

AQHA RULE CHANGES

REG123. SCARS, MICROCHIPS and BRANDS. All scars, microchips, brands and tattoos on a horse should be shown on its registration certificate.

REG123.1 Brands, **microchips**, scars or identifying tattoos not appearing on the certificate will be added by AQHA free of charge if the record owner submits the registration certificate.

REG123.1.1 Brands and scars can be added if the owner provides a diagram showing the shape and location.

REG123.1.2 Identifying tattoos can be added if the owner provides the description and location of the tattoo.

REG123.1.3 Microchips can be added if the owner provides the microchip number and implantation site, if known. It is recommended that International Organization for Standardization (ISO) compliant microchips be used.

SHW306. WESTERN: OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

SHW306.4 Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are allowed in reining, working cow horse, boxing, team penning, ranch sorting, barrel racing, pole bending, stake racing, tie-down roping, breakaway roping, dally team roping-heading, dally team roping-heeling, cutting, western horsemanship, VRH/RHC ranch reining, **VRH/RHC ranch cow work, VRH/RHC ranch cutting, RHC working ranch horse, RHC barrel racing, RHC team roping – heading and heeling, RHC breakaway roping and RHC steer stopping.**

SHW307. WESTERN PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

SHW307.1 Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are prohibited in western pleasure, trail, halter, western riding, showmanship, **ranch riding, VRH/RHC ranch riding, ranch trail, VRH ranch trail, and working western rail.**

SHW320. WESTERN AND ENGLISH ATTIRE

SHW320.8 **An inflatable airbag safety vest may be worn by riders of all ages, in all Western and English classes.**

SHW355. Halter Equipment

SHW355.2 Stallions, **mares and geldings of all ages** may be shown with a safety lead or lip cord as defined above in open and amateur divisions; mares and geldings **of all ages** may be shown with a safety lead or lip cord as defined above in youth divisions; lip chains of any other type are prohibited; all other leads that do not meet the definition of an allowed safety lead or lip cord are prohibited.

SHW421. RANCH TRAIL

SHW422.6 MANDATORY OBSTACLES AND MANUEVERS

1. Ride over obstacles on the ground (natural logs are required). Walk, trot or lope may be used but only one gait is required. - Walk-overs: Walk over no more than **four** logs no more than 10 inches high. The spacing between successive logs should be 26 – 30 inches. The formation may be straight, curved,

zigzagged or raised. - Trot-overs: Trot over no more than **four** logs no more than 10 inches high. The spacing between successive logs should be 36-42 inches. The formation can be straight, curved, zigzagged or raised. - Lope-overs: Lope over no more than **three** logs no more than 10 inches high. **No more than two logs may be used in succession.** The spacing between logs should be **at least** 6 to 7 feet. The formation can be straight, curved, zigzagged or raised.

SHW625. HUNTER HACK.

SHW625.2 Horses being considered for placing are then to be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring with light contact. **The horse must be shown with active, working, and energetic ground covering gates at the walk, trot, and canter. The horse shall exhibit a natural self-carriage, correct uphill balance, and the fluid forward movement that is desirable for working hunter. Refer to SHW605.**

SHW636. WORKING HUNTER.

SHW637.3 Distance between fences is recommended to be in 12-foot (3.5 meters) increments with the exception of some combinations: **one stride in and out, 24-26 feet (7 meters); two strides in and out, 36 feet (11 meters); three strides, 48 feet (14.5 meters).** **In Rookie classes, exhibitor may add one stride in standard set standard set line without penalty as long as it is done consistently throughout the course. Footage of distance between fences must be on the posted courses. If footage is not posted then management is required to allow a course walk prior to class. Line must be measured with a measuring instrument.**

SHW639. Scoring. Scoring to be judged on manners, way of going and style of jumping. Horses shall be credited with maintaining an even hunting pace that covers the course with free-flowing strides. Preference will be given to horses with correct jumping style that meet fences squarely, jumping at the center of fence. Judges shall penalize unsafe jumping and bad form over fence, whether touched or untouched, including twisting. Incorrect leads around the ends of the course or cross-cantering shall be penalized, as well as excessive use of crop, in and outs (one or two strides) shall be taken in the correct number of strides or be penalized. Any error which endangers the horse and/or its rider, particularly refusals or knockdowns, shall be heavily penalized. **Competition round begins immediately when they come through the in-gate.**

SHW639.1 Scoring shall be on a basis of 0-100, with an approximate breakdown as follows:

90-100: An excellent performer and good mover that jumps the entire course with cadence, balance and style.

80-89: A good performer that jumps all fences reasonably well; an excellent performer that commits one or two minor faults; **smooth.**

70-79: The average, fair mover that makes no serious faults, but lacks the style, cadence and good balance of the scoper horses; the good performer that makes a few minor faults; **out of rhythm riding (minor miss/"chip"), additional minor faults (light rub/rubs).**

60-69: Poor movers that make minor mistakes; fair or average movers that have one or two poor fences but no major faults or disobediences. **Cross canter or no change (60), extra stride in a measured line (61-64), multiple distance mistakes, rail on lip of cup/displaced rail,**

50-59: Trot, poor manners, dangerous jumping, extra stride in and out, and elimination of a stride in a measured line. Hang a leg or drop a leg.

