

# AQHA Rule Book Changes adopted 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019

## **PERFORMANCE REGISTRY**      **Page 22**

### **Rule 9.7.1 c)**

Add to end of existing rule the following:

“If the registered Quarter Horse parent is a stallion, the stallion must have completed the IBF process.”

## **FOUNDATION RECORDING**      **Page 22**

**Rule 9.8** Add a new paragraph b) and renumber accordingly: b) If a horse with a C1 or C2 registration allocated by the ASHS due to a registered Quarter Horse parent, and the horse has been parent verified through genetic testing, it will be considered for Foundation Recording.

## **APPENDIX REGISTRY RULE**      **Page 23**

**Rule 9.9 c)** last paragraph, change date from 2020 to 2022

## **BREEDING RETURNS**      **Page 28**

**Rule 12.4 c)** To delete Rule 12.4 c) and replace with: “Breeding returns for any stallion, that are not lodged with all appropriate fees paid, within twelve (12) months of the due date, the owner’s membership and the Stallions registration may both be suspended for non-compliance.”

**To delete Rule 12.4 d)** and replace with: “The suspension of a stallion, and its owner, due to rule 12.4 c), will be lifted, once all paperwork, any required genetic tests completed, and all fees and penalty fees have been paid.”

## **TRANSFERS**      **Page 39**

**Rule 21.2** Add new Rule 21.2 g) “If the last recorded owner has not complied with Rule 23.1 regarding disposing or sale of a registered horse, then Rule 23.3 can be implemented by the Association.

## **NOTIFICATIONS**      **Page 40**

**Notification of death of a horse, disposal of a horse or horse sold without registration papers Rule 23.**

**23.1** The Association must be advised within thirty (30) days of the death, sale or disposal of any horse Registered with the Association.

**23.3** If a registered horse is sold or disposed of, without papers, and the owner does not inform the Association within thirty (30) days of the sale or disposal, the Association will transfer ownership of the horse to the new owner under the following conditions:

- a) Purchaser to supply a Bill of Sale from the Vendor or proof of payment
- b) Horse is to be PV to Association records
- c) Purchaser to complete and sign a Transfer form
- d) Purchaser to supply photos of the horse for verification to Association records
- e) Purchaser to complete a Statutory Declaration outlining how they obtained the horse
- d) The Association will request a signed transfer from the last recorded owner on two (2) occasions over a sixty (60) day period
- e) If the transfer form is not forthcoming, and all other conditions in this rule are met, the horse will be transferred to the purchaser.

**Rule 23.4 Application for an unregistered horse that has been sold or disposed of, that maybe eligible for registration**

If a horse is sold or disposed of and a breeding return has been lodged with the Association then the following will occur:

- a) The Association will contact the stallion owner. If stallion owner has forwarded registration application form to breeder of the said horse, the Association will contact the Breeder;
- b) If the breeder is not forthcoming with a Breeders Declaration then the Association will request a signed breeders declaration from the Breeder on two (2) occasions over a sixty (60) day period
- c) The applicant must meet the following conditions:
  - i) Applicant to supply Bill of Sale or proof of payment;
  - ii) Horse is to be PV to association records;
  - iii) Applicant to supply photos of the horse for verification to Association records
  - iv) Applicant to complete a Statutory Declaration outlining how they obtained the horse

If all the above conditions are met and the horse is eligible, the Association will register the horse after all genetic testing that is required has been completed.

**Rule 23.5** The Association will not take any action on behalf of a member or non-member, that is in possession of a horse that is not covered by Rule 23.3 or 23.4, that wishes to have the horse transferred or registered into their name with the Association.

**SHOW & PERFORMANCE - GENERAL Page 42**

**Rule 41 f)** "All horses present at an AQHA Affiliate show must be entered in the show"

Rules 41 f) 41 g) 41 h) and 41i) to be renumbered accordingly.

**Combined Classes**

**New Rule 41.j)** at end of the first paragraph add: "A combined class can only have one set of results."

**CONCURRENT CLASSES**

**New Rule 41.1)** "That 2 classes can be run concurrently, if they are of the same discipline, and Show Management will make this decision. The Judges results will determine the placings for both classes that ran concurrently."

