



Proposed Rule Changes 2027

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2026 Rules Committee Chair

Member Proposed Rule Changes for 2027

790. SHOWMANSHIP AND HORSEMANSHIP/EQUITATION CLASSES

F. In horsemanship/equitation classes exhibitors must work individually using an appropriate test in which they are asked to demonstrate all three gaits. After each exhibitor has been worked individually, the judge ~~may:~~ **places the class.**

~~1. Recall all the exhibitors or just the finalists for rail work.~~

~~a. If the judge chooses to recall exhibitors for rail work, the exhibitors must be worked at least one way of the ring demonstrating all three gaits, or~~

2. Place the class.

Member Provided Rationale:

The pattern is the primary part of the class, we don't use the rail at regional shows but then require it at the world shows. Also, regional shows are long enough and don't need to add the rail work.

728. GAMING CLASSES GENERAL RULES

Addition to the rule:

S. Cavessons that are not tie downs should be allowed in gaming classes.

Member Provided Rationale:

None

745. GENERAL RULES FOR ROPING CLASSES

A. Roping events recognized by the ApHC are: Judged Tie-Down Roping (Non-Pro, Youth, Junior, Senior)

1. Timed Tie-Down Roping (Non-Pro, Open)
2. Judged Heading (Non-Pro, Youth, Junior, Senior)
3. Judged Heeling (Non-Pro, Youth, Junior, Senior)
4. Timed Heading & Heeling (Non-Pro, Open)
5. Breakaway Roping (Non-Pro, Youth, **Open**)

Member Provided Rationale:

Member seeks to add the class of Open Breakaway Roping.

724. RANCH TRAIL

F. There will be ~~four (4)~~ **three (3)** mandatory obstacles, one selected from each of the following categories ~~(1-4)~~ **(1-3)**. The course is to be set up at the discretion of show management and/or judges. Obstacles should be constructed of safe material and test the horse and rider's skills. Care shall be taken to design the course with safety in mind when determining the gait at which the obstacles will be maneuvered.

~~4. — CATEGORY 4 — An obstacle that demonstrates the horse's ability to be handled from the ground. If a horse is shown in a bridle with romal reins, a neck rope (get down rope) will be allowed for the purposes of handling the horse on the ground in ranch trail. A minimum of one of the following must be included in the pattern:~~

- ~~a. — Ground tie (hobbles are allowed):~~
- ~~b. — Mount and dismount. May remount with a mounting block, which should be provided:~~
- ~~c. — Work a gate while on foot:~~
- ~~d. — Load into a trailer:~~
- ~~e. — Pick up feet:~~
- ~~f. — Lead at a walk or trot:~~

Member Provided Rationale:

Member seeks to strike category 4 obstacles and reduce the number of obstacle categories to 3.

HUNTER AND OVER-FENCES CLASSES

773, 775.B.2, 776.F, 777, 778 and all others

Sweeping change to reduce all fence heights minimum and maximum, by 3 inches.

Member Provided Rationale:

I would like to propose that all minimum and maximum fence heights be dropped by 3" for all full courses AND hunter hack. The most popular classes at regular USEF shows are the 2'3 and 2'6 classes, 3 foot is pretty high and as most of us know there are fewer and fewer over fences horses showing each year. By lowering the fence height, we make it more inclusive for everyone. While our horses may have the talent, there is no "introduction" type height right now for newer riders and by lowering the hunter hack fences we allow for ever more participants. Member also recommends adding a beginner jumper course.

807. YOUTH WALK-TROT DIVISION

C. Once a walk-trot exhibitor 10 & Under or 11-18 shows in a three-gaited class at an ApHC- sponsored event and/or an ApHC-approved show during the calendar year they may not show in a walk- trot 10 & Under or 11-18 class for the remainder of that calendar year. Otherwise, there are no restrictions on how long a youth exhibitor may show in walk-trot classes.

~~D. A walk-trot exhibitor 10 & Under or 11-18 will not be allowed to show in a walk-trot class and a three-gaited class at the same show.~~ **A youth walk-trot exhibitor cannot show in the walk-trot classes and three-gaited classes at the same ApHC-Sponsored or Approved show. Cross-entry between these classes shall be permitted at shows where all-breed (i.e. open show, not a recognized breed show) classes are not eligible for ApHC points but share a show venue.**

Member Provided Rationale:

Currently, ApHC rules prohibit exhibitors from cross-entering walk/trot and walk/trot/canter classes, and this restriction is being applied to all classes, including those designated as all-breed classes at ApHC-approved regional shows.

This application is unnecessarily restrictive and does not align with the purpose of all-breed classes. These classes are not eligible for ApHC points, standings, or awards, yet they are subject to the same limitations as point-eligible classes.

As a result, this restriction limits participation, reduces class sizes, and discourages exhibitor involvement—particularly at the regional level, where all-breed classes are intended to increase accessibility and support show growth.

Allowing cross-entry in all-breed classes would increase entries, improve show viability, and create a more inclusive environment for riders of varying skill levels.

Other associations, including the American Quarter Horse Association, allow cross-entry in similar class structures, resulting in larger and more competitive classes.

There is no competitive or structural justification for restricting cross-entry in classes that do not contribute to ApHC points. Allowing this flexibility would support exhibitor participation and align ApHC with current industry standards, without impacting the integrity of ApHC point-eligible competition.

901. NON-PRO CLASSES

D. Non-Pro Walk-Trot:

1. Eligibility. All non-pros are eligible to ride in these classes without regard to number of points earned or age of exhibitor.
2. Non-pro walk-trot classes will be judged in accordance with ApHC walk-trot show rules.
3. Once a non-pro exhibitor shows in a three-gaited class at an ApHC-sponsored event or show during the calendar year they may not show in a non-pro walk-trot division class for the remainder of that calendar year. Otherwise there are no restrictions on how long a non-pro exhibitor may show in walk-trot classes.
4. A non-pro exhibitor cannot show in the walk-trot classes and three-gaited classes at the same **ApHC-Sponsored or Approved** show. **Cross-entry between these classes shall be permitted at shows where all-breed (i.e. open show, not a recognized breed show) classes are not eligible for ApHC points but share a show venue.**
5. These classes are limited to non-pros who do not participate in any approved classes at the same show except Showmanship, Halter, Hunter in Hand, Heritage, Yearling Longe Line, Pleasure Driving and non-pro walk-trot classes which include:
 - a. Walk-Trot games classes (Camas Prairie Stump Race, Nez Perce Stake Race, Keyhole Race, Figure 8 Stake Race)
 - b. Walk-Trot Western Horsemanship, Walk-Trot Hunt Seat Equitation
 - c. Walk-Trot pleasure classes (Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle)
 - d. Walk-Trot Trail
 - e. Walk/Trot ranch classes (Trail, Ranch Rail Pleasure, Ranch Riding)
6. Points earned in the walk-trot program may only be used toward year end high-point awards in walk-trot classes.
7. Points are accumulated on the individual exhibitor provided they meet non-pro ownership requirements as listed in 900.J.

Member Provided Rationale:

See the rationale provided for 807 above.

715. WESTERN PERFORMANCE

A. Equipment

10. Two rein equipment will be allowed in Working Cow Horse classes, Boxing, Ranch Cow Work, and Ranch Horse classes.
 - a. When using two rein, bosalita may be of any size, constructed of braided rawhide or leather and have a non-metal, flexible core. No iron or foreign substance may be used.
 - b. The rider must use one hand on the reins. Fingers between the reins will be permitted.
 - c. Both mecate and bridle reins are to be held in the rein hand.
 - d. All rules for two rein will follow hackamore and bridle requirements for the respective class.
 - e. **The purpose of the two-rein option is the transition between the hackamore and bridle and can be used for one year only.**

Member Provided Rationale:

Most other organizations have a rule that the two-rein can only be used for one year. It is a transition from the hackamore to the bridle.

213. DNA Testing

B. Any horse must be parentage verified, at applicants' expense, through DNA analysis by an ApHC-approved laboratory as required by ApHC rules if it is;

7. Any foal applying for registration via the ApHC web-based registration application. (Effective August 1, 2023)

Member Provided Rationale:

Online registration would seem to be a more cost effective and more efficient mode of registration without the extra burden of the requirement for DNA on a foal to be registered online. All the same information is gathered on a paper application, and potentially delayed in the postal service for two months. The additional cost associated with dna testing is not warranted and is a deterrent for people who would register online. Mares and stallions already need to have DNA on file, and if a paper application does not require DNA an online application should be no different.

806. NOVICE YOUTH PROGRAM

B. To be eligible to show in a novice youth class, the youth, as of January 1 of the current year, shall have earned less than a combined total of ~~30~~ 50 points in the ApHC and/or any other breed organization – approved or –sponsored shows in the group of youth and novice youth classes that count toward determining novice eligibility in each of the five novice youth classes, excluding walk-trot, leadline, hunter in hand and halter.

1. Novice points will be accrued to the youth's novice record regardless of whether or not the youth is eligible to earn points as determined by their relationship to the owner of the horse. Once the ~~30~~ 50-point total is reached, the youth will no longer be able to show in that novice class at the end of the calendar year. However, these points will not count toward year-end high-point awards or accumulative lifetime awards.

Member Provided Rationale:

I feel with most shows having 3/4 judges the lower numbers make it to easy to point out!! I would like it raised to 50 and your out!!

906. NOVICE NON-PRO PROGRAM

A. A Novice Non-pro must have a Non-pro card and meet all Non-pro requirements. To be eligible for Novice Non-pro status in any class, the applicant must have earned less than ~~30~~ 50 points in that class in the ApHC and/or any other breed organization as of January 1 of current year in Youth, Novice Youth, Non-pro, Masters Non-pro and Novice Non-pro classes. Points earned in Youth Leadline, Youth Walk-Trot, Non-Pro Walk/Trot, Youth and Non-pro Halter do not count in determining Novice Non-pro eligibility. Former professionals reclassified as Non-pros are not eligible for Novice classes.

2. Novice points will be accrued to the non-pro's novice record regardless of whether or not the non-pro is eligible to earn points as determined by their relationship to the owner of the horse. Once the ~~30~~-50 point total is reached, the non-pro will no longer be able to show in that novice class at the end of the calendar year. However, these points will not count toward year-end high-point awards or accumulative lifetime awards for the horse or exhibitor.

Member Provided Rationale:

I feel with most shows having 3/4 judges the lower numbers make it to easy to point out!! I would like it raised to 50 and your out!!

710. NATIONAL POINT SYSTEM WORLD SHOW QUALIFYING POINTS

Remove the 1-point requirement for Open Pleasure Driving.

**Note the Non-Pro Pleasure Driving is non-qualifying at 0 points.*

Member Provided Rationale:

I have a hard time finding appaloosa shows that are with in reasonable driving distance from me that will offer driving. Closest show is currently 7 hrs or more from me. I have also had problems with clubs adding it to their show schedule due to lack of entries. Making the class qualification to 0 will increase more entries cause then people can save their expense of travel, show fees for the world show.

713. HALTER CLASSES

Move section 713 F Ranch Conformation into the “ranch classes” section of the handbook.

Or

Add 7. Rules outlined in 720. A. 1 and 720. B shall apply to this class.

Member Provided Rationale:

Ranch conformation rules should be included in the “ranch classes” section of the handbook to clarify that they do fall within the general rules for ranch classes. They should also then reference the following the Halter Class Conduct and Halter horse conformation standards sections of the Halter Classes Section. If not moved there should be an additional rule within 713.F that denotes the requirement to follow rules outlined in 720.