30-49: Disobedience (refer to disobedience chart).

10-29: A horse that avoids elimination but jumps in such an unsafe and dangerous manner as to preclude a higher score, **2 disobediences.**

MINOR FAULTS (suggested 2-5 point deduction per occurrence)

A jump out of rhythm jump (minor miss/" chip")

Obvious pace changes

One step of missed lead (1 point for each stride up to 4 strides, additional cross canter strides major fault Landing on cross canter for one stride (2 points)

Swap lead in front of jump

Wrong lead once competition round has begun (5 points)

Ahead or behind motion at jump

MAJOR FAULTS (suggested 10-20 point deduction per occurrence)

Canter trot jump more than one stride (75-70)

Cross cantering within the line up to two strides 10 pt penalty per occurrence

Missed lead change 4 strides or more

No lead change (60)

Trot on course (55)

Kicking out (50)

Dangerous jumping (50)

Using stick on horse in ring (50)

Knockdown (45)

First disobedience (40)

Second disobedience (30)

Third refusal elimination

Manners

Major out of rhythm (major miss/ "chip")

Disobediences (major faults):

1. Refusal. When a horse stops in front of an obstacle (whether or not the obstacle is knocked down or altered), it is a refusal unless the horse then immediately jumps the obstacle without backing one step. If horse takes one step backwards it is a refusal. After refusal, if horse is moved toward the obstacle but does not attempt to jump, it is considered another refusal.

2. Run-out. A run-out occurs when the horse evades or passes the obstacle to be jumped; jumps an obstacle outside its limiting markers; or when the horse or exhibitor knocks down a flag, standard, wing or other element limiting the obstacle (without obstacle being jumped).

3. Loss of Forward Movement. Failure to maintain trot, canter or gallop after crossing starting line, except when it is a refusal, a run- out or when due to uncontrollable circumstances, such as when an obstacle is being reset.

4. Unnecessary Circling on Course. Any form of circle or circles, whereby the horse crosses its original track between two consecutive obstacles anywhere on course, except to retake obstacle after refusal or run-out.

SHW.645 HUNT SEAT EQUITATION OVER FENCES

SHW648. SCORING. Competition round begins immediately when they come through the in-gate.

80-89: Minor equitation faults, i.e., long, weak distance, deep distance, one step landing at counter-canter. Rider still maintains a quality ride, **smooth**

70-79: More problems occur, equitation suffers, i.e., rounded shoulders, heels are not down, hands incorrect, lacks the style and presence. One major fence problem, i.e., chip with a ride up the neck, or discreet swap out, jumping off one side of jump. No dangerous fences, not a flowing course, **out of rhythm riding (minor miss/ "chip"), additional minor faults (refer to minor fault chart).**

60-69: Major position faults, poor body position, loose legs and seat, failure to obtain or maintain trot to a trot fence approach, two or three misses at the fence. **Cross canter or no change (60), extra stride in a measured line (61-64), multiple distance mistakes.**

50-59: Refer to major fault chart.

40-49: Disobedience (refer to disobedience chart).

10-39: Rider avoids elimination, two **disobediences**, knock- downs, dangerous fences, **accumulative major faults.**

MINOR FAULTS (suggested 2-5 point deduction per occurrence)

A jump out of rhythm (minor miss/"chip")

Obvious pace changes

One step of cross canter (1 point for each stride up to 4 strides, additional cross canter strides major fault)

Swap lead in front of jump

Rail (4 point deduction per rail)

Wrong diagonal up to 2 steps

Hands not at a 45 degree angle

Ahead or behind motion at jump

Canter trot jump one stride or less

MAJOR FAULTS (suggested 10-20 point deduction per occurrence)

Canter the trot jump more than 2 strides

No lead change (60)

Kicking out (50)

Dangerous jumping/excessive speed

Wrong lead once competition round has begun (10 point deduction)

Using stick on horse in ring (50)

Manners

Major out of rhythm (major miss/"chip")

Loss of stirrup (50)

Loss of reins (50)

First disobedience (40)

Second disobedience (30)

Wrong diagonal over 2 steps

Holding reins incorrectly

ELIMINATION

Falling off

Three disobediences

Off course

Failure to trot soundness circle

Bolting from ring

SHW700. BARREL RACING.

SHW701.2 Brightly colored 55 gallon (200 liters) steel drums with both ends in must be used.

SHW701.3 There shall be no rubber or plastic barrels or barrel pads used.

In Showmanship, Equitation, and horsemanship – AQHA has removed the following:

In Novice Classes Only: Exhibitor's going off pattern, knocking over or on wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait, or overturning more than 1/4 turn than designated, shall not be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors not incurring a disqualifying fault.