

1 **SUBJECT: Rework and Reflow of Sport Horse Rules (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

Competition Advisory Committee			
Education/Evaluation Commission			
Sport Horse Committee			
Sport Horse National Show Commission			
USEF Arabian Division Committee			

7

8 CONVENTION ACTION:

9

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

11

12 \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn                      \_\_\_\_\_ Referred to Committee \_\_\_\_\_

13

14 PROPOSED CHANGE: (**Check one**) \_\_\_\_\_ Add new rule \_\_X\_\_ Delete existing rule \_\_X\_\_ Change existing text

15 Indicate affected Article/Rule number (AHA/USEF/EC) Subchapter AR-17

16

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

18

19 Whereas,                      There was a desire by the committee to do a reflow of the Sport Horse Subchapter in USEF, and

20

21 Whereas,                      There have been modifications to the verbiage for clarification and readability; Therefore, Be It

22

23 Resolved,                      That the USEF AR Division be amended by substituting a revised SUBCHAPTER AR-17 SPORT HORSE  
24 SECTION inserting the following language and to be renumbered appropriately by USEF to fit their format:

25

26 **SUBCHAPTER AR-17 SPORT HORSE SECTION**

27

28 **AR175 Purpose**

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30 The sport horse section was developed to evaluate and encourage the breeding of Purebred Arabian and Half  
31 Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses suitable for dressage, western dressage, working hunter, eventing, jumper, carriage pleasure  
32 driving, combined driving, racing, competitive trail and endurance, and to Provide an opportunity to demonstrate the  
33 effectiveness of breeding programs. Form to function will be emphasized.

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35 A western dressage horse, if shown in sport horse in hand or in sport horse under saddle, must conform to the appointment  
36 rules listed in AR-17 for those classes.

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38 Please see GR1005.1 for sport horse judging and guest card requirements. DR126.2. d.1 (exception Arabian sport horse  
39 classes). In the event that a competition management intends to schedule a dressage judge outside of the limitations of  
40 DR126.2d. 1-2, it must be specifically noted in the contract. Management must also specify in the contract which classes  
41 the dressage judge is contracted to judge, i.e. dressage and/or sport horse. Management and the dressage judge must  
42 agree upon the contract provisions, to be eligible **for** overtime and compensation; both management and the dressage  
43 judge must sign and date the contract.

44

45 **AR176 General**

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47 Protective headgear (as defined in AR111) is encouraged but is not required for all classes within this section.

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- 49 1. In-hand, under saddle and sport horse show hack classes for (1) Arabians, and (2) Half Arabians/Anglo Arabian sport  
50 horses may be held separately or in conjunction with any licensed Arabian competition. Sport horse in-hand, under

- 51 saddle and sport horse show hack classes may be held for stallions, mares and geldings. SUBCHAPTER AR-1 applies to  
 52 sport horse classes.
- 53 2. Sport horse in-hand and under saddle classes may be divided at the discretion of competition management into  
 54 dressage type and hunter type. Horses may cross enter. All appointments and attire must match ~~for~~ the discipline  
 55 being shown. Competition management is encouraged to offer separate championship classes for each type, but the  
 56 championship classes may be combined at the discretion of competition management. If competition management  
 57 decides to combine the types for the championship, the appointments and attire for each exhibitor must match ~~for~~ the  
 58 specified discipline (dressage or hunter). Please refer to ~~DR 120-121 and HU 105-107 rules.~~
- 59 (a) Dressage type – displays the conformation and movement qualities as follows: Horses of this type carry a higher  
 60 set-on neck than the hunter type, with sufficient length and flexion of the poll. Movement should be free, elastic,  
 61 active and regular with good push from behind, without tension, and with an uphill balance.
- 62 (b) Hunter type – displays the conformation and movement qualities as follows: Horses of this type carry a more level  
 63 balance than the dressage type, with easy, fluid, ground covering movement. The hunter type horse tends to  
 64 move with a longer frame, with good push from behind, free of tension and showing good balance.
- 65 ~~3. Sport Horse In-Hand Championships shall be based upon highest scoring horses in qualifying classes. Sport Horse In-  
 66 Hand Champions and Reserve Champions must be at least one year of age. No horse may be named Champion and  
 67 Reserve Champion in the same class. (Example: when amateur and open classes qualify for the same championship  
 68 class.) If the same horse has the two (2) highest scores, the next highest eligible horse shall be named Reserve  
 69 Champion.~~

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 71 **AR177 Sport Horse In-Hand Classes**

