

1 **SUBJECT: Showmanship Rules Modified (USEF/EC)**

Amendment #2 (pink)

2
3 (STANDARD)

4 Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 101 for submission requirements

5
6 Committees required to review: *(This section to be completed by the Agenda & Resolutions Committee)* Committee Action:
Approve Disapprove

Amateur Committee			
Canadian National Show Commission			
Competition Advisory Committee			
Education/Evaluation Commission			
Equitation/Showmanship Committee			
U.S. National Show Commission			
USEF Arabian Division Committee			
Youth National Show Commission			

7
8 CONVENTION ACTION:

9
10 _____ Approved _____ Approved with Modification _____ Disapproved
11
12 _____ Withdrawn _____ Referred to Committee _____
13

14 PROPOSED CHANGE: (*Check one*) _____ Add new rule _____ Delete existing rule X Change existing text
15 Indicate affected Article/Rule number (AHA/USEF/EC) USEF AR250 – AR254
16

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

18
19 Whereas, It is the desire of the Equitation and Showmanship Committee, our trainers and our exhibitors to update and
20 clarify current showmanship rules, and

21
22 Whereas, Resolution 12-18 was passed and will go into effect December 1, 2019 and the approved verbiage will be
23 used; Therefore, Be It

24
25 Resolved, That USEF AR250 be amended by striking out and inserting the following:

26
27 AR250 General

- 28 1. Handlers in classes for junior exhibitors cannot have reached their 19th birthday in accordance with AR110. Competition
29 Management is encouraged to offer Adult Showmanship classes for handlers who are 19 years and older and may divide
30 classes by age groups which will vary according to local participation.
31 2. Unsoundness of the horse being shown shall not penalize a handler unless it is sufficiently severe as to impair the
32 required performance, in which case penalty is at the judge’s discretion.
33 3. Offering prize money in Halter Showmanship is prohibited.
34 4. A minimum of six ribbons should be awarded, but no more than ten places are recommended.
35 5. ~~The handler’s number must be worn on the back and~~ ***A handler must wear the correct number on their back and it***
36 ***must be clearly visible at all times; penalty is at judge’s discretion. Hair must be neat and securely fastened so as not to***
37 ***cover the handler’s number.***
38 6. Excessive coaching or unauthorized assistance in any manner is subject to penalty or disqualification at the judge’s
39 discretion.
40 7. It is recommended that stallions be prohibited, but it must be so stated in the prize list, and; Be It Further

41
42 Resolved, That USEF AR251 be amended by striking out, inserting and renumbering the following:

43
44 AR251 Class Conduct

- 45 ~~1. Handlers shall enter the ring in a counter clock wise direction on the rail unless otherwise specified by the judge.~~
46 ~~To enter at the walk or trot according to the judge’s instruction.~~
47 ***1. 2-***The pattern for each class must be posted one hour (Regionals and Nationals 24 hours) prior to the start of the class and
48 ***must*** indicate which one (1) of these three (3) procedures are to be used.

- 49 a. In the Ring – Exhibitors enter arena and remain collectively for the entire class. Exhibitors are to enter the arena at
- 50 the walk. Trot at the marker and line up at the discretion of the ringmaster.
- 51 b. In and Out of the Ring – Exhibitors enter arena one at a time and are excused at the completion of their pattern.
- 52 c. At the Gate – Exhibitors enter arena one at a time and are gathered in arena for final inspection as a collective group.
- 53 2. ~~3-~~Each handler shall correctly lead their horse to and from the judge or designated person and show his/her horse
- 54 according to instructions from the judge.
- 55 3. ~~4-~~Handlers may be asked to perform additional tests at the judge’s discretion. And, Be It Further

57 Resolved, That USEF AR252 be amended by striking out and inserting the following:

58
59 AR252 Judging Guidelines

60 ~~Good Showmanship is developed through the knowledge and understanding of the horse and the ability of the handler to~~
 61 ~~present the team in a confident manner. Showmanship involves the handling of the horse, learning the horse’s conformation,~~
 62 ~~learning how to position and present the horse at its best, and understanding the disposition of the horse. Showmanship~~
 63 ~~teaches the handler poise and self carriage. A good Showmanship handler shows alertness and a confident attitude, always~~
 64 ~~presenting the horse in a positive manner, and paying attention to every detail. The handler is always aware of their~~
 65 ~~surroundings, the horse, the judge and the other exhibitors.~~

