

**SUBJECT: Breaking Ties in Working Western (USEF/EC)**

(EXTRAORDINARY)

Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 101 & 102 for submission requirements.

Committee Action:

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

Approve

Disapprove

|                                           |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Amateur Committee                         |  |  |  |
| Competition Advisory Committee            |  |  |  |
| Education/Evaluation Commission           |  |  |  |
| Professional Horsemen Committee           |  |  |  |
| U.S. National Show Commission             |  |  |  |
| USEF Arabian Division Committee           |  |  |  |
| Working Western Committee                 |  |  |  |
| Youth Committee                           |  |  |  |
| Youth/Mid-Summer National Show Commission |  |  |  |

CONVENTION ACTION:

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Referred to Committee \_\_\_\_\_

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

Indicate affected Article/Rule number (AHA/USEF/EC) USEF AR218.4

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

Whereas, In Working Western classes, the score is designed to evaluate the overall quality, consistency and versatility of the horse and rider throughout the entire pattern, and

Whereas, The welfare of these horses will benefit greatly from not having to do runoffs for ties in a short time period, especially when weather or footing conditions are not ideal, and

Whereas, To improve the fairness and consistency of tie breaking in Working Western pattern classes there should be set factors that determine the final placing; Therefore, Be It

Resolved, That USEF AR218.4. points c, d and e be amended by striking out and inserting as follows:

- c. In all Working Western Championship classes (except Reined Cow, Limited Reined Cow Horse Classes, and Reining Seat Equitation), ties for placings other than Champion and Reserve Champion that may require being broken, will be determined by the horse with the lowest "Total Penalty Points." ~~If Should~~ the tie **continues to persist**, the tie must be broken by the highest **predetermined** maneuver/obstacle score. **If the tie continues to persist, it must be broken by a second predetermined maneuver/obstacle. If the tie continues to persist, it must be broken by a third predetermined maneuver/obstacle.** If the tie continues to persist, ~~then it must require a work-off~~ **the tie will be broken by a coin flip (coin flip to be done by the USEF Steward or an official of the show)**
- d. In Reined Cow and Limited Reined Cow Horse classes, ties must be broken first by the highest score of the "Fence" or "Cow Work." In Reining Seat Equitation, ties must be broken first by the highest "Equitation" score. If a tie persists in Reined Cow, Limited Reined Cow, or Reining Seat Equitation, it must be broken by the horse with the lowest total penalty points. ~~If Should~~ the tie **continues to persist**, the tie must be broken by the highest **predetermined** maneuver/obstacle score. **If the tie continues to persist, it must be broken by a second predetermined maneuver/obstacle. If the tie continues to persist, it must be broken by a third predetermined maneuver/obstacle.** If the tie continues to persist, ~~then it must require a work-off~~ **the tie will be broken by a coin flip (coin flip to be done by the USEF Steward or an official of the show)**
- e. Ties for any placing in a non-championship class will be determined by the horse with the lowest "Total Penalty Points." ~~If Should~~ the tie **continues to persist**, the tie must be broken by the highest **predetermined**

maneuver/obstacle score. ***If the tie continues persist, it must be broken by a second predetermined maneuver/obstacle. If the tie continues persist, it must be broken by a third predetermined maneuver/obstacle.***  
~~If the tie continues to persist all horses tied will stand tied, prize money (if any) for the placings involved will be added together and equally split between the respective exhibitors.~~ ***the tie will be broken by a coin flip (coin flip to be done by the USEF Steward or an official of the show).***

Effective: December 31, 2026 or when approved by USEF/EC

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

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

To improve the fairness and consistency of tie breaking in Working Western pattern classes there should be set factors that determine the final placing. This rule change benefits horse welfare as they will not be required to do run offs in short time periods with less-than-ideal conditions if the weather and footing are factors. This also takes out the chance of a work off which allows the show to run faster and does not require prize money to be split.

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PROPOSERS FINANCIAL IMPACT (REQUIRED): Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 102.6. & 102.7 for financial requirements  
 None

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

Contact Person:

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SUBMITTED BY: Working Western Committee Region Number:

☐ Member Organization ☒ Committee ☐ Commission ☐ Board ☐ Region ***(check one)*** ☒

Who voted: ☒ Members ☐ Board ☐ Delegates ***(check voting body)***

Total Number Eligible to Vote: 105 Number of Yes votes: 36 Number of No votes: 2

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

Where documentation of this vote is recorded: Survey Monkey Results ***(Must have printed documentation on file)***

Date vote taken: Aug 6 – 14, 2026

Contact Person: Jim Hitt, Chair ***(Has authority to amend, combine or withdraw)***

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