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AMERICAN SADDLEBRED HORSE ASSOCIATION

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

The Standards and Rules Committee of the ASHA invites the particular consideration and attention of all competitors, officials, and managements to the following United States Equestrian Federation rules (paraphrased). Please publicize and post this bulletin in an appropriate public area. We thank you for your cooperation.

USEF Rule Reference Description

- SB 103.5-6** A judge must order from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger the rider, driver, handler, other exhibitors or their entries. 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.
- SB 110** A stake class may either be a qualifying class for the championship or the final competition for a particular section. If run as the final competition for a particular section, competition management must indicate in the prize list if exhibitors are required to "qualify" in order to compete by listing all eligible qualifying classes.
- GR 404.5** Gingering horses is not allowed in the show ring.
- SB 102.2** Horses with crooked tails must be penalized and horses with extremely crooked tails must be severely penalized.
- SB 103.3** Horses may be shown with unset tails in any class without penalty.
- SB 102.2/105** Horses with extremely low backs must be severely penalized in all stripped performance classes, harness classes, and in-hand classes.
- SB 105** All Open Three-Gaited and Open Five-Gaited Championship classes at "A" rated competitions must be stripped for conformation judging (except one horse classes). In addition, stripping for conformation judging is also required for all championship classes held at the Kentucky State Fair World's Championship Horse Show and the UPHA/American Royal National Championship Horse Show (except Park Horse, Pleasure Horse, Three-Gaited Junior Exhibitor, Five-Gaited Junior Exhibitor sections, and all Kentucky County Fair Championship classes), and all ASR signature classes for horses three years old and under (i.e., ASR Futurities, ASR Sweepstakes). A head to tail line-up &/or individual presentation of entries will be required.
- SB 107.1** When line-up is called, exhibitors are to continue around the ring in a clockwise direction to bring their entries to the line.
- SB 103.4** All horses shall be worked both ways of the ring at all required gaits as directed by the judge(s). Workouts will be judged as a separate class, and horses must be tied for placings being considered in that workout. Workouts may be called for by the judge(s) for any or all placings. All horses chosen for a workout must be worked both ways of the ring at any or all gaits listed in the class specifications that are requested by the judge(s). An exhibitor is entitled to request only one five minute time out per class including workout. (See GR 833)
- SB 108** There is a difference in the way classes are to be judged, particularly among Ladies, Junior Exhibitors, and Amateur classes. See following page for details.
- GR 840** Attention getting devices &/or other noisemakers (including but not limited to tape measures, blow horns, altered bamboo poles, explosives, etc.) are not allowed in and around the make up/schooling/warm-up and competition rings during scheduled competition sessions. Use of explosives and fire extinguishers by or for exhibitors/competitors (except in the case of fire) is not allowed on competition grounds at any time.
- GR 904.7** Competitions are allowed to add additional classes as competition management deems necessary. If classes are added less than 5 days prior to the competition (See GR 904.4), competition management must advise exhibitors of the additions upon check in, post notices in the competition office, and make the appropriate announcements during the competition.
- GR 1137.2** Competitions designated as Regional Championships by the American Saddlebred Horse Association will receive triple points.
- GR 1210.18** Competitions are to ensure that Federation Member Reports and Judge Evaluation Forms are publicly displayed and available for Federation members during the entire competition and to ensure that an announcement is made via the competition's public address system at least once each session, pertaining to the availability of said forms.
- SB 138** In pleasure classes, the use of protective equipment, such as non-weighted bell boots, shin boots, etc., is allowed on the grounds and in the warm-up areas prior to entering the competition ring.
- SB 154 & SB 159** Notwithstanding SB 136, professionals may compete in a Hunter and a Western Country Pleasure Prospect Class. In addition, professionals may compete in one designated Open Western or Open Hunter Country Pleasure class provided two additional Western or Hunter classes restricted to amateurs are offered at the same competition. Any such designated class must be scheduled prior to classes restricted to amateurs. (See SB 158 & SB 163 for class specifications)

GENERAL

Confidential Evaluations

Officials, managements, and exhibitors are reminded of the Federation rules requiring management to announce the availability of Confidential Evaluation forms at all Licensed Competitions. Evaluations serve as a means of expressing positive, complimentary remarks about judges to the Federation, as well as critical comments. Forms received are reviewed by the Licensed Officials Committee, while maintaining their confidentiality. Co-chaired by Keith Bartz, this committee of the Federation has strong American Saddlebred representation. If, in the judgment of the committee, sufficient independent negative evaluations of an official are received, the official is formally notified. According to the procedures set out in the rules, other steps may be taken if warranted, including refusal to renew a license or outright revocation.

Unruly Horses Must be Excused

Per Federation rules [GR 1031.11 & SB 103.5], it is the responsibility of judges to excuse unruly horses from the competition ring. This is a matter of both safety and fairness to other competitors.

Horses May Not be Gingered in the Ring

Per General Rule 404.5, ginger is a foreign substance within the meaning of this rule which may not be applied or administered to an animal while in the competition ring.

Class Conduct and Judging

Differentiation in Judging Specifications for Juniors, Ladies, Amateur Horses

We draw the urgent attention of judges, exhibitors and management (including announcers) to Rule SB 108. It might be valuable for announcers to recite parts of this rule at the beginning of the appropriate class.

To re-state the rule, MANNERS are paramount in classes for Ladies, Junior Exhibitors, and Amateur classes. However, there are differences in the way in which horses are judged in each.

A *Lady's* horse should be outstanding in refinement and elegance with suitability of horse to rider taken into consideration. Expression is important and quality is a prime consideration. The execution of gaits should be performed with brilliance on command. The horses should walk and stand quietly.

The Junior Exhibitor's horse should be mannerly, willing and expressive with balanced action. The execution of gaits should be performed with brilliance on command. The horse should walk and stand quietly.

Amateur's and Owner's horses can be a bit stronger and perform in a bolder manner. More action and animation are desired, and less emphasis can be put on manners than in Ladies and Junior Exhibitor classes.

To be Penalized/Must be Severely Penalized

Judges and exhibitors are reminded that "carrying a crooked tail" is to be penalized and "carrying an extremely crooked tail" is to be severely penalized, the same way that lack of conditioning, a rough coat, and other undesirable appearance are to be penalized [SB 102.2].

Judges and exhibitors are reminded that in classes which are stripped, harness classes, and in-hand classes, any horse with an extremely low back must be severely penalized. [SB 102.2; 105].

Lining Up

When the line-up is called, exhibitors are required by the rules to continue in a clockwise direction to bring their entries to the line. Judges are required to penalize entries that do not comply [SB 107.1]. We suggest that the Paddock Master remind exhibitors and horsemen of this rule, as well as the ring announcer, and that it be posted conspicuously in the office and the paddock.