66 ~~The showmanship class is not a halter class and should not be judged as such. The conformation of the horse is not to be~~
 67 ~~judged, since the horse is considered a means of displaying the abilities of the showman. Horses are to be presented in the~~
 68 ~~appointments (tack and attire) suitable for that horse’s style. The class is designed to evaluate the exhibitor’s ability to~~
 69 ~~execute, in concert with their horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while~~
 70 ~~exhibiting poise and confidence, all while maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position. Style~~
 71 ~~of presentation should be decided upon by two primary considerations. First, the type of horse, its movement and way of~~
 72 ~~going determine if it is best to go western, hunter, saddle seat, dressage or show hack style. Safety is par amount when~~
 73 ~~considering the type of lead and method of attachment or utilization of the reins to lead. Consideration of the size of the horse~~
 74 ~~and height of the handler is important to a safe and successful presentation.~~

75
76 *Showmanship is not a halter class and should not be judged as such. The conformation of the horse is not to be judged.*
 77 *Horses are to be presented in the appointments (tack and attire) suitable for that horse’s style. This class is designed to*
 78 *evaluate the exhibitor’s ability to execute, in concert with their horse a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with*
 79 *precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, all while maintaining a balanced, functional and*
 80 *fundamentally correct body position.*

81
82 1. SHOWMANSHIP ~~70 percent~~

83 a. Leading

- 84 1. The exhibitor must lead, **back and turn from** the horse’s left side holding the lead shank in the right hand a
- 85 reasonable length, with safety in mind. The right hand must remain on the lead at all times (not on the chain). It
- 86 is not appropriate to switch hands while completing the maneuvers (except set-up). If exhibitor has changed
- 87 hands during the set up maneuver, they are to put the lead back in the right hand for all other maneuvers.
- 88 ~~Smaller exhibitors may need to use a longer hold on the lead strap. The excess lead strap is held in the left hand,~~
- 89 ~~either in a round coil or a figure-8, as long as it is being handled safely by the exhibitor. Both options are~~
- 90 ~~acceptable and exhibitors will not be penalized for either method used. **Neither the coil or the figure-8 should**~~
- 91 ~~**be taped as this compromises safety.** When leading, the exhibitor should be positioned between the eye and the~~
- 92 ~~mid point of the horse’s neck, referred to as the leading position.~~
- 93 ~~2. Leading, backing, turning and initiating the set up should be performed from the left side of the horse. At no~~
- 94 ~~time should the exhibitor ever stand directly in front of the horse. ~~The exhibitor should not touch the horse with~~~~
- 95 ~~their hands or feet, or visibly cue the horse by pointing their feet at the horse during the set up.~~
- 96 3. ~~The horse should be led in a straight or curved line, as indicated in the pattern, and track briskly and freely at~~
- 97 ~~the prescribed gait as instructed. The horse’s head and neck should be straight and in line with the body.~~
- 98 4. ~~Both arms should be bent at the elbow with the elbows held close to the exhibitor’s side and the forearms held~~
- 99 ~~in a natural position. Height of the arms may vary depending on the size of the horse and exhibitor, but the arms~~
- 100 ~~should never be held straight out with the elbows locked.~~
- 101 5. ~~When demonstrating the trot, the exhibitor should run as naturally as possible. The exhibitors should~~
- 102 ~~demonstrate a natural frame and gait.~~

103
104 b. Showing

- 105 1. The exhibitor should perform the work accurately, precisely, smoothly, and with a reasonable amount of speed.
- 106 Increasing speed of the work increases the degree of difficulty; however, accuracy and precision should not be
- 107 sacrificed for speed. ~~The horse should lead, stop, back, turn and set up willingly, briskly and readily with~~

minimal visible or audible cueing. ~~A severe disobedience will not result in a disqualification but should be penalized severely, and the exhibitor should not place above an exhibitor that completes the pattern correctly. Excessive schooling or training, willful abuse, loss of control of the horse by the exhibitor shall be cause for disqualification.~~

2. The presentation/set up: The horse may be set up with a split stance or square. Either option is allowed and acceptable. Exhibitors will not be penalized for either set up style. Exhibitor should stand toward the front, off the horse's shoulder, facing the horse. If at any time the horse is out of position, the exhibitor should work to position the horse correctly.
3. After the horse is set up for inspection: As the judge or designated person moves around the horse, handlers should position themselves so as to avoid obstructing the judge's view of the horse. The handler is to show using the Quarter System, where the exhibitor is always in the quadrant next to the judge or designated person. The horse should be shown quietly and effectively at all times. Handlers must not just show themselves. The exhibitor should maintain a position that is safe for themselves and the judge or designated person. The position of the exhibitor should not obstruct the judge's or designated person's view of the horse and should allow the exhibitor to maintain awareness of the judge's or designated person's position at all times. The exhibitor should not crowd other exhibitors when setting up side-by-side or head-to-tail. When moving around the horse, the exhibitor should change sides in front of the horse with minimal steps (3-4) and should assume the same position on the right side of the horse that they had on the left side.
4. The position of the exhibitor when executing a turn to the right is the same as the leading position except that the exhibitor should turn and face toward the horse's head and have the horse move away from them to the right.
5. Pull turns (pulling horse toward the handler to left) to the left, should be 90 degrees or less.
6. Push turns/Pivot (pushing the horse away from the handler). On For turns of greater than 90 degrees, the turn consists of the horse pivoting on a hind leg while stepping across and in front of the right front leg with the left front leg.
7. When executing a back, the exhibitor should turn from the leading position to face toward the rear of the horse. with the right hand extended in front of the exhibitor's chest still maintaining slight bend in the elbow and walk forward. The ideal position is for the Exhibitor's left shoulder to be in alignment with the horse's left front leg, never standing directly in front of the horse.
8. ~~The horse should back up readily with the head, neck and body aligned in a straight or curved line as instructed by the pattern.~~
9. ~~The stop should be straight, prompt, smooth and responsive with the horse's body remaining straight~~
10. ~~Crowding should be penalized, as it is dangerous. The handler should maintain 8-10' from the horse in front of himself in a head to tail line. When lined up side by side, there needs to be sufficient room between entries. If someone is at risk they are too close.~~

