

**SUBJECT: Revised Trail Scoring System (USEF/EC)**

(STANDARD)

Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 101 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			
Judges & Stewards Steering			
Professional Horsemen Committee			
Working Western Committee			
USEF Arabian Division Committee			

CONVENTION ACTION:

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn      \_\_\_\_\_ Referred to Committee \_\_\_\_\_

PROPOSED CHANGE: *(Check one)* \_\_\_\_\_ Add new rule      \_\_\_\_\_ Delete existing rule        X   Change existing text  
 Indicate affected Article/Rule number (AHA/USEF/EC) USEF AR227

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

Whereas,            There is a desire to revise the current Trail Scoring System to be consistent with the penalties in other associations as we commonly ask judges from other associations to adjudicate our National Shows;  
 Therefore, Be It

Resolved,            That USEF AR227 be amended by striking out the following:

~~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.~~
- ~~d. No whips allowed in In Hand Trail.~~

~~2. ZERO SCORE~~

- ~~a. Off course including:
 
  - ~~1. Pulling gate when designated to push in course directions (or vice versa) or when using a rope gate, walking through the gate when designated to back through (or vice versa)~~
  - ~~2. Sidepassing the wrong end of horse in slot~~
  - ~~3. Working obstacles out of sequence~~
  - ~~4. Deliberately failing to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction~~
  - ~~5. Riding/leading horse outside designated boundary marker of the course~~~~
- ~~b. Fall of horse or rider/handler. Equipment failure or loss of shoe that delays completion of course.~~
- ~~c. Dropping a rein or the Lead that contacts the ground while the horse is in motion~~
- ~~d. Two hands on reins (Exception: Snaffles or Hackamore) or changing hands on reins; except for junior horses shown with hackamore or snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, except that it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle. Exception: Does not apply for English Trail or In Hand Trail.~~
- ~~e. More than one finger between split reins. Exception: Does not apply for English Trail or In Hand Trail.~~
- ~~f. Fingers between closed reins. Exception: Does not apply for English Trail or In Hand Trail.~~
- ~~g. Failure to maintain 16 inches of rein between hands when using romal reins except to work an obstacle. Exception: Does not apply for English Trail or In Hand Trail. Note: Neither a "no score" nor a "zero score" penalty may receive an award in that class. A "zero" score may advance in a multiple go event.~~
- ~~h. Baiting is not allowed in In Hand Trail.~~

3. ~~10 POINT PENALTIES~~

- a. ~~Temporary loss of control, stampeding, running through or jumping over entire obstacle when jump is not called for. This penalty can be awarded when an entry has completed an obstacle and has sufficiently destroyed the obstacle or where it is impossible to ascertain if the obstacle has been completed in any manner.~~
- b. ~~blatant disobedience (kicking, bucking, rearing, biting, striking, horse leaving designated ground tie area).~~

4. ~~5 POINT PENALTIES~~

- a. ~~Each refusal. Refusals are cumulative. After three (3) refusals at a single obstacle or when deemed necessary by the judge, the judge will ask the contestant to proceed to the next obstacle for a total of 15 penalty points. When the refusal is the result of a complete loss of the gate the entry may retrieve the gate and continue. If they are unable to retrieve the gate and the judge asks them to move on they will have been deemed to have earned three refusals for a total of three (3) five point penalties.~~
- b. ~~Horse places two or more hooves outside of a confining element.~~
- c. ~~Horse misses/evades an element/component of an obstacle that is part of a series.~~
- d. ~~Rider/handler loses drag or object being carried.~~
- e. ~~Horse places one hoof off side of bridge or falling off side of bridge.~~
- f. ~~Horse performs obstacle at the wrong gait or lead.~~
- g. ~~Rider spurring or obvious cueing or touching of horse in front of forward cinch including, but not limited to use of free hand to instill fear or praise.~~
- h. ~~Handler touching the horse with either hand in In Hand unless instructed by the judge, course designer or performing a side pass.~~

5. ~~2 POINT PENALTIES~~

- a. ~~Horse/handler knockdowns or obviously displacing the original configuration of an obstacle.~~
- b. ~~Horse places one hoof outside of a confining element.~~
- c. ~~Horse breaks gait for more than two strides. When an entry is transitioning down from a lope to a walk, a couple of steps of jog is acceptable and will not result in a penalty; however, the judge may take that transition into consideration in the maneuver score. The same would be for when a horse momentarily hesitates before undertaking a series of walkovers, working the bridge, or any other maneuver from a walk. A momentary halt is not considered a break of gait, and, in fact, is desired. If the entry takes two or more steps back, it would be considered a refusal and be subject to a five point penalty.~~
- d. ~~Rider holds saddle with free hand. (Exception: over a jump, elevated jog over(s) or elevated lope over(s).~~
- e. ~~Horse approaches obstacle at wrong gait or lead. During transition areas between obstacles, if horse is, for instance, loping where a jog is called for, or jogging where a walk is called for, a two point penalty has occurred.~~