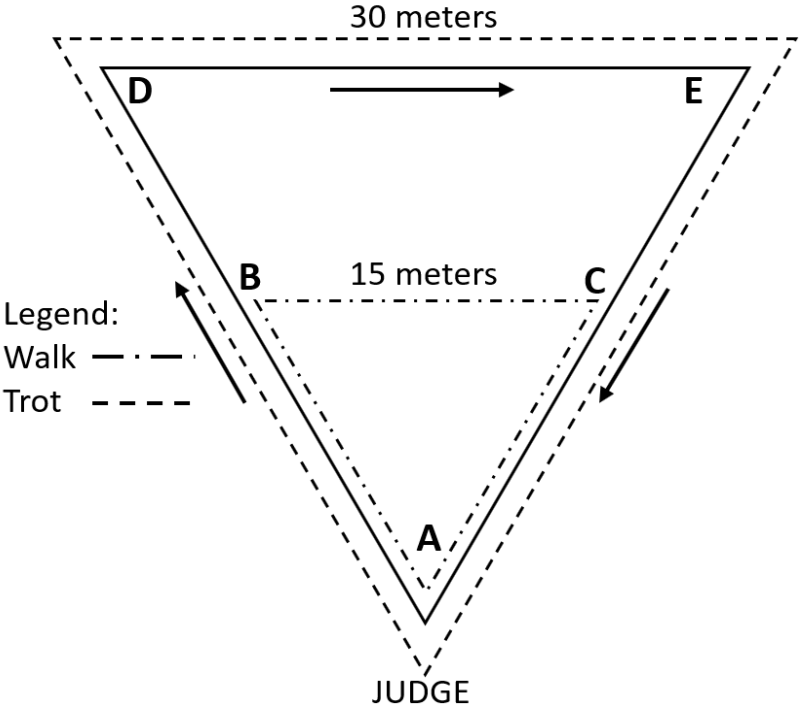
72  
 73 Conformation is to be evaluated in terms of potential trainability, potential performance and predisposition to soundness.  
 74 Form to Function is to be emphasized. Blemishes are not to count unless resulting from conformation faults. Gaits are to  
 75 be evaluated in terms of purity, quality and correctness. Correct gaits which contribute to ease in training and the horse  
 76 remaining sound and usable are most important. Purity and quality are judged mainly in profile. Correctness is judged  
 77 mainly while the horse is ~~coming to~~ **moving away from** and ~~going from~~ **coming to** the judge's position **at the apex of the**  
 78 **triangle**. Colts and stallions two years and over must have both testicles descended. Horses with loss of sight in one eye  
 79 may compete in sport horse in-hand classes.

- 80  
 81 1. Horses will be shown individually on the triangle; assistant handlers or whip handlers are not allowed. In-hand  
 82 classes may be held in any age groups deemed appropriate by competition management and published in the prize  
 83 list, with the exception that horses of one sex shall not be judged against those of the opposite sex. Exception:  
 84 specified group classes or specified championship classes may have horses of all sexes.
- 85 2. **Open cards may be used.** Following a posted or announced order, or on request from the judge, entries in each  
 86 class will approach the judging area one at a time, walk to the apex of the triangle. ~~Open cards may be used.~~  
 87 Conformation judging may take place before or after the performance on the triangle, so wait for the judge's  
 88 instructions. ~~Wait for the judge's request to proceed on the triangle.~~ **When the judge signals,** the handler  
 89 **exhibitor** will lead the horse on the perimeter of the triangle in a clockwise direction, at the walk (**small triangle**)  
 90 and trot (**large triangle**), returning to the apex and wait for further instructions. Repetition of all or any part of the  
 91 movement on the triangle may only be ~~allowed~~ **performed** at the judge's request ~~only~~ **request of the judge**. At the  
 92 completion of the judging, the handler will lead the horse away from the judging area. ~~The triangle may be~~  
 93 ~~adjusted to fit local conditions.~~
- 94 3. Triangle: **The triangle may be adjusted to fit local conditions.** Corners should be well defined. A marker will be  
 95 used at the apex and at each corner to define placement of turn for the exhibitor. Use of plants or flowers is  
 96 allowed.

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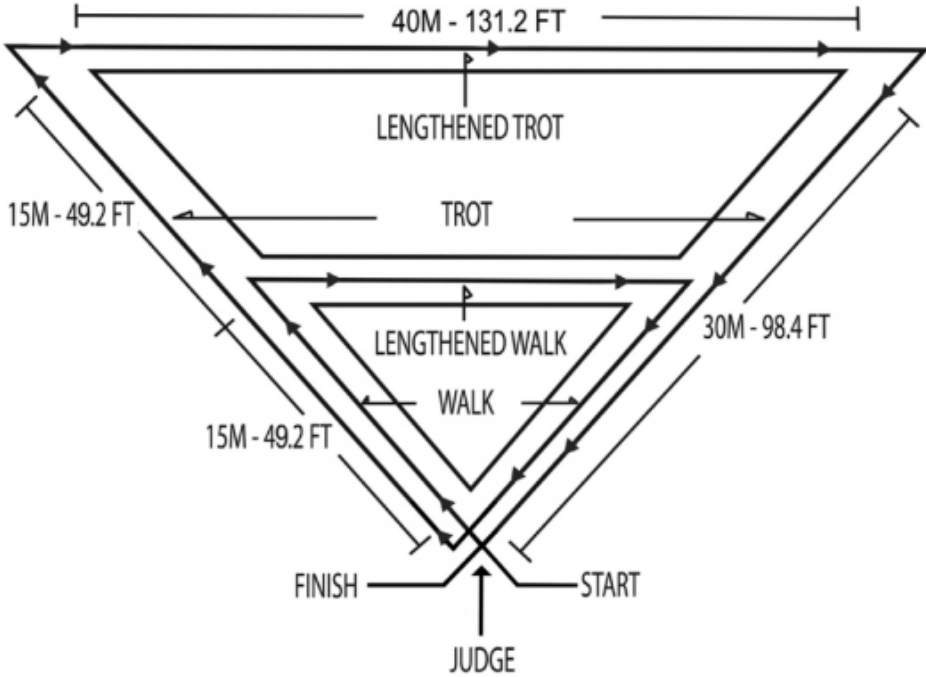
*New Triangle to be inserted:*

30 Meters = 98.4 ft, 15 Meters = 49.2 ft.



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*Old Triangle to be removed:*