**HORSE AGE DIVISIONS Page 46**

**Rule 43.5 b)**

change rule to read "2 to 5 years"

**RANCH VERSATILITY SHOW Page 49**

**Rule 46.2**

After the word DIVISIONS - delete first sentence and replace with:

"The only divisions that can be run are All Age Horse, All Age Youth and Amateur

**'AA' APPROVED SHOWS Page 50**

**Rule 46.4 b)** to be deleted and replaced with: "Minimum \$1000 prize money. The \$1000 prize money is to be paid out and spread between a minimum of 2 Open classes, 2 Amateur classes and 2 Youth classes.

**GROUPS Page 51**

**Rule 46.5** under Western Pleasure, Hunter under Saddle and Trail – 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph last sentence, after the word "Junior" delete the rest of sentence and replace with "and a three (3) year old. NB: From 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31 July, a two (2) year old class can be held. Four classes can be held from 1 April to 31 July and must be: Senior, Junior, 3 year old and 2 year old.

**Rule 46.6 a)** Insert new sentence after the first sentence being:

Judges must be contracted and paid at least the minimum Judges fees for both days.

**STATE AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWS**                      **Page 54**

**Rule 48.3 a)** be deleted and replaced with: “A current AmQHA ticketed Judged must officiate at National Shows and the NSW, Victorian and Queensland State Shows. Any class, that is run under the rules of an AQHA Approved Performance Body, can be officiated by a Judge approved by that Performance Body”

**Rule 48.3 b)** be deleted and rule 48.3 c) is to become 48.3 b) and have added to the end of the rule: “and any class that is run under the rules of an AQHA Approved Performance Body, can be officiated by a Judge approved by that Performance Body”

**MISCELLANEOUS SHOW RULES**    **Page 58**

**Rule 52.24** add to end of rule “on each day of the show.”

**YOUTH RULES AND REGULATIONS**    **Page 72**

**63.2** Reworded - Youth participating or exhibiting in an AQHA sanctioned event, must have written permission from their parent/guardian to be at that event. In the case of a show the parent/guardian must also sign the entry form.

**63.2** Second paragraph - Change “approved” to “sanctioned”

**NOVICE YOUTH & NOVICE AMATEUR**    **Page 76**

**64. NOVICE YOUTH & NOVICE AMATEUR – there are no Select Amateur Novice classes**

**64.1 Classes:** Only seven (7) Novice Amateur and Novice Youth classes will be offered being: Hunt Seat Equitation, Hunter Under Saddle, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Trail, Showmanship and Boxing.

**Points gained - All points gained in a Novice class will go towards Amateur and Youth ROM’s and other achievements. No AQHA Annual High Point Awards will be awarded for any Novice classes and any points gained in a Novice class will not go towards any AQHA Annual Awards**

**64.2 Eligibility:** You must hold a financial Full, individual Life or individual Honorary Life membership and an Amateur or Select Amateur Permit with the AQHA or a financial Youth membership.

- a) All points earned in Select Amateur, Amateur and Novice Amateur classes plus points earned by Youth in Youth and Novice Youth classes will count towards Novice eligibility;
- b) Once twenty (20) points have been attained in any discipline, eg: Showmanship, the person is no longer eligible for Novice in that discipline;
- c) Youth, Amateur and Select Amateur must apply for Novice eligibility annually. If a Youth, Select Amateur or Amateur are eligible for any Novice classes, they will be informed by letter or email which Novice classes they are eligible to compete in and notified once they are no longer eligible;
- d) Every person competing in a Novice Amateur or Novice Youth class must have a Novice Permit appropriately endorsed by the AQHA or the equivalent issued by their relevant breed organisation and the rules for gaining that Novice Permit, through their relevant breed organisation, must be rules similar to the AQHA. The Novice Permit must match the registered breed of horse the Amateur or Youth is exhibiting.
- e) If there is a Novice Amateur class on the program, plus the Select Amateur and Amateur classes are offered in the same discipline, then the choice must be made, if eligible, for which class they wish to exhibit in, same applies for Youth classes;
- f) Novice Amateur and Novice Youth can compete in the Amateur and Youth classes on the program if no Novice classes offered.
- g) If an Amateur, Select Amateur or Youth have not accumulated any points for a period of ten (10) years with the AQHA or any other respective breed organisation, they are eligible to re-apply as a Novice.

### 64.3 Programs

It is not compulsory for any Affiliate to run Novice classes on their programs. High points at shows – it is up to the Affiliate if they wish to run Novice High Points.

