

SUBJECT: Trail Scoring System (USEF/EC)

(This section to be completed by the Agenda and Resolutions Committee.)

Committee Action:
 Approve Disapprove

Committees required to review:

Education/Evaluation Commission			
USEF Arabian Division Committee			
Working Western Horse Committee			

CONVENTION ACTION:

Approved
 Approved with Modification
 Disapproved
 Withdrawn
 Referred to Committee _____

RESOLUTION:

(Refer to Article 901 for submission requirements.)

- 16 Whereas, The current trail scoring system has been in place for a number of years, and
- 18 Whereas, As with any system some changes are necessary to keep up with the growth of the industry, and
- 20 Whereas, Many have felt that the Trail Scoring System should be more in line with other scoring systems currently being used; Therefore, Be It

Resolved, That USEF AR 206, AR 207 and AR 208 be deleted and replaced with the following:

AR206 Conduct and Definitions

1. All entered exhibitors will be allowed to walk and inspect the course with the judge and with the course designer, if present, prior to the start of the class. In amateur and junior exhibitor classes, exhibitors may be accompanied by their trainer.
 - a. No time outs will be allowed.
 - b. All horses enter the arena with a score of 70. With each obstacle, the judge will instruct a scribe to assign a score as well as any appropriate penalties if one or more occurs. At the end of the work, obstacle scores will be totaled. Any penalties will then be subtracted to arrive at a final score. All horses are judged from the time they enter the arena until the completion of the last obstacle.
 - c. Judge(s) may review official video on no score, zero, 10 point, or 5 point penalties only. Refer to AR197.4. (Video review is solely the judge(s) decision.)
 - d. Refer to Chapter WS Subchapter WS-3, WS129 for the mandatory obstacle dimensions. *With the following exceptions:*
 - (1). *The maximum allowed height and/ or width of a jump for AOTR,ATR, JOTR or JTR whether mounted or lead over shall not exceed 12 inches.*
 - (2). *bridges, water boxes and similar crossing obstacles must be of sturdy design, non-slip surface and shall be a minimum of 3 feet wide by 6 feet long.*
 - (3). *Tarps of any type are prohibited.*
2. Knockdown: When any component, element, or portion of an obstacle is displaced from its original position-by horse or rider.
3. Refusal: Any action taken by the horse to avoid performing an obstacle, part of a combination of obstacles or portion of a trail course. These actions may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Balking: (Any action that results in a horse blatantly and continuously refusing a rider’s command).
 - b. Evading or running past an obstacle to be negotiated.
 - c. Each complete loss of the gate.
 - d. Any blatant action by the horse that demonstrates an unwillingness to approach,

negotiate and/or complete an obstacle.

When a judge deems three (3) refusals have occurred at an obstacle the exhibitor will be instructed to proceed to the next obstacle. (In multiple judging situations the call judge will determine when to instruct the exhibitor to proceed to the next obstacle.)

NOTE: Any time a judge instructs an exhibitor to proceed to the next obstacle a 10 point penalty will also apply for negotiating an obstacle in a manner that does not constitute elimination, but is not in accordance with course directions. This penalty is in addition to a 15 point penalty for three (3) refusals.

4. Off Course:

- a. Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.
- b. Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side.
- c. Skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge.
- d. Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence.
- e. Not following the correct line of travel (i.e. the drawn pattern and Judge's instruction).

AR207 Trail Scoring General

Each obstacle will be scored as follows:

+1 1/2 EXCELLENT: The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form with definite style. The horse performs in an efficient manner with curiosity and athleticism, while maintaining the qualities of an ideal trail horse. The horse's performance over the obstacle is VISUALLY IMPRESSIVE.

+1 VERY GOOD: The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form with noticeable style. This horse definitely displays many qualities of the ideal trail horse. The horse's performance over the obstacle is VISUALLY ATTRACTIVE.

+1/2 GOOD: The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form with some degree of style. This horse may display some qualities of the ideal trail horse, but lacks those qualities to the degree they are exhibited by the Very Good or Excellent performer. The horse's performance over the obstacle is VISUALLY PLEASING.

0 AVERAGE: For the most part, horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form. Minimal style is exhibited. If the horse's performance displays any qualities of the ideal trail horse they are negated by slight errors in form. The horse's performance over the obstacle leaves a visually NEUTRAL IMPRESSION.

