

**SUBJECT: Trail Horse Course Conduct Rule Change (USEF/EC)**  
USEF Rule Tracking # 502-08

*(This section to be completed by the Agenda and Resolutions Committee.)*  
Committees required to review:

Committee Action:  
Approve                      Disapprove

Competition Advisory Committee			
USEF Arabian Division Committee			
Working Western Committee			

**CONVENTION ACTION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Approved                      \_\_\_\_\_ Approved with Modification                      \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved  
\_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn                      \_\_\_\_\_ Referred to Committee \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION:**

(Refer to Article 901 for submission requirements.)

Whereas,                      Recent changes to USEF Western Division Trail created the need to review AHA Trail Horse Class Conduct to ensure compliance and consistency where appropriate, and acknowledging differences where appropriate; Therefore, Be It

Resolved,                      That USEF AR208 (EC B3402) Conduct and Definitions rule be changed as follows:

AR208 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, obstacles 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 *USEF WS Subchapter WS-3 (EC Chapter 34), WS125 Conduct, and WS129 (EC B3404)* for the mandatory obstacle dimensions, with the following exceptions:

(1) *In Amateur and Junior to ride classes jumps, mounted may not exceed 18”*

(2) *Lead over jumps must not exceed 12”.*

(3) *Bridges must be built of sturdy design non slip surface and a bridge should be approximately 3’ wide and approximately 6’ long. Any bridge deemed to be unsafe by the judge must be altered or removed.*

(4) *For Lope overs a distance of 6’ – 6’6” is preferred.*

(5) *Tarps are prohibited to be used within an obstacle defined as where the entry will be expected to walk, jog, lope or back. They can be used for decorative purposes but must be secured.*

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 *determined by the entry letting go of gate or dropping a rope gate.*

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- 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.)
4. Off Course:
- a. Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.
  - b. *Deliberately failing to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction.*
  - c. Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence *including skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge.*
  - d. Not following the correct line of travel (i.e. the drawn pattern and/or Judge's instruction/discretion).
  - e. *Pulling gate when designated to push in course directions (or visa versa) or when using a rope gate, walking through gate when designated to back through (or visa versa).*
  - f. *Sidepassing the wrong end of a horse in slot.*
  - g. *Riding outside designated boundary marker of the course.*

Effective: When approved by USEF and EC

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PROPONENT'S FINANCIAL IMPACT: No Financial Impact.

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AHA IMPACT STATEMENT: None.

Contact Person:

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SUBMITTED BY:

Name: Working Western Committee Region:

Member Organization Committee Commission Board Region (check one )

Who voted: Members Board Delegates (check voting body)

Total Number Eligible to Vote: 112 Number of Yes votes: 108 Number of No votes: 0

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

Where documentation of this vote is recorded: Committee Minutes (Must have printed documentation on file)

Date vote taken: August 21, 2008

Contact Person: Lorne Robertson (Has authority to amend, combine or withdraw)

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