**64.4 Novice Achievement Award** Ten (10) points in an individual Novice class (must have five (5) “A” points)

### 64.5 Youth to Amateur

From the day you are eligible to apply for an Amateur Permit you may also apply for a Novice Amateur Ticket. If a Youth has achieved twenty (20) or more points in Hunt Seat Equitation, Hunter Under Saddle, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Trail, Showmanship, Boxing, or a Youth from a respective breed organisation has achieved twenty (20) or more points in any of the above classes, they will not be eligible to compete in Amateur Novice classes.

### 64.6 Amateur or Select Amateur to Professional and back again

If you have gained Novice Amateur points and you relinquish your Amateur or Select Amateur Permit, and then reapply for Amateur or Select Amateur status in the future, then the Points you had gained previously will be brought forward.

## SECTION FOUR (4) JUDGING

### Rule 75. SEMINARS Page 80

75.1 delete the words “and Ranch Versatility Judges”  
Swap Rules 75.2 and 75.3

## SECTION FIVE (5) CLASSES, EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE Page 84

**80.6 Training Equipment**, add to end of rule “on each day of the show.”

### WESTERN

#### Rule 83.4 Western Attire Page 90

Add “chinks” after the word “spurs

### HUNTER IN HAND

#### Rule 88.1 b) Page 98

Delete first sentence and replace with:  
“For 2 year old horses, up until 31 March, one year old and younger, halters are mandatory”

### HUNT SEAT EQUITATION Page 99

**Rule 89** Delete 89.5, 89.6, 89.7, 89.8 and replace with:

#### 89.5 SCORING

Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Patterns will be divided into 6 to 10 manoeuvres, as specified by the judge, and each manoeuvre will be scored from +3 to -3 with 1/2 point increments acceptable that will be added or subtracted from 70. Manoeuvre scores should be determined independent of penalties, and should reflect equal consideration of both performance of the exhibitor’s pattern and the form and effectiveness of the exhibitor and presentation of horse to result in the following scores:

+3 Excellent, +2 Very Good, +1 Good, 0 Average or Correct, -1 Poor, -2 Very Poor, -3 Extremely Poor.

Exhibitors overall form and effectiveness should also be scored from 0 to 5 with 0 to 2 Average, 3 Good, 4 Very Good, 5 Excellent.

### **89.6 PENALTIES**

An exhibitor should be penalized in the pattern independent of manoeuvre scores and deducted from the final score as follows:

#### **3 points**

- Break of gait at the walk or trot up to 2 strides
- Over or under turn from 1/8 to 1/4 turn
- Tick or hit of cone
- Obviously looking down to check leads or diagonals

#### **5 points**

- Not performing the specific gait or not stopping within 3 meters of designated location
- Missing a diagonal up to 2 strides
- Incorrect lead or break of gait at the canter (except when correcting an incorrect lead)
- Complete loss of contact between rider's hand and the horse's mouth
- Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
- Loss of iron
- Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical while the horse is in motion, showing the appearance of intimidation

#### **10 points**

- Loss of rein
- Missing a diagonal for more than 2 strides
- Use of either hand to instil fear or praise while on pattern or during rail work
- Holding saddle with either hand
- Blatant disobedience including kicking, pawing, bucking, and rearing

#### **Disqualifications** (should not be placed)

- Failure by exhibitor to wear correct number in visible manner
- Wilful abuse of horse or schooling
- Fall by horse or exhibitor
- Illegal use of hands on reins
- Use of prohibited equipment
- Off pattern, including: knocking over or wrong side of cone or marker; never performing designated gait, lead, or diagonal; over or under turning more than 1/4 turn

### **LED TRAIL – Yearlings and 2 year old classes only      Page 104**

**Rule 92.** First paragraph add the following words after “obstacles” at the Walk and Jog only, “

Delete 92.4 and replace with:

**92.4 Scoring** will be on the basis of 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that will be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that will be subtracted.

Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1.5 to minus 1.5:

-1.5 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -.5 poor, 0 correct, +.5 good, +1 very good, +1.5 excellent.