702. NATIONAL AWARDS

A. Classes Approved for National Points & Class Categories for Award Calculation

1. Performance Classes

e. Specialty Classes

Ladies' Side Saddle

Men's Heritage

Ladies' Heritage

Ranch Conformation

2. Halter Class Category

a. Halter Classes

Ranch Conformation

Member Provided Rationale:

Ranch conformation is currently judged as a halter class and should be consider a halter class with respect to all awards. In addition, it is not a performance class. For those reasons, it should be moved from the specialty classes within performance classes to the halter class category in Rule 702. This would also benefit the ApHC and regional shows – in the current model, many exhibitors do not show conformation because the long term, larger benefits (awards) do not apply, there is no incentive.

607. ELIGIBILITY TO SHOW

B. No horse is eligible to participate in an ApHC-approved show, including horses aiding or assisting in any part of the show, (except as noted in B.1 and B.2 below), unless the horse is registered with the ApHC or holds a ApHC Small Horse Program certificate,

1. In ApHC approved ~~or~~ **and** sponsored cutting events, non-ApHC registered horses may be used in the arena as turn back and herd holding horses.

2. In ApHC approved ~~or sponsored~~ roping classes at ApHC-approved shows or events, horses not registered with the ApHC may be used in the arena as helper horses (header or heeler) for those horses properly entered in ApHC approved roping classes. **In ApHC approved roping classes at ApHC sponsored events, horses used in the arena as helper horses (header or heeler) must be registered with ApHC for those horses properly entered in ApHC approved roping classes.**

Member Provided Rationale:

Current rule is not clear – references B1 but not B2, B2 starts with both ApHC approved and sponsored shows but later only references approved. Allowing non-ApHC registered horses at ApHC Sponsored events can give distinct advantage to individual performances as the help horse has a clear role in the success of the performance – they must also perform as if they were being judged. In cutting, that is not the case for help horses.

XXX. RANCH HORSEMANSHIP (NEW RULE/NEW CLASSES)

A. All General Ranch Class Rules in Rule 720 apply.

B. Ranch Horsemanship highlights the rider's skill in performing practical maneuvers essential to everyday ranch work. The horsemanship class is designed to evaluate the rider's ability to execute, in concert with their horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional, and fundamentally correct seat. Horses should have forward motion. The ideal horsemanship pattern is extremely precise with the horse and rider working in complete unison, executing each maneuver with subtle aids and cues. The horses head and neck should be carried in a relaxed, natural position.

C. Class Guidelines

1. This class is open to all horses ages three (3) years of age and older
2. Exhibitors may only show one (1) horse.
3. Patterns may be chosen from the five (5) Ranch Horsemanship patterns or a pattern determined by the judge.
 - a. The individual pattern work must include walk, trot, lope, stop and back, and should also include extended gaits.
 - b. Optional maneuvers may include sidepass; turns; change of lead (simple or flying); walk, trot or lope over a pole or poles; or some combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.
 - c. The use of natural logs is required if used in the pattern
 - d. Use of cattle is optional.

D. POSITION

1. General. Exhibitor will be judged on seat, hands, ability to control and show horse and suitability of horse and rider. Results as shown by the performance of horse are not to be considered more important than the method used by the rider to obtain them.
2. Hands. Upper arms to be in a straight line with body, one hand holding reins should be bent at the elbow. Reins may be held in two hands if the horse qualifies to be ridden in a snaffle, hackamore or snaffle bit with mecate.
3. Basic Position. Exhibitor should sit in saddle with legs hanging straight and slightly forward to stirrups or knees bent slightly and weight directly over ball of feet. In either position the stirrups should be just short enough to allow heels to be lower than toes. Body should always appear comfortable, heels relaxed and flexible. Feet should be placed in stirrups with the weight on the ball of the foot. Consideration, however, should be given to width of stirrups, which may vary on western saddles.
 - a. The rider's back should be flat, relaxed, and supple. An overly stiff and/or overly arched back will be penalized. The shoulders should be back, level, and square. Those exhibitors that can maintain the proper position throughout the maneuvers should receive more credit. Both hands and arms should be held in a relaxed, easy manner, with the upper arm in a straight line with the body. The arm holding the reins should be bent at the elbow forming a line from the elbow to the horse's mouth. The free hand and arm may be carried bent at the elbow in a similar position as the hand holding the reins or straight down at the riders side. Excessive pumping of the free arm as well as excessive stiffness will be penalized. The rider's wrist is to be kept straight and relaxed, with the hand held at

about 30 to 45 degrees inside the vertical. The rein hand should be carried immediately above or slightly in front of the saddle horn. The reins should be adjusted so that the rider has light contact with the horse's mouth, and at no time shall reins require more than a slight hand movement to control the horse. Excessively tight or loose reins will be penalized.

b. The rider's head should be held with the chin level and the eyes forward, and may be directed slightly toward the direction of travel. Excessive turning of the head to the inside of the circle, or down at the horse's head or shoulders should be penalized.

4. Position in Motion. Exhibitor should sit to trot and not post. At the extended trot posting is optional. At the lope, the exhibitor should be close to the saddle.

All movements of horse should be governed by the use of imperceptible aids. Exaggerated shifting of the exhibitor's weight is not desirable.

5. The horse's body condition and overall health and fitness should be assessed. The horse should appear to be fit and carry weight appropriate for the body size. A horse which appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn, overly tired should be penalized according to severity.

6. Tack should fit the horse properly and be neat, clean and in good repair.

E. CLASS ROUTINE – The judge must ask each exhibitor to work individually using a designated pattern. It must be remembered that, above all, a ranch horse is one that responds instantly and smoothly to all aids.

1. The horse should perform all maneuvers in the pattern willingly, briskly and readily with minimal visible or audible cueing. Severe disobedience will result in a disqualification. Failure to follow the prescribed pattern, knocking over or working on the wrong side of the cones, excessive schooling or training, or willful abuse by the exhibitor is cause for disqualification.

2. Transitions should be smooth and prompt in the pattern. Circles should be round and performed at the appropriate speed, size and location as requested in the pattern.

3. The stop should be straight, square, prompt, smooth and responsive with the horse maintaining a straight body position throughout the maneuver.

4. Turns should be smooth and continuous. When performing a turn on the haunches, the horse should pivot on the inside hind leg and step across with the front legs. A rollback is a stop and degree turn over the hocks with no hesitation. Backing during turns will be penalized severely.

5. The horse should step across with the front and hind legs when performing the side-pass, leg-yield and two track. The side pass should be performed with the horse keeping the body straight while moving directly lateral in the specified direction. When performing a leg-yield, the horse should move forward and lateral in a diagonal direction with the horse's body arched opposite to the direction that the horse is moving. In the two-track, the horse should move forward and lateral in a diagonal direction with the horse's body held straight or bent in the direction the horse is moving.

6. A simple or flying lead change should be executed precisely in the specified number of strides and/or at the designated location. A simple lead change is performed by breaking to a walk or trot for one to three strides. Flying changes should be simultaneous front and rear. All changes should be smooth and timely.

F. SCORING & PENALTIES

1. Scoring. Scoring will be on the basis of 0-100, with 70 denoting an average performance. The individual maneuvers are scored in 1/2 point increments from a low of -1 1/2 to a high of +1 1/2 with a score of 0 denoting a maneuver that is average or correct. It is the judge's responsibility to evaluate these maneuver

groups individually and rate each maneuver group on the following scale: -1 1/2 = Extremely Poor; -1 = Very Poor; -1/2 = Poor; 0 = Correct; +1/2 = Good; +1 = Very Good; +1 1/2 = Excellent

2. Penalties

a. ONE POINT

- 1) Too slow (per gait)
- 2) Over-bridled (per maneuver)
- 3) Out of frame (per maneuver)
- 4) Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less
- 5) Wrong lead or out of lead for 2 strides or less
- 6) Over/under turn from 1/8-1/4 of prescribed turn
- 7) Obviously looking down to check leads

b. THREE POINTS

- 1) Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
- 2) Break of gait at lope, except when correcting an incorrect lead
- 3) Wrong lead or out of lead for more than 2 strides
- 4) Draped reins (per maneuver)
- 5) Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads
- 6) Trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change; in a lope departure; or exiting a rollback into a lope from a stop or walk
- 7) Severe disturbance of any obstacle
- 8) Loss of stirrup

c. FIVE POINTS

- 1) Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) for each occurrence
- 2) Cueing with the end of the romal
- 3) Spurring in front of the cinch
- 4) Use of either hand to instill fear or praise while on pattern
- 5) Loss of rein

d. OP – Must be placed below all horses completing pattern correctly.

- 1) Incomplete maneuver

- 2) Eliminating or adding a maneuver
- 3) Knocking over the cone; working on wrong side of cone; not following correct line of travel; or going off pattern
- 4) Failure to ever execute correct lead or gait if designated
- 5) Over/under spins more than 1/4 of prescribed turn

e. DISQUALIFICATIONS (should not be placed) include:

- 1) Failure by exhibitor to wear correct number in visible manner
- 2) Willful abuse
- 3) Excessive schooling or training
- 4) Fall by horse or rider
- 5) Illegal use of hands on reins
- 6) Illegal equipment including hoof black, braided or banded manes, or tail extensions

f. Faults to be scored accordingly:

- 1) Loose, sloppy, dirty or poor fitting clothing and equipment.
- 2) Stiff, artificial or unnatural body, leg and or head position.
- 3) Reins too long, too short or uneven.
- 4) Loose leg with open knee or toes pointed down.
- 5) Exhibitor falling forward when stopping.
- 6) Shoulders held crooked or arms held in a straight, unbent position.
- 7) Oblong or flat sided circles or counter arc when circling.
- 8) Stopping rough, crooked or dropping a hip out when stopping.
- 9) Backing sluggishly or crooked.
- 10) Holding the head or neck excessively crooked when moving in straight lines or when stopping or backing.
- 11) Showing resistance when cued or reined.
- 12) Hesitation during any maneuver unless specified.
- 13) Failure of horse to stand still in pattern.
- 14) Failure to exhibit extension of gait when requested

G. WALK-TROT RANCH HORSEMANSHIP

1. Except as noted below, general ranch rules apply (except that exhibitors will not be asked to lope but may be asked to extend the trot).
2. If the horse breaks into a lope for more than three consecutive strides, it shall be disqualified.

3. See NON-PRO WALK-TROT DIVISION, rule 901 E for rules regarding non-pro eligibility for non-pro walk-trot classes.

4. See YOUTH WALK-TROT DIVISION, rule 807 for rules regarding youth eligibility for youth walk-trot classes.

Ranch Horsemanship classes to be offered in Walk Trot Youth, Youth, Walk Trot Non-Pro, Novice Non-Pro, Non-Pro. (Same offerings as other Youth and NP Ranch Classes).

