

RULE BOOK CHANGES to come into effect 1st August 2022 and will included in the New Rule Book.

SECTION ONE

The Animal Welfare Rule from Section One has been moved to the front of Section Three and is now Rule 39.

SECTION TWO – HORSES

Rule 9.3 Imported Horses

Rule 9.3 b) A copy of the *sires and dams* AmQHA registration papers, plus DNA markers and results of any genetic testings, is received with application;

Rule 9.5 Performance Registry

9.5.1 For a horse to be considered for the Performance Registry it must:

c) Prove parentage to one registered Quarter Horse. If the registered Quarter Horse parent is a stallion, the stallion must have met all regulations in Rule 12 pertaining to the IBF process. ***The PR application must be accompanied by either a breeding return or a form giving the stallion owners permission to register the progeny;***

Rule 12. Breeding

As from 1 August 2023 Breeding Stallions and mares must have results on file for OLWS (if applicable), HERDA (if applicable), HYPP (if applicable), PSSM1, MH, GBED, IMM.

Rule 12.5 Application for Registration that is generated from lodgement of a breeding return. The application for registration will be ***sent to the breeder by the stallion owner or the AQHA.***

Rule 18.5 Brands

Branding is not compulsory. If you decide to brand your horse it is necessary to comply with State Legislation and/or Jockey Club requirements. ***If you purchase a horse, and wish to brand that horse, you must notify the Breeder.***

SECTION THREE – SHOW & PERFORMANCE

Rule 40.2 Incidents at Show

NEW g) *If an adverse decision is reached by the Investigative Committee, then the person in question has the right to appeal to the Board of Directors within 14 days of receiving the notification from the Investigative Committee of their decision.*

The Show Fines and Penalty Table has been removed.

Rule 40.2.1 Show Fines and Penalties.

- a) Probation Period ***will be from 30 and 90 days at the discretion of the Association.***
- b) Suspend Show Privileges ***will be from 3 months to 12 months at the discretion of the Association.***
- c) Fines ***imposed will be between \$100 to \$8,000 at the discretion of the Association.***
- d) ***Expulsion of a member is to be directed to the AQHA Disciplinary Officer in accordance with the AQHA Constitution.***

Rule 40.3 Changes to table

1st Offence	Warning
2nd Offence	\$100 up to \$1,000 fine
3rd Offence	No show approvals for three to six months

Rule 42. Approval

Delete existing d) and replace with:

d) No points will be awarded by the AQHA for any show run by an AQHA Affiliate or Non-Affiliate, that is run on the same dates as an AQHA State Show in the state where that state show is held;

Change existing e) to t) with f) to t)

Add new e)

e) A Versatility Ranch show can be granted show approval on the same day as an AQHA Affiliate approved "A", or "AA" show, that is within the 150km distance from each other, if mutually agreeable by both parties. An AQHA Affiliate has preference if no agreement between the two parties.

Rule 42.4 Performance Halter

Delete existing a) and replace with:

a) For Horses, Amateur and Youth

AUSTRALIAN
Quarter Horse
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Rule 43.2 Two Year Old

- a) A two (2) year old horse cannot be shown under saddle at any AQHA approved show or program or at any AQHA sanctioned event, prior to **1 April** of its two (2) year old year and must have reached a minimum age of 24 months;

Add NEW f)

- f) **No 2 year old horse can be ridden at Clinics prior to 1st April in any year.**

Rule 43.4 Weanling

Weanlings cannot be shown before 1 January of their weanling year and must have reached a minimum age of **twenty four (24) weeks**

Rule 44.2

Performance Halter Delete the words Horse Only

Rule 44.4 add wording to the following: ARB Australian Racing Board
and/or placings from racing organisations approved by the AQHA: Racing

Rule 45. HIGH POINT AWARDS AT SHOWS

At the end of a) add

NB: All Youth, Amateur and Select Amateur awards are for the competitor, not the horse.