**92.4.1 Penalties** should be assessed, per occurrence, as follows:

**1/2 point:** each tick or contact of a log, pole, cone, plant, or any component of an obstacle

**1 point :** each hit, bite, or stepping on a log, cone, plant or any component of the obstacle;

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

skipping over or failing to step into required space

incorrect number of strides, if specified

holding horse by halter rather than lead

**3 points:** incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for more than two strides

knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant, obstacle, or severely disturbing an obstacle

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 points:** first or second cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing

letting go of gate or dropping rope gate

use of either hand to instil fear or praise

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

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.

missing or evading a pole that is a part of a series of an obstacle with more than one foot

blatant disobedience (including kicking out, rearing, striking)

**Disqualified 0 – Score**

performing the obstacle incorrectly or other than in specified order

no attempt to perform an obstacle

equipment failure that delays completion of pattern excessively or repeatedly

physically pushing, or hitting horse with lead line or any object

entering or exiting an obstacle from the incorrect side or direction

working obstacle the incorrect direction;

third cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing

failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles

excessive schooling, pulling, turning, stepping or backing anywhere on course

failure to open and shut gate or failure to complete gate

**Rule 92.6 Horse Equipment**

Add new sentence before last sentence being :

“A chain can be used under the jaw and must be attached to the lead”

**LUNGE LINE – Yearlings and two (2) year old only      Page 107**

**Rule 93 Insert** a 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph that states “If a 2 year old is exhibited in Lunge line at a show it cannot be shown under saddle at the same show.

**Rule 93.7 and 93.8** Delete in its entirety

**Insert new rule 93.7 Scoring**

**93.7** Movement will count for 34 points of the total score. Judges are to evaluate movement based on the gait descriptions found in Rule 93.5

**a) Walk**

The walk will be scored on a scale of 1 to 3 in each direction, with 2 being average. The horse must be walked long enough for the judge to have enough time to evaluate and score the walk. The change of direction turnaround at the walk may count for the second walk score on the official score sheet. Lower gait scores should reflect stumbling in the gait.

**b) Jog or Trot.**

The jog/trot will be scored on a scale of 1 to 7 in each direction. Using a 7.5 metre radius, the horse is to jog or trot a minimum of 1/2 circle both directions of the ring. Lower gait scores should reflect stumbling in the gait.

**c) Lope or Canter.**

The lope/canter will be scored on a scale of 1 to 7 in each direction, with 10 being average. Using a 7.5 metre radius, the horse is to lope or canter a minimum of one full circle both directions of the ring. Furthermore, any entry that fails to demonstrate the correct lead for one full circle will not place over another entry that has demonstrated the correct lead in its entirety. Lower gait scores should reflect stumbling in the gait.

**d) Use of Circle.** Scores for all gaits in both directions should reflect positive, consistent use of the radius of the circle. Extra credit will be given for full, extended use of the circle on a slightly loose line. Lower gait scores should reflect lack of full use of the circle.

**93.7.1 Manners/Expression/Attitude**

Will count for up to 14 points of the total score. Horses will be penalised for obvious signs of overwork and sourness such as ear-pinning, head-throwing, striking, tail wringing, or a dull, lethargic manner of going. Horses will also be penalised for dangerous behaviour such as excessive bucking, cutting into the circle, or running off. Additionally, incidental touching the horse with the whip, cross-cantering, balking, backing up on the lunge line and excessive urging from the exhibitor will be penalised accordingly.

**93.7.2 Conformation**

Will count for up to 6 points of the total score. The horse will be judged on conformation suitable to future performance as a Western Pleasure or Hunter Under Saddle competitor. The judges are to look for a total picture, emphasizing balance, structural correctness, and athletic capability. Performance conformation will be judged on a scale of 1 to 6 .

**93.7.3 Use of the circle – overall score**

Consideration will be given to how well or how poorly the horse/exhibitor team uses the 7.5metres radius of the lunging circle. A separate box on the scorecard is available to indicate an overall score (from 1 to 3 points) for use of the circle.