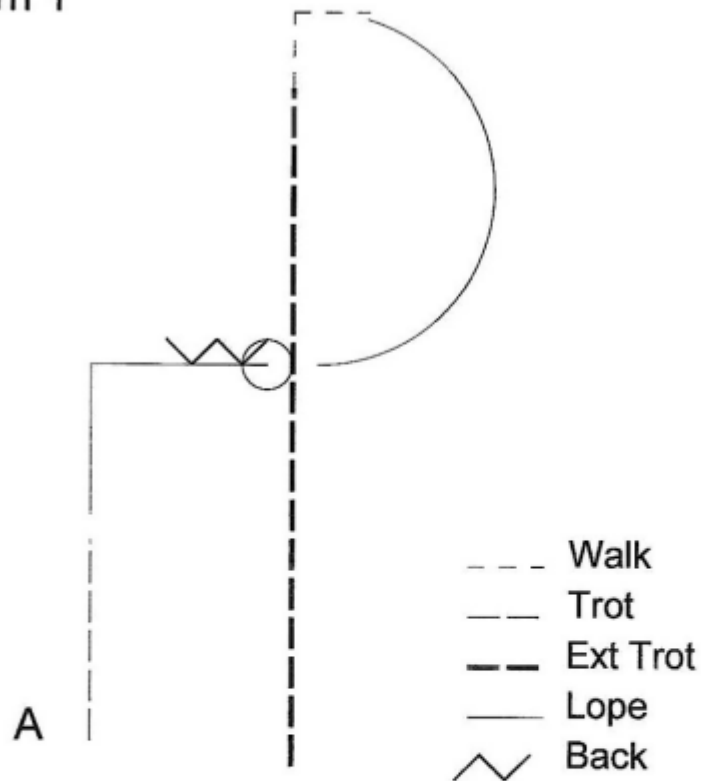
(Renumber the rules following the ranch division accordingly)

Member Provided Rationale:

To maintain consistency with other organizations, Ranch Horsemanship is an avenue for youth and non-pro exhibitors to demonstrate their ability to show a ranch horse. This offering is available in other associations (including NSBA) and is proving to be well received. ApHC should continue to stay relevant in this category as it often has the largest classes at both regional and sponsored shows. This is being proposed on behalf of the Appaloosa Ranch Horse Association, with the rules proposed reviewed and approved by the Judges Advisory Committee.

RANCH HORSEMANSHIP

Pattern 1

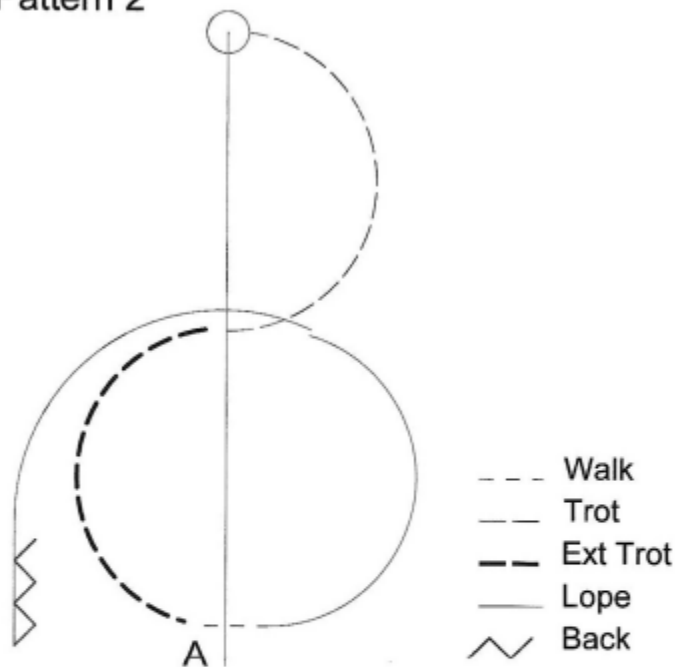


Be ready at A

1. Trot
2. Lope Right Lead, square corner to center of arena, stop
3. Turn 360 to left.
4. Back one horse length
5. Lope Left Lead 1/2 circle
6. Transition to walk, walk square corner
7. Extended Trot to exit

RANCH HORSEMANSHIP

Pattern 2

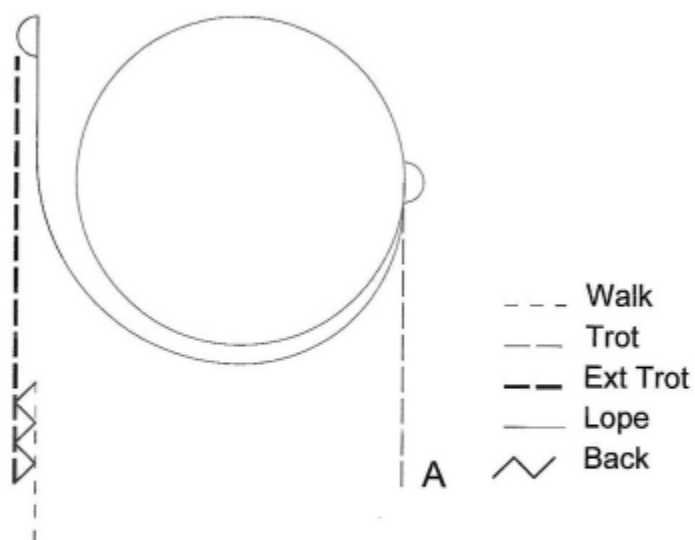


Be ready at A

1. Lope right lead, stop
2. Spin 1 1/4 to right
3. Trot 1/2 circle to right as shown
4. Extended trot 1/2 circle to left as shown
5. Walk two horse lengths
6. Lope left lead circle, do not close
7. Stop and back 5 steps, exit at a walk

RANCH HORSEMANSHIP

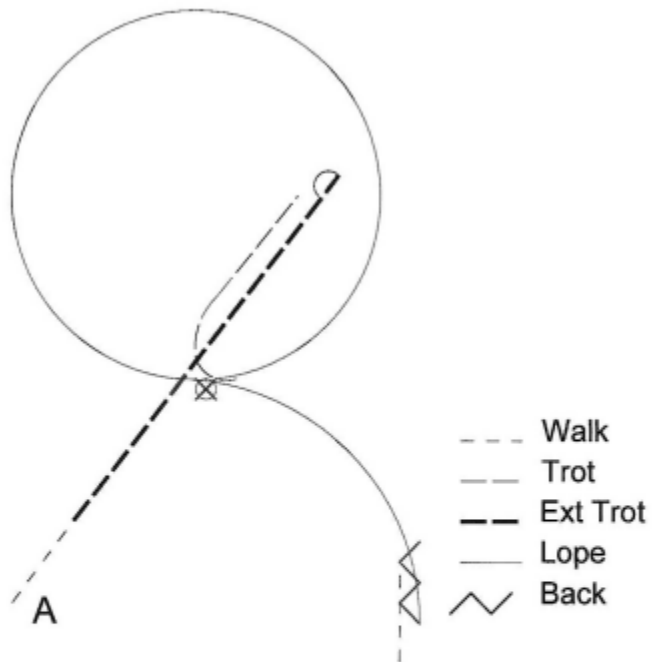
Pattern 3



Be ready at A

1. Trot in straight line
2. Lope circle on left lead
3. Stop, rollback to right
4. Lope right lead 1/2 circle
5. Stop, turn 180 to left
6. Extended trot until even with A
7. Stop and back one horse length
8. Exit at a walk

RANCH HORSEMANSHIP Pattern 4



Be ready at A

1. Walk two horse lengths
2. Extended trot, stop
3. Turn 180 to left
4. Trot forward and turn left
5. Lope circle in left lead
6. Change leads, simple or flying
7. Lope right lead until even with A
8. Stop and back, exit at a walk

727. TRAIL

M. YEARLING IN-HAND TRAIL

5. Exhibitor Requirements

a. Exhibitor must use only the right hand on the lead where the chain begins, and lead on the horse's left side. A chain may be used **over the nose**, under the chin or hanging from the halter. Exhibitor must use only the left hand to carry the excess lead, looped loosely except when:

Member Provided Rationale:

Allowing an exhibitor to have the option to run the lead shank chain over the yearling's nose (in addition to under the chin or not used) allows for more control for the young horse in the very strange surroundings ... different showgrounds and the odd obstacles and scenario, which increases the safety factor for all.

901. NON-PRO CLASSES

D. Non-Pro Walk-Trot

3. Once a non-pro exhibitor shows in a three-gaited class at an ApHC-sponsored event or show during the calendar year they may not show in a non-pro walk-trot division class **on that horse** for the remainder of that calendar year. Otherwise there are no restrictions on how long a non-pro exhibitor may show in walk-trot classes.
4. A non-pro exhibitor cannot show in the walk-trot classes and three-gaited classes **on the same horse** at the same show.

Member Provided Rationale:

While I understand the importance of allowing riders to grow their skill at more advanced gaits and once they do to not have them compete against riders in the walk-trot division the way the rule reads today (for Non-pro and Youth) does not allow for the horse. Non-pro and youth riders have been a cornerstone of our breed and there are multiple examples of generations of families that wish to continue to show Appaloosas. As an exhibitor if I want to continue with an Appaloosa at some point there comes a time where I need to bring on my next equine partner. Rome was not built in a day and neither is that trusted equine member of the family so it is always likely that there is overlap where I may still want to show my proven show horse in the 3 gaited classes while I begin my journey with my next horse in the walk-trot division. As time goes on the inverse is also true where my faithful partner is no longer able to handle the rigor of a show weekend in 3 gaited classes but I also don't want to sell him and he/she can do the walk-trot and the younger horse can graduate to the 3 gaited classes. My proposal is simply that the rules should be a horse rider combination to allow for the growth/development of the next generation of equine exhibitors.

603. SMALL HORSE PROGRAM SHOW APPROVAL (ApHC)

~~C. ApHC Small Horse Program certified horses are only eligible to be entered and shown in ApHC Small Horse Program classes.~~

Proposed restructure to allow small horses to show with regular ApHC horses. Remove cross entry prohibition in all subsequent rules.

Member Provided Rationale:

This format for small horse classes needs to be changed because as it stands now nobody with small horse registration can show, which was the point of implementing the program. We should keep small horse registration the same while amending the need for small horse specific classes, we should allow them to show in regular ApHC classes. This amendment would keep the integrity of the Appaloosa horse while opening up our shows to a group of horses that already have the required registration. We would not be giving up the integrity of our breed because of the already existing requirements of small horse registration, and the fact that a lot of these horses already have those papers. We need to give these members a benefit to registering their horses, otherwise there is no reason they should continue to register with ApHC

713. HALTER CLASSES

6. Open Halter Classes Include:

i. Performance Halter

i. mares (**JR and SR**)

ii. stallions (**JR and SR**)

iii. geldings (**JR and SR**)

1. **When open performance halter classes are offered, a Jr and Sr class will be held for each sex division.**
2. **Separate classes will be held for stallions, mares and geldings.**
3. **3. Open to horses ages one year and older. Horses that have earned a Racing register of merit (ROM) or complete a minimum of one performance class (including Yearling Longe Line and Yearling In-Hand Trail), other than showmanship, at the same show or contest will be eligible**

Member Provided Rationale:

As a breeder of all around horses, my young horses exist conformation characteristics more consistent with Performance Halter standards but since Performance Halter is All Age a yearling is at a significant disadvantage in Performance Halter against senior horses. They are also at a disadvantage in the Jr Halter because the horses in the classic halter class are different body style. My proposal would be a Jr and Sr Performance Halter. The rule for eligibility for Jr would be the same as Sr Performance where the horse would need a ROM or to show in a performance class (should include Longeline and In-Hand Trail)

702. NATIONAL AWARDS

A. Classes Approved for National Points and Class Categories for Award Calculation

Yearling Longe Line ~~(points accumulated for performance record, only eligible for ROM)~~

Yearling In-Hand Trail ~~(points accumulated for performance record, only eligible for ROM)~~

Member Provided Rationale:

Points should not be handled any differently than other classes which are eligible without exception for Award Calculations. This could be expanded to the 2 year old classes as well.

