Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
AR 148.3	131-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Arabian	Approved (6/16/2026)

AR148.3 Tracking #131-25 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 adds consistency to the Working Western Section and related classes in regard to the proper attire for the various classes and the scoring penalty for incomplete or prohibited attire. Non-scored classes must be positioned last in the class and scored classes must receive a zero score for incomplete/prohibited attire. The changes add clarity throughout the section and classes.

Proponent Details

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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

3. Attire:

a. Riders shall wear Western hat, long-sleeved shirt with any type collar, trousers or pants ~~(one-piece long sleeved equitation suit is acceptable provided it includes a collar)~~; chaps, shotgun chaps, or chinks, and boots. A vest, jacket, coat, and/or sweater may also be worn. Competitors with incomplete attire must be penalized.

SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION

AR215 Appointments

(...)

4. Attire:

a. Horse/Exhibitor number must be placed on the left side, both sides of the saddle pad or on the exhibitor's back. Exception: Ranch Rail Pleasure, the number must be on the exhibitor's back or both sides of the pad. Horses shown without a number, or with a wrong number may be required to pay a $25 fee at the discretion of show management.

b. In all non-scored classes (Ranch Rail Pleasure, VRH Ranch Conformation), an exhibitor with incomplete/prohibited attire must be penalized and positioned last in the class. A horse exhibiting unnatural Arabian tail carriage must be placed below exhibitors with incomplete/prohibited attire.

c. In all scored classes (Reining, Working Cow, Reined Cow Horse, Herd Work, Cutting, Western/English/In-Hand Trail, Western Riding, Ranch Riding, VRH Ranch Riding, VRH Ranch Trail, VRH Ranch Reining, VRH Ranch Cow Work, VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work Amateur/Youth [Box-Drive-Box-Drive], VRH Ranch Cutting) an exhibitor with incomplete/prohibited attire must be assessed a zero score. A horse exhibiting unnatural Arabian tail carriage must be placed below exhibitors with incomplete/prohibited attire.

~~b~~***d***. Western

1. Exhibitors must wear Western hat, long-sleeved shirt with any type of collar, trousers or pants ~~(one-piece long-sleeved equitation suit is permitted provided it includes a collar);~~ **,** chaps, shotgun chaps, or chinks, and boots. A vest, jacket, coat, and/or sweater may also be worn. ~~Competitors with incomplete/prohibited attire must receive a zero score.~~ Exception: ~~I~~***I***n ~~ranch rail and~~ ***VRH*** ranch conformation ***and in-hand trail,*** exhibitors ~~with incomplete attire must be eliminated from placing (chaps are not required in ranch conformation)~~ ***are not required to wear chaps, shotgun chaps, or chinks***.

2. Spurs are optional and are at the discretion of the exhibitor~~;~~**.** ***Exception: Spurs are prohibited for In-Hand Trail classes and must be assessed a zero score, and VRH Conformation classes and must be penalized and positioned last in the class.***

3. ~~w~~***W***hips are ~~not allowed~~ ***prohibited*** except with side saddle. ***Use of whips for In-Hand Trail classes must be assessed a zero score and VRH Conformation classes and must be penalized and positioned last in the class.*** ~~(See GR1310 Dispensations.)~~

~~c~~***e***. English:

1. ~~Informal or formal Saddle Seat, Hunt, Show Hack, or Dressage attire is permitted.~~ ***For***

appointments refer to AR135, AR140, AR144, and AR160. Exception: ASTM Helmets are required for all English Trail classes. Per AR111 exhibitors may not enter the arena without protective headgear.

i. In scored classes (English Trail and English In-Hand Trail), an exhibitor with ~~i~~incomplete/prohibited attire must ~~receive~~ ***be assessed*** a zero score.

2. Spurs are optional and at the discretion of the exhibitor;. Exception: Spurs are prohibited for In-Hand Trail classes and must be assessed a zero score.

3. Whips are prohibited except with a side saddle. Use of whips for In-Hand Trail classes must be assessed a zero score.

~~2. ASTM Helmets are required for all English Trail classes. Per AR111 exhibitors may not enter the arena without protective headgear.~~

~~d. In-Hand Trail~~

~~1. Western and English - refer to AR215.4~~

~~2. Crop, whip, chaps, chinks, and spurs are not permitted.~~

~~3. Competitors with incomplete/prohibited attire must receive a zero score.~~

AR228 Trail Scoring

1. General

(…)

d. Penalties

i. No Score

(…)

~~4. Use of whips in In-Hand Trail.~~

ii. ~~Disqualified 0 –~~ ***Zero (0)*** Score

(…)

11. Use of a whip in In-Hand Trail classes.

AR253 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot 10 & Under Appointments

Horse and exhibitor must follow the appointments as set forth in ~~the Arabian Western Pleasure Sub-Chapter~~ ***AR215.4(d)***.

AR257 Versatility Ranch Horse Division Appointments and Conduct

(…)

12. For exhibitor appointments see AR215.4(d).

AR258 Versatility Ranch Horse Division Scoring

(…)

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.