**93.7.4 Circle Scores:** It is the judge's responsibility to evaluate the circles and incorporate use of the circle in the gait scores based on the following scale:

**+3 points** (Good to Excellent Use of the Circle).

Horse consistently stays on the perimeter of the circle with slight looseness in the line. Horse turns around on the circle perimeter;

**+2 points** (Average use of the circle).

Horse is only slightly inconsistent in using the 7.5 metres radius of the circle

**+1 point** (Adequate use of the circle)

Horse is shown in a circle radius of less than 7.5 metres

**0 points** (General use of the circle)

Potentially dangerous slack in the line

Horse pulls exhibitor out of the circle

### 93.7.5 Penalties

#### Five (5) point penalties will occur per direction:

- a) Failure to walk a minimum of two horse lengths
- b) Failure to jog/trot a minimum of a quarter of a circle
- c) Failure to demonstrate the correct lead, for a minimum of a quarter of a circle

#### 93.7.6 Disqualification will occur in the following instances:

- a) Evidence of lameness - judge will immediately excuse horse from the arena
- b) Blatant striking horse with the whip during the lunging demonstration that will cause forward or lateral movement
- c) Fall to the ground by horse. A horse is deemed to have fallen when its shoulder and/or hip and/or underline touches the ground
- d) Horse steps over or becomes entangled in the lunge line
- e) Improper equipment, evidence of abuse, or other violation of AQHA rules
- f) Failure to show at all three gaits in both directions
- g) Exhibitor shows disrespect towards the judge
- h) Anytime the horse becomes detached from the handler
- i) Failure to complete trot off for soundness in three attempts

### RANCH RIDING Page 111

**Rule 95.4 k)** delete jog

#### Rule 95.6

Delete and replace with: "Refer to Rule 83.4

**Rule 95.8** delete and replace with: "When exhibiting in a snaffle bit or hackamore, an exhibitor may switch between two hands and one hand on the reins at any time."

#### Rule 95.9

**1 Point:** Too slow (per gait); Over-bridled (per manoeuvre); out of frame (per manoeuvre); break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less;

**3 Points:** Wrong lead or out of lead; draped reins (per manoeuvre); break of gait at lope; break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides; out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads; trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change; severe disturbance of any obstacle.

**5 Points:** blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear etc) for each refusal;

**10 points:** Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every manoeuvre)

**Off-Pattern (OP):** Placed below horses performing all manoeuvres

Eliminates manoeuvre; incomplete manoeuvre; use of two hands (except junior horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein).

**Zero (0) score** illegal equipment including hoof black; braided or banded manes; or tail extensions; wilful abuse; major disobedience or schooling; lameness.

### RIDERS WITH DISABILITIES Page 117

**Rule 97.1 f)** Add to end of rule 97.1 f) "That every five (5) years an RWD Rider must re-apply for an RWD permit."

**Rule 97.1 m)** delete the words "Judges are not permitted to alter the mandatory workout in any way"



**SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER**

**Page 124**

**Rule 98.2** After 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence add “On turns of greater than 90 degrees, the ideal turn consists of the horse pivoting on the right hind leg while stepping across and in front of the right front leg with the left front leg. An exhibitor should not be penalised if their horse performs a pivot on the left hind leg, but an exhibitor whose horse performs the pivot correctly should receive more credit.”

**Insert new rule 98.3 a)** The halter must be of leather and may be adorned with silver accents. The lead must be made of leather with a chain for attachment to halter. The chain on the lead may be under the chin or over the nose;

**b)** Lip chains/cords of any type are not permitted;

**Current rules to be renumbered**

**ADD TO RULE 98 after 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph:**

“Pull turn to the left is an unacceptable manoeuvre”

“The horse should be set up quickly with the feet squarely underneath the body. The exhibitor does not have to reset a horse that stops square”

**98.6 SCORING:** Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Patterns will be divided into 6 to 10 manoeuvres, as specified by the judge, and each manoeuvre will be scored from +3 to -3 with 1/2 point increments acceptable that will be added or subtracted from 70. Manoeuvre scores should be determined independent of penalties, and should reflect equal consideration of both performance of the exhibitor’s pattern and the form and effectiveness of the exhibitor and presentation of horse to result in the following scores:  
+3 Excellent, +2 Very Good, +1 Good, 0 Average or Correct, -1 Poor, -2 Very Poor, -3 Extremely Poor.

Exhibitors overall form and effectiveness should also be scored from 0 to 5 with 0 to 2 Average, 3 Good, 4 Very Good, 5 Excellent.