202. HORSES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION OR APPROVED BREED LISTING

~~I. Any foal whose sire and/or dam holds the following or similar excessive white marking statement on their registration papers or any other form of registration identification is ineligible for ApHC registration; “This horse has white markings designated under AQHA rules as an undesirable trait and uncharacteristic of the breed”, unless those white markings are determined by the ApHC Registrar in conjunction with the ApHC Executive Director to be an Appaloosa coat pattern and does not have white in excess of the restrictions as shown in HORSES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION OR ApHC APPROVED BREED LISTING.~~

J. A foal whose sire and/or dam holds the following or a similar excessive white marking statement on its registration papers or other form of registration identification may be eligible for ApHC registration, provided the foal itself does not have white markings in excess of the restrictions shown in HORSES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION OR ApHC APPROVED BREED LISTING:

“This horse has white markings designated under AQHA rules as an undesirable trait and uncharacteristic of the breed.”

Eligibility shall be determined based on the markings of the foal presented for registration. The ApHC Registrar, in conjunction with the ApHC Executive Director, may review the foal’s markings to determine whether the white is an Appaloosa coat pattern and whether the foal otherwise meets all ApHC registration requirements.

Member Provided Rationale:

I propose that the foals born by a QH parent with excessive white can be registered regularly as Appaloosas thru the ApHC if the foal does not have excessive white. AQHA will allow QH foals to be registered as QH even if the parent was excessive white.

420. APPALOOSA COMPETITIVE ALL-BREED ACTIVITIES PROGRAM (ACAAP)

T. Qualifying for the ApHC World Championship Show through ACAAP Points

~~1. In the following ACAAP award categories, the ACAAP Year End High Merit Point Master Horse for the year, if they receive 15 ACAAP merit points within that year, will be eligible to show in specific classes for the following year's ApHC World Championship show. All horses shown at the ApHC World Championship Show must be ApHC registered with Regular (#) or CPO (CN) registration classification or have been issued a Performance Permit in the qualifying year. To be clear, only the Year End High Merit Point winner in each category will qualify for the next years ApHC World Championship Show, i.e. 2020 winner qualifies for the 2021 World Championship Show.~~

1. In the following ACAAP award categories, the Top 5 in each ACAAP Award Category as of September 1 will be eligible to compete in that year's ApHC World Show. Those eligible to show will be allowed to show in any and all classes of their choice.

Member Provided Rationale:

The ACAAP program should have a cutoff date consistent with the National Point system that allows the Top 5 ACAAP standings to be eligible to compete in the World Show

420. APPALOOSA COMPETITIVE ALL-BREED ACTIVITIES PROGRAM (ACAAP)

Proposal to revamp the program:

- Drop “Equitation” - redundant category and lack of participation. Has representation in other more specific categories.
- Drop “Western Riding” - vague category and can be represented in other categories.
- Drop “Working Cow Horse” - lack of participation and can be represented in other categories.
- Expand out “Ranch Competition” - the average top points earned in this single category is over 100 points. This category should be divided into Ranch Pleasure, Ranch Riding, and Ranch Trail. As these are the most popular classes currently.
- Updated qualification
 - Highest ApHC points required for qualifying is 5.
 - Lower the minimum ACAAP points required for qualifying. Currently 15. (3x more)
 - Minimum points required for Year End Merit Point Master is 10. (So you can win your category and still not qualify for World?)
 - Allow ACAAP points to qualify for NonPro events.
 - Barrel Racing.....10
 - Combined Training....Non Qualifying
 - Cutting.....Non Qualifying
 - Dressage.....Non Qualifying
 - Driving.....5
 - English Equitation.....10
 - English Pleasure.....10
 - Games.....10
 - Halter.....10
 - Judged Trail Riding...Non Qualifying
 - Over Fences.....5
 - Ranch Pleasure.....10
 - Ranch Riding.....10
 - Ranch Trail.....10
 - Reining.....5
 - Roping.....5
 - Showmanship.....10
 - Team Penning.....10
 - Trail.....10
 - Walk/Trot.....10
 - Western Dressage...Non Qualifying
 - Western HMS/Eq.....10
 - Western Pleasure.....10
 - 4-H.....Non Qualifying
- Tiered Awards
 - Buckles are great for top earners. Need to better reward 2nd and 3rd earners. (Not just a paper certificates)
 - Plenty of options for 2nd and 3rd earners. (So long as they meet the point requirement.)
 - National Recognition

- Top 5 used to be listed in the Appaloosa Journal.
 - Spotlight Top Earners via AJ, newsletters, social media.
 - (Same can be argued for Saddle Log and Distance programs.)
 - Extra attention should be given to those participating in events that are NOT offered by ApHC sponsored events. (Western Dressage, Dressage, Combined Training, 4H)
 - ACAAP participants are the most visible Appaloosa Ambassadors. We should support their efforts as such.

Member Provided Rationale:

- Many regions do not have shows in their state. Meaning limited opportunity for qualifying.
- Open shows average more entries and competition includes both NonPro riders and Professionals. Increasing difficulty of competition.
- Judging is unbiased and breed-neutral. Appaloosas must stand out in diverse fields.
- Support grassroots participation in an era of rising travel and show costs.
- Recognize the versatility of Appaloosas competing outside breed circuits.
- Strengthen ApHC relevance in regions underserved by sanctioned shows.
- Reward members fairly for promoting the Appaloosa in the wider horse world.
- ACAAP participants are the most visible Appaloosa Ambassadors. We should support their efforts as such.

703. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP APPALOOSA SHOW

QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS

If the horse or non-pro has shown at 2 regional club events (under 8 or more judges), before September 1, they will be eligible to show the ApHC World Show that year. Once eligible, they can enter any and all classes they desire according to the rules for that class

Member Provided Rationale:

To increase participation and support the regional club system, I would like to see World qualifying be requiring participation in 2 or 3 show events or showing to 8-12 judges instead of accumulating a specific amount of points. This would encourage participation in regional shows, and allow more people to experience the dream of showing their Appaloosa at such a prestigious event.

OR

1. Under the National Point System, individual owners may qualify horses by meeting the minimum number of point requirements **in at least one class** if they are current members in good standing in the ApHC. Those shows which have gained ApHC approval and have met all requirements will count for national points. **Once the non-pro or horse has qualified in a minimum of one class, they can enter any and all classes they desire at the World Show.**

Member Provided Rationale:

If a trainer can take the horse and get qualified in the open, the horse should be qualified for the non-pro. The non-pro can save their money and time off work to attend the world show. In contrast, the trainer may not be able to make a regional show due to a conflict, if the non-pro can qualify their horse, then they should be qualified in the open. Once they have participated in enough shows to qualify based on national points, we've said they are good enough to go to the world. Why not let them show in anything they want at the world show and take their money. I believe we would see thousands of dollars in increased revenue at the world show. They're already at the world show- take their money.

722. RANCH RAIL PLEASURE

~~G. Horses may cross enter western pleasure classes at ApHC-approved shows but not at ApHC-sponsored shows.~~

Member Provided Rationale:

Removing the cross-entry prohibition for the national and world show will increase participation. Trust the judges to know what a western pleasure horse and a ranch horse are. If they can tell the difference at a regional show, then our esteemed national and world show level judges should definitely be able to tell the difference. If there is a horse capable of winning it all, that should be celebrated because that horse is talented and diverse. It's a trainable and usable horse. This stops many non-pro and youth from cross entering another walk-trot class. We need entries, not prohibitions.

601. SHOW APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS

7. Notwithstanding Rules 601.R.1–3, a preapproved nationally recognized specialty association or ApHC-recognized Specialty Association may conduct one ApHC-approved specialty show per calendar year using guest judges credentialed by an organization specific to the classes offered. More than one guest judge may be approved for the specialty show, provided:

- a. The show is limited to classes within the specialty represented by the approving organization;**
- b. Each guest judge meets all requirements of Rule 502;**
- c. Each guest judge holds current judging credentials with the applicable nationally recognized specialty organization;**
- d. The sponsoring organization receives prior written approval from the ApHC; and**
- e. The exception may be used for only one specialty show per sponsoring organization per calendar year.**

Specialty organizations eligible for this exception may include, but are not limited to, the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA), National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA), National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA), National Snaffle Bit Association (NSBA), World Conformation Horse Association (WCHA), United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), and other organizations approved by the ApHC.

Member Provided Rationale:

Specialty shows are intended to promote participation and recognize excellence within specific disciplines such as reining, working cow horse, ranch horse, cutting, and related events. Judges credentialed by nationally recognized specialty organizations possess discipline-specific education and experience that benefits exhibitors and strengthens the credibility of these events.

Current rules permit specialty organizations to host ApHC-approved shows and allow guest judges credentialed by specialty organizations. However, multi-judge shows remain limited to one guest judge, which prevents a specialty organization from using a complete panel of qualified specialty judges. Allowing each approved specialty organization to conduct one specialty show per year with specialty-credentialed judges would encourage collaboration with established industry organizations, improve judging consistency, and create additional showing opportunities for Appaloosa horses without broadly eliminating the requirement to use ApHC-carded judges at regular ApHC shows.

Subsequent Recommended additional changes if the above is approved:

Proposed addition to Rule 502

Opening: Regional clubs, international partners, ApHC-recognized Specialty Associations, or preapproved nationally recognized specialty associations sponsoring an ApHC-approved show must request permission from the ApHC to hire a guest judge.

B.2.

e. World Conformation Horse Association (WCHA) – halter classes

f. National Snaffle Bit Association (NSBA) – performance classes

g. Other nationally recognized specialty organizations approved by the ApHC – classes within the organization's recognized judging specialty

Proposed change to disciplinary reciprocity

*Add a new item under **Rule 21.J.3:***

i. World Conformation Horse Association (WCHA)

Member Rationale:

*Rule 21.J.3 currently includes the **National Snaffle Bit Association (NSBA)** along with AQHA, APHA, NCHA, NRHA, and several other organizations. It also contains a catch-all provision allowing ApHC to recognize disciplinary action from any other reputable and responsible breed association or equine organization.*

*For clarity and consistency, I would still specifically add the **World Conformation Horse Association (WCHA)** rather than relying only on the catch-all language.*

719. YEARLING LONGELINE and 727. TRAIL

Proposal to add Two Year Old Longeline and Two Year Old In-Hand Trail

Member Provided Rationale:

In order to advocate for the welfare of our young Appaloosas, I feel tha the above classes should be available. Unless the two year old had a very early foaling date, both the physical and mental maturity of almost all two year olds makes it unwise to push them hard enough to have them ready to show under saddle. Having these classes available allows the young horses to continue their education, allows their owners and trainers to take them to shows (therefore supporting the shows) and offers new buyers additional incentive to buy the young horses your loyal breeders are raising and registering.

The rules already drafted for the yearling classes would apply to these classes as well so no extra work would be involved in offering them.

Many of the other stock horse breeds offer these classes and they have been accepted very well. The American Paint Horse Association, American Buckskin Horse Registry, International Buckskin Horse Association, Pinto Horse Association, and the Palomino Horse Breeders of America all offer these classes. In order to keep up and grow our base, the Appaloosa Horse Club Inc should as well.