-1/2 POOR: The horse fails in some way to approach and/or negotiate obstacle in correct form. There is a noticeable void in some of the qualities of the ideal trail horse. Willingness to guide or control may have been compromised but not safety.

-1 VERY POOR: The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle, but noticeably fails to do so in correct form. There is a definite deficiency in the qualities of the ideal trail horse. Safety may have been compromised. The horse exhibits noticeable resistance.

-1 1/2 EXTREMELY POOR: The horse approaches and/or negotiates obstacle in unacceptable form, but avoids elimination. This horse's performance is probably reckless, careless, and/or dangerous. The horse exhibits significant resistance towards the rider's commands. Half point increments can be used from +1 1/2 to -1 1/2.

AR208 Scoring Penalties

In addition to the obstacle score, each entry may incur penalties for the following infractions:

1. NO SCORE

- a. Illegal equipment. This includes any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail.
- b. Abuse to the animal inside or outside the competition arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred. This includes lameness and/or fresh blood in the mouth, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank or hip areas.
- c. Disrespect or misconduct by exhibitor.

2. ZERO SCORE

- a. Off course
- b. Two hands on reins (Exception: Snaffles or Hackamore)
- c. More than one finger between split reins
- d. Fingers between closed reins
- e. Failure to maintain 16 inches of rein between hands when using romal reins
- f. Fall of horse or rider

114 g. Equipment failure or loss of shoe that delays completion of course.
115 Note: Neither a “no score” nor a “zero score” penalty may receive an award in that class. A
116 “zero” score may advance in a multiple-go event.

117 3. 10 POINT PENALTIES

118 a. Being asked to proceed to next obstacle by judge(s) without completing current
119 obstacle.

120 4. 5 POINT PENALTIES

- 121 a. Each refusal. Refusals are cumulative. After three (3) refusals at a single obstacle or
- 122 when deemed necessary by the judge, the judge will ask the contestant to proceed to
- 123 the next obstacle for a total of 15 penalty points.
- 124 b. Placing two or more feet outside of a confining element or bridge
- 125 c. Horse misses/evades or adds an element/component of an obstacle that is part of a series.
- 126 d. Losing drag or object being carried. Loss of gate, or dropping rope gate.
- 127 e. Obvious cueing or touching of horse in front of forward cinch including, but not limited
- 128 to use of free hand to instill fear or praise, or spurring in front of the cinch.
- 129 f. Performing entire obstacle at the wrong gait or lead.
- 130 g. Holding saddle (exception: elevated jog or lope overs or jumps).
- 131 h. Blatant Disobedience including but not limited to: bucking, rearing, pawing, biting,
- 132 i. Severely disturbing the majority of an obstacle (can be used in lieu of counting every
- 133 knockdown).
- 134 j. Temporary loss of control.
- 135 k. Pulling gate instead of push or the opposite, side passing wrong end of horse in slot.

136 5. 2 POINT PENALTIES

- 137 a. Change of required gate. (ie lope to jog, jog to walk, jog to lope, walk to jog (jigging)).
- 138 b. Placing one foot off bridge.
- 139 f. Approaching obstacle at wrong gait or lead. During transition areas between obstacles,
- 140 if horse is, for instance, loping where a jog is called for, or jogging where a walk is
- 141 called for, a two point penalty has occurred.

142 6. 1 POINT PENALTIES

- 143 a. Knockdowns. Moving or displacing an obstacle, plant or marker from it original place.
- 144 b. Skipping a slot when steps or strides are designated
- 145 c. Placing one foot out of a confining element.
- 146 d. Split stride over lope over pole.
- 147 e. Switching leads, pick up wrong lead (1point for each occurrence of out of lead).

148 7. ½ POINT PENANLTIES

- 149 a. Double striding (adding a step when strides are designated)
- 150 b. Stepping on without displacing an element. (pole, standard, plant or marker).

151 Effective: Upon approval by USEF/EC

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153 PROPONENT'S FINANCIAL IMPACT:
154 (Refer to Article 901.2.e. for financial requirements.)
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158 AHA IMPACT STATEMENT:
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160 Contact Person:
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