

1. Proposed Change (select one):

- ☒ Add new rule
- ☐ Delete existing rule. Reference rule as it appears in the 2023 Official Handbook.

Rule # _____ Page # _____

- ☒ Change existing rule. Reference rule as it appears in the 2023 official Handbook.

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2. Proposed Effective Date:

- ☐ January 1, 2025
- ☒ Other Effective Immediately

3. Is this proposal changing a rule that was implemented within the last two years? ☒ Yes ☒ No
(Refer to PHBA Rule #33, Page 22)

4. Explain why this rule change is needed: (Use attachments if needed)

Adoption of AQHA Rules relating to 2 rein equipment and use.
Copies Attached:
AQHA Rulebook
SHW 305.5 Page 107
SHW 509.1.6 Page 210
SHW 509.1.7 Page 210

5. Contact Information of person submitting/proposed change:

Name: David Pyle PHBA ID# 61324
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Signature: David Pyle Date: 11-8-24

6. Writing proposed rule changes:

- Define the problem and develop as many positive solutions as you can.
- Determine if any other rules would be affected if your proposal were to be adopted, and specify the rule numbers.
- Submit proper wording for a proposed rule change by typing or neatly printing the exact wording being proposed. If you propose changes to existing language, ~~strike through~~ the words you propose to delete. Type in **bold and italics** the words you propose to add.
- Determine the financial impact (both income and expense) your proposal could have on PHBA.

The PHBA President will assign proposed rule changes to specific committees for their recommendations. Some committees may be asked to review a proposed rule change and report their recommendations to another committee that ultimately reports to the Board of Directors. Committee Chairs will need to coordinate that input. Committees are free to discuss other proposed rule changes but the assigned committee's recommendation is that which will be used during voting at the Board of Directors Meeting.

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bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit.

SHW305.4 The description of a legal, standard western bit includes:

SHW305.4.1 8 1/2" (215 mm) maximum length shank to be measured as indicated in the diagram on the previous page. Shanks may be fixed or loose;

SHW305.4.2 concerning mouthpieces, bars must be round, oval or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal of 5/16" to 3/4" (8 mm to 20 mm) in diameter, measured 1" (25 mm) from the cheek. However, wire on the sway bars (above the bars and attaching to the spade) of a traditional spade bit is acceptable. They may be inlaid, but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs, including upward prongs on solid mouthpieces. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, connecting ring of 1 1/4" (32 mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable;

SHW305.4.3 a linked mouthpiece with minimum 3/8" (10 mm) diameter that is smooth with movable links that are solidly attached to the shanks;

SHW305.4.4 the port must be no higher than 3 1/2" (90 mm) maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, halfbreeds and spades are standard;

SHW305.4.5 donut and flat polo mouthpieces are not acceptable;

SHW305.4.6 a curb bit must be used with a curb strap or curb chain properly attached so as to make contact with horse's chin;

SHW305.4.7 slip or gag bit is permitted in speed events.

SHW305.5 Except for hackamore/snaffle bit classes or junior horses shown with hackamore/snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand must not be changed. The hand is to be around the reins, however, the index finger only is permitted between split reins. More than one finger may be between the reins of two-rein equipment. In trail, ranch trail, ranch riding, VRH ranch trail, and VRH/RHC ranch riding, it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle. Violation of this rule is an automatic disqualification in all western performance classes, except VRH/RHC classes, and ranch riding and ranch trail where it is an automatic OP (off-pattern penalty.)

SHW305.5.1 Any horse of any age shown in any rookie/Level 1 youth, VRH/RHC rookie youth, rookie/Level 1 amateur, VRH/RHC rookie amateur or Level 1 class may be shown one or two handed with a snaffle bit/hackamore.

SHW305.6 Romal means an extension of braided or round material attached to closed reins. This extension shall be carried in the free hand with a 16-inch (40 cm) spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the romal. When using romal reins, the rider's hand shall be around the reins with the wrists kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top and the fingers closed lightly around the reins. When using a romal, no fingers between the reins are allowed. The free hand may not be used to adjust the rider's length of rein in any reining class. During reining, the use of the free hand while holding the romal to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand is considered to be the use of two hands and a score of 0 will be applied, with the exception of any place a horse is allowed to be completely stopped during a pattern. In all other classes, including

SHW509.1.3 hackamore/snaffle bit working cow horse (Horses 5 years of age and under as of January 1 of current show year, may be shown in either a snaffle bit or hackamore.)

SHW509.1.4 NRCHA rules allow for a spade bit or a bit having the following characteristics; one with an unbroken bar mouthpiece with one inch or higher port measured from the bottom of the bar to the top of the port. There must be an operable cricket or roller (with single for multiple rings) incorporated within the mouthpiece of the bit. It is legal to have a barrel, made of copper or metal, wrapped around the bar space of the bit and is to be considered a part of the mouthpiece. The barrel must be round, smooth, and made up of one continuous, unbroken piece. The minimum diameter, on any part of the bar of the mouthpiece, is 5/16 inch. Bars must be round, oval or egg shaped smooth and unwrapped metal. Latex wrap or any foreign material is not acceptable. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs. The cheeks must be connected at the bottom. The overall length of the bit shall not be longer than 8 1/2 inches measured from the inside bottom of the top of headstall ring to point of pull in the bottom ring. Optional tongue release shall not exceed three inches in width.

SHW509.1.5 The hackamore shall be round in shape and constructed of uniform braided rawhide or leather and have a non-metal flexible core. No gimmick of any kind may be used in conjunction with the bosal. No rigid material of any kind may be used, regardless of how padded or covered, in conjunction with the bosal. Horse hair bosals are prohibited. Tape is not allowed on the noseband of the hackamore. Smooth, flat, wrapped tape is allowed on the hackamore between the headstall and the mecate reins. Maximum amount of tape allowed is two inches on each side of the hackamore.

SHW509.1.6 The use of 'two-rein equipment' is allowed in AQHA working cow horse, boxing, ranch riding, ranch trail, working western rail, all VRH classes, and all RHC classes. The purpose of the two-rein option is the transition between the hackamore and bridle and can be used on any aged horse in the youth, amateur, junior, senior or all age working cow horse class, amateur or youth boxing, or ranch riding, ranch trail, all VRH classes and all RHC classes for one year only. The bit and bosal combination must be as described below. Only one hand may be used on the reins and hands must not be changed. Any number of fingers between reins will be permitted. Both mecate and bridle reins are to be held in the rein hand.

SHW509.1.7 When using two-rein equipment, bosals 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. The rider must use one hand on the reins. Fingers between the reins will be permitted. Both mecate and bridle reins are to be held in the rein hand.

SHW509.2 If two working cow horse classes are to be held at a show, they shall be the following:

SHW509.2.1 senior working cow horse shown with bit

SHW509.2.2 junior working cow horse shown with either a bit, hackamore or snaffle bit at the discretion of the exhibitor

SHW509.3 If only one working cow horse class is to be held at a show, it shall be working cow horse - all ages - horses 6 years old and older must be shown in bit while horses 5 years old and younger may be shown in either bit, hackamore or snaffle bit at the discretion of the exhibitor.