



RULE CHANGE

PROPOSED 2020 RULE CHANGES

The 2019 Rules Committee was tasked with a complete review and updating of the NWA Rules and Regulations during the course of the year. The goal of this task was to streamline our rules and position the NWA into better alignment with other industry organizations. Updating the consistency of our rules as a whole to remove any ambiguity or errors and omissions continues our commitment of the NWA mission as well as improving our organization and showing standards.

The following rule proposals are submitted for member comment for a period of 60 days and are published on the NWA website for review. All comments are confidential. The proposed changes are not final until all comments are received and reviewed and submitted for official approval. The NWA SOP concerning Rule Change Procedures is available in the NWA library at www.nwa.com.

Comments can be made using the following survey link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K8MT6KF> or email to Rules@nwa.com.

PROPOSED 2020 RULE CHANGES

1. Affiliated or Sanctioned Events

SANCTION – Any event in which the NWAHA has recognized, that does not offer any traditional Walking Horse rail classes. An event is considered to be “sanctioned” upon satisfying the procedures outlined in 2.2

3.9 to Joint Ownership, Leases and Contracts

- A. Joint owned horses must be entered under the names of all owners. Joint owned horses are eligible to be shown in owner's and amateur classes when exhibited by any joint owner(s) or members of their immediate family as long the exhibitor meets the class criteria.
EXCEPTION: Any joint owned horse(s) in which any one owner is a trainer, immediate family members of said trainer may not exhibit the horse in any amateur classes.
- B. Leases are permitted and must be filed in the NWAHA office and presented at entry upon request. Leases must be for a one year term. AOT horse ownership established by joint ownership, leases or contracts is forbidden. Lease executed with a trainer or other professional upon termination, the horse must satisfy the 90 day wait period before returning to AOT status.
- C. Contracts may be permitted upon request and approval by the NWAHA. Contracts should be submitted for approval at least 90 days prior to any event.

5.4 Age Classes

Age - Equine

- A. For competition purposes, a horse shall be considered to be one year of age on the first day of January following the date of foaling.
- B. EXCEPTION – Foals born in September, October, November and December will automatically be considered a weanling on the first day of January following the date of foaling. The foal will be included as a yearling the following January 1st, and as a two-year old the next January 1st. This age sequences will continue for the duration of the horse's life.
- C. For competition purposes, the age of horse will be governed and determined by the rules and regulations of the breed registry and/or the general consensus of the industry standard.
- D. A Junior horse is one that is five years of age or younger. EXCLUDING Weanlings and Yearlings.

5.8 Youth Classes

E. Youth classes designated as 11 and Under, exhibitors may use two hands.

Section 8 Attire and Equipment

8.2 Horse Equipment

8.2.1 Bridle

- A. English
Snaffle bits are permitted in English rail classes.
- B. Western
A snaffle or curb bit may be used no matter the age of the horse and may be ridden two handed in All Day Pleasure and Country Pleasure Divisions Western rail classes.

10.21 Spotted Saddle Horse Classes

- B. SSH may use cavessons in Western classes.

10.21 F.1. SSH Trail Pleasure Division

If shown in Western tack the exhibitor may use two hands to rein.

10.21 F-2. SSH Lite Shod Division

B. The Lite Shod shoe must not exceed that of a Park Lite Shod Shoe. Refer to NWAHA Rule book section 8.3 (B) for shoe requirements.

PROPOSED 2020 VERSATILITY RULE CHANGES

19.1 Trail Obstacle In Hand

The In Hand trail horse gives the impression of being able to negotiate any obstacle in-hand on a trail ride. It can maneuver through a course of obstacles quietly, obediently, with physical skill and a good attitude. It should travel through and between obstacles in a forward manner without compromising its calm, relaxed attitude and way of going. It should approach each obstacle in a round relaxed frame looking down on approach in a thinking manner viewing the needs required of it to begin and complete the obstacle with no apparent resistance. The in-hand trail horse is skillful, confident and safe.

Class Specifications

- Competitors may use English or Western tack and attire but not a combination of both.
- Horse shall be shown in a halter.
- No crop, whip, chaps, chinks or spurs allowed.
- The horse shall be led using the right hand. Excess lead should be held loosely, looped in the left hand.