c. Poise/Alertness/Attitude

1. Exhibitors should be poised, confident, courteous and genuinely sportsmanlike at all times, quickly recognizing and correcting faults in the positioning of the horse. The exhibitor should continue showing the horse until the class has been placed or they have been excused, unless otherwise instructed by the judge or designated person. ~~The exhibitor should appear business like, stand and move in a straight, natural and upright manner, and avoid excessive, unnatural or animated body positions.~~
2. ~~Handler should show the horse to its best advantage for its style of presentation throughout the class.~~
3. ~~Handlers should be focused on the class and not be distracted by people/other things inside or outside the arena.~~

2. PRESENTATION ~~30 Percent~~

a. Condition ~~40%~~

1. The horse's body condition and overall fitness should be assessed.
2. The horse should be alert and healthy.

b. Grooming ~~40%~~

1. The hair coat should be clean, well-brushed and in good condition. ~~The mane, tail, forelock and wither tuft may not contain ornaments (ribbons, bows, etc.), but braiding as defined in the appointments chart is allowed.~~ The length of mane and tail may vary, as long as they are neat, clean and free of tangles. The bridle path, eyebrows, and long hair on the head and legs may be clipped.
2. Grooming oils should not be overdone
3. Hooves should be properly trimmed and if shod, the shoes should fit correctly and clinches should be neat. Hooves must be clean and may be painted clear or black hoof dressings, or shown naturally.

3. APPOINTMENTS ~~10 Percent~~

Attire and tack should be clean, well-fitting and in good repair. A workmanlike appearance should be presented.

a. Attire should reflect the intended use of the horse and should be consistent with attire requirements described in the division depicted.

Tack: An Arabian show halter, a leather show halter with or without silver (silver not to count), hunter/dressage/show hack style bridle, or a double bridle may be used. Modified cavessons are prohibited. A western style or bosal bridle are prohibited. Leads may be attached to the halter or cavesson. If a chain is used is, it is prohibited to go through the horse's mouth, over the nose or through the bit. When leading with the reins, they must be attached to both sides of the bit. Hats are optional. Spurs are prohibited, and, Be It Further

Resolved, That USEF AR253 be amended by striking out and inserting the following:

AR253 Tests From Which the Judge May Choose:

1. Walk or trot horse to or from judge *or designated person or marker in a straight or curved line, a circle, serpentine or figure eight.*
2. Set horse up.
3. Back horse *in a straight or curved line.*
4. Movement of handler so as not to obstruct judge's view of the horse.
5. Turn horse (90, 180, 270, 360 degrees, etc.)
6. Trot down rail or around ring.
7. Move the horse to a different spot in the lineup.
8. ~~Questions on relevant subjects such as:~~
 - a. ~~Parts of the horse~~
 - b. ~~Grooming~~
 - c. ~~Basics in horse care~~
 - d. ~~Proper attire~~

~~NOTE: If questions are asked, the same or similar questions must be used with each handler so tested. And, Be It Further~~

Resolved, That USEF AR254 be amended by striking out and inserting the following:

