

April
2009

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.
- 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 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... All horses chosen for a workout must be worked both ways of the ring at any or all gaits listed in the class specifications... An exhibitor is entitled to request only one five minute time out per class including workout. (See SB 103.4 & GR 833)
- SB 105** In classes where manners are paramount (i.e. Ladies, Junior Exhibitors, Amateurs, and Owners), riders must remount and return to the line up before the judges will be allowed to turn in their cards.
- 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.
- SB 112** It is required that under saddle classes of 25 or more entries and harness classes of 16 or more entries be divided into separate sections. It is recommended that under saddle classes of 21 or more entries be divided into separate sections.
- SB158.5 & SB163.3** The Show committee must previously state in the prize list, if they intend to use Saddle & Bridle's Shatner Western Pleasure Class or Hunter Classic as a qualifier and this class cannot be the sole qualifying class for the competition's championship.
- GR 839** Cruelty to or the abuse of a horse by any person at a Licensed Competition is forbidden, constitutes a violation under Chapter 7, and renders the offender subject to penalty. The following acts are included under the words Cruelty and Abuse but are not limited thereto: Use of shackles, hock hobbles and similar devices (not to be construed as rubber or elastic exercising devices).
- GR 840** Attention getting devices &/or other noisemakers...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...(except in the case of fire) is not allowed on competition grounds at any time. (See GR 839.4i & 840)
- GR 1034.16** Judge's cards and/or official score sheets are to be signed by the judge and retained...as part of the competition's official records for a period of no less than three years. (See GR 1034.6)
- 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.



4083 Iron Works Parkway • Lexington, Kentucky 40511
859.259.2742 • 859.259.1628 fax • www.saddlebred.com

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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 1034.11 & 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.



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