906. NOVICE NONPRO PROGRAM

- A. A Novice Non-pro must have a Non-pro card and meet all Non-pro requirements. To be eligible for Novice Non-pro status in any class, the applicant must have earned less than 30 points in that class in the ApHC and/or any other breed organization as of January 1 of current year in Youth, Novice Youth, Non-pro, Masters Non-pro and Novice Non-pro classes. Points earned in Youth Leadline, Youth Walk-Trot, Non-Pro Walk/Trot, Youth and Non-pro Halter do not count in determining Novice Non-pro eligibility. Former professionals reclassified as Non-pros are not eligible for Novice classes.
 - 1. Beginning January 1st, 1996, when a novice non-pro wins an ApHC National or World class title or reserve title or a class title or a reserve title in any other equine breed association or horse show association, they will no longer be eligible for novice non-pro in that class at the end of that calendar year (excluding halter and hunter in hand classes), provided there were at least 3 entries in that class. For classes without at least 3 entries, the novice non-pro retains novice eligibility, even if the class was a non-pro or masters non-pro class.
 - 2. Novice points will be accrued to the non-pro's novice record regardless of whether or not the non-pro is eligible to earn points as determined by their relationship to the owner of the horse. Once the 30-point total is reached, the non-pro will no longer be able to show in that novice class at the end of the calendar year. However, these points will not count toward year-end high-point awards or accumulative lifetime awards for the horse or exhibitor.
- B. Novice classes will be judged in accordance with ApHC rules. For each Novice Non-pro class held at a show, the corresponding Non-pro class must also be offered.
- C. No prize money or payback will be awarded in novice classes. Points earned in the novice program may not be used toward any other awards; i.e., open, non-pro, year-end, or high point awards.
- D. There is a novice class for each corresponding non-pro class (except halter) however, awards will only be given to novice year-end high point class winners in western pleasure, showmanship, trail, hunter under saddle, western horsemanship and hunt seat equitation. All other class winners will receive certificates provided that they have accumulated at least 5 points.
- E. Points are accumulated on the individual exhibitor. Novice non-pros may concurrently enter any other non-pro or masters non-pro classes.
- F. To be eligible to compete in any novice non-pro class, the non-pro must meet eligibility requirements as contained in Rule 906.

Proposal to add:

- G. Senior Non Pro Eligibility in Novice Non Pro**
 - a. An exhibitor who has attained the age of sixty-five (65) years and holds a current non-pro card shall be eligible to compete in the novice non-pro division, irrespective of any lifetime points previously earned in their non pro career.**
 - b. Exhibitors competing under this provision shall be ineligible to accrue points in the novice non pro division and shall not be subject to pointing out of the division.**
 - c. An exhibitor who has maintained continuous non-pro membership for a period of twenty (20) years or more shall be exempt from any restrictions related to former professional activity for the purpose of Novice Non Pro eligibility under this rule.**

Member Provided Rationale:

This rule is about inclusivity, providing a division that is aligned with the current physical and skill level of our long-term members, allowing them to continue competing meaningfully into their later years. The proposal offers a direct path to increase class entries and boost show revenue without the burden of adding new classes, judges, or complex schedule adjustments.

By exempting non pros with over 20 years of non pro membership from past professional scrutiny, we are honoring their dedication and ensuring we retain our most loyal members as active competitors.

By allowing these riders to compete without earning points or pointing out, we ensure they do not occupy a spot needed for true novice riders, while still providing a competitive outlet for them.

Many of the other stock horse breeds offer these classes and they have been accepted very well. The American Paint Horse Association, American Buckskin Horse Registry, International Buckskin Horse Association, Pinto Horse Association, and the Palomino Horse Breeders of America all offer these classes. In order to keep up and grow our base, the Appaloosa Horse Club Inc should as well.

710. NATIONAL POINT SYSTEM WORLD SHOW QUALIFYING POINTS

Add the provision that a novice non-pro qualifying in a regular non-pro class will also subsequently be qualified as a novice.

**Note the Non-Pro Pleasure Driving is non-qualifying at 0 points.*

Member Provided Rationale:

The novice non-pro classes are not always offered at regional classes. Exhibitors should still be qualified in the “tougher” of the two classes and this would still help our other non-pro exhibitors have class numbers for their points as well.

Board of Directors Proposed Rule Changes for 2027

World Show Qualifying Points Requirements

Hunter Hack

Board proposal to make Hunter Hack a non-qualifying class starting with 2027 World Show qualification period.

First Vote: 4/7/2026 - Passed

Board of Directors Rationale: *Align with all other over-fences qualifying requirements.*

Non-Pro Ranch Classes

Board proposal to make non-pro ranch classes including ranch rail, ranch trail, and ranch riding require qualification with 3 points starting with the 2027 World Show qualification period. Novice non-pro divisions of these classes would require 1 point. Passed round 1 at January Board Meeting

First Vote: January

Board of Directors Rationale: *This is a rapidly growing non-pro area, and to ensure that it is supported at the regional level for proper preparation of both horse and exhibitor for the world show level competition, qualifying should be required.*

Off Pattern

Board proposal to remove all Off Pattern references from non-pro, non-pro walk-trot, and youth divisions of all classes including: 713.4.B – ~~Exception: Exhibitors in all youth and Non-Pro divisions that do not complete the prescribed pattern will not be disqualified but are not to be placed over any contestant that completes the pattern correctly.~~

Board of Directors Rationale: *Exhibitors or horses going off pattern and not completing the required work, should be disqualified. The off pattern allows for exhibitors to avoid learning the proper class requirements, and rewards them with a placing, albeit, lower than those completing the pattern or required work.*

5 Point Penalties

Board proposal to strike Use of either hand to instill fear ~~or praise,~~ and insert a separate clause of **use of either hand to instill praise prior to the completion of the last obstacle or maneuver in the pattern.**

Board of Directors Rationale: *The board feels that common sense should prevail. Praise is a fundamental training technique and should be supported when appropriate. If the exhibitor wants to praise their horse for a job well done, that should not have to wait until the exhibitor and horse exit the arena.*

713 Halter Classes

6. ~~Open~~ Halter classes (**Open, Non-Pro, and Youth**), with exception that youth may not show a colt or stallion, include:

- a. Weanlings (foaled in calendar year of show)
 - i. Fillies
 - ii. Colts
 - iii. Geldings
- b. Yearlings (foaled in calendar year preceding year of show)
 - i. Fillies
 - ii. Colts
 - iii. Geldings
- c. Two-Year-Olds
 - i. Mares
 - ii. Stallions
 - iii. Geldings
- d. Three-Year-Olds
 - i. Mares
 - ii. Stallions
 - iii. Geldings
- e. Aged (Four-Year-Olds & Older)
 - i. Mares
 - ii. Stallions
 - iii. Geldings
- f. Junior (two years old and younger)
 - i. Mares
 - ii. Stallions
 - iii. Geldings
- g. Senior (three years old and older)
 - i. Mares
 - ii. Stallions
 - iii. Geldings
- h. Broodmares
 - i. Mares that have produced an ApHC-registered Appaloosa foal in the current year or the previous year are eligible to be shown in the broodmare class, except a mare's production requirements cannot be satisfied because of that mare's donation of an embryo to another mare. Once a broodmare has produced three naturally born ApHC registered foals, she is eligible to be shown in the broodmare class for the rest of her life. Mares may be any age. Mares shown in the Broodmare class are not eligible to be shown in any other mare class (listed above) at the same show.
- i. Performance Halter
 - i. Mares
 - ii. Stallions
 - iii. Geldings
- j. Grand Champion (chosen from first place class winners in each sex division, except as noted in 7.b below)
 - i. Mare
 - ii. Stallion
 - iii. Gelding
- k. Reserve Grand Champion (chosen from second place class winner in the Grand Champion's class and first place winners in all other classes in that sex division, except as noted in 7.b below)

- i. Mare
 - ii. Stallion
 - iii. Gelding
- 7. Grand and Reserve Grand Champion class conduct: When judging of all classes in a halter division has been completed, all first and second place class winners of that sex division (weanling, yearling, 2-year-old, 3-year-old, 4-year-old and older, or junior and senior, broodmares, and performance halter), shall return to the ring, with first-place class winners in one line and second-place horses from each class in another line. See rule 701.E for explanation of points awarded in Grand and Reserve classes.
 - a. It is mandatory that the judge select a Grand Champion and Reserve Champion in each sex division in open, **non-pro, and youth**.
 - b. The judge shall select the Grand Champion mare, stallion or gelding from the first-place class winners in the respective sex division. If the first place horse does not return for any reason, the second place horse will move up to the first place line and be considered for Grand and Reserve. The third place horse cannot move up to second place in the class. All first place horses will retain points in their respective classes.
 - c. The ring steward shall take the second-place horse in the class from which the Grand Champion had been selected and place it in the line with the first-place class winners, to be judged equally for the title of Reserve Champion mare, stallion, or gelding in the respective sex division.
- 8. If otherwise eligible:
 - a. Horses of different ages may be shown together in junior, senior, most colorful at halter, performance halter, ApHC Small Horse Program Halter, ApHC Small Horse Program Most Colorful, and FPD halter.
 - b. Horses of different sexes may be shown together in FPD and most colorful at halter classes and ApHC Small Horse Program Most Colorful and ApHC Small Horse Program Halter.
- 9. No cross entry is allowed between any ApHC Halter class and ApHC Small Horse Program halter class.

E. PERFORMANCE HALTER

1. When **open** performance halter classes are offered, only an all-age class will be held for each sex division. Separate classes will be held for stallions, mares and geldings.

Board of Directors Rationale: *There was much discussion surrounding this proposal. For several years, we have piloted Youth Performance Halter at the Youth World Show. This class has been well supported and gives true performance horses the recognition they deserve. At the regional level, there remains a barrier to youth and non-pro performance halter participation by not offering these classes. Because non-pro and youth are combined into all age halter classes excluding performance halter at the regional level, a performance halter horse may not have the same opportunity to compete for national points and awards. It is likely that the overall halter class numbers separated into age divisions would fall with this separation, so to ensure competition and appropriate national points, grand and reserve halter classes should now be required for non-pro and youth. Regional clubs may still utilize the option to combine age groups into junior/senior halter classes.*

227 Transfer of Ownership

Insert Show Rush Rules

Board of Directors Rationale: *We have now been able to do show rush transfers at the World and National show for several years. The rules should be moved from the premium book to the handbook.*

907 ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL AND WORLD SHOWS

- A. All persons competing in non-pro events must be current ApHC members, must be enrolled in the ApHC non-pro program and must meet all eligibility requirements to compete as a non-pro in non-pro events.
- B. In order to compete in non-pro classes, the non-pro or member of their family (as outlined in Rule 900.J) must own the horse as evidenced by ApHC records prior to the first day of the show or transfer the horse at the ApHC-sponsored National Show and/or World show using a Show Rush. Each horse may be transferred only one time at each ApHC Sponsored National Show and/or World Show.
- C. No horse shall be exhibited at the ApHC sponsored National Show and/or World Show by more than one unrelated non-pro, who must meet the non-pro membership and ownership qualifications of Rule 900, unless the horse exhibited by a non-pro exhibitor or non-pro handler is owned by such non-pro exhibitor's or non-pro handler's spouse, or legally recognized domestic partner, child, step-child, legal ward, father, mother, stepparent, sister, brother, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, legal guardian, in-laws of the same relationship as stated above or solely family owned business entity, in which event any such related nonpro may exhibit any such horse at the ApHC-sponsored National Show and World Show, provided that any such horse shall not be exhibited by more than one non-pro in any class at the ApHC-sponsored National Show and World Show. **Exception to this rule shall be made in the event of the sale of the horse at the show and subsequent transfer of ownership completed using a Show Rush at the National or World show. The new owner(s) of record may show the horse in any remaining classes or events following the date of sale provided the horse and exhibitor meet all other required qualifications for entry into the class.**
- D. Non-pros must qualify to exhibit at the World Championship Appaloosa Show. See rules 703 and 710 for complete qualifying requirements

ApHC Administrative Proposed Rule

Changes for 2027

456. YEAR-END HIGH MILEAGE AWARDS QUALIFICATIONS

A. In order to be eligible for these awards, the horse must be enrolled in the Appaloosa Horse Club Distance Program and must meet all program qualifications.