Renumber current e) to i) to be f) to l)

Add new b), c) d) and e) as below:

- b) **All approved Youth classes must go to High Point Youth. If only 1 youth class is held for a specific discipline on the program, the points for youth placed will go towards their respective age Youth High Point Award if offered.**
- c) **All approved Amateur classes must go to High Point Amateur. If only 1 Amateur class is held for a specific discipline on the program, the points for Amateurs placed will go towards their respective Amateur High Point Award if offered.**
- d) **All approved Select Amateur classes must go to High Point Select Amateur. If there is no specific Select Amateur discipline on the program, and the Select Amateur enters the Amateur class for that discipline, any points gained by the Select Amateur will go towards a High Point Select Amateur if offered. Exception: Amateur Halter and Amateur Boxing.**
- e) **Horse – for age division High Point Awards. Eg: All points gained in an approved 3 year old class will go towards High Point 3 year old. NB: if there is no specific 3 year old discipline on the program, and the 3 year old competes in a Junior Horse or all age class, then any points gained by the 3 year old will go towards High Point 3 year old if offered.**

Rule 46.2 VERSATILITY RANCH SHOW

After the word "Horses" add the following:

Snaffle Bit – Any Horse 3 yrs & over. Horse to be ridden 2 handed in a snaffle bit regardless of horses age. Equipment: Fender, stock saddle or half-breed saddle.

Add new

46.2.4 Versatility Ranch Shows can be single "A" or Multi Judged "A".

Rule 46.3.2 Mandatory Halter Classes

- b) When three (3) age divisions are offered for each sex division they must be;

Yearling

2 & 3 year old

4 years & over

Champion & Reserve **OR**

1 year & under

2 & 3 year old

4 years & over

Champion & Reserve

Rule 46.3.5 Prize money that must be offered at "AA" Shows:

Minimum \$1000 prize money. The \$1000 prize money is to be paid out and spread between a minimum of two (2) Open classes, two (2) Amateur classes and two (2) Youth classes, **regardless of number in the class.**

Rule 46.3.6 Number of Horses at "AA" Shows

Last sentence change to read:

All other States a minimum of fourteen (14) **or show will be downgraded to "A".**



Rule 48. STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWS

Add to the heading *and VERSATILITY RANCH STATE SHOWS*

48.1 Add to the end of this rule:

The Affiliate, who has been approved to run the State Show, within their state, will be given the opportunity to run that states VR State Championships. If this Affiliate, does not want to run the VR State Championships, then any other Affiliate within that State can apply to run this event. "AAA" point will apply.

Rule 52. MISCELLANEOUS SHOW RULES

Add to the beginning of this rule the following:

Earphones, earbuds and/or other electronic devices are strictly prohibited in the competition arena and such usage is penalised by disqualification.

Rule 53.2 Officials

Delete c) and replace with:

c) A Ring Steward can be 16 years of age and over. All other Officials must be eighteen (18) years and over with the exception of Ribbon presenters.

Rule 55. TIES (DRAWS) IN CLASSES.

Delete the wording and replace with:

In all scored classes refer to individual class rules in Section five (5).

Rule 57.13 Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing

Delete and replace with:

Points awarded as per Points Table on Page 74.

Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing will be run under the rules of EA.

Rule 58. ANNUAL AWARDS

Delete g), h) and i).

NEW g) AQHA All Round Performance Horse - Register of Merit in Halter and three (3) Performance ROM's in three (3) different disciplines

NEW h) AQHA Supreme Champion

A Superior Award in Halter and three (3) Superior Performance awards in three (3) different disciplines

Rule 62.12 Amateur/Select Amateur Exhibitor & Horse awards

Delete c) and d)

New c) All Round Champion - four (4) Performance Register of Merits in four (4) different disciplines;

New d) Century Awards in any single discipline:

Bronze 100 points - minimum of 75 "A" points,

Silver 200 points - minimum of 150 "A" points

Gold Century Award 300 points - minimum of 225 "A" points

Rule 63.2 add a new sentence to end of this rule:

If you are a Youth Member, and are 18 years or older, you do not have to produce an Unaccompanied Minor Form to take part in AQHA events.

Rule 63.15

Change current e) to f) and add new *e) In Youth Walk/Jog Trail no gate is to be included*

Rule 66. Horseback Riding *Change to Rule 67. Rule 67 Racing change to 68.*

NEW Rule 66

66. NOVICE HORSE CLASSES

Implemented for the following recognised AQHA classes in an All-Age Novice Horse division only:

a) Trail, Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Western Riding, Reining and Ranch Riding;

b) To be run as a standalone class;

c) Equipment and Attire as per AQHA current Rules;

d) At Affiliate shows offering Novice Horse classes, and aged classes, horses eligible may only enter in Novice Horse or aged class, not both (excluding Futurity's, Maturity's & Feature Events);

e) Novice class points will not be counted towards AQHA Annual National and State High Point Awards;

f) Eligibility: Any horse that has not gained 20 or more points in any of the disciplines in a) above ;

g) All placings in Novice Horse classes, and aged horse classes, will receive points as per AQHA Rulebook and go towards their 20-point total in any discipline;

h) Ineligible: Once a horse has received 20 points in any discipline, eg. Trail, the horse is no longer eligible for Novice Horse in that discipline and must cease immediately from showing in Novice Horse classes in that discipline;

i) Application for AQHA Novice Horse permit for registered quarter horses, must be completed and recognised by the office before the horse is eligible to compete.

j) Horses registered with the Appaloosa or Paint Association are eligible for this class if they have a Novice Horse Permit from their relevant breed association, where the rules regarding Novice eligibility are similar to those of the AQHA.

SECTION FOUR JUDGING

Rule 74. JUDGES CONDUCT

After the first sentence add the following:

Definition of Exemplary conduct – *That a judges conduct is of such a high standard, that it is an example for others to follow and thus worth imitating, therefore Judges must conduct themselves in a manner deemed by the Board of Directors as appropriate.*

Rule 75. ONLINE JUDGING PROGRAM (OJP)

Change the wording “*annual*” to “*bi-annual*”

SECTION FIVE – CLASS, EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE

Rule 80.1 Reruns

Add to end of the rule: **Exemption: Rule 101.1.2**

Rule 81.2

Add to end of this rule: ***and Hunter In Hand***

Rule 82.5

Delete in it’s entirety and replace with:

Rule 82.5 English Attire – Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Eq., Hunter Hack

a) A rider must wear the following:

- *hunt coat*
- *breeches (or jodhpurs)*
- *high English boots or elastic sided paddock boots with or without gaiters*
- *a shirt with a collar and a minimum of a short sleeves*
 - *a tie, choker, or dickey (with a shirt that has short sleeves)*
 - *Approved Safety Helmet, which must conform to the current Australian Safety Standards.*

b) *Gloves, spurs, and crops that are approved by AQHA are optional;*

c) *Hair must be neat and contained (as in net or braid);*

d) *Judges can give permission for jackets to be removed in inclement weather.*

82.6 English Attire for:

a) *Endurance – AERA Rules*

b) *Dressage, Hack, Eventing, Show Jumping – EA Rules*

c) *Show Hunter – SCHA*

Rule 83.2 Optional equipment

Add the following:

- ***leather strap attached below the reins on a snaffle bit is acceptable***

Rule 83.3 Prohibited Equipment for showing

Add to the heading above

And will be cause for disqualification

Rule 84.4

Add new **f) *The use of any artificial aid including, but not limited to lighters, hay, dirt, pins, clickers etc will be considered a disqualification***

Rule 84.5

Delete b) and replace with:

b) *Disruptive Behaviour*

For the purpose of this rule, the term “disruptive behaviour” includes, but is not limited to rearing, striking, biting, backing, or falling into others.

A well-mannered horse is a horse that is:

- ***Under control by the exhibitor while tracking and standing for inspection, and***
- ***Reasonably flat-footed whilst standing for inspection.***
- ***Judges should disqualify and excuse from the ring prior to final placings a horse that:***
 - ***Exhibits disruptive behaviour such that that it or other horses are unable to be inspected by the Judge***
 - ***Exhibits disruptive behaviour such that the safety of it, the handler, an exhibitor, a Judge, or another horse is endangered***
 - ***Is not under control of the exhibitor***
 - ***Becomes detached from the exhibitor***
 - ***Has fallen and is on its side with all four feet extended in the same direction***
 - ***Is observed with blood on its body, but not limited to the nose, chin, mouth, tongue or gums, regardless of cause***
 - ***Is lame***
 - ***A Judge may choose to fault a weanling or yearling rather than disqualify***

- ***If a horse exhibits disruptive behaviour described in this rule and causes other exhibitors to lose their horse(s), only the initiating horse will be disqualified and excused. The decision of the Judge will be final.***

Rule 84.7 Performance Halter

Delete the words "Horse classes only." And replace with:

For Horses, Amateur and Youth.

Rule 87 Hunter Hack

Delete in it's entirety and replace with:

Rule 87. HUNTER HACK

The purpose of Hunter Hack is to give horses an opportunity to show their expertise over low fences and on the flat. The class will be judged on style over fences, even hunting pace, flat work, manners, and way of going. The poll should be level with, or slightly above the withers, to allow proper impulsion behind. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a restraint appearance.

- a)*** *Horses are first required to jump two fences, 60cm to 85cm in height. Jumps do not have to be set on a line. However, if the jumps are set on a line they must be set 14.5 m or 18 m, or in increments of 3.5 m, but no less than 11 m. A ground line is recommended for each jump;*
- b)*** *Horses being considered for a placing are then to be shown at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring with light contact;*
- c)*** *At the discretion of the judge, contestants can be asked to hand gallop, pull up and stand quietly following the last fence;*
- d)*** *When necessary to split large classes by running more than one go-round, finalists must both be re-jumped and reworked on the flat;*
- e)*** *Placing for the class will be determined by a score of 0-70 for fence work and 0-30 for flat work*

87.1 Credit – to be given for the following:

Style over fences

Even Hunting pace

Way of going

Flat Work

Manners

87.2 Scoring for Flat Work:

Walk out of 5

Trot out of 10

Canter out of 15

87.3 Faults Flat Work to be scored accordingly, but not necessarily cause for disqualification:

Being on wrong lead and/or wrong diagonal at the trot Excessive speed and/or slowness at any gait;

Breaking gait;

Failure to take gait when called;

Head carried too low or high;

Nosing our or flexing behind the vertical;

Opening mouth excessively;

Stumbling.

87.4 Scoring for Fence Work:

60-70: an excellent performer and good mover that jumps the entire course with cadence, balance, and style.

50-59: a good performer that jumps all fences reasonably well; an excellent performer that commits one or two minor faults.

40-49: the average, fair mover that makes no serious faults, but lacks the style, cadence, and good balance of the scopier horses; the good performer that makes a few minor faults.

30-39: poor movers that make minor mistakes; fair or average movers that have one or two poor fences but no major faults or disobediences.

20-29: a horse that commits one major fault, such as a hind knockdown, refusal, trot, cross canter or drops a leg.

10-19: a horse that commits two or more major faults, including front knockdowns and refusals or jumps in a manner that otherwise endangers the horse and/or rider.

0-9: a horse that avoids elimination but jumps in such an unsafe and dangerous manner as to preclude a higher score.

87.5 Major Faults for Fence Work:

Refusal

Run out

Loss of forward movement

Unnecessary circling on course

First disobedience anywhere on course (3 points)

Second disobedience anywhere on course (6 points)

87.6 Disqualification.

A total of 3 disobediences which can include any of the following:

Refusal, stop, run out or extra circle;

Jumping an obstacle before it is reset;

Bolting from arena;

Off course;

Deliberately addressing an obstacle;

Head carried too low and/or clearly behind the vertical excessively and consistently whilst in motion or otherwise showing the appearance of intimidation

87.7 General

- a) Circling once upon entering the ring is permissible;
- b) After jumping the fence and prior to leaving the arena, the horse will trot a small circle on a loose rein for soundness;
- c) Horses will not be requested to re-jump the course;
- d) Manners are to be emphasised in Youth and Amateur/Select classes;
- e) When an obstacle is composed of several elements, any disturbance of these elements will be penalised; however, only a reduction in height of the top element is to be considered a knockdown;
- f) In cases of broken equipment, the rider can either continue without penalty, or stop and correct the difficulty and be penalised the same as any loss of forward impulsion;
- g) When an obstacle requires two or more fences (in and out), faults committed at each obstacle are considered separately. In case of a refusal or run out at one element, entry may re-jump the previous elements.

87.8 The course - must be posted at least one (1) hour before scheduled time of class.

87.9 Schooling Area - It is mandatory that a schooling area with at least one (1) practice jump is provided, or once course is set in arena, exhibitors can practice over one (1) jump only as instructed.

87.10 Head Gear - Riders must wear an Approved Safety Helmet properly fitted and fastened with harness, as per Rule 80.4 in a Hunter Hack Class and whilst schooling over obstacles.

87.11 Ties – Tie breaker will be the highest score over fences.

Rule 88. Hunter in Hand

Delete 88.5 in its entirety and replace with:

88.5 Scoring System

Conformation 0-20; Walk 0-30; Trot 0-40; Temperament 0-10

Penalties:

1 Point

Break of gait at walk or trot for 2 strides or less

3 Points

Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides

Knocking over a cone

5 Points

Refusal

Buck, rear, strike or kicking

Disqualification – will not be placed

Fall of horse or handler

Become detached from the horse

Off Pattern

Not submitting for inspection prior to pattern

Lameness

Illegal attire (must conform to Rule 88.2)

Illegal equipment (must conform to Rule 88.1)

Rule 89. Hunt Seat Equitation

Delete 89.2.1 and replace with:

89.2.1 Tie Breakers: Three (3) tie breakers to be nominated prior to commencements of class OR rail work will be the tie breaker. If tie breakers are originally nominated, the rail work cannot then be used as the tie breaker

89.6 Penalties

Add to 3 point penalties

- **missing a diagonal up to two (2) strides in the pattern or on the rail**
Add to 5 point penalties
- **missing a diagonal for more than two (2) strides in the pattern or on the rail**
- **obviously looking down to check leads or diagonals**
Add to 10 point penalties:
- **spurring or use of a crop in front of the girth.**

Rule 94. RANCH RIDING

94.9 Penalties

3 Points add the bold type to: break of gait at lope **except when correcting an incorrect lead**

Off-Pattern (OP) Placed below horses performing all manoeuvres

- eliminates manoeuvre **or adds manoeuvres**

Zero (0) score will not be placed

ADD

- **leaving the arena before completing pattern**

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Rule 96. EWD

96.2 Delete in its entirety and replace with:

Tack and Equipment

Equipment is to conform to the needs of the exhibitor and be suitable for the horse. Special adaptive equipment may be used where appropriate.

96.3 Add new dot point:

A rider that goes off pattern will not be disqualified but will place below any other competitor that executes the pattern correctly.

Rule 97. SHOWMANSHIP

Add new:

97.1.1 Tie Breaker - *Three (3) tie breakers to be nominated prior to commencement of the class. If tie cannot be broken, using nominated tie breakers, the Judge will break the tie at their discretion.*

97.6 Add to 10 point penalty

- *Starting on the wrong side of the horse during inspection and/or at the start of pattern*

Rule 99. TRAIL

First sentence, add the following after the words "obstacles"

and no more than ten (10),

99.5 Delete and replace with:

Tie: Prior to commencement of the class, the Judge will nominate all obstacles in order of preference as tie breakers.

Rule 100. WALK, JOG/TROT

100.1

Add a new c)

A competitor that goes off pattern will not be disqualified but will place below any other competitor that executes the pattern correctly

101. VERSATILITY RANCH

101.1 Add new k) *Painted logs or poles are prohibited in Versatility Ranch classes.*

101.3.2 VR Trail

f) Drag an object – Delete and replace with;

For Open and Amateur divisions only. *Drag to be done at the walk or jog.* Drag may be a complete figure of eight and may begin in either direction. The exhibitor must have the rope dallyed on the saddle horn (half or full dally) for the duration of the drag. **NB: No drag in a Snaffle Bit Trail**

Renumber 101.3.6 to 101.3.7

Renumber 101.3.7 to 101.3.8

Add new 101.3.6

101.3.6 When a ground tie obstacle is used in VR Trail, for horses ridden using Romal reins, reins are to be looped over the horn and a get down rope and hobbles are optional.

101.6.2 Roping or Circling: Delete the words "Open exhibitors must rope the cow" and replace with:

Roping is optional in Open class.

On page 136 (2020 Rule Book) 18th line from top of page delete the words:

"If the exhibitor does not catch, the horse will be given credit for rating and tracking and will be assessed a two (2) point penalty to circle the cow."

Rule 102 WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

Add new c) *Tie Breaker - three (3) tie breakers to be nominated prior to commencements of class OR rail work will be the tie breaker. If Tie Breaker is originally nominated, the Rail Work cannot then be used as the tie breaker.*

Rule 104. WESTERN RIDING

After first paragraph add the following:

Lead changes are the act of changing the leading legs of the front and rear pairs of legs at the lope when changing direction.

The lead change must be executed at a lope with no change of gait or speed and be performed in the exact geographical position in the area specified in the pattern description. The change of front and rear leads must take place within the same stride to avoid penalty. Simple lead changes will incur a 3 point penalty (break of gait).

104.3 Scoring

After +1.5 excellent add the following:

A simple lead change will incur a minus 1 ½ manoeuvre score.



104.4 Penalties

3 point penalties 2nd dot point add the word "*not*"

104.7 Delete and replace with:

In the case of a tie, penalties will be used to break the tie.

105. WORKING COW HORSE

Delete the rule in its entirety and replace with

Working Cow Horse will be run under the rules of the Approved Performance Bodies as listed in Rule 44.4

Add new

106. WESTERN DRESSAGE

No points will be awarded for any Western Dressage class that is not Affiliated or approved with Western Dressage Australia.

END.