**98.7 Penalties:** An exhibitor should be penalised in the pattern independent of manoeuvre scores and deducted from the final score as follows:

**3 points**

Break of gait at the walk or trot up to 2 strides

Over or under turning up to 1/8 of a turn

Ticking or hitting cone

Sliding a pivot foot

Lifting a pivot foot during a pivot or set-up and replacing it in the same place

Lifting a foot in a set-up and replacing it in the same place after presentation

**5 points**

Not performing the specific gait or not stopping within (3 meters) of designated location

Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides

Splitting the cone (cone between the horse and exhibitor)

Horse stepping out of or moving the hind end significantly during a pivot or turn

Horse stepping out of set-up after presentation

Horse resting a foot or hipshot in a set-up

Over or under turning 1/8 to 1/4 turn

**10 points**

- Exhibitor is not in the required position during inspection
- Exhibitor touching the horse or kicking or pointing their feet at the horse's feet during the set-up
- Standing directly in front of the horse
- Loss of lead shank, holding chain or two hands on shank
- Blatant disobedience including kicking, rearing or pawing;
- Horse continually circling exhibitor
- Disqualifications** (should not be placed) including:
  - Loss of control of horse that endangers exhibitor, other horses, or judge
  - Horse becomes separated from exhibitor
  - Failure to display correct number
  - Wilful abuse
  - Excessive schooling or training;
  - Use of artificial aids Illegal equipment
  - Off pattern including: Knocking over or wrong side of cone or marker; Never performing designated gait;
  - Over or under turning more than ¼ turn

**TRAIL**

**Page 130**

**New 100.1 and 100.2**

**100.1 Scoring** will be based on 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that will be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that will be subtracted.

Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1.5 to minus 1.5:

a) -1.5 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -.5 poor, 0 correct, b) +.5 good, +1 very good, +1.5 excellent.

**100.2 Penalties** should be assessed, per occurrence, as follows:

- 1/2 point:** each tick or contact of a log, pole, cone, plant, or any component of an obstacle
- 1 point :** each hit, bite, or stepping on a log, cone, plant or any component of the obstacle
  - 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
  - skipping over or failing to step into required space
  - split pole in lope-over
  - incorrect number of strides, if specified
- 3 points:** incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for more than two strides
  - out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead)
  - knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant, obstacle, or severely disturbing an obstacle
  - 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 points:** dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course
  - first or second cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing
  - letting go of gate or dropping rope gate
  - use of either hand to instil fear or praise
  - 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

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.

missing or evading a pole that is a part of a series of an obstacle with more than one foot

blatant disobedience (including kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking) holding saddle with either hand

**Disqualified 0 – Score**

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 WESTERN EQUIPMENT, or to straighten reins when stopped.

use of romal other than as outlined in WESTERN EQUIPMENT

performing the obstacle incorrectly or other than in specified order

no attempt to perform an obstacle

equipment failure that delays completion of pattern excessively or repeatedly

touching the horse on the neck to lower the head

entering or exiting an obstacle from the incorrect side or direction

working obstacle, the incorrect direction; including overturns of more than 1/4 turn

riding outside designated boundary marker of the arena or course area

third cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing

failure to ever demonstrate correct lead and/or gait as designated

failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles

excessive schooling, pulling, turning, stepping or backing anywhere on course

failure to open and shut gate or failure to complete gate

**100.2.1** Faults which will be cause for disqualification that occur on the line of travel between obstacles include: head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers consistently); over flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently.

**100.2.2** Faults scored according to severity which occur on the line of travel between obstacles include:

Head carried too high; Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical excessively and consistently while the horse is in motion, or otherwise showing the appearance of intimidation;

Opening mouth excessively

**VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE CHALLENGE                      Page 134**

**Rule 102.**

After the word DIVISIONS - delete first sentence and replace with:

“The only divisions that can be run are All Age Horse, All Age Youth and Amateur”.

**Rule 102.1 j)** In the case of a fall by a horse or rider, the run will end when the horse or rider fall to the ground.

**Rule 102.1 k)** Equipment failure that delays competition or becomes unsafe, the run is stopped, and the exhibitor will be given credit for what they have accomplished prior to that point but cannot place above other exhibitors who complete the pattern correctly and will be considered off pattern.

**Rule 102.1.1**

Except for the conformation class, each exhibitor is scored between 0-100 points and automatically begins the run with a score of 70 points. The exhibitor is scored on the quality of each manoeuvre

-1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 Good, +1 very good, +1 1/2 excellent).

Pluses and minuses reflect the smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of the exhibitor when performing the various manoeuvres.

Penalties may be accrued for incorrect manoeuvre execution.

## VERSATILITY RANCH PLEASURE

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### Rule 102.2 c)

Penalties will be assessed as follows:

**1 Point:** Over-bridled (per manoeuvre), out of frame (per manoeuvre), too slow, break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less;

**3 Points:** Wrong lead or out of lead, draped reins, break of gait at lope, break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides; out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads, trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change;

**5 Points:** Spurring in front of cinch, blatant disobedience, use of either hand to instil fear/praise.

**10 points:** Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every manoeuvre)

**Off-Pattern (OP):** Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly.

Breaking pattern; repeated disobedience; use of two hands (except junior horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein).

**Disqualification (DQ):** Lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, leaving working area before pattern is complete; improper western attire, fall of horse/rider.

## VERSATILITY RANCH TRAIL

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### Rule 102.3.7

Penalties are assessed as follows:

**1 Point :** Over-bridled (per manoeuvre); out of frame (per manoeuvre); each hit, bite or stepping on a log, cone plant or any component of the obstacle; incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less; both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space at a walk or trot; skipping over or failing to step into required space; split pole in lope-over; incorrect number of strides, if specified; one to two steps on mount/dismount or ground tie except shifting to balance.

**3 Points:** Wrong lead or out of lead; draped reins; break of gait at lope; break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides; three to four steps on mount/dismount on ground tie.

**5 Points:** Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instil fear/praise; knocking over, stepping out of or falling off an obstacle; dropping an object required to be carried; 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal; letting go of gate; five or more steps on mount/ dismount or ground tie.

**10 points:** Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every manoeuvre)

**Off-Pattern (OP):** . Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly

Breaking pattern; 3rd refusal; repeated blatant disobedience, and failure to dally and remain dallied; use of two hands (except junior and level 1 horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein); failure to open and shut gate, or failure to complete gate.

**Disqualification (DQ):** Lameness, abuse, leaving working area before pattern is complete, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper western attire; fall of horse/rider.

## VERSATILITY RANCH REINING

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### Rule 102.4.1

#### PENALTIES:

**½ point:** Starting a circle or exiting a rollback at a trot for up to two (2) strides; delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description; failure to remain a minimum of twenty feet from the wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or roll-back; over-spin or under-spin up to 1/8 turn.

**1 Point:** Over-bridled (per manoeuvre), out of frame (per manoeuvre), out of lead in the circles, figure eights or around the end of the arena (this penalty is cumulative and will be deducted for each quarter of a circle the horse is out of lead); Over or under spinning 1/8 to 1/4 turn. Slipping rein.

**2 Points:** Break of gait; freeze up in spins or rollbacks; failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure on trot-in patterns; failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker on run-in patterns; failure to completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position, trotting beyond two strides, but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena.

**5 Points:** Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instil fear/praise;

**10 points:** Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every manoeuvre)

**Off-Pattern (OP):** Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly.

breaking pattern; inclusion of manoeuvre (e.g. over or under-spinning, backing more than two (2) strides, etc.); trotting in excess of 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena; repeated blatant disobedience; use of two hands (except junior and level 1 horses shown in a snaffle bit/ hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein).

**Disqualification (DQ):** Lameness; abuse; illegal equipment; disrespect or misconduct; leaving arena before pattern is complete; improper western attire; fall of horse/rider.

## VERSATILITY RANCH CUTTING

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**Rule 102.5.2** Penalties should be assessed as follows:

**1 Point:** over-bridled (per manoeuvre), out of frame (per manoeuvre), losing working advantage; toe, foot, or stirrup on the shoulder; working out of position

**3 points:** cattle picked up or scattered; spurring on shoulder; pawing or biting cattle; back fence; hot quit

**5 points:** horse quitting cow; losing cow; changing cattle after a specific commitment; failure to separate a single animal after leaving the herd blatant disobedience;

**10 points:** unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every manoeuvre)

**Off Pattern (OP):** turn tail; failure to cut two cows; use of two hands (except junior horses shown in a snaffle bit/ hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein)

**-Disqualification (DQ):** lameness; abuse; disrespect or misconduct; illegal equipment; excessive disturbance of herd to the point that exhibitor is asked to leave the arena; leaving arena before run is complete, fall of horse/rider; improper western attire.

## VERSATILITY RANCH COW WORK

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### Rule 102.6.3

Penalties will be assessed as follows:

**1 Point :** Over-bridled (per manoeuvre), out of frame (per manoeuvre), loss of working advantage; Using the corner or the end of the arena to turn the cow when going down the fence; changing sides of arena to turn cow; for each length horse runs past cow; working out of position; slipping rein; failure to drive cow past middle marker on first turn; two-loop catch in amateur and youth classes.