AR254 Showmanship Faults

~~Mandatory Causes for Elimination~~

1. ~~Horse escapes from exhibitor~~
2. ~~See AR105.6 for inhumane treatment and undue stress.~~
3. ~~Excessive schooling or training~~
4. ~~Loss of control or severe disobedience that endangers others to include but not limited to: biting, pawing, rearing, bolting, lunging, breaking away, kicking out or continuously circling the exhibitor. The judge can deem it necessary to excuse the exhibitor.~~
5. ~~Whip marks~~
6. ~~Equipment eliminations~~
 - a. ~~Western~~
 1. ~~Lead strap/chain cannot run through the horse's mouth or over the nose~~
 2. ~~Horse may not be shown in a bridle~~
 3. ~~Horse may not be shown in a hackamore or bosal~~
 - b. ~~English/Hunter Style~~
 1. ~~Full bridle/Pelham:~~
 - a. ~~Modified cavesson is not allowed~~
 - b. ~~Lead strap cannot be used with or without a chain~~
 2. ~~Snaffle:~~
 - a. ~~Modified cavesson is not allowed~~
 - b. ~~Lead strap cannot be attached to only one side of the bit~~
 - c. ~~Chain cannot run through the bit~~
 - c. ~~English/Saddle Seat Style~~
 1. ~~Full Bridle:~~
 - a. ~~Modified cavesson is not allowed~~
 - b. ~~Lead straps cannot be used with or without a chain~~
 2. ~~Snaffle: not allowed.~~
 3. ~~Dressage or Show Hack Style~~
 - a. ~~Full Bridle: Modified cavesson is not allowed~~
 - b. ~~Lead straps cannot be used with or without a chain~~
 4. ~~Snaffle:~~

- 226 a. Modified cavesson is not allowed
- 227 b. Lead strap cannot be attached to only one side of the bit
- 228 c. Chain cannot run through the bit.

229
230 **AR 254 Showmanship Faults & Eliminations Scoring**

231 The scoring will be on the basis of 0-infinty, with 70 denoting an average performance. The individual maneuvers are
 232 scored in 1/2 point increments for a low of -3 to a high of +3 with 0 denoting a maneuver that is correct with no degree of
 233 difficulty. Penalty points will be applied as they occur. A final score of 0 to +5 will be given for the overall form and
 234 effectiveness at the completion of each run.

235 **1. Penalties ~~Faults~~**

236 **b. Minor (1 point penalty)**

- 237 1. Break of gait at walk or trot up to two strides
- 238 2. Over or under turning up to an 1/8 of a turn
- 239 3. Ticking or hitting cone
- 240 4. Sliding or lifting pivot foot
- 241 5. Lifting the pivot foot and replacing it in the same place
- 242 6. Lifting foot and replacing it in same place during presentation

243 **c. Major (3 point penalty)**

- 244 1. Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
- 245 2. Splitting cone (cone between horse and handler)
- 246 3. Stepping out of set up during presentation
- 247 4. Steps out of or moving pivot foot during a pivot or turn
- 248 5. Over or under turn 1/8 to 1/4 of turn

249 **d. Severe (5 point penalty)**

- 250 1. Exhibitor not in required position during inspection
- 251 2. Touching the horse
- 252 3. Standing directly in front of horse
- 253 4. Loss of lead shank or two hands on lead shank
- 254 5. Completely stepping out of or moving hindquarter significantly during a pivot or turn
- 255 6. Severe disobedience to include but not limited to: biting, pawing, rearing, kicking out or continuously
- 256 circling exhibitor.
- 257 7. Goes off pattern; wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait
- 258 8. Fall of horse or handler

259 **2. Mandatory Eliminations**

- 260 a. Horse escapes from Exhibitor
- 261 b. Inhumane treatment and undue stress, see AR 105.6
- 262 c. Excessive schooling or training
- 263 d. Loss of control or severe disobedience that endangers other exhibitors, to include but not limited to: bolting,
- 264 lunging or kicking out ~~or continuously circling the exhibitor. The judge can deem it necessary to excuse the~~
- 265 ~~exhibitor.~~
- 266 e. Whip marks
- 267 f. Illegal equipment: chain through the horse's mouth, over nose or through the bit, modified cavessons, western
- 268 bridle or bosal, reins only attached to one side of the bridle.
- 269 g. Fall of horse or handler

270
271 Effective: December 1, 2020 or when approved by USEF/EC

272
273 (If a Standard resolution, the effective date will be December 31 of the year after the Convention)

274
275 **RESOLUTION TYPE (REQUIRED):** Standard X Extraordinary _____ "If indicated as "Extraordinary",
 276 the proponent must list reasons which establish Chapter 9, RULE 101.2 has been met)

277
278
279 **PROPOSERS FINANCIAL IMPACT (REQUIRED):** Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 101.3.e. for financial requirements
 280 None

281
282 **AHA IMPACT STATEMENT:** No BT impact
 283

284 Contact Person:
285

286 SUBMITTED BY: Equitation & Showmanship Committee Region Number:

287 Member Organization Committee Commission Board Region (*check one*)

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

289 Total Number Eligible to Vote: 56 Number of Yes votes: 24 Number of No votes: 3

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

291 Where documentation of this vote is recorded: With the Committee Chair (*Must have printed documentation on file*)

292 Date vote taken: August 5-10, 2019

293 Contact Person: Sheri Odom, Chair (*Has authority to amend, combine or withdraw*)

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