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- The horse is to be shown in an "open position", for conformation judging. The traditional way of showing open position would be with the right **one** front leg slightly back **forward** and the right **one** hind leg slightly forward; ~~but~~ as long as all four legs of the horse are visible to the judge when standing on either side of the horse, this would be

~~acceptable.~~ **The objective is to have all four legs of the horse visible to the judge when standing on either side of the horse.** The horse's head and neck should be allowed to show in carry a natural and comfortable carriage, and ~~with~~ the handler should stand **standing slightly** away from the horse, with a loose lead line. **It is permissible for the handler to use a discreet method to keep the horse's attention, such as a candy wrapper.**

5. Sport Horse Groups in-Hand. The AHA Group Score Sheet shall be used. The judge will be assigned a scribe who will record scores and comments as dictated by the judge. **Competition management will record class results on the Master Score sheet.** Groups will be examined one group at a time, but not necessarily on the triangle. The judge will require the individuals of each group to move at the walk and trot. Horses shall stand for conformation judging before and/or after completion of the group's movement.
6. Foals may not be shown loose. Foals shall not accompany nor be accompanied by their dam.
7. When possible, the announcement of awards will include the breeding of the horses placed: sire and dam as well as the name of the owner and the breeder.
8. **The judge must excuse from the ring, any unruly horse, or one whose actions threaten to endanger other exhibitors, or their entries officials or show staff.**
9. A whip may be used to guide the horse. **The whip may be a maximum of 6', no attachments.**
10. Causes for mandatory elimination from the arena or designated judging area for In-Hand classes are:
  - (a) Removal of eyelashes.
  - (b) Changing the color of the main and/or tail (AR106.10.c); ~~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 when shown in ~~Breeding and/or~~ **the** In-Hand classes.
11. An entry must be penalized for:
  - (a) Excessive amounts of oil, grease or other similar substances.
  - (b) Balding of the area around the eyes or proximal to the muzzle and nostrils. ~~or~~
  - (c) Excessive use of the whip or actions that may disturb other entries shall be severely penalized.

**AR 178 Sport Horse In Hand Scoring Procedures**

1. The AHA Individual Sport Horse score sheet shall be used. Each judge will be assigned a scribe who will record scores and comments as dictated by the judge. Horses will be shown individually on the triangle. Sport horse In-Hand classes are exempt from using the Arabian Halter Judging System.
2. ~~The judge shall use the AHA approved individual score sheets for individual classes, and the individual Group Score Sheet for group classes (Get of Sire/Produce of Dam). AHA will provide the AHA individual, group, master class, and championship Score Sheets to Competition Management via the website. Competition management may make as many individual copies as necessary for their competition.~~ **The AHA Group Score sheet will be used for Sport Horse Groups in-hand (Get of Sire/Produce of Dam).**
3. **AHA will provide the score sheets including the master score sheets and championship score sheets to competition management via the AHA website. Competition Management may make as many individual copies as necessary for their competition.**
- 3.4. **INDIVIDUAL CLASSES – The AHA score sheet is divided as follows:**  
~~The AHA score sheet is divided as follows:~~
  - (a) Movement – 40% (20% for walk and 20% for trot)
  - (b) Conformation – 40% **(transmissible weakness or predisposition to unsoundness shall be penalized commensurate with severity)**
  - (c) Expression, Manners, Willingness – 10%
  - (d) Quality, Balance and Harmony; Suitability as a sport horse – 10%
  - ~~(e) Transmissible weaknesses or predisposition to unsoundness shall be penalized commensurate with severity.~~
5. **GROUP CLASSES (Get of Sire, Produce of Dam).** Horses will be judged at the walk and trot, but not necessarily on the triangle. Horses shall stand for conformation judging before and/or after completion of the group's movement. **The AHA score sheet is divided as follows:**  
~~The AHA score sheet is divided as follows:~~
  - (a) Movement – 40% (20% for walk and 20% for trot)
  - (b) Conformation – 40%
  - (c) Quality and Uniformity of Quality (Reproductive likeness) – 10%
  - (d) Overall Quality, Balance, Harmony (apparent ability of sire or dam to produce or beget Sport Horse performance or breeding stock) – 10%

- 175 6. Scoring (Decimals may be used in scoring)
- 176 10 – Excellent
- 177 9 – Very good
- 178 8 – Good
- 179 7 – Fairly Good
- 180 6 – Satisfactory
- 181 5 – Sufficient (some concern for heritability or soundness)
- 182 4 – Insufficient (definite concern for heritability or soundness)
- 183 3 – Fairly Poor
- 184 2 – Poor
- 185 1 – Very Poor

186 ~~10 – A Ten Point Penalty must be assessed for an unnatural tail carriage, see AR105.2b.~~

187 **NOTE: A 10-point penalty must be assessed for an unnatural tail carriage. See AR105.2. b**