**2 Points:** Going around the corner of the arena before turning cow; when working an animal in the open field (at least 6 metres from the side of arena) and the animal gets within 1 metre from the end fence before being turned; failure to catch if roping in amateur and youth classes.

**3 Points:** Exhausting or overworking the cow before circling or roping; hanging up on the fence (refusing to turn); knocking down the cow without having a working advantage; two-loop catch when roping in open/ cowboy class.

**5 Points:** Failure to turn the cow both directions on the fence; spurring in front of cinch; Blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instil fear/praise; failure to catch when roping, in open class.

**10 points:** Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obvious and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every manoeuvre)

**Off-Pattern (OP):** Cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly.

Turning tail; failure to attempt any part of the class; repeated blatant disobedience; schooling after entering the arena prior to calling for cow; schooling horse between cows if new cow is awarded, or complete loss of rope in open class; use of two hands (except junior and level 1 horses shown in a snaffle bit/hackamore), more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except in the two-rein).

**Disqualification (DQ):** bringing the cow straight over backwards landing on its back or head with all four feet in the air, lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, leaving arena before run is complete; improper western attire; fall of horse/rider.

Note: If the open rider runs out of time to rope, there will be no credit for the stop/hold manoeuvre and a 5 point penalty for failure to catch. Riders may still earn credit for tracking/ rating, control/position and speed/ degree of difficulty.

### **Rule 102.8 b) Ranch Conformation**

the following words to be inserted after the word "categories" - "of their appropriate division"

**Add to 102.8b) Divisions:** All Age Youth, Amateur, All Age Horse ( 2 Youth age groups and a Select Amateur can be offered)

## **WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP Page 145**

**RULE 103.2 SCORING:** Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Patterns will be divided into 6 to 10 manoeuvres, as specified by the judge, and each manoeuvre will be scored from +3 to -3 with 1/2 point increments acceptable that will be added or subtracted from 70. Manoeuvre scores should be determined independent of penalties, and should reflect equal consideration of both performance of the exhibitor's pattern and the form and effectiveness of the exhibitor and presentation of horse to result in the following scores:

+3 Excellent, +2 Very Good, +1 Good, 0 Average or Correct, -1 Poor, -2 Very Poor, -3 Extremely Poor.

Exhibitors overall form and effectiveness should also be scored from 0 to 5 with 0 to 2 Average, 3 Good, 4 Very Good, 5 Excellent.

Rule 103.3.1 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph after the word "stirrup" add the following: and riding without contact of bottom of boot securely on pad of stirrup,

### **RULE 103.4**

Delete in entirety and replace with:

**PENALTIES** An exhibitor should be penalised in the pattern independent of manoeuvre scores and deducted from the final score as follows:

#### **3 points**

Break of gait at the walk or jog up to 2 strides

Over or under turn from 1/8 to 1/4 turn

Tick or hit of cone

Obviously looking down to check leads

**5 points**

Not performing the specific gait or not stopping within 3 meters of designated location  
Incorrect lead or break of gait at the lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead)  
Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides  
Loss of stirrup  
Bottom of boot not touching pad of stirrup at all gaits including backup  
Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical while the horse is in motion, showing the appearance of intimidation

**10 points**

Loss of rein  
Use of either hand to instil fear or praise while on pattern or during rail work  
Holding saddle with either hand  
Cueing with the end of the romal  
Blatant disobedience including kicking, pawing, bucking, and rearing  
Spurring in front of the cinch  
**Disqualifications (should not be placed) including:**  
Failure to display correct number  
Abuse of horse or schooling  
Fall by horse or exhibitor  
Illegal equipment or illegal use of hands on reins  
Use of prohibited equipment  
Off pattern, including knocking over or wrong side of cone or marker; never performing designated gait or lead; over or under turning more than 1/4 turn

**WESTERN PLEASURE**                      **Page 149**

**Rule 104.1** 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence delete "30cm" and replace with "50cm".

**SECTION SIX**

Reining Pattern 5                      **Page 175**

Delete "sliding stop" and replace with "left rollback"  
First paragraph is to be numbered as 1 and then renumber the rest accordingly.

END