

### **SHW307. WESTERN PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT**

**SHW307.5 Belly Bands,** saw tooth bits; hock hobbles; tack collars; tack curb straps or tack hackamores; whips used for showmanship; war bridles or like devices; riding in a curb bit without a curb strap; wire or solid metal curb straps no matter how padded; wire cavesson; wire or cable tie-downs; bumper bits; metal bosals (no matter how padded); chambons; headstalls made of metal (no matter how wrapped or padded), twisted rawhide, or rope may not be used on a horse's head (3/8 inch rope may be used with a slip/gag bit or a bonnet); running martingales used with curb bits used without rein stops; draw reins attached between or around the front legs will not be allowed at AQHA-approved events.

**SHW307.8** Tie-downs may not have a built in cavesson or noseband. **Cavesson or noseband of any kind may not be used during competition.**

**SHW310. ENGLISH EQUIPMENT.** In all English classes, an English snaffle (no shank), kimberwick, pelham and/or full bridle (with two reins), all with cavesson nosebands and plain leather brow bands must be used.

**SHW310.1** In reference to mouthpieces, nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar). Solid and broken mouthpieces must be between 5/16" to 3/4" (8 mm to 20 mm) in diameter, measured 1" (25 mm) from the cheek and may have a port no higher than 1 1/2" (40 mm). They may be inlaid, synthetic wrapped, including rubber or plastic or incased, but must be smooth. **Leather bits to be solid, smooth, rolled leather (15mm – 20mm) measured one inch from cheek with no port.** On broken mouthpieces only, connecting rings of 1 1/4" (32 mm) or less in diameter or connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10 mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lie flat in the horse's mouth, are acceptable. Snaffle bit rings may be no larger than 4" (100 mm) in diameter. Any bit having a fixed rein requires use of a curb chain. Smooth round, oval or egg-shaped, slow twist, corkscrew, single twisted wire, double twisted wire mouthpieces and straight bar or solid mouthpieces are allowed.

### **SHW320. ATTIRE**

**SHW320.6** **The judge will have the authority to disqualify the exhibitor for any piece of accoutrement or attire which in his or her opinion would tend to give a rider an unfair advantage.**

### **SHW416. RANCH RIDING.**

**SHW416.1** For horses three years of age and older, offered as a junior, senior or all-age open division class, and as an all age class for Level **1 youth, youth, Level 1 amateur, Select amateur and amateur.**

### **SHW430. WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP**

**SHW434. Presentation and Position of Exhibitor.** Appropriate western attire must be worn. Clothes and person are to be neat and clean. **The use of any type of artificial aid or magnetic device will result in disqualification.**

### **SHW480. REINING.**

**SHW482.1** **The following will result in a score of 0:** Use of more than index or first finger between reins; Use of two hands (exception in junior, snaffle bit, or hackamore classes designated for two hands) or changing hands; Use of romal other than as outlined in WESTERN EQUIPMENT

Failure to complete pattern as written:

## 2017 AQHA Rule Changes

Performing the maneuvers other than in specified order; the inclusion of maneuvers not specified, including, but not limited to

Backing more than two strides

Turning more than 90 degrees

Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern; including dropping a rein that contacts the ground while horse is in motion;

Balking or refusal of command where performance is delayed;

Running away or failing to guide where it becomes impossible to discern whether the entry is on pattern;

Jogging in excess of one-half circle or one-half the length of the arena;

Overspins of more than 1/4 turn;

Fall to the ground by horse or rider;

When going to and coming out of a rollback in a pattern requiring a run-around, a rollback that crosses the center line;

**Exceeds greater than one quarter of the circle out of order.**

### **SHW616. HUNT SEAT EQUITATION ON THE FLAT**

**SHW618. Basic Position.** To mount, take up reins in left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of rider must be taken into consideration.

**SHW618.1** Hands should be over and in front of horse's withers, knuckles 30 degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from horse's mouth to rider's elbow. Method of holding reins is optional, and bight of reins may fall on either side. However, all reins must be picked up at the same time.

**SHW618.2** The eyes should be up and shoulders back.

**SHW618.3** Toes should be at an angle best suited to rider's conformation; heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse.

**SHW618.4** Iron should be on the ball of the foot. Iron or stirrup leather may not be connected by string or any other material to the girth.

**SHW618.5 Appropriate English attire must be worn. Clothes and person are to be neat and clean. The use of any type of artificial aid or magnetic device will result in a disqualification.**

### **SHW900. AQHA-APPROVED JUDGES**

#### **SHW910. A JUDGE SHALL:**

**SHW911.7 Judges may confer in a timely manner regarding lameness, rule violations, disqualifications and major penalties provided a ring steward is present.**

**SHW912.12 With the exception of timed events, a judge may not judge for a show management team/entity that the judge has already judged three shows, or set of shows in a calendar year. A show management team/entity consists in whole or in part of:**

**(a) common individual(s) listed as show management;**

**(b) common individual(s) involved in the actual management of a show (whether or not listed);**

**(c) common individual(s) who are compensated by or have an ownership interest in a show management team/entity; or**

**(d) immediate family members (spouse, parent, child or grandparent)**

**SHW912.13 A judge may not solicit a show to judge after fulfilling their minimum show requirement.**