- 188 ~~6. A scribe shall be provided for each judge whose main duty is to record the judge's scores and comments on the~~
- 189 ~~score sheets. The scribe may be asked to transfer scores from the individual sheets to the master score sheet.~~
- 190 7. Tied scores for Sport Horse In-Hand shall be broken first by referring to movement, then conformation, then
- 191 overall balance, and finally manners. If the horses are still tied, the judge (or call judge in a multiple judge system),
- 192 will make a final tie-breaking decision.
- 193 8. When multiple judges officiate the same class, competition management may assign separate or shared triangles.
- 194 In either case, judges will have separate score sheets and scribes.
- 195 9. Scores shall be reported as a total based on the stated percentages against a possible total of 100% and all scores
- 196 and placings must be posted. Unofficial scores may be posted during the class and/or final score may be posted at
- 197 the end of each class.
- 198 **10. Sport Horse in hand championships shall be based upon the highest scoring horses in qualifying classes. Sport**
- 199 **horse in-hand champions and reserve champions must be at least one year of age. No horse may be named**
- 200 **champion and reserve champion in the same class. (Example: when amateur and open classes qualify for the**
- 201 **same championship class.). If the same horse has the two (2) highest scores, the next highest eligible horse shall**
- 202 **be named reserve champion.**
- 203 **11.** If a mathematical error on the score sheet is discovered, it must be brought to the attention of competition
- 204 management within one hour of the official posting of the scores from the last class of the competition day.
- 205 Competition management must announce said posting and must make score sheets available to competitors
- 206 ~~immediately~~ **as soon as possible (ensuring all scores are first recorded on the master score sheets for each class).**

208 **AR179 Sport Horse in-Hand Appointments**

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- 210 1. Tack
- 211 Bridles are mandatory on horses three years and older. A bridle shall be a dressage-type snaffle bridle (for
- 212 dressage type – *see DR rules*) or hunter-type snaffle bridle (for hunter type – *see HU rules*). Snaffle bit may be
- 213 with or without cheeks, keepers allowed. If the dressage type/hunter type splits are not offered, the exhibitor may
- 214 choose the type of snaffle bridle used. A split or single lead made of either leather or leather-like materials, with
- 215 or without chain, may be used and must be attached to both sides of the bit, with/or instead of reins. If using a
- 216 single lead, a coupler may be used to attach to both sides of the bit. Horses aged two years old may be shown in a
- 217 bridle ~~(as listed above)~~ **as described above**, or a plain leather ~~stable~~ **or leather-like** halter. Horses under **the age of**
- 218 **two years** must be shown in a plain leather ~~stable~~ **or leather-like** halter. A single lead, with or without a chain,
- 219 ~~made of either leather or leather like material, must be used with a halter. Whether used with a bridle or a halter,~~
- 220 ~~a properly fitted chain should be short enough to prevent the horse from getting it in their mouth and must never~~
- 221 ~~be placed over the nose or through the mouth.~~ **In all cases, if a chain is used, it must be properly fitted to prevent**
- 222 **the horse from getting it in his/her mouth. The chain must never be placed over the horse's nose or through the**
- 223 **mouth of the horse.** Competitors with non-conforming appointments will be eliminated from judging
- 224 consideration.
- 225
- 226 2. Attire
- 227 a. Conservative casual attire is recommended for the handler. This would include casual pants and shirt. Also
- 228 acceptable would be Dressage or Hunter attire including breeches, boots, shirt with tie, stock tie or choker
- 229 collar, ~~providing the tack match the attire for the specified discipline.~~ **If the handler chooses to wear**

- 230 ***breeches, type of shirt and footwear is up to the handler (i.e. polo shirt, show shirt, running shoes, boots).***  
 231 Jackets, hats, vests and gloves are optional.  
 232 b. The handler may only carry one whip, maximum length of six feet, including lash and without attachments (i.e.  
 233 plastic bag, ribbons, etc.)  
 234 c. Protective headgear (as defined in AR111) is encouraged but not required.  
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236 **AR180 Sport Horse Under Saddle**

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 238 1. Subchapters AR1 and AR4 apply to Sport Horse Under Saddle **classes**.  
 239 2. Score sheets are not used for Sport Horse Under Saddle. ***Scribes are not used for Sport Horse Under Saddle.***  
 240 3. Judge(s) must excuse from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger other exhibitors  
 241 or their entries ***or show officials/staff.***  
 242 4. To enter the ring counterclockwise at the trot. To be shown ***both ways of the ring*** at walk, trot, and canter ~~both~~  
 243 ~~directions of the ring~~. Judge may request a lengthening of stride at any gait and may request horses to ***rein***-back in  
 244 the lineup.  
 245 a. Open – to be judged on performance (purity and quality of gaits), manners, conformation, suitability as a Sport  
 246 Horse, ~~and~~ quality.  
 247 b. Amateur – to be judged on manners, performance (purity and quality of gaits), suitability as a Sport Horse,  
 248 ~~conformation and~~ quality.  
 249 c. Junior Horse – to be judged on quality, suitability as a Sport Horse, performance (purity and quality of gaits),  
 250 conformation and manners.  
 251 ***d. Sport Horse Under Saddle Walk/Trot 10 & Under as well as Sport Horse Walk Trot Under Saddle 11 & Over***  
 252 ***may be held.***  
 253 5. ~~SPORT HORSE UNDER SADDLE/SPORT HORSE SHOW HACK:~~ Fall of horse ***and/or*** rider = Elimination.  
 254 6. ***Horses with an unnatural tail carriage shall be placed at the bottom of the class.***  
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256 **AR181 Sport Horse Under Saddle Appointments (Tack and Attire)**

