

SUBJECT: Sport Horse In-Hand Welfare (USEF/EC)

(STANDARD)

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

Committee Action:

Approve

Disapprove

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

Competition Advisory Committee			
Education/Evaluation Commission			
Equine Welfare Committee			
Sport Horse Committee			
Sport Horse National Show Commission			
USEF Arabian Division 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_____ Withdrawn _____ Referred to Committee _____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 X Change existing text

Indicate affected Article/Rule number (AHA/USEF/EC) USEF AR181

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

Whereas, Welfare of the Arabian horse is vital to the Arabian Horse Association and its members, exhibitors, and owners, and

Whereas, It is the desire of the Sport Horse Committee to ensure the rules protect the welfare of the horse, and

Whereas The AR-17 rules pertaining to Sport Horse In-Hand Classes should provide clarity regarding eliminations and penalties; Therefore, Be It

Resolved, That USEF AR181 be amended by striking out and inserting the following:

~~8. Judge must excuse from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger other exhibitors or their entries.~~

9- 8. A whip may be used to guide the horse.

10. Causes for mandatory elimination from the arena or designated judging area for In-Hand classes are:

a. Removal of eyelashes;

b. Changing the natural color of the mane and/or tail (AR106.10.c); or

c. Applying a product to a horse's hoof to hide or conceal a conformation defect. Only clear or transparent products may be used on the hooves of horses while being shown in Breeding and/or In-Hand classes

11. An entry must be penalized for:

a. Excessive amounts of oil, grease, or other similar substances;

b. Balding the area around the eyes or proximal to the muzzle and nostrils; or

c. Excessive use of the whip or actions that may disturb other entries shall be severely penalized.

Resolved, That USEF AR182 be amended by inserting as follows:

11. PENALTIES.

a. Elimination. A horse must be eliminated and excused if it:

i. Exhibits any welt or swelling consistent with a whip mark, regardless of the cause.

ii. Is obviously lame or exhibits an impaired gait.

iii. Is not under the control of the exhibitor;

iv. Is shanked, except when necessary to regain control.

v. *Has had its eyelashes removed.*

vi. *Has had the natural color of the mane and/or tail changed.*

vii. *Has had a product applied to the hoof to hide or conceal a conformation defect. Only clear or transparent products may be used on the hooves of horses shown in SHIH classes.*

b. Mandatory Penalties. The following must be assessed:

i. **Ten-Point Penalty – Unnatural Arabian Tail Carriage.** *A ten-point penalty must be assessed for unnatural Arabian tail carriage, as defined in AR105.2 A wry tail is a breeding fault and shall not, by itself, constitute evidence of unnatural tail carriage.*

ii. **Penalties in accordance with the SHIH Scorecard:**

a. *Excessive amounts of oil, grease, or similar substances.*

b. *Balding the area around the eyes or the area proximal to the muzzle and nostrils.*

c. *Excessive use of a whip*

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 ____X____ 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: Sport Horse Committee

Region Number:

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

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

Total Number Eligible to Vote: 152 Number of Yes votes: 41 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: With committee chair (**Must have printed documentation on file**)

Date vote taken: 8/13/26

Contact Person: Jennette Aubert (**Has authority to amend, combine or withdraw**)

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