AR262 VRH Ranch Riding Scoring

1. Credits and Penalties

(…)

1. VRH Ranch Riding Penalties – VRH Ranch Riding Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions –

(…)

b. Zero (0) score

(…)

3. Incomplete/prohibited attire

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

(…)

d. No Score/Disqualification (DQ):

(…)

~~6. Improper western attire~~

~~7.~~ ***6.*** Fall of horse/exhibitor

AR266 VRH Ranch Trail Scoring

(…)

8. Maneuver evaluations and penalty applications are to be determined independently. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

a. VRH Ranch Trail Penalties – VRH Ranch Trail Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions –

(…)

2. Zero (0) score

(…)

c. Incomplete/prohibited attire

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

(…)

5. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): Lameness, abuse, leaving working area before pattern is complete, prohibited equipment, disrespect or misconduct, ~~improper western attire;~~ ***and/or*** fall of horse/exhibitor.

AR268 Ranch Horse Trail Walk-Trot 10 & Under Appointments

Horse and exhibitor must follow the appointments as set forth in ~~the Arabian Western Pleasure Sub-Chapter~~ ***AR215.4(d)***.

AR271 VRH Ranch Reining Scoring

(…)

4. Penalties

a. VRH Ranch Reining Penalties – VRH Ranch Reining Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions:

(…)

2. Zero (0) score

(…)

c. Incomplete/prohibited attire

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

(…)

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.

AR274 VRH Ranch Cow Work Scoring

(…)

7. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

a. VRH Ranch Cow Work Penalties – VRH Ranch Cow Work Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions:

(…)

2. Zero (0) score

(…)

c. Incomplete/prohibited attire

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

(…)

6. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): 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, leaving arena before run is complete; ~~improper western attire;~~ fall of horse/exhibitor.

AR277 VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work Amateur/Youth (Box-Drive-Box-Drive) Scoring

(…)

5. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

a. VRH Ranch Limited Cow Work Penalties – VRH Ranch Limited Cow Work Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions:

(…)

2. Zero (0) score

(…)

c. Incomplete/prohibited attire

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

(…)

5. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): lameness, abuse, prohibited equipment, disrespect, or misconduct, leaving arena before run is complete;~~,~~ ~~improper western attire,~~ ***and/or*** fall of horse/exhibitor.

AR280 VRH Ranch Cutting Scoring

(…)

4. Penalties should be assessed as follows:

a. VRH Ranch Cutting Penalties – VRH Ranch Cutting Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions:

(…)

2. Zero (0) score

(…)

c. Incomplete/prohibited attire

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

(…)

5. No Score/Disqualification (DQ): lameness; abuse; disrespect or misconduct; prohibited equipment; excessive disturbance of herd to the point that exhibitor is asked to leave the arena; leaving arena before run is complete, fall of horse/exhibitor.~~; improper western attire~~

AR282 VRH Ranch Conformation Appointments

(…)

3. ~~For rules regarding correct western attire refer to AR148.3. Exception: Chaps or chinks are not required.~~
Exhibitors must adhere to the appointments as set forth in AR215.4(d).

SUBCHAPTER AR-28 EQUITATION SECTION

AR290 Western Seat Equitation

1. For rules governing Western Seat Equitation classes refer to Chapter EQ, Subchapter EQ-4, Western Seat Equitation, EQ123 ***General, –EQ124 Position, EQ125.2 Appointments (Tack), AR215.4(d) Appointments (Attire), EQ126 Conduct, and EQ130 Requirements for Specific Classes*** ~~131~~.

AR295 Appointments

Refer to ~~EQ125~~ ***AR215.4(d)***.

AR297 Reining Seat Equitation

(…)

5. For appointments, see ~~EQ125~~ ***AR215.4(d)***.

SUBCHAPTER AR-30 WALK-TROT/JOG 10 & UNDER SECTION

AR 307 Appointments

1. For attire, appointments, and position for Equitation classes refer to Chapter EQ. ***Exception: For Western Seat Equitation, Western Horsemanship, and Reining Seat Equitation, refer to AR215.4(d).***

(…)

5. For attire and appointments for Trail classes, refer to AR215.4.

AR314 Walk/-Trot-/Jog Trail Class Specifications

To be judged over a course of obstacles at a walk and a trot/ jog (AR228). Horse and rider must follow the appointments as set forth in ~~the Arabian Western Pleasure Subchapter~~ ***AR215.4(d)*** for a Western Trail Walk/Jog class and ~~the Arabian English Pleasure Sub-Chapter~~ ***AR 215.4(e)*** for an English Trail Walk/Trot class. For approved Trail obstacles, dimensions, definitions, scoring and penalties, refer to Arabian Trail Horse Subchapter.

AR316 Short Stirrup Reining Specifications

Riders to perform any current NRHA Short Stirrup Reining pattern as stated in Arabian Working Western Subchapter. Horse and rider must follow the appointments as set forth in ~~the Arabian Western Pleasure Subchapter~~ ***AR215.4(d)***.