B. Beginning Dec. 1, 2009, double mileage will not be given for winners of overall “Best Condition” for Endurance rides or high-point/sweepstakes for Competitive Trail rides.

C. A minimum of 350 miles must be completed before the award will be given.

D. Mileage ties will be broken by presenting the award to the horse with the highest number of actual rides.

E. Year-End High Mileage Endurance Horse Award - To be presented to the horse enrolled in the ApHC distance program completing the highest number of miles in approved endurance rides within a ride year.

1. A year-end jacket will be awarded annually to the Year-End High-Mileage Endurance Horse at the American Endurance Ride Conference banquet.

F. Year-End High Mileage Competitive Trail Horse Award - To be presented to the horse enrolled in the ApHC distance program completing the highest number of miles in approved competitive trail rides within a ride year.

~~G. High Mileage Horse of the Year Award - To be presented to the horse enrolled in the ApHC distance program completing the highest total combined number of miles in approved endurance and competitive trail rides within a ride year. endurance and competitive trail rides within a ride year.~~

Administrative Rationale:

The Trail and Distance program has an award for Year-End High Mileage Endurance Horse Award as well as an award for Year-End High Mileage Competitive Trail Horse Award. Historically it's another award for one of the owners already earning an award. The rules doesn't provide for a new potential owner who competed in both categories. In addition, the program has seen reduced numbers of owners participating. There's not a good justification to have an additional award.

RACING PROGRAM

405. GOVERNANCE AND RECORD KEEPING

- ~~A.—The Appaloosa racing program exists to promote racing of Appaloosa horses. Appaloosa racing is to be governed by applicable state law and by a duly authorized State Racing Commission or authority in each state where Appaloosas compete. The ApHC does not intend for its rules and regulations to conflict with any state laws in regard to racing and, in the event of any conflict, the state law shall control.~~
 - ~~B.—The ApHC maintains race records on every eligible horse, as defined by ApHC rules, that races in a state with a racing commission or turf governing body and at a track recognized under racing regulations of the American Quarter Horse Association (recognized track).~~
 - ~~C.—An owner and/or trainer, upon entering an eligible horse at a recognized track, does thereby agree to abide by and be governed by ApHC rules and regulations.~~
- A. The ApHC shall maintain accurate records of the performance of Appaloosas participating in races recognized by the ApHC. The ApHC shall utilize the format and basic racing regulations of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), including the current AQHA speed index system for rating horses, subject to such modifications as may be adopted by the ApHC. In the event of any conflict, inconsistency, or discrepancy between AQHA racing regulations and the ApHC Racing Rules and Regulations, the ApHC Racing Rules and Regulations shall govern and shall take precedence.**
 - B. RACING COMMISSIONS. The ApHC Racing Rules and Regulations shall not be construed to supersede or conflict with applicable state laws governing horse racing. In the event of any conflict, inconsistency, or discrepancy between these Rules and Regulations and the laws, rules, or regulations of a duly authorized state racing commission, the laws, rules, and regulations of the duly authorized racing commission shall govern and shall take precedence.**

406. IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RACING ELIGIBILITY

- ~~A.—Every horse properly registered with the ApHC carrying Regular (#), GPO (GN) or Non-characteristic (N) registration papers which is to be entered in an ApHC-recognized race must be tattoo-branded on the inside of the upper lip with an official identification number corresponding to the horse's registration number, and must be parentage verified through the ApHC by means of DNA genetic testing. (SEE DNA TESTING). ApHC records must contain proof of parentage verification prior to the race date, in order for the ApHC to maintain records on that horse. Horses without a tattoo, or whose Certificates of Registration do not state, "Parentage Verified" shall be ineligible to have records maintained by the ApHC.~~
- ~~B.—Any such horse properly registered with the ApHC carrying Regular (#) registration papers, which cannot be parentage verified due to the death or foreign export of the sire and/or dam, may apply to the ApHC Appeals Committee by written application for consideration of a hardship exemption to obtain required parentage verification.~~
- ~~C.—The tattooing of properly registered Appaloosa horses must be performed by an official track tattooer (approved tattooer) or ApHC Inspector, upon payment at the time of tattooing. The approved tattooer shall refuse to tattoo a horse if the registration of the horse appears invalid or if the horse does not, for any reason, match its Certificate of Registration. The approved tattooer and/or track identifier, shall refuse to permit any horse to participate in a race if the horse's Certificate of Registration does~~

not state "Parentage Verified," and/or if the horse has an improper Certificate of Registration, and/or if the horse is otherwise ineligible for APHC registration.

- D.—An approved tattooer's refusal to tattoo a horse and/or an approved tattooer's and/or track identifier's refusal to permit a horse to participate in a race because the horse has an improper Certificate of Registration or is otherwise ineligible for registration shall constitute a determination that the registration of the horse should be reclassified or canceled. However, the approved tattooer and/or track identifier may make a determination that the Certificate of Registration merely needs correction and so stamp the Certificate of Registration. This correction procedure shall not constitute a determination. If the approved tattooer refuses to tattoo a horse, the approved tattooer and/or track identifier shall prepare and forward to the Registrar an inspection report and photographs as specified in INSPECTION PROCEDURES.
- E.—If an approved tattooer refuses to tattoo a horse at the time of a race, the owner shall have the right to appeal such refusal to the Appeal Committee of the APHC Board of Directors. No such appeal shall be heard unless a written petition signed by the owner together with the appeal fee is received by the APHC within 20 days from the date of the tattooer's refusal to tattoo the horse. The petition shall set forth (a) the name of the tattooer, (b) the date and place of the refusal, (c) the reasons for the appeal, and (d) the address to which notices from the APHC may be mailed. If the owner's appeal is upheld the fee will be refunded. If the written appeal and fee are timely filed, the horse may race pending the outcome of the Appeal Committee hearing, but points, awards, or monies earned at that or any subsequent race prior to finalization of the appeal process will be escrowed. The registration status of the subject horse shall automatically be suspended if the owner fails to appeal within such 20-day period and, upon written request, the owner shall return the Certificate of Registration of the subject horse to the Executive Director for revocation, correction or other appropriate action.
- F.—The Appeal Committee of the APHC Board of Directors shall conduct a formal hearing in accordance with the procedures set forth in PROTEST APPEAL PROCEDURES OF REGISTRAR'S DECISION as soon as practicable after receipt of any such petition and its decision shall be final and binding on all parties.
- G.—Change from Stallion to Gelding: When a stallion is gelded, the Certificate of Registration must be corrected by an approved tattooer and/or track identifier and the APHC must be notified, by written verification, of the date the horse was gelded.

- A. Unless otherwise required or exempted by the applicable Racing Authority, effective January 1, 2024, every horse registered with the ApHC shall be identified by an ISO-compliant microchip prior to participating in any race recognized by the ApHC. The microchip shall be verified by an authorized identifier approved by the ApHC or the applicable Racing Authority. The ApHC recommends that the microchip be implanted by a licensed veterinarian. Any horse identified by tattoo prior to January 1, 2024, may continue to use such tattoo as its official means of identification and shall not be required to obtain a microchip solely for purposes of compliance with this rule, unless otherwise required by the applicable Racing Authority. The official microchip identification number shall be recorded on the horse's registration certificate and shall become part of the horse's permanent identifying information. The applicable identification fee shall be paid at the time the identification is verified. The implantation of a microchip and the use of the microchip's unique identification number shall constitute a means of identifying a horse only and shall not establish, confirm, guarantee, or otherwise affect the horse's eligibility for registration. The use of a microchip shall not constitute a waiver of the ApHC's authority to investigate, correct, suspend, revoke, or cancel a registration certificate for cause in accordance with the ApHC Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations. The owner of record shall be responsible for ensuring that the horse's microchip information is accurate and that any discrepancies between the horse's identifying information and its registration records are promptly reported to the ApHC.
- B. In order to be eligible to be microchip identified, all horses shall be parentage verified through genetic testing. The horse's registration certificate shall be issued or reissued designating that the horse has been parentage verified. Payment of all fees, for parentage verification is the expense of the owner of the horse for which microchip identification is requested.
- C. If a horse is presented for microchipping identification with a significant discrepancy in markings, age or other features of the horse according to the registration certificate, the identifier or authorized veterinarian shall refuse to validate the identity of the horse and report such discrepancies to ApHC.
- D. When a stallion is gelded, the horse's Certificate of Registration shall be corrected and verified by an authorized identifier or a recognized track official. The owner of record shall notify the ApHC of the gelding and shall submit written verification specifying the date on which the horse was gelded. Upon receipt and approval of the required documentation, the ApHC shall amend its records and, when applicable, issue a corrected Certificate of Registration reflecting the horse's status as a gelding.

407. RACING LEASES

~~A. For information on correct procedures for a lease of a horse for racing purposes, please see Leases.~~

For purposes of these Racing Rules and Regulations, "ApHC Race Ownership Record" shall mean the official ownership record of a horse as maintained in the ApHC ownership database and in effect at the time the horse participates in a race.

A person shall be deemed the "Record Owner" of a horse if such person is identified in the ApHC Race Ownership Record as either:

1. The owner of record of the horse; or
2. The lessee of record of the horse.

The ApHC Race Ownership Record in effect at the time of the race shall be conclusive for purposes of determining ownership, eligibility, awards, points, earnings, penalties, and all other matters governed by these Racing Rules and Regulations.

408. TRANSFERRED AND/OR CLAIMED HORSES

~~A. When a horse is properly claimed at a recognized track, the racing secretary at said track shall collect a transfer fee and membership fee, if necessary, from the claimant which shall be forwarded to the attention of the ApHC's Racing Coordinator together with the Certificate of Registration, a written report of the race showing the date of the race and the name and address of the person claiming the horse. Upon receipt of such fee(s), Certificate of Registration, and report, the ApHC will complete the transfer without the report being signed by the record owner. If the notice of claim and supporting documents are received by the ApHC within 14 days of the claim, the transfer will receive a free special handling rush service, as long as "RUSH" is noted on the outside of the envelope.~~

~~B. When a horse is sold at a recognized track, the racing secretary at said track shall collect a transfer fee and membership fee, if necessary, from the buyer which shall be forwarded to the attention of the ApHC's Racing Coordinator, together with the Certificate of Registration, and a properly completed transfer report. Upon receipt of such fee(s), Certificate of Registration, and properly completed transfer report, the ApHC will complete the transfer. If said requirements are received by the ApHC within 14 days of the date of sale, the transfer will receive special handling rush service, as long as "RUSH" is noted on the outside of the envelope.~~

~~C. Upon completion of a transfer in the ApHC office, the Certificate of Registration shall be returned to the new owner, unless a statement signed by the new owner or the racing secretary of the track at which the change in ownership took place, is submitted along with the transfer report, instructing the ApHC to return the Certificate of Registration to someone other than the new owner.~~

A. When a horse is claimed in a race, the racing secretary shall collect the applicable transfer fee and, if required, the appropriate ApHC membership fee from the claimant. The racing secretary shall forward such fee(s) to the ApHC together with the horse's Certificate of Registration and a written report identifying the date of the race in which the claim occurred and the name and address of the claimant. Upon receipt of the required fee(s), Certificate of Registration, and written report, the ApHC shall process and complete the transfer of ownership without requiring the signature of the owner of record. If the notice of claim and all supporting documentation are received by the ApHC within

fourteen (14) days of the date of the claim, the transfer shall be eligible for special handling and shall be processed without an additional rush-service fee.