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 258 1. Competitors with non-conforming appointments are ineligible to receive an award in that respective class.  
 259 2. ***Protective headgear (as defined in AR111) is encouraged but not required.***  
 260 3. Appointments (tack & attire) must adhere to one discipline (dressage or hunter) and are not to be mixed. Refer to  
 261 DR120-121, and HU105-107 ***rules on appointments***. ~~Mixing tack is not permitted (e.g. Pelham bit not permitted~~  
 262 ~~with a dressage style bridle.)~~ Protective headgear (as defined in AR111) is encouraged but not required.  
 263 a. ~~Converters on Pelham bits are not permitted and two reins are required.~~ ***Double bridles are permitted. If***  
 264 ***using a double bridle of either type (dressage or hunter), the lever arm/shank (length below the***  
 265 ***mouthpiece) must not exceed 3.94 inches (10 cm.). The inside diameter of the bridoon ring must not exceed***  
 266 ***3.15 inches (8 cm.)***  
 267 b. Unconventional bits may be penalized at the discretion of the judge.  
 268 c. ~~Double bridles are permitted. If using a double bridle of either type (dressage or hunter), the lever arm/shank~~  
 269 ~~(length below the mouthpiece) must not exceed 3.94 inches (10 cm.). The inside diameter of the bridoon ring~~  
 270 ~~must not exceed 3.15 inches (8 cm.).~~ ***Junior Horse Sport Horse Under Saddle classes – snaffle bits are***  
 271 ***mandatory.***  
 272 d. Kimberwicks are prohibited.  
 273 e. Martingales are prohibited.  
 274 ***f. Earplugs are permitted, regardless of type.***  
 275 4. If the show is offering dressage type and hunter type splits, each exhibitor must ensure the appointments (tack  
 276 and attire) are permitted for the type shown. If the show does not offer splits for the under-saddle classes and/or  
 277 for championship classes, each exhibitor must ensure their appointments (~~tack and attire~~) adhere to one discipline  
 278 only (dressage or hunter).  
 279 ~~a. Whips, bats, and crops are permitted in all Sport Horse Under Saddle classes, including Championships, so long~~  
 280 ~~as they are appropriate to the type of attire.~~  
 281 ~~b. Earplugs are permitted, regardless of type.~~  
 282 5. ***Spurs, whips, bats, crops are permitted in all sport horse under saddle classes, including championships,***  
 283 ***providing they match the discipline shown according to DR and HU rules.***  
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285 **AR182 Sport Horse Show Hack**

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1. Subchapters AR1 and AR4 apply to Sport Horse Show Hack classes.
2. Score sheets are not used for Sport Horse Show Hack. ***Scribes are not used for Sport Horse Show Hack.***
3. Judges must excuse from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger other exhibitors or their entries ***or show officials/staff.***
4. ~~Sport Horse Show Hack.~~ To enter the ring counterclockwise at a working trot or a working walk. To be shown both ~~directions~~ ***ways*** of the ring at the walk, trot, and canter; ***showing*** collected, working and extended gaits ~~to be called for, and the hand gallop~~ ***phases of each gait, plus hand gallop, also both ways of the ring.*** All phases of all ***the three*** gaits to be called for both directions ***shown both ways*** of the ring. Horses should stand quietly and rein back readily. ***Rein back to be requested in the lineup.***
  - a. Open – to be judged on performance, manners, quality and conformation.
  - b. Amateur – to be judged on manners, performance, quality and conformation.
5. ***Fall of horse and/or rider = Elimination***
6. ***Horses with an unnatural tail carriage will be placed at the bottom of the class.***

**AR183 Sport Horse Show Hack Appointments (Tack and Attire)**

1. Competitors with non-conforming appointments ~~will be eliminated from judging consideration~~ ***are ineligible to receive an award in that respective class.*** Appointments (tack & attire) must adhere to one discipline (dressage and hunter) and are not to be mixed. Refer to DR120-121 and HU105-107.
2. ***Protective headgear (as defined in AR111) is encouraged but not required.***
  2. Tack:
    - a. Bridles must be:
      1. Dressage Type: a dressage style snaffle bridle or dressage style double bridle.
      2. Hunter Type: a hunter style snaffle, Pelham bridle, or hunter style double bridle.
    - b. Converters on Pelham bits are not permitted and two reins are required.
    - c. Unconventional bits may be penalized at discretion of the judge.
    - d. If using a double bridle of either style, the lever arm/shank (length below the mouthpiece) must not exceed 3.94 inches or 10cm. The inside diameter of the bridoon ring must not exceed 3.15 inches or 8cm. Cavesson nosebands to be used but flash nosebands would be acceptable only when using a snaffle bridle and snaffle bit.
    - e. Kimberwick bit prohibited.
    - f. Martingales are prohibited.
  3. Attire:
    - a. Informal attire consists of conservatively colored short, dark coat, with tie, stock tie or choker collar, white or light colored breeches, boots or smooth leather half chaps, hunt cap, derby, top hat or protective headgear. b. Formal attire consists of white breeches, top hat and shad belly coat may be worn. It is usual to wear such attire after 6:00 p.m. or in championship classes. Protective headgear (as defined in AR111) is encouraged but not required.
    - c. Spurs and whip are optional. If a whip is carried, it may not exceed the length requirements in DR120. Whips, bats, and crops are permitted in all Sport Horse Show Hack classes, including Championships, so long as they are appropriate to the type of attire.
    - d. Earplugs are permitted, regardless of type.
3. ***Appointments (tack & attire) must adhere to one discipline (dressage or hunter) and are not to be mixed. Refer to DR and HU rules on appointments.***
  - a. ***Double bridles are permitted. If using a double bridle of either type (dressage or hunter), the lever arm/shank (length below the mouthpiece) must not exceed 3.94 inches (10 cm.). The inside diameter of the bridoon ring must not exceed 3.15 inches (8 cm.).***
  - b. ***Unconventional bits may be penalized at the discretion of the judge.***
  - c. ***Kimberwicks are prohibited.***
  - d. ***Martingales are prohibited.***
  - e. ***Earplugs are permitted.***
4. ***Informal or formal attire allowed and must adhere to one discipline. See DR and HU rules.***
5. ***Spurs, whips, bats, crops are permitted in all sport horse show hack classes, including championships, providing they match the discipline shown according to DR and HU rules.***

