

1 **SUBJECT: Clarifying Country English Pleasure (USEF/EC)**

2  
3 (STANDARD)

4 Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 101 & 102 for submission requirements.

5 Committee Action:

6 Committees required to review: *(This section to be completed by the Agenda & Resolutions Committee)* Approve Disapprove

Amateur Committee			
Competition Advisory Committee			
Education/Evaluation Commission			
Professional Horsemen Committee			
U.S. National Show Commission			
USEF Arabian Division Committee			
Youth/Mid-Summer National Show Commission			
Youth Committee			

7  
8 CONVENTION ACTION:

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10 \_\_\_\_\_ Approved                      \_\_\_\_\_ Approved with Modification                      \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved

11  
12 \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn                      \_\_\_\_\_ Referred to Committee \_\_\_\_\_

13  
14 PROPOSED CHANGE: (**Check one**) \_\_\_\_\_ Add new rule \_\_\_\_\_ Delete existing rule   X   Change existing text  
15 Indicate affected Article/Rule number (AHA/USEF/EC) Subchapter AR-8 & Subchapter AR-23

16  
17 RESOLUTION: Use **bold/italic** for new wording, ~~strikethrough~~ to indicate deletion

- 18  
19 Whereas, Country pleasure since its inception has looked to separate itself from English pleasure and be a more  
20 relaxed and easier way of going class, and  
21  
22 Whereas, By asking for a “STRONG TROT” in itself goes against what the class title implies, and,  
23  
24 Whereas, by asking for a “HAND GALLOP” only continues in this process, and  
25  
26 Whereas, In the opinion of the proponent, focusing on the finer points of Country Pleasure like Attitude, Smooth  
27 transitions and quiet mouths, Etc. all would be better served as the barometer for what’s important, and  
28  
29 Whereas, In the opinion of the proponent, the halt and back portion of the required “test” in all Country classes has  
30 proven to be ineffective and time consuming while walking on a loose rein has been found as an adequate  
31 barometer of a “Country” attitude, and  
32  
33 Whereas, Changing the word “Trot” in all of the Country classes to read “Country Trot” and the above-mentioned  
34 changes will help to bring separation and identity to the Country division; Therefore, Be It  
35  
36 Resolved, That the AR sections contained in Subchapter AR-8 Country Pleasure Section be amended by striking out,  
37 inserting and renumbering the following:

38  
39 AR135 Conduct

- 40 1. Competitors enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction, at the ~~normal~~ **Country Trot**.  
41 2. Light contact must be maintained with all reins at all gaits.  
42 3. It is imperative that the horse gives the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride.  
43 4. All gaits must be performed with willingness and obvious ease, cadence, balance and smoothness.  
44 5. It is mandatory that horses be asked to ~~halt on the rail, stand quietly, back and walk off~~ on a loose rein at least one  
45 direction of the ring. A true flat walk must be demonstrated on a loose rein with horse’s neck relaxed and head  
46 slightly lowered. Failure to demonstrate a true flat walk MUST be penalized.  
47 6. **A back is optional and may be called for on the rail or in line up.**

- 48 6.7. A quiet, responsive mouth is paramount.
- 49 7.8. High action at the canter or trot must be penalized. Rider to post the trot.
- 50 8.9. Extreme speed at the canter or trot must be penalized.
- 51 9.10. For Country English Pleasure performance criteria, see AR Country English Pleasure Chart below.

	Good	Minor Fault	Major Fault	Elimination General Items
Walk	relaxed flat footed moving forward	a few hesitant strides	jigging, anxious not walking, standing or consistent circling in a corner	Blood in the mouth, chin shoulder or flanks (AR105.6)
<b>Country Trot</b>	cadenced unhurried, moderate shift of balance point	a few missed steps varied speed	break of gait aggressive gait extreme speed extreme shift of balance point high action, i.e. consistently trotting over level	lame (AR105.1 - must be serviceably sound) whip marks (AR105.6) abusive treatment (AR105.4)
Canter	straight and true	crooked varied speed	chargy wrong lead cross cantering high action	dangerous to other exhibitors (AR105.5)
Hand Gallop	<del>true change of gait longer stride</del>	<del>minimal change of stride</del>	<del>cross cantering change of lead extreme speed</del>	rearing, running backwards, bucking, out of control (AR105.5 - these would be examples of dangerous to others and possibly rider)
<del>Stop, back, Walk on a loose rein</del>  <b>The back is optional</b>	<del>straight square halt, straight unhurried back, relaxed walk with lowered frame relaxed gathering of the reins</del>	<del>crooked halt premature back crooked back hesitant walk slight resistance to the gathering reins</del>	<del>antsy or no halt refusal to back forced back no loose rein chargy or no walk no lowered frame no relaxed lowered frame major resistance to the gathering of reins</del>	fall of horse or rider, if due to bad manners of horse (AR109.1-3)
			Horses with an unnatural tail carriage (see AR105.2b) must be positioned last in the class. BOD 6/20/23 Effective 12/1/23	

