

SUBJECT: Allowing Pinning of Tail in Showmanship (USEF/EC)

(STANDARD)

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			
Equitation/Showmanship Committee			
Professional Horsemen Committee			
USEF Arabian Division Committee			
Youth Committee			

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_____ Withdrawn _____ Referred to Committee _____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 AR106.8

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

Whereas, Horses competing in “Main Ring” divisions—specifically Hunter Pleasure, Western Pleasure, and English Pleasure - customarily exhibit long, flowing tails, which are widely regarded by judges, trainers, and exhibitors as the preferred presentation for these disciplines; and

Whereas, Many “Main Ring” exhibitors elect not to participate in Showmanship because the required maneuvers - particularly backing and pivoting - create significant challenges for horses with long tails. These tails are frequently stepped on or become entangled between the hind legs during execution of the pattern, resulting in penalties and point deductions. In contrast, most “Working Western” horses have tails trimmed at the hocks, thereby avoiding such complications and associated deductions; and

Whereas, USEF Section AR106.8 states: Purebred Arabian horses must wear a long, natural, unbraided/unbanded mane and/or tail (with or without clipped bridle path). Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses are not required to have a long mane and/or tail, but an unbraided/unbanded mane and/or tail is mandatory. Exceptions: Horses shown with Hunter, Jumper, Show Hack, Sport Horse or Dressage appointments, or in Western Dressage classes, are permitted to show with a shortened, pulled, or braided mane and/or tail. Decorative items in manes and tails are prohibited. Only simple bows made from the yarn to secure braid(s) are permitted. Cutting horses may be shown with a roached/shaved mane. **Manes and forelocks may be banded in Reining, Reining Seat Equitation, and Reining Seat Medal classes.** For Carriage Pleasure Driving see division chapter CP. All horses must have a natural unaltered, unset, and ungingered tail as described in AR105.3 - Ginger, Capsaicin, and other Irritants.

- A. See section of USEF Section AR106.8 highlighted in yellow above; Despite this, many Showmanship horses - including Purebred Arabians - compete with tails cut at the hocks, which is not natural for either Purebred or Half-Arabian horses. The industry has long accepted an unwritten exception permitting Working Western horses to show with shortened tails due to functional necessity. The same practical consideration should be extended to “Main Ring” horses in Showmanship, where long tails materially interfere with required maneuvers;
- B. Precedent exists for allowing grooming modifications when they directly impact a horse’s ability to perform required elements of a class, as demonstrated by the 2025 approval permitting banding of manes and forelocks in Reining classes due to interference with the reins (see highlighted section in

green.) Similarly, long tails in Showmanship impede a horse's ability to complete the pattern without the potential for penalty, warranting comparable accommodation; and

Whereas, The current AHA Board of Directors and many within the general membership continue to prioritize both breed promotion and growth, which also extends to show-ring involvement. The current restriction prohibiting Showmanship handlers from pinning up a horse's tail discourages participation from exhibitors whose horses possess long tails. Allowing tails to be pinned up in Showmanship would expand class accessibility across all divisions, enabling exhibitors to enter additional classes and potentially increasing overall show attendance and engagement; Therefore, be it,

Resolved, That USEF AR106.8 be amended by inserting the following:

8. USEF Section AR106.8 states: Purebred Arabian horses must wear a long, natural, unbraided/unbanded mane and/or tail (with or without clipped bridle path). Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses are not required to have a long mane and/or tail, but an unbraided/unbanded mane and/or tail is mandatory. Exceptions: Horses shown with Hunter, Jumper, Show Hack, Sport Horse or Dressage appointments, or in Western Dressage classes, are permitted to show with a shortened, pulled, or braided mane and/or tail. Decorative items in manes and tails are prohibited. Only simple bows made from the yarn to secure braid(s) are permitted. Cutting horses may be shown with a roached/shaved mane. Manes and forelocks may be banded in Reining, Reining Seat Equitation, and Reining Seat Medal classes. **Tails may be pinned up in Showmanship classes by using a rubber band or tape to secure the lower portion of the tail that drags on the ground to the top half portion of the tail (exception Sport Horse Showmanship).** For Carriage Pleasure Driving see division chapter CP. All horses must have a natural unaltered, unset, and ungingered tail as described in AR105.3 - Ginger, Capsaicin, and other Irritants.

Effective: December 31, 2027 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 ☒ Extraordinary ☐ "If indicated as "Extraordinary", the proponent must list reasons which establish Chapter 9, RULE 101.3.a. has been met)

PROPOSERS FINANCIAL IMPACT (REQUIRED): Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 102.6. & 102.7 for financial requirements

None

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

Contact Person:

SUBMITTED BY: Equitation/Showmanship Committee

Region Number:

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

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

Total Number Eligible to Vote: 85 Number of Yes votes: 22 Number of No votes: 10

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: At the AHA office (Must have printed documentation on file)

Date vote taken: August 15, 2026

Contact Person: Jessica Bein (Has authority to amend, combine or withdraw)

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