**AR184 Sport Horse Qualifying Description of Gaits**

- 342 1. Innate quality movement is a priority in the ~~the~~ **all** Sport Horse classes. All gaits should be pure in rhythm and should  
 343 be ~~without~~ **performed absent of** tension or resistance. **Transitions should be absent of tension and balanced.**  
 344
- 345 2. Walk -  
 346 a. ~~Walk. (Also Working Walk)~~ The rhythm of the walk (**also working walk**) is four beats. The walk is to be regular  
 347 and unconstrained. **There should be a clear "V" to indicate clarity of rhythm.**  
 348 b. Collected Walk The rhythm is four beats **with good tempo**. The stride maintains the ~~marching~~ quality of the  
 349 working walk with hind legs well engaged ~~but covers less ground.~~  
 350 c. Extended Walk The rhythm is four beats **without rushing**. ~~While maintaining the march quality, the horse~~  
 351 ~~does not rush, but with regular steps, will clearly show the hind feet touching the ground in front of the~~  
 352 ~~footprints of the forefeet. The rider allows the horse to stretch forward with head and neck, but does not~~  
 353 ~~release contact with the mouth.~~ **Over track and a lengthen of the frame while maintaining the connection**  
 354 **demonstrate quality.**  
 355
- 356 3. Trot -  
 357 a. ~~Trot. (Also Working Trot)~~ The rhythm of the trot (**also working trot**) is two beats. The trot is free, active and  
 358 regular. ~~The steps should be balanced and elastic with the horse demonstrating a supple back and well~~  
 359 ~~engaged hindquarters.~~ **The horse should demonstrate balance and elasticity through a supple back and**  
 360 **engaged hindquarters.**  
 361 b. Collected Trot The rhythm is two beats. The horse continues to move forward with ~~impulsion, and~~  
 362 ~~demonstrates an ability to further engage the hocks, which allows the shoulders of the horse to become~~  
 363 ~~lighter and the stride to become shorter.~~ **good energy and increased engagement. The shift of balance to the**  
 364 **hindquarters lightens the forehand, without constraint.** ~~The neck is raised and arched, but not constrained.~~  
 365 c. Extended Trot The rhythm is two beats. The horse covers as much ground as possible while maintaining  
 366 regularity and balance. ~~The stride lengthens as a result of great impulsion.~~ The rider allows the horse, while  
 367 remaining on the bit **contact**, to reach **lengthen** its frame. The forefeet should touch the ground where they  
 368 point **and there should be over track.** ~~The transitions to and from should be balanced and smoothly executed.~~  
 369
- 370 4. Canter -  
 371 a. ~~Canter. (Also Working Canter)~~ The rhythm of the working canter is three beats. The canter should be light,  
 372 cadenced (rhythm with a suitable tempo combined with springy impulsion) and regular. ~~Transitions should be~~  
 373 ~~without hesitation and balanced.~~ The canter should always be straight on straight lines **properly aligned (not**  
 374 **crooked).**  
 375 b. Collected canter The rhythm is three beats. The horse moves forward with impulsion through increased  
 376 engagement of the hindquarters and lightness of forehand. ~~The neck is raised and arched but not constrained.~~  
 377 The back **of the horse** remains supple, and the strides ~~are shorter~~ **cover less ground.**  
 378 c. Extended canter The rhythm is three beats. The horse covers as much ground as possible ~~while maintaining~~  
 379 ~~regularity and balance~~ **without losing rhythm or balance.** ~~The stride lengthens as a result of great impulsion~~  
 380 ~~from the hindquarters and the rider allows the horse to lower and extend the neck, without losing contact~~  
 381 ~~with the bit, or leaning.~~ **The frame of the horse may lengthen and connection is to be maintained without**  
 382 **leaning.**
- 383 5. Lengthening of stride -  
 384 When lengthening the stride is requested at the walk, trot or canter (**Sport Horse Under Saddle**), the horse should  
 385 maintain ~~rhythm,~~ regularity and balance, while ~~reaching with~~ **being permitted to lengthen** the frame and the  
 386 stride. The rider should maintain contact with the bit, while allowing the lengthening **of the frame.** ~~The strides~~  
 387 ~~should be more ground covering and the horse should remain calm and supple.~~
- 388 6. Hand Gallop  
 389 The rhythm is three beats. The hand gallop is performed with long, free, ~~ground covering~~ **powerful** strides. The  
 390 amount of ground covered will vary between horses due to the difference in the natural length of stride. The  
 391 horse is to remain mannerly, correct and ~~straight~~ **correctly aligned (not crooked).** Extreme speed to be penalized.
- 392 7. Rein-back  
 393 The rhythm is two beats. **The rein-back is a two-beat diagonal gait.** The feet are raised and set down in diagonal  
 394 pairs. The horse is to remain calm, and obedient, ~~lifting and setting down the feet,~~ **compliant and** without  
 395 shuffling. **The rider is not to create tension with the reins.**  
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	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>MINOR FAULTS</b>	<b>MAJOR FAULTS</b>	<b>ELIMINATION OVERALL</b>
<b>WALK</b>	<i>Clear 4 beat rhythm, absent of tension, steady tempo with good activity</i>	<i>Some tension through back or in contact. Brief loss of rhythm</i>	<i>Jigging, anxious, stopping. Frequent loss of rhythm</i>	<b>Fall AR179.5</b>
<b>TROT</b>	<i>Clear 2 beat rhythm with cadence; absent of tension, steady tempo; level or uphill balance; soft, elastic contact</i>	<i>Some tension through back or in contact. Brief loss of rhythm; brief loss of balance.</i>	<i>Tense with lack of suppleness throughout; on forehand; extreme speed.</i>	<i>Rearing, running backwards, bucking (may be excused from ring)</i>
<b>CANTER</b>	<i>Clear 3 beat rhythm with cadence; straight with suppleness; level or uphill balance; soft contact</i>	<i>Some tension through back or in contact; not straight; slight loss of tempo; brief loss of rhythm. Wrong lead quickly corrected.</i>	<i>Tense with lack of suppleness throughout; loss of rhythm and changing tempo; cross canter steps; wrong lead not corrected</i>	<b>Lame (AR105.1)</b>
<b>HAND GALLOP</b>	<i>Clear 3 beat rhythm with greater ground cover and power compared to the canter, but still mannerly; soft, elastic contact</i>	<i>Minimal change in power &amp; ground cover; brief tension; brief loss of rhythm. Wrong lead quickly corrected.</i>	<i>Tense with lack of suppleness throughout, loss of rhythm and changing tempo; cross cantering; wrong lead not corrected</i>	<i>Blood in mouth, chin, shoulder, flanks; whip marks; abusive treatment; dangerous to others (can be excused from ring) (AR105)</i>
<b>REIN BACK</b>	<i>Clear 2 beat diagonal rhythm; soft contact</i>	<i>Diagonal rhythm but dragging toes; some tension in contact</i>	<i>Not diagonal in rhythm; braced against hand; resistance.</i>	