6. ~~1 POINT PENALTIES~~

- a. ~~Horse double strides or adds strides or adds steps. (Walkovers, jogovers, lope overs, tires).~~
- b. ~~Horse skips slot (walkovers, jogovers, lope overs)~~
- c. ~~Major hit or stepping on an element of an obstacle, log, pole, cone or obstacle by horse/handler.~~
- d. ~~Each time horse switches leads where not called for, picking up wrong leads, or cross leading. NOTE: If a horse switches leads and must be broken down to correct the lead, then two penalties have been incurred switching leads (1 point) and the second for breaking of gait (1 or a two point penalty depending on the number of strides)~~
- e. ~~Horse breaks gait for two strides or less. When an entry is transitioning down from a lope to a walk, a couple of steps of jog is acceptable and will not result in a penalty; however, the judge may take that transition into consideration in the maneuver score. The same would be for when a horse momentarily hesitates before undertaking a series of walkovers, working the bridge, or any other maneuver from a walk. A momentary halt is not considered a break of gait, and, in fact, is desired. If the entry takes two or more steps back, it would be considered a refusal and be subject to a five (5) point penalty; and, Be It Further~~

Resolved, That USEF AR227 be amended by inserting the following:

1. **NO SCORE**

- a. ***Illegal equipment (See AR144). 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.***
- d. ***No whips allowed in In-Hand Trail.***

2. **Disqualified 0 – Score**

- a. ***Use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore classes designated for two hands) or changing hands on reins; except for junior horses shown with hackamore or snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins,***

except that it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle as outlined in Art. 144, or to straighten reins when stopped. (Exception: Does not apply for English Trail or In-Hand Trail.)

- b. Failure to maintain 16" of rein between hands. (Exception: Does not apply for English Trail or In-Hand Trail.)
- c. No attempt to perform an obstacle.
- d. Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern excessively or repeatedly touching the horse on the neck to lower the head.
- e. Entering or exiting an obstacle from the incorrect side or direction.
- f. Working obstacle the incorrect direction; including overturns of more than 1/4 turn.
- g. Riding outside designated boundary marker of the arena or course area.
- ~~h. Third cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing.~~
- h. Failure to ever demonstrate correct lead and/or gait as designated.
- i. Failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles excessive schooling, pulling, turning, stepping or backing anywhere on course.
- j. Baiting is not allowed in In-Hand Trail.

3. 5 Point Penalties

- a. Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course, ~~first or second cumulative each refusal (three refusals move to next obstacle)~~, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing.
- b. Letting go of gate or dropping rope gate.
- c. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.
- d. Falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or a water box with more than one foot once the horse has got onto or into that obstacle.
- e. Stepping outside of the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (i.e. back through, 360 degree box, side pass) with more than one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle.
- f. Missing or evading a pole that is a part of a series of an obstacle with more than one foot.
- g. Blatant disobedience (including kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking).
- h. Holding saddle with either hand (EXCEPTION: Jumps, Elevated Lope Overs, or Elevate Jog Overs).
- i. Handler touching the horse with either hand in In-Hand unless instructed by the judge, course designer or performing a side pass.
- j. Performing entire obstacle on the wrong lead.

4. 3 Point Penalties

- a. Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for more than two strides.
- b. Out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead).
- c. Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant, obstacle, or severely disturbing an obstacle
- d. Falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or a water box with one foot once the horse has got onto or into that obstacle stepping outside of the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (i.e. back through, 360 degree box, side pass) with one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle. missing or evading a pole that is a part of a series of an obstacle with one foot

5. 1 Point Penalties

- a. Each hard hit, bite, or stepping on a log, cone, plant or any component of the obstacle.
- b. Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for two strides or less; both front or hind feet in a single-strided slot or space at a walk or jog.
- c. Skipping over or failing to step into required space; split pole in lope-over.
- d. Incorrect number of strides, if specified.

Effective: December 31, 2018 or when approved by USEF/EC

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

---

RESOLUTION TYPE (REQUIRED): Standard  X  Extraordinary  "If indicated as "Extraordinary", the proponent must list reasons which establish Chapter 9, RULE 101.2 has been met)

---

PROPONENTS FINANCIAL IMPACT (REQUIRED): Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 101.3.e. for financial requirements

None

---

