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BYLAW OR RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL FORM

PALOMINO HORSE BREEDERS OF AMERICA

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USE TO SUBMIT A BYLAW OR RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL (MUST BE POSTMARKED 120 DAYS PRIOR TO CONVENTION FORMS CAN BE MAILED TO THE PHBA OFFICE, EMAILED TO shirley@palominohba.com, OR FAXED TO (918)438-1232

A rule or regulation is not subject to amendment by change, addition or repeal until it has been in force for at least two calendar years. Such limitation may be waived by the PHBA Executive Board upon finding extraordinary circumstances: A. Concerns the safety, health or well being of a horse and/or rider; B. Materially benefits PHBA's programs or it's financial stability; or C. Involves other compelling circumstances.

The PHBA President will assign proposed bylaw or 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.

Instructions for writing a proposed rule change:

- **Define the problem and develop as many positive solutions as possible.**
- **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 wish to add**
- **Determine the financial impact (both income and expense) your proposal could have on PHBA.**
- **You must get signature of three (3) PHBA members who support this proposal.**

1. **PROPOSED CHANGE (select one):**
   - **X ADD NEW RULE**
   - **_____DELETE EXISTING RULE. Reference rule as it appears in the _____official Handbook.**
   - **_____CHANGE EXISTING RULE. Reference rule as it appears in the _____official Handbook.**

     Rule Number _____ Page Number _____

2. **PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: _____January 1, 2028 X Other Immediately**

3. **Is this proposal changing a rule that was implemented within the last two years? _____YES X NO**
   (Refer to PHBA Rule 33, page 13 of 2026/2027 Handbook)

4. **If adding a new rule or changing an existing rule, write rule as it should appear in the Handbook: (use attachment if needed)**

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5. **Justification for change and impact if not passed: (use attachment if needed)**

PSA

6. **How will this rule change affect PHBA financially if adopted:**

PSA

7. **Estimated expense to PHBA if rule change is adopted:**

PSA

8. **Contact information of person submitting proposed change:**

Name Laura Simmons PHBA ID# 107120
Address: 539 Paola Rd City Lapine
State AL Zip 36046 Phone Number 334-508-2700
Email avalonacres1c@yahoo.com
Signature [signature] Date 11/8/26

REFERENCES:

1. PRINTED NAME Vanessa Simmons PHBA ID# 106478
SIGNATURE [signature]

2. PRINTED NAME Pat Brown PHBA ID# 93376
SIGNATURE /s/ Pat Brown

3. PRINTED NAME Britanie Whitmer PHBA ID# 109964
SIGNATURE /s/ Britanie Whitmer

THIS FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY. INCOMPLETE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED; THEY WILL BE RETURNED TO SUBMITTER, NOTING WHAT IS INCOMPLETE. IF TIME ALLOWS BEFORE SUBMISSION DEADLINE, PROPOSAL MAY BE RESUBMITTED WITH CORRECTIONS. NO PROPOSAL WILL BE CONSIDERED IF RECEIVED AFTER DEADLINE.

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Proposed Rule Change: Ranch In-Hand Fundamentals

Proposed Addition to Rule Book: Rule XXX — Ranch In-Hand Fundamentals
Applies to: Regular Registry (Palomino) & Palomino Bred (PB)
Divisions: Youth, Amateur, and Select Amateur (Junior Horses, 5 & Under)

1. General Purpose & Philosophy

The Ranch In-Hand Fundamentals class evaluates the partnership, manners, and willing responsiveness of the horse to the exhibitor over practical obstacles and maneuvers simulating situations encountered on a working ranch or trail.

- The class will be judged on the performance of the horse over the obstacles, with primary emphasis on manners, response to the exhibitor, and how the horse/exhibitor team works together.
- Credit is given to the horse that negotiates obstacles and maneuvers with style, expression, and functional cadence, provided carefulness and safety are not sacrificed.
- The horse/exhibitor team should negotiate each obstacle with calmness, attentiveness, and patience. Horses should show natural awareness and an alert attitude without spooking, shying, spinning, or stumbling.
- Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating obstacles.
- Exhibitor movements must be quiet, workmanlike, and efficient, demonstrating functional horsemanship. Safe and effective handling takes priority over equipment or attire value.
- Entries in this class may cross-enter in Yearling In-Hand Trail classes where eligible.