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401

**AR185 Sport Horse Class Specifications**

402

1. IN HAND CLASSES. Horses shall be shown at the walk and trot on the triangle. The AHA Score Sheet is divided as follows: Movement—40% (20% for walk and 20% for trot) Conformation—40% Expression, Manners, Willingness—10% Quality, Balance and Harmony, Suitability as a Sport Horse—10% Transmissible weaknesses or predisposition to unsoundness shall be penalized commensurate with severity.

406

2. GROUP CLASSES (Get of Sire, Produce of Dam). Horses will be judged at the walk and trot, but not necessarily on the triangle. Horse shall stand for conformation judging before and/or after completion of the group's movement. The AHA Score Sheet is divided as follows: Movement—40% (20% for walk and 20% for trot) Conformation—40% Quality and Uniformity of Quality (Reproductive likeness)—10% Overall Quality, Balance, Harmony (Apparent ability of sire or dam to produce or beget Sport Horse performance or breeding stock)—10%.

411

3. UNDER SADDLE CLASSES. To be shown at the walk, trot, and canter both directions of the ring. Judge may request lengthening of stride at any gait and may request horse to back in the line up.

413

a. OPEN. To be judged on performance (purity and quality of gaits), manners, conformation, suitability as a Sport Horse and quality.

415

b. AMATEUR. To be judged on manners, performance (purity and quality of gaits), suitability as a Sport Horse, conformation and quality.

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c. JUNIOR HORSE. To be judged on quality, suitability as a Sport Horse, performance (purity and quality of gaits), conformation and manners.

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4. SPORT HORSE SHOW HACK CLASSES. To be shown both directions of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter (collected, working and extended gaits to be called for), and the hand gallop. Horses should stand quietly and back readily. OPEN.

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LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be judged on performance, manners, quality, and conformation.

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a. AMATEUR. To be judged on manners, performance, quality, and conformation.

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**AR186 185 Sport Horse Showmanship**

