits, bosals or curb chains. 4. Use of prohibited bits, bosals or curb chains. 5. Use of tack collars, tie downs or nose bands. 10. The use of abusive equipment, and/or the use of abusive showing techniques by the rider 11. The exhibition of a horse that has a cut or abrasion showing clear evidence of fresh blood in the mouth, nose, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank or hip area (those areas reasonable to believe the injury may have been caused by the rider or equipment) must be considered abuse regardless of how the injury was caused. 12. While each judge is required to disqualify a horse exhibited in the manners described above, it should be noted that in every case the exhibitor should be given the benefit of any doubt, should any doubt exist.
<a href="#"><u>WS134</u></a>	<b>Penalties</b>	5. Disqualified—0 Score a. Prohibited equipment b. Willful abuse
<a href="#"><u>WS139</u></a>	<b>Ranch Horse Riding</b>	5. Zero (0) score: a. Prohibited equipment including, but not limited to, hoof black, braided or banded manes, or tail extensions b. Willful abuse c. Major disobedience or schooling d. Lameness
<a href="#"><u>WS140</u></a>	<b>Ranch Horse Cow Work</b>	4.vi. No score 1. Lameness: Abuse; Prohibited equipment 2. Disrespect or misconduct 3. Leaving arena before run is complete
<a href="#"><u>WS142</u></a>	<b>Ranch Horse Trail</b>	2. c. All courses and obstacles should be constructed with safety in mind so as to reduce the risk for accidents

		<p>4. Class Specifications</p> <p>a. [...] A judge may ask a horse to pass on an obstacle after three (3) refusals or at any time for safety concerns.</p> <p>5.c.vii) Disqualification (DQ):</p> <p>a. Lameness;</p> <p>b. Abuse;</p> <p>c. Leaving working area before the pattern is complete;</p> <p>d. Prohibited equipment;</p>
<a href="#"><u>WS143</u></a>	<b>Ranch Reining</b>	4.d.vii No Score: Lameness; Abuse; Prohibited equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Improper western attire; Fall of horse and/or exhibitor.
<a href="#"><u>WS144</u></a>	<b>Ranch Working Cow</b>	4.f.vii No Score: 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 [...]fall of horse/exhibitor.
<a href="#"><u>WS145</u></a>	<b>Ranch Cutting</b>	3.a.vi. No Score: Lameness; Abuse; Prohibited equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Improper western attire; Fall of horse and/or exhibitor; Excessive disturbance of herd to the point that exhibitor is asked to leave the arena.
<a href="#"><u>WS146</u></a>	<b>Ranch Versatility</b>	3.d.V No Score: Lameness; Abuse, prohibited equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Improper western attire; Fall of horse/exhibitor.

<a href="#"><u>WD126</u></a>	<b>Execution and Judging of Tests</b>	9.k. Any continuing resistance, which prevents the continuation of the test for longer than 20 seconds, is cause for elimination. However, resistance that may endanger the rider, horse, judge or the public will result in elimination for safety reasons earlier than within twenty (20) seconds
<a href="#"><u>WD128</u></a>	<b>Elimination</b>	<p>1. c. Use of prohibited equipment, including rein holds. d. Unauthorized assistance.</p> <p>f. Horse's tongue tied down.</p> <p>g. Late entry into the arena.</p> <p>h. All four feet of the horse leave the arena with or without rider.</p> <p>i. Cruelty including excessive spurring.</p> <p>j. Resistance of longer than 20 seconds.</p> <p>k. Concern for the safety of rider, other exhibitors or their entries</p> <p>l. Evidence of blood on a horse in the competition arena shall be cause for elimination from the class by the judge at "C". Evidence of blood on a horse outside the competition arena shall be cause for elimination by competition management, after consultation with the steward, from either the last class in which the horse competed or next class in which it is scheduled to compete, depending on which is closest to the time the incident occurred. Environmental causes such as insect bites shall normally not be cause for elimination.</p> <p>n. Fall of a horse and/or rider.</p>
<a href="#"><u>WD144</u></a>	<b>Western Dressage Seat Equitation on the Rail Class Specifications</b>	<p>5.c. Eliminations include:</p> <p>3. Cruelty including excessive spurring or schooling</p> <p>4. Fall of horse or rider</p> <p>5. Prohibited equipment</p> <p>7. Horse's tongue tied down</p> <p>10. Evidence of blood on horse</p> <p>11. Lameness</p> <p>12. Concern for the safety of rider, other participants, or their horses</p>



<a href="#"><b>WD146</b></a>	<b>Western Dressage Seat Combined Equitation</b>	6.d. Eliminations include: 3. Cruelty including excessive spurring or schooling 4. Fall of horse or rider 5. Prohibited equipment 7. Horse's tongue tied down 10. Evidence of blood on horse 11. Lameness 12. Concern for the safety of rider, other participants, or their horses
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