2. Eligibility & Divisions

Offered as independently scored and pinned classes for Junior Horses (5 Years & Under) across both recognized PHBA registries:

- Youth Ranch In-Hand Fundamentals (Regular Registry & Palomino Bred)
- Amateur Ranch In-Hand Fundamentals (Regular Registry & Palomino Bred)
- Select Amateur Ranch In-Hand Fundamentals (Regular Registry & Palomino Bred)

Points earned accrue independently toward annual honor roll, register of merit (ROM), show all-around awards, and year-end high-point awards in their respective division and registry.

3. Attire & Tack Equipment

- **Attire:** Exhibitors must wear working ranch attire complying with PHBA Ranch division rules: western hat or ASTM/SEI approved safety helmet, long-sleeved collared shirt, western boots, and jeans/trousers. Chinks/Chaps/Spurs are optional/allowed.
- **Halter & Lead:** Horses must be shown in a clean working halter made of plain leather, rope, braided material, or nylon. Properly placed chain/shank allowed on lead.
  - Plain or working buckles, brass nameplates, and modest shop embroidery are acceptable.
  - Silver cheekplates, silver nosebands, ornate show halter trim are strictly prohibited.
- **Prohibited Tack/Equipment:** Lip chains, splint boots, leg wraps, and bandages are prohibited. (In the event of a documented superficial injury, the presiding judge may authorize a clean, plain protective wrap). Rope Halters with nose knots are prohibited.
- **Saddle Allowance:** Horses three (3) years of age and older may be exhibited saddled in

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standard working stock saddles.

4. Course Setup & Ground Procedures

- **Obstacle Count:** Courses must contain a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of twelve (12) obstacles/maneuvers.
- **Course Design:** Obstacles should simulate realistic challenges found on a working ranch or trail. Courses must be laid out safely, flowing logically at the walk and trot without sharp, hazardous angles. The course must be returned to its original design after each horse works.
- **Posting:** The official course pattern must be posted at least one (1) hour prior to the scheduled class time.
- **Working Sides:** Handlers may be directed to work from either or both the near (left) and off (right) side of the horse during designated maneuvers. Switching hands on the lead is permitted.
- **Mandatory Maneuvers (Must be incorporated within the course design):**

1. Lead at a walk.
2. Lead at a trot/jog.
3. Stop.
4. Back (straight line, curved chute, or L/U-shape).
5. Pivot / Turn on the haunches (90° to 360°) or turn on the forehand (90° to 360°).
6. Sidepass (along a pole or marker).
7. Walk over ground poles/logs.

- **Optional Obstacles & Tasks (May include, but are not limited to):**
  - Walk over wooden bridge.
  - Walk through a walk-over gate or work a functional hand gate.
  - Serpentine through ground markers (cones, barrels, poles) at a walk or trot.
  - Ground tie or tie to a fence (while tied, demonstrate hip yield or picking up feet).
  - Back into or out of a chute.
  - Load and/or unload quietly from a horse trailer.
  - Step away to the end of the lead while the horse stands quietly.
  - Lower head via light downward lead pressure.
  - Send horse in a circle around an obstacle/marker or over a pole.
  - Pick up/Move/Drag a slicker, rope, or object on course. (If saddled, a drag must be dallied to saddle horn)

5. Scoring System

Scoring is based on a **0 to Infinity** scale, with **70 denoting an average performance.** Each obstacle/maneuver receives an evaluation score (added or subtracted from 70) and is subject to independent penalty deductions:

Maneuver Scores

Assessed independently of penalty points on a scale ranging from $+\ 1\frac{1}{2}$ to $-\ 1\frac{1}{2}$:

- $+\ 1\frac{1}{2}$: Excellent
- $+\ 1$: Very Good

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- $+\frac{1}{2}$: Good
- 0 : Correct / Average
- $-\frac{1}{2}$: Poor
- -1 : Very Poor
- $-1\frac{1}{2}$: Extremely Poor

Credit is awarded for prompt, willing response, soft and subtle cues, cadence, alertness, and style without mechanical resistance. Handlers who cue maneuvers cleanly without touching the horse reflect a higher degree of horsemanship and difficulty.

6. Penalty Deductions

One (1) Point Penalties

- Each hit, bite, or step on a log, pole, cone, bridge, or obstacle marker.
- Incorrect gait or break of gait at the walk or jog for two (2) strides or less.
- Horse stepping or moving one (1) foot during a designated stationary ground pause or inspection.
- Unnecessary physical touching of the horse other than where specifically permitted (permitted solely to prompt sidepass or head lowering).

Three (3) Point Penalties

- Incorrect gait or break of gait at the walk or jog for more than two (2) strides.
- Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, or plant, or severely displacing an obstacle (unless caused by the horse's tail).
- Stepping outside the confines of, falling off, or jumping out of an obstacle with one (1) foot once entered; or missing one element of an obstacle on a line of travel with one (1) foot.
- Grabbing, choking, or directly holding the halter hardware with the hand.
- Touching or hitting the horse with the end of the lead shank.

Five (5) Point Penalties

- Dropping a slicker, rope, or object required to be carried or moved on course.
- First or second cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing away.
- Letting go of or dropping a gate.
- Stepping outside the confines of, falling off, or jumping out of an obstacle with more than one (1) foot once entered; or missing an element on a line of travel with more than one (1) foot.
- Blatant disobedience (kicking out, biting, bucking, rearing, striking, or continuously circling the handler).
- Failure to complete a designated maneuver or obstacle.
- Use of hands or equipment to deliberately strike, intimidate, or instill fear.

Disqualification / Zero (0) Total Score

- Performing obstacles out of specified sequence / off-pattern.
- Omitting or making no attempt to perform an obstacle.
- Third cumulative refusal, balk, or course evasion over the pattern.
- Horse getting loose from the handler.

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- Leading from the incorrect side when a specific side is mandated by pattern instructions.
- Equipment failure that prevents completion of the pattern.
- Working outside the designated arena boundaries or course markers.
- Illegal equipment, improper attire, or observable, consistent lameness.
- Inhumane treatment, whip use, or deliberate handler abuse.

5. Justification for change and impact if not passed:

- **Justification:** Ranch horse divisions continue to see the fastest growth across the stock horse industry. Adding Ranch In-Hand Fundamentals establishes a vital developmental pipeline for young stock (Junior Horses, 5 & Under), providing essential groundwork, manners, and obstacle experience before or alongside under-saddle careers. By offering concurrent divisions for both Regular Registry and Palomino Bred (PB) horses, this rule supports breeders, builds future under-saddle entries, and eliminates high financial barriers by utilizing practical working tack rather than expensive silver show equipment. Furthermore, adopting PtHA/industry-standard obstacle scoring (0–infinity, 70 average, $\pm\ 1\frac{1}{2}$ maneuver score increments) and established penalty tiers creates clear, consistent judging criteria and cross-association familiarity.
- **Impact if not passed:** PHBA risks losing grassroots exhibitors, youth, and young-horse trainers to partner/competing breed registries (such as PtHA, ARHA, and AQHA) that currently offer comprehensive in-hand ranch events. Palomino Bred young horses, in particular, will continue to lack early entry opportunities, slowing participation and diminishing registry value.

6. How will this rule change affect PHBA financially if adopted:

- **Positive Financial Impact (Net Revenue Increase):**
  - **Class Entry & Fee Income:** Generates additional class entries and affiliated national fee assessments at local, regional, and World Championship shows across four to six new division slates (Youth, Amateur, and Select for both Regular Registry and Palomino Bred).
  - **Registration & Transfer Volume:** Incentivizes owners and breeders to register and transfer Palomino and Palomino-Bred yearlings and two-year-olds earlier in order to campaign them in in-hand events.
  - **Membership Growth:** Encourages non-riding owners, amateur handlers, and youth exhibitors to activate and maintain PHBA memberships to participate and earn year-end points.

7. Estimated expense to PHBA if rule change is adopted:

- **Estimated Expense: Negligible / Less than $50.00 annually for the first two (2) years.**
  - **Year-End Awards Cost Mitigation:** To eliminate financial risk during the

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introductory evaluation phase, it is proposed that year-end recognition for this class be limited strictly to **high-quality printed paper certificates for the first two (2) years**. This allows PHBA to monitor class entry volume and exhibitor participation without committing funds to expensive buckles, trophies, or year-end hardware until sustained popularity and revenue justify standard high-point awards.

- **Zero Equipment/Course Expense:** Show management and host facilities already possess all standard trail and ranch course equipment (logs, cones, bridges, gates), requiring $0.00 in capital outlay from the national association.
- **Administrative/Clerical:** Standard class coding and routine point tracking within existing show management software incur no additional operational expense beyond routine digital rulebook updates.
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(THIS CAN BE DISCUSSED AND ALTERED VIA SUB-COMMITTEE)

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