



April 21, 2025

Leslie Lockard
Arabian Horse Association
6030 Greenwood Plaza Blvd., Suite 100
Greenwood Village, CO 80111-4825
Sent via email: Leslie.Lockard@arabianhorses.org; Stan.Morey@arabianhorses.org

Dear Ms. Lockard:

Thank you for submitting your request for a Presidential Modification to the application of AR214.2, AR247.2.b.5 and AR262.2.b.6 on behalf of the Arabian Horse Association. A Presidential Modification is granted in cases of extraordinary, special circumstances. When measured against that criterion, it has been determined that your request meets the standard for a Presidential Modification and therefore is approved.

As a result, these rules will be modified as in the attachment effective for the remainder of the 2025 competition year until the approved standard rule change goes into effect 12/1/2026. As a condition of this approval, communication to the entire community of equestrians, organizers and officials that would be impacted by this modification must be done immediately and competitions must post the modification in the show office and other conspicuous areas while this modification is in effect.

Please feel free to contact the Federation office if you need further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas F. X. O'Mara".

Thomas F. X. O'Mara
President

cc: William J. Moroney, Chief Executive Officer
Karen Homer Brown, Director of National Breeds & Non-FEI Disciplines Sport
Ashton Street, National Breeds & Disciplines Operations Manager

Attachment

AR214 Working Western Definitions

2. Gaits Definitions for Ranch classes In all gaits, movement of the ranch horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. The following terminology shall apply:

- a. The walk is a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground-covering. As in all gaits, the horse should display a level, or slightly above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.
- b. The extended walk is an obvious lengthening of stride that will naturally increase the pace. The horse should move in a natural manner (not a running walk) as if it were moving across an open pasture.
- c. The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.
- d. The extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The horse should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with an above level topline.
- e. The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.
- f. The extended lope is not a run or a race but should be an obvious lengthening of the stride, demonstrating a forward, working speed. The horse should display an above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

g. The simple lead change is performed through the walk or trot within three strides.

AR247 Ranch Horse Scoring

2. Any deviation of the scoring contained within the current Arabian rules, the references within AQHA, NRHA, or NRCHA rulebooks regarding scoring will prevail.

- b.** Three (3) point penalties
 1. Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
 2. Break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead Wrong lead or out of lead
 3. Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads
 4. Draped reins
 - 5. *Walking or trotting*** more than three strides when making a simple lead change
 6. Severe disturbance of any obstacle

AR262 VRH Ranch Riding Scoring

2. Any deviation of the scoring contained within the current Arabian rules, the references within AQHA, NRHA, or NRCHA rulebooks regarding scoring will prevail.

- b.** 3 Point:
 1. Wrong lead or out of lead
 2. Draped reins
 3. Break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead
 4. Break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides
 5. Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads
 - 6. *Walking or trotting*** more than three strides when making a simple lead change