Exhibitor Requirements

1. 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 under the chin or hanging from the halter.
Exhibitor must use only the left hand to carry the excess lead, looped loosely except when:
 - a. Carrying an object from one part of the arena to another.
 - b. Dragging an object from one part of the arena to another.
 - c. Opening/closing a gate, left hand gate only. In these cases, the right hand can also carry the excess lead.
 - d. Side-passing. In this case, the lead at the chain and the excess lead can be held in the hand at the horse's head.
2. Exhibitors should be poised, confident, courteous and sportsmanlike at all times. The exhibitor should continue showing the horse until the class has been placed or excused.
3. Any stops should be straight, smooth and responsive with the horse's body remaining straight. Backing and turning should be performed from the left side of the horse. The exhibitor should face the horse when backing. Exception: When negotiating a gate, the exhibitor is not required to face the horse. The horse should back up readily with the head, neck and body aligned in a straight or curved line as instructed.

4. When executing a turn to the right, the exhibitor should face the horse and move the horse away from them. On turns of less than 90 degrees, it is acceptable to lead the horse toward them. On turns of 90 degrees or greater, the horse should pivot on the right or left hind leg while stepping across with the front legs.
 - a. The exhibitor should be positioned at the horse's left shoulder while leading. The obstacle is performed by sending rather than dragging or pulling the horse.
 - b. The horse should move forward as directed, correctly and smoothly. When backing, the exhibitor may turn and face the horse.
 - c. Stops should be smooth with the horse's body straight.

Judging

Judges should consider the overall appearance of the horse, conditioning and grooming, and the equipment (dirty, ill-fitting or ragged equipment) in their overall scores. Also to be considered is the correctness of the horse while being led. Drifting to the side, leading or stopping crooked, failure to maintain a pivot foot in a turn, leading or turning sluggishly should be considered and evaluated in the horse's maneuver scores and reflected in his overall score. Handlers should be discouraged from excessive verbal cues and excessive stiff or unnatural movements around horse or when leading. For safety reasons, those handlers continuously holding the chain on the lead, tightly coiling lead shank around hand, or dragging the lead shank should be penalized.

Penalties

Penalties covered in Trail Obstacle as applicable are addressed in section 19.4.1 in addition to the following:

The exhibitor will be penalized utilizing the obstacle scoring guidelines for the following:

- Blatant disobedience of the horse to include kicking, bucking, rearing, circling the exhibitor
- Changing hands except when necessary to side pass to the right
- Dragging the horse
- Holding the horse tightly and/ or by the chain on the lead rope
- Excessive verbal and/or physical praise or correction
- Touching the horse
- Failure to demonstrate correct gait
- Horse gets loose from exhibitor
- Leading from the wrong side

PROPOSED 2020 VERSATILITY RULE CHANGES

1.3 Division of Classes

Limitations

The following limitations may be used for Versatility classes only, except Novice which is addressed in section 5.3 for classes other than Versatility.

Limitations may be applied to either horse or rider or a combination of both. Eligibility is established as of the closing date of entries. Only NWAHA competitions affect reckoning of limitation criteria. Single horse classes do not affect reckoning. Exception: Dressage limitations use scoring instead of ribbons won, reference section 1.3 B.

- Maiden has not won one (1) blue ribbon
- Novice has not won three (3) blue ribbons
- Limit has not won six (6) blue ribbons

1.3 B. Dressage Limitations

Maiden, Novice and Limit classes or divisions are open to horse/rider combinations which have not attained one/ three/six scores of 60% or higher, respectively, in Dressage classes at NWAHA competitions in the particular level in which they are shown.

Scores attained at a lower dressage level do not count in the reckoning of Maiden, Novice, or Limit status at a higher level, however, the same horse/rider combination cannot compete in Maiden, Novice or Limit classes or divisions if they have previously competed at a higher dressage level in a NWAHA competition.

Green - horse or rider in their first or second year of showing in Jumping classes only.

Kimberly O'Connor, Rules Committee Chair (RCC)

Rules Committee (RC):

Morgan Applewhite, Shannon Gibbs, Beth Jennings, Merleene Pacheco and Mag Ranft

Responsible for coordinating all horse show rule initiation and changes. Provides recommendations to the Board of Directors (BOD). Compiles all public comment for review. Researches, develops, and presents new rules and rule changes for horse shows. Provides recommendations and rationale for approval by the Board of Directors.