1. Purpose: To be judged on the presentation of the horse, neatness and appearance of handler, overall condition of the horse, handling techniques, appropriate tack and equipment and ability to show the horse to the best advantage.
2. General – **one entry = one handler, one horse, per class. The same horse may not be used multiple times by different handlers in the same class.**
  - a. Classes may be divided by age of handler.
  - b. Unsoundness of the horse being shown shall not penalize a handler unless it is sufficiently severe as to impair the required performance. ~~in which case~~ **Penalty is** at the judge’s discretion.
  - c. Offering prize money in Youth Sport Horse Showmanship is prohibited.
  - d. A minimum of six ribbons should be awarded but no more than ten places are recommended.
  - e. Hair must be ~~neat and securely fastened~~ **neatly secured** so as not to cover the handler’s number.
  - f. The handler’s number must be worn on the handler’s back and must be clearly visible. Number may be attached by string around the waist or attached to the shirt/jacket/vest with magnets or safety pins.
  - g. Excessive coaching or unauthorized assistance in any manner is subject to penalty or disqualification at the judge’s discretion.
  - h. If stallions are prohibited, it must be stated in the premium/prize list/omnibus.
3. Appointments  
Exhibitor’s tack and attire must match their specified discipline (**DR or HU**) and are not to be mixed. ~~Refer to Federation/EC, DR, and HU rules. See DR and HU rules. Casual sport horse attire allowed.~~  
**The handler may carry one whip, maximum length of 6 feet, including lash and without attachments (i.e. plastic bags, ribbons, etc.)**
  - a. ~~Tack (see AR179)~~
  - b. ~~Attire: Refer to AR179.2, DR, and HU rules.~~
    1. ~~The handler may carry only one whip, maximum length of six feet (6’), including lash and without attachments (i.e. plastic bags, ribbons, etc.)~~
4. Class Conduct
  - a. ~~The AHA Individual Sport Horse Showmanship score sheet shall be used. Each judge will be assigned a scribe who will record scores and comments as dictated by the judge. Horses will be shown individually on the triangle. The AHA score sheets will be provided to competition management by AHA. Competition Management may make as many individual copies as necessary for their competition.~~
  - b. **The AHA score sheets will be provided to competition management by AHA. Competition management may make as many individual copies as necessary for their competition.**
  - c. Following a posted or announced order, or on request from the judge, entries in each class will approach the judging area one at a time and walk to the apex of the triangle. The presentation judging while the horse is stationary may take place before **and/or** after the performance on the triangle. The handler ~~must~~ **is to** wait for the judge’s instructions before proceeding on the triangle.  
The handler will lead the horse on the perimeter of the triangle at the walk and then the trot, returning to the apex to wait for further instructions **from the judge**. At the completion of judging, the handler will lead the horse away from the judging area. ~~The triangle may be adjusted to fit local conditions.~~
  - d. Ideally, the horse should be shown in an “open” position. The traditional way of showing ~~an~~ **open** position would be with the ~~right~~ **one** front leg slightly ~~back~~ **forward** and one hind leg slightly forward. The objective is to have all four legs of the horse visible to the judge when standing on either side of the horse; ~~also acceptable all four legs of the horse are visible to the judge when standing on either side of the horse.~~ The horse’s head and neck should be allowed to show in **horse should be allowed to carry** a natural and comfortable carriage, ~~and with the handler standing away slightly away from the horse, with a loose lead line. Handlers may use treats to keep horse’s attention and focus. It is permissible for the handler to keep the horse’s attention with treats. The whip may be used to guide the horse but not touch the horse with the whip.~~  
**The whip may be used to guide the horse but not touch the horse with the whip.**
  - e. **The size of the triangle may be adjusted to fit local conditions.**
  - f. Decimals may be used in scoring.
  - g. Tied scores for sport horse showmanship shall be broken first by referring to the Handling Technique and if those scores are equal, refer to the movement scores (walk and trot presentation combined). ~~If still tied,~~ **If a tie still exists**, the tie will be broken at the judge’s discretion.

- 477 h. Scores shall be reported out of a possible 100 points. All scores & placings ~~must~~ **should** be posted **one hour**
- 478 **after the conclusion of the session in which the class is held. Consideration to show management to be**
- 479 **given in this effort.**
- 480 5. If a mathematical error on a score sheet is discovered, it must be brought to the attention of competition
- 481 management within one hour of the official posting of the scores from the last class of the competition day.
- 482 ~~Competition management must announce said posting, and must make score sheets available to competitors as~~
- 483 ~~soon as possible after completion of the class.~~ **Official posting of cards should happen one hour after the**
- 484 **conclusion of the session in which the class is held. Consideration to show management's efforts in this must be**
- 485 **respected.**
- 486 6. Showmanship Faults
- 487 a. Not following the judge's instructions.
- 488 b. Handlers not showing the horse but just showing themselves.
- 489 c. Not lining up in front of **the** judge when walking and trotting **the sides of the triangle.**
- 490 d. Standing in a position to obstruct the judge's view of the horse. **The handler should ~~not~~ never stand directly in**
- 491 **front of the horse.**
- 492 e. Excessive use of whip.
- 493 f. Not holding the lead/reins safely; excessive shaking.
- 494 g. Improper attire or attire not clean and neat.
- 495 h. Horse in poor condition, not clean or improperly groomed.
- 496 i. Improperly fitting tack or tack not clean.
- 497 7. Showmanship Eliminations
- 498 a. Number not worn or improperly displayed.
- 499 b. Any handler not having their horse under sufficient control must be dismissed from the ring by the judge and
- 500 be eliminated.
- 501 c. Intentional contact with whip to horse.
- 502 d. Prohibited equipment (i.e. kimberwick bits)

Effective: December 31, 2025, or when approved by USEF/EC

(If a Standard resolution, the effective date will be December 31 of the year after the Convention)

RESOLUTION TYPE (REQUIRED): Standard  X  Extraordinary \_\_\_\_\_ "If indicated as "Extraordinary", the proponent must list reasons which establish Chapter 9, RULE 101.3.a. has been met)

PROPOSERS FINANCIAL IMPACT (REQUIRED): Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 102.6. & 102.7 for financial requirements

None

AHA IMPACT STATEMENT: (To be completed by AHA Staff)

Contact Person:

SUBMITTED BY: Sport Horse Committee Region Number:

Member Organization  Committee  Commission  Board  Region (check one )

Who voted:  Members  Board  Delegates (check voting body)

Total Number Eligible to Vote: 109 Number of Yes votes: 14 Number of No votes: 0

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

**RESOLUTION 8 - 24**

- 526 Where documentation of this vote is recorded: With the Chair ***(Must have printed documentation on file)***
- 527 Date vote taken: July 27, 2024
- 528 Contact Person: Janet Henderson, Chair ***(Has authority to amend, combine or withdraw)***
- 529 Phone: (905) 658-2658 Email: janet\_arwen@icloud.com