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53  
54 AR137 Qualifying Gaits

- 55 1. Walk, a four-beat gait: To be true, flat-footed and ground covering.
- 56 2. ~~Normal~~ **Country** Trot, a two-beat gait: To be an overall balanced, relaxed, easy-going trot with elasticity and freedom of movement.
- 57 3. ~~Strong Trot, a two beat gait: To be faster with lengthened stride, maintaining balance, ease and freedom of movement.~~
- 58 4. **3.** Canter, a three-beat gait: To be smooth, unhurried, straight and correct on both leads.
- 59 5. ~~Hand Gallop: To be a faster gait, lengthened stride and controlled, straight and correct on both leads.~~

62  
63 AR138 Country English Pleasure Class Specifications

- 64 1. OPEN. To be shown at a walk, ~~normal~~ **Country** Trot, ~~strong trot, and~~ canter and hand gallop. To be judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality and conformation.
- 65 2. AMATEUR. To be shown at a walk, ~~normal~~ **Country** Trot and canter. To be judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality, conformation and suitability of horse to rider.
- 66 3. LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be shown at a walk, ~~normal~~ **Country** Trot and canter. To be judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality, conformation and suitability of horse to rider.

70 4. JUNIOR HORSE To be shown at a walk, ~~normal~~ **Country** Trot and canter. To be judged on attitude, manners,  
 71 quality, and performance.; and, Be It Further  
 72

73 Resolved That the AR sections contained in Subchapter AR-23 Country Pleasure Driving Section be amended by  
 74 striking out and adding the following:  
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76 AR198 Conduct

77 1. Competitors enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction at the ~~normal~~ **Country** Trot ....  
 78

79 AR200 Qualifying Gaits

- 80 1. Walk, a four-beat gait: To be true, flat-footed and ground covering.  
 81 2. ~~Normal~~ **Country** Trot, a two-beat gait: To be an overall balanced, relaxed, easy-going trot with elasticity and  
 82 freedom of movement. High action **MUST** be penalized.  
 83 3. ~~Strong Trot, a two-beat gait: To be faster with lengthened stride, maintaining balance, ease and freedom of~~  
 84 ~~movement. High action **MUST** be penalized.~~  
 85

86 AR201 Country Pleasure Driving Class Specifications

- 87 1. OPEN. To be shown at the walk **and normal** **Country** Trot ~~and strong trot~~. To stand quietly and back readily. To be  
 88 judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality and conformation.  
 89 2. AMATEUR, LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be shown at a walk **and normal** **Country** Trot ~~and strong trot~~. To stand quietly  
 90 and back readily. To be judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality, conformation and suitability of horse  
 91 to driver.  
 92 3. JUNIOR HORSE. To be shown at a walk **and normal** **Country** Trot ~~and strong trot~~. To stand quietly and back readily.  
 93 To be judged on attitude, manners, quality and performance.  
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95 Effective: December 31, 2025, or when approved by USEF/EC  
 96

97 (If a Standard resolution, the effective date will be December 31 of the year after the Convention)  
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99 RESOLUTION TYPE (REQUIRED): Standard  X  Extraordinary  "If indicated as "Extraordinary", the  
 100 proponent must list reasons which establish Chapter 9, RULE 101.3.a. has been met)  
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103 PROPONENTS FINANCIAL IMPACT (REQUIRED): Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 102.6. & 102.7 for financial requirements  
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105 None  
 106

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107 AHA IMPACT STATEMENT: (To be completed by AHA Staff)  
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109 Contact Person:  
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111 SUBMITTED BY: Professional Horsemen Committee

Region Number:

112  Member Organization  Committee  Commission  Board  Region (check one )

113 Who voted:  Members  Board  Delegates (check voting body)

114 Total Number Eligible to Vote: 65 Number of Yes votes: 30 Number of No votes: 19

115 How vote was taken:  mail  email/other electronic means  phone  meeting (check one) (Must have Quorum  
 116 with majority of yes votes)

117 Where documentation of this vote is recorded: At the AHA Office (Must have printed documentation on file)

118 Date vote taken: July 30 – August 7, 2024

119 Contact Person: John Power

(Has authority to amend, combine or withdraw)

120 Phone: (941) 565-7670

Email: jpower2726@gmail.com