409. RACE RESULTS

~~A. Any organization, club, or individual desiring ApHC recognition of the results of its or their Appaloosa races in states or countries without a racing commission or turf governing body must obtain permission from the ApHC to have those results recognized. In cases where races are run under state laws, the rules and regulations of the duly authorized racing commission shall take precedence over ApHC rules and regulations.~~

~~B. Race results shall be filed with the ApHC following each day's racing within 24 hours of the race either by express delivery or fax transmission. A hard copy of the chart and complete program for the day may be mailed the next business day following the running of the race. These results must be in the ApHC office within ten (10) days of the race. If race results are not filed within the allotted time, the ApHC shall have the right to waive the filing deadline.~~

~~C. Race results include photo-finish film strips of races timed in at least hundredths of a second when available, an official race chart, and an official program for each day's racing which includes conditions of the race, distance, names of the horses in each race, their respective post positions, color, sex, age, breeding, owner, trainer, jockey and weight carried; and names of the officials.~~

~~D. Any ruling by any State Racing Commission or other racing authority shall be filed with the ApHC.~~

A. ApHC accepts race results in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as official and uses such results for purposes of recording information in ApHC records, conducting ApHC racing programs.

B. The ApHC shall recognize and accept race results only from race tracks operating under the supervision and jurisdiction of a duly authorized state, provincial, or national racing commission, or other recognized turf governing body. Race results from any race meeting, track, or event not conducted under such supervision or jurisdiction shall not be recognized for any purpose under the ApHC Racing Rules and Regulations.

1. The ApHC shall recognize races in which all horses competing, are registered with the ApHC.

2. The ApHC shall also recognize races in which a registered Appaloosa competes against horses registered with one or more of the following breed registries: The American Paint Horse Association (APHA); The American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA); or The Jockey Club, The Canadian Jockey Club, or The Mexican Jockey Club. For purposes of these Rules and Regulations, race results from such competitions shall be eligible for recognition and recording by the ApHC.

3. A race will not be recognized in which a two-year-old competes against older horses.

C. DISQUALIFICATION FOR FORBIDDEN DRUGS OR MEDICATIONS. If a laboratory report resulting from the chemical analysis of a urine sample or any other specimen obtained from a horse indicates the presence of a forbidden drug or medication, and the horse is subsequently disqualified from the race, the horse shall not be awarded an official speed index, racing points, or any other performance credit for having started in that race.

D. Any ruling, suspension, fine, disciplinary action, or other official determination issued by a state racing commission or other recognized racing authority concerning an Appaloosa, owner, trainer,

jockey, or other person subject to these Rules and Regulations shall be reported to and filed with the ApHC. The ApHC may recognize and take such action as it deems appropriate with respect to any ruling filed pursuant to this rule, in accordance with the ApHC Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations.

410. RACE DESCRIPTIONS

~~A. Stakes Races – A stakes race is a race in which stakes of \$50 or more are to be posted by the owners of the horses engaged and is still a stakes when money or other prize is added. Nominations must close more than seventy-two hours before the first race of the day on which such stakes are to be run. A stakes may not be restricted or exclude entries in any way other than age or sex. No race with a purse of less than \$2,500 will be considered as a stakes. However, an invitational stakes race or an invitational handicap race for which owners do not contribute to the purse, but which is advertised in the regular stakes program, shall also be considered a stakes race, provided it carries a minimum purse of \$2,500.~~

~~B. Restricted Stakes Race – The following types of races will be classified restricted stakes:~~

- ~~1. Races restricted to state of breeding, foaling and/or ownership.~~
- ~~2. Races restricted to those horses sold in a specific sale or sales.~~
- ~~3. Races restricted to the progeny of a restricted stallion or group of stallions so listed by a race.~~

~~C. Annually, the ApHC's Executive Race Committee will consider for grading, every stakes and restricted stakes race that has been conducted or may be scheduled to be conducted in the following year.~~

- ~~1. Stakes races may be graded as Grade 1, 2, or 3, with Grade 1 being the highest grade. Restricted stakes may be graded as Restricted (R) 1, 2 or 3 with Restricted (R) 1 being the highest grade.~~
- ~~2. Primary consideration for grading will be the quality of horses attracted to the race and such factors as longevity of the race, competition, conditions, purse and prestige.~~

A. Stakes Races. A Stakes Race shall mean a race in which nomination(s), sustaining and/or entry fee payment(s), or supplemental payment to participate in a race. A race shall retain its status as a Stakes Race notwithstanding the addition of purse money, bonuses, or other prizes from any source. No race offering a total purse of less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) shall be recognized as a Stakes Race by the ApHC.

Match races shall not be eligible for Stakes Race recognition. An invitational stakes race or invitational handicap race in which owners are not required to contribute to the purse shall be recognized as a Stakes Race, provided that:

1. The race is advertised in the official stakes program; and
2. The race offers a minimum purse of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

To qualify as a Stakes Race, nominations shall close more than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled post time of the first race conducted on the day the Stakes Race is to be run.

B. Restricted Stakes Races. Restricted Stakes Races shall mean Stakes Races that limit eligibility and exclude horses of the same class that would otherwise be eligible to enter, including, but not limited to, progeny races, state-bred races, and state-foaled races.

The official results of Restricted Stakes Races, including purse earnings, speed indexes, and other performance records recognized by the ApHC, shall be recorded in the horse's permanent racing record.

- C. **Graded stakes race.** Annually, ApHC will consider for grading, all eligible open and restricted stakes races as outlined in the Graded Stakes Guidelines. Stakes may be graded as Grade 1, 2 or 3, with Grade 1 being the highest grade. Restricted stakes may be graded as Restricted 1, 2 or 3, with Restricted 1 being the highest grade. Primary considerations for grading will be the quality of horses attracted to the race and such factors as competition, conditions, purse and prestige of the race.

411. RACE AWARDS

Annually, a starter's fee (see fee schedule) will be assessed for each horse, payable before the first official race start. Late payment of this fee may be made within 30 days subsequent to a horse's first start by paying a late payment penalty. Non-payment of the assessment will not reflect on a horse's past performance as records will be kept on all horses; however, if a horse qualifies for any ApHC award(s) he will be ineligible to receive it if the starter's fee or subsequent late payment penalty has not been paid. Races run prior to the payment of the Annual starter's fee will not be considered in year-end calculations for any award. All racing year-end awards will be awarded to the owner or lessee on record as of December 31 of the qualifying year.

Registers of Merit

Racing Registers of Merit (ROM) can be achieved by obtaining a speed index of 80 or higher or achieving a speed rating of 98 or higher. A speed index or a speed rating will only be awarded for approved times at recognized official distances:

SPEED INDEX: A speed index will only be awarded for approved electric times at recognized official distances timed in hundredths of a second. Horses starting at a recognized track may receive a speed index based on the American Quarter Horse Speed Index Chart for that year and track. Speed indexes are based on an average of the three fastest winning electric times run each year for the immediate past three years for each distance at each track. The average of the nine times (to the nearest 1/1000 (.001) of a second) will represent a speed index of 100. No Speed Index will be issued due to a hand-time caused by the malfunction of the electric timer.

A speed index point varies according to the distance of the race as follows:

- .087 equals one speed index point at 870-yards.
- .077 equals one speed index point at 770-yards.
- .066 equals one speed index point at 660-yards.
- .055 equals one speed index point at 550-yards.
- .044 equals one speed index point at 440-yards.
- .04 equals one speed index point at 400-yards.
- .035 equals one speed index point at 350-yards.
- .033 equals one speed index point at 330-yards.
- .03 equals one speed index point at 300-yards.

~~.025 equals one speed index point at 250 yards.~~

~~.022 equals one speed index point at 220 yards.~~

The following times will be used to compile speed indexes at tracks where the average times are slower than the Minimum Standard Time:

OFFICIAL DISTANCE	MINIMUM STANDARD
(for 100 Speed Index)	TIME
220 yards - straightaway	11.95
250 yards - straightaway	13.35
300 yards - straightaway	15.55
330 yards - straightaway	16.95
350 yards - straightaway	17.85
400 yards - straightaway	20.15
440 yards - straightaway	22.05
550 yards - straightaway	27.70
660 yards - straightaway	33.50
660 yards - around one turn	34.60
770 yards - around one turn	40.36
870 yards - around one turn	45.60

Should a dead heat occur all horses involved will receive the same speed index based on the place for which they dead-heated. All other horses will receive the speed index based on their actual finish. A disqualified horse will receive the speed index of its final placement.

SPEED RATING: A speed rating will only be awarded for ap-proved times at recognized official distances timed in fifths of a second. Horses starting for the first time at tracks eligible for recognition by the ApHC or when a new distance is being run will receive a speed rating based on the average of the three fastest Appaloosa times at the track for that distance. The distance must be run three times before an Appaloosa track record will be established or a speed rating given for that distance at that track:

The speed rating is a comparison of the horse's final time with the Appaloosa track record established prior to the opening of the race meet. To determine the speed rating of the winning horse the track record is given a rating of 100 points; one point is deducted for each fifth of a second by which the winning horse fails to equal the track record; and one point is added for each fifth of a second by which the winning horse beats the track record. One-half, three-quarters and one length are equal to one point. One-fourth, nose, head and neck are equal to zero points. To determine the speed rating of the rest of the field one point is subtracted for each length a horse is behind the preceding horse. (If the winning horse had a speed rating of 100 and the second place horse was two lengths behind it, its speed rating would be 98. If the third place horse was two lengths behind the second place horse the speed rating would be 96. If the fourth place horse was a head behind the third place horse the speed rating would be 96. If the fifth place horse was ½ length behind the fourth place horse its speed rating would be 95, etc.) One-half (½) and three-quarter (¾) lengths are equal to one full length. One-fourth (¼), nose, head and neck equal zero (0) lengths. One length is equal to approximately one-fifth of a second (or one point) and fractions of one-half length or more are figured as one full length (or one

full point). Fractions less than one-half length are figured as no lengths (or no points). If any horse is distanced it gets no speed rating.

Only races recognized by the ApHC will be considered for Regional High Point Champions, ROM's, Medallions, and ERC Champions.

Champion Year-End Horses

Annually, by written ballot of the ApHC's Executive Committee (ten (10) votes) and the Oklahoma Appaloosa Racing Association (OAR) (four (4) votes) and the Western Regional Appaloosa Racing Council (WRARC) (four (4) votes), champion running horses in each of thirteen categories may be named. The two regional clubs must each designate four (4) individual voting members. Designated members must reside in different states, must be ApHC members in good standing, and may not be current voting ERC members. A horse must earn a minimum of \$10,000 in purse monies or have at least one graded stakes win, place or show in a race where results are recognized by the ApHC, to be eligible for the ERC year-end awards.

The following awards may be given in each of three age divisions: Champion two-year-old sprint colt, champion two-year-old distance colt, champion two-year-old sprint filly, champion two-year-old distance filly, champion two-year-old sprint gelding, champion two-year-old distance gelding, champion three-year-old colt, champion three-year-old filly, champion three-year-old gelding, champion four and older stallion, champion four and older mare, champion four and older gelding, champion claiming horse. Only claiming races will be considered for champion claiming horses.

A Supreme Champion Two-Year-Old and Horse of the Year will be named from those thirteen categories.

Medallions

Racing medallions will be issued to the top three eligible horses in each age and sex category. Medallion points will be figured using a formula of the number of wins times the amount of money earned, as officially recorded by the ApHC, for the qualifying year. Place and show in a stakes race will be counted as a win. Non-characteristic (N) registered Appaloosas must purchase either a Race Medallion Permit or a Performance Permit prior to becoming eligible to earn medallion points. A late fee of \$100 in addition to either the Race Medallion Permit fee or the Performance Permit fee must be paid on or before December 31 of the qualifying year in order to be eligible to earn medallion points. Upon payment of said late fee and the Race Medallion Permit or Performance Permit fee, medallion points will be figured from the beginning of the qualifying year and will count toward a medallion. Racing medallions are awarded to the first listed owner or lessee on record as of December 31 of the qualifying year.

Regional High-Point Champions

Annually, forty-five high-point champions may be named, based on a point system which places emphasis on horses demonstrating consistency and durability in their performance within a specific region. Points will be awarded according to conditions of the race and order of finish for all races recognized by the ApHC which will include unofficial and hand-timed races, and additional conditions, as follows:

Starter allowance and optional claiming races are considered in the same category as claiming races, based on claiming and optional claiming price.

Should a dead-heat occur, all horses involved will receive the same points based on the place for which they dead-heated; all other horses will receive points based on their actual finish.

A disqualified horse will receive points according to its final placement.

Horses participating in match races or races with less than five (5) horses on the race card will receive no race points.

~~The final decision as to which category a race shall be placed will be made by the ApHC's Racing Department.~~

~~The regions are:~~

~~East-Central: Kansas, Michigan, Kentucky and Florida~~

~~South-Central: Oklahoma, Texas~~

~~West-Southwest: New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada~~

~~Western-California~~

~~Northwest: Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.~~

~~The following categories in each of the five regions may receive a certificate of recognition: regional champion two-year-old colt, regional champion two-year-old filly, regional champion two-year-old gelding, regional champion three-year-old colt, regional champion three-year-old filly, regional champion three-year-old gelding, regional champion four-and-older stallion, regional champion four-and-older mare, regional champion four-and-older gelding.~~

A. Champion Year-End Horses

The ApHC shall annually award championships in the following categories: Supreme Champion Two-Year-Old; Champion Two-Year-Old Colt, Filly, and Gelding; Champion Three-Year-Old; Champion Three-Year-Old Colt, Filly, and Gelding; Champion Aged Horse (four years of age and older); and Champion Aged Stallion, Mare, and Gelding. The Supreme Champion Two-Year-Old shall be selected from the recipients of the Champion Two-Year-Old Colt, Champion Two-Year-Old Filly, and Champion Two-Year-Old Gelding awards. The Champion Three-Year-Old shall be selected from the recipients of the Champion Three-Year-Old Colt, Champion Three-Year-Old Filly, and Champion Three-Year-Old Gelding awards. The Champion Aged Horse shall be selected from the recipients of the Champion Aged Stallion, Champion Aged Mare, and Champion Aged Gelding awards. The Horse of the Year shall be selected from the Supreme Champion Two-Year-Old, Champion Three-Year-Old, and Champion Aged Horse.

To be eligible for consideration for year-end awards, a horse shall have:

1. Earned a minimum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in purse money in races recognized by the ApHC; or
2. Earned a win, place, or show finish in a Grade 1 or Grade 2 stakes race recognized by the ApHC

Champion Running Horse awards shall be determined annually by written ballot.

Voting shall be conducted by the following bodies and weighted as follows:

1. The ApHC Executive Committee shall be entitled to ten (10) votes;
2. The Oklahoma Appaloosa Racing Network ("OAR") shall be entitled to four (4) votes; and
3. The Western Regional Appaloosa Racing Council ("WRARC") shall be entitled to four (4) votes.

The Executive Race Committee shall be comprised of five (5) members from the ApHC Board of Directors and five (5) at-large members.

To keep the voting fair and conflict-free, individuals chosen by the OAR and the WRARC to cast their region's votes and must meet three strict criteria:

- **Active Participation:** They must have a current paid annual starter fee on at least one racing horse.
- **Membership Status:** They must be an Appaloosa Horse Club (ApHC) member in good standing.
- **No Double Voting:** They cannot be a current voting member of the ApHC Executive Racing Committee (which prevents a single person from voting twice through different bodies).

All ApHC annual racing awards shall be issued to the owner of record of the horse as of December 31 of the award year.

B. Medallions

Racing medallions shall be awarded annually to the three (3) highest-ranking eligible horses in each age and sex division recognized by the ApHC. Medallion points shall be calculated by multiplying the number of wins earned by a horse during the qualifying year by the total purse money earned by that horse during the same period, as officially recorded by the ApHC. A non-characteristic ("N") registered Appaloosa shall not be eligible to earn medallion points unless a Race Medallion Permit or a Performance Permit has been purchased prior to the horse earning such points. A non-characteristic ("N") registered Appaloosa that has not obtained the required permit before earning medallion points may become eligible by paying the applicable Race Medallion Permit fee or Performance Permit fee, together with a late fee of one hundred dollars (\$100), on or before December 31 of the qualifying year. Upon receipt of the required permit fee and late fee, medallion points shall be calculated

retroactively to the beginning of the qualifying year and shall be credited toward medallion eligibility. Racing medallions shall be awarded to the first-listed owner or lessee of record as of December 31 of the qualifying year.

C. Regional High-Point Champions

1. Annually, up to forty-five (45) High-Point Champions may be designated by the ApHC based upon a point system intended to recognize horses that demonstrate consistency and durability of performance within a designated racing region. Points shall be awarded for all races recognized by the ApHC, including unofficial and hand-timed races, in accordance with the conditions of the race, the horse's official order of finish, and any additional requirements established by these Rules and Regulations.

a. Starter allowance races and optional claiming races shall be classified in the same category as claiming races and shall be assigned point values based upon the applicable claiming or optional claiming price.

b. In the event of a dead heat, each horse involved in the dead heat shall receive the full point value assigned to the finishing position for which the dead heat occurred. All other horses in the race shall receive points based upon their official finishing positions.

c. A horse that is disqualified shall receive points based upon its official final placement as determined by the applicable racing authority.

- d. No race points shall be awarded to horses participating in match races or in races carded with fewer than five (5) starters.
 - e. The ApHC Racing Department shall have the authority to determine the classification and category of any race for purposes of point calculation and championship eligibility. The Racing Department's determination shall be final.
2. For purposes of calculating and awarding High-Point Champion honors, the ApHC shall recognize the following racing regions:
- a. East-Central Region: Kansas, Michigan, Kentucky, Florida, North Dakota and South Dakota.
 - b. South-Central Region: Oklahoma, Colorado and Kansas.
 - c. Southwest Region: Texas, Colorado and New Mexico.
 - d. Western Region: California and Arizona.
 - e. Northwest Region: Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Utah, Nevada and Wyoming.
3. In each of the five (5) designated racing regions, a Certificate of Recognition shall be awarded to the Regional Champion in each region for the following categories: Two-Year-Old Colt, Filly, and Gelding; Three-Year-Old Colt, Filly, and Gelding; and Four-Year-Old and Older Stallion, Mare, and Gelding.

D. Register of Merit (ROM)

A horse shall be awarded a Register of Merit (ROM) upon attaining a speed index of eighty (80) or higher in a race recognized by the ApHC.

A speed index shall be awarded only for approved race times recorded at officially recognized race distances. The ApHC shall utilize the current Speed Index System developed and adapted from the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), as amended from time to time. In the event of any conflict between the AQHA Speed Index System and the ApHC Racing Rules and Regulations, the ApHC Racing Rules and Regulations shall govern.

F. An annual starter's fee, as established in the ApHC Fee Schedule, shall be assessed for each horse participating in races recognized by the ApHC. The fee shall be paid prior to the horse's first official race start. A starter's fee may be paid within thirty (30) days following the horse's first official race start upon payment of the applicable late-payment penalty as set forth in the ApHC Fee Schedule. Failure to pay the required starter's fee and any applicable late-payment penalty shall render the horse ineligible for the recording of racing points, speed

indexes, earnings, awards, or other racing recognition by the ApHC until all outstanding fees and penalties have been paid in full.

~~412. CUTTER AND CHARIOT RACING~~

~~Only results of cutter and chariot racing contests conducted under the direct supervision of a State Racing Commission and/or the World's Cham-pion Cutter and Chariot Racing Association (WCCRA) will be ac-cepted for recognition by the ApHC.~~

ApHC'S STATEMENT OF DISCLAIMER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY AT CUTTER AND CHARIOT RACING CONTESTS:

ApHC will accept cutter and chariot racing contest results as official and use such results to calculate awards:

ApHC does not assume or accept duty or responsibility for safety at these racing contests in regard to participants or any other third parties, or for the horses or other property thereof, which responsibility remains solely with track management and the WCCGRA:

Unless otherwise specified in this handbook, the racing rules of the WCCGRA will be utilized for the governance of cutter and chariot racing recognized by the ApHC:

A cutter and chariot racing contest shall consist of a series of races constituting one complete go-round for all horses entered, each of which races shall match two or more two-horse teams pulling a cutter and driver or a chariot and driver. For a contest to be recognized, twelve teams of registered horses (24 horses) must compete:

All ApHC horses participating in cutter and chariot races must be properly identified as stated in IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RACING ELIGIBILITY. In order to be eligible for any ApHC award, the horse must be properly registered and identified, the annual starter's fee must be paid prior to the cutter/chariot racing season and the owner must be a current year member of the ApHC:

Cutter and chariot racing is a timed event, with placings determined on the basis of time lapsed for each team in the contest. The winning team in each contest will be the team with the least lapsed time, between the time the starting gates open to dispatch the horses until the nose of the leading horse on such team crosses the finish line:

Any horse finishing first, and any horse randomly selected by the stewards in a cutter and chariot racing contest shall be properly tested for the presence of unauthorized drugs or foreign substances in accordance with RCI Drug Testing and Quality Assurance Program guidelines:

Officials of a cutter and chariot racing contest shall consist of a presiding steward and two associate stewards, a starter, a clerk of the scales and three timers. In the event an electric timer is used, there must still be two hand-timers. The time for any given team will be the time electronically recorded for that team, or the average of the hand timers in the event the electric timer is not used or fails to operate:

To be eligible for placing, the aggregate weight of the cutter or chariot, harnesses, bridles and driver for such team must not be less than 275 pounds:

A cutter and chariot race must be started from a closed starting gate and conducted on a straight course:

During the course of a cutter and chariot race, if a team moves out of the lane in which it starts in such a manner that it interferes with or impedes another team, the offending team shall be disqualified when, in the opinion of the stewards, the outcome of the contest was affected. Any such team disqualified shall be placed behind the team or teams it fouled, and shall be given the time of the team it was placed behind, plus .01 second, or the maximum accuracy of the timer not to exceed .001 second:

Registers of Merit and official speed indexes shall be awarded as listed under RACING AWARDS:

An appropriate award will be presented to the first recorded owner or lessee of each horse during the racing season of the top Appaloosa Cutter/Chariot horse or team as determined by the WCCGRA and ApHC eligibility requirements as stated in the Official Hand-book of the ApHC:

Rules 412-419 are not assigned.