

OHSET Rules Committee Meeting Minutes – August 27, 2011

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Karen's comments before we started:

- Sometimes a situation comes up (like flags in working pairs) that is ambiguous; it doesn't say in the rule book that flags are allowed, but it doesn't say they aren't allowed. Rule book needs to reduce ambiguity whenever possible.
- OHSET has relied on other organizations' rules in the past and over the years we've adapted rules to meet our needs and fit our organization, so we are less reliant on other organizations.
- In wording rules, "Must" means it is required, "Shall" means it should happen or should be used and points will be deducted if not, and "May" means it's optional and no points will be deducted either way.
- Maybe we should consider removing "Optional Equipment" so we just have Required and Prohibited, and everything not on those lists would be Optional.

OHSET Rules Change Requests

Followed by Committee Discussion and Recommendation in Red

2.4.2 Polo Shirt (page 30)

Add to Rule:

Polo Shirt should be buttoned completely.

OR

Top button of polo shirt may be left open for comfort, but all other buttons should be buttoned.

Explanation:

When athletes come in with their shirt unbuttoned it gives a "sloppy" impression. As a judge I have seen athletes have all buttons open and shirt tucked down so low that the appearance became distasteful for an athletic event.

Submitted by: Judge, Central District

Notes:

Candi suggested we create an SOG for uniforms so we don't have to deal with it every year. We still need to have the rules we currently have, but the details should be in an SOG. Nothing that would result in DQ or elimination should be in SOG, but rather preferences that judges have and that may result in point deductions. Candi recommended we form a committee to develop this document, and she assigned Karissa to head it up. Denise volunteered to serve on the committee also. This committee may come back and say that some requirements or prohibitions should be in the Rules.

2.4 Athlete Uniform *(Wild Rags)*

Add to Rule:

Athletes are permitted to wear garments under their uniform, such as under armor, long johns, turtle necks and wild rags, as long as they are worn in such a manner as to not interfere with the collar or the button up portion of the shirt being clearly viewed by the judge, and never interfering with the athlete's number.

Explanation:

Most athletes in Central District wear garments under their uniform for added warmth at meets, but it is not clearly stated in the rule book that it is acceptable. So, then the interpretation comes in that it is OK to wear certain things but not others. Until someone doesn't like it for some reason.

Submitted by: Parent, Central District

Notes:

Uniform SOG, same as above.

2.4.6.1 Miscellaneous, No adornments. . . . *(Wild Rags)*

Add to Rule:

Wild Rags may be worn as long as properly tied around the neck and tucked inside the shirt so as not to be covering any part of the shirt (number, name of school or name of athlete). Solid color's that are their school color should only be worn.

Explanation:

Wild rags if tied properly around the neck and tucked in the shirt is not an adornment on the uniform. What is the difference between a wild rag and a turtleneck or wearing under armor and the under armor sign can be seen?

Submitted by: Coach, Central District

Notes:

Uniform SOG, same as above.

2.8.3.2 An equine used for in hand trail cannot be cross entered as a riding animal by anyone at any OHSET competition during the same season (PAGE 33)

Change Rule:

"Cannot be cross entered *with in your team. Can be ridden if the need arises by another team*"

Change the word "season" to "meet"

Explanation:

This would give a beginning athletes that are not ready to ride a way to advancing in the season. Once you have advanced to riding this equine, you cannot go back to in hand trail that season. Gives an equine an opportunity to advance.

Submitted by: District Officer, South Valley District

Notes:

Originally this was a rule to allow a special event for minis and for young horses. In favor of eliminating the rule....

- Hard to keep track of whether or not an in-hand horse is used for another event.
- Don't like the idea of another athlete not being able to use that equine in another event, or if the equine progresses during the season to be ready for riding event.
- Coaches with inexperienced riders can require them to participate in another in-hand event, and their horse may still be used in a riding event.

Problems....

- Probably we'd need to change the in-hand trail so it's not exactly like trail.
- Kids with a great showmanship horse can enter and the younger inexperienced horses and athletes won't have a chance.
- Coaches will put more kids into this event because there generally aren't very many participants, making it harder for the young horses that it was originally designed for to be competitive.

8 Year End District Points (page 44), 9 Awards (page 47) & 30.3 State Championship Qualifications; 2.6 Athlete Participation in Meet

Explanation: Clean up state/district qualifying. Conflicts between rules

Submitted by: District Officer , Southern District

Notes:

Purpose of this change is to clarify that athletes need to compete in the particular event in at least two district meets in order to get a district medal, too. Consensus is that athletes should compete in at least two of the three meets to get a district medal. Elimination and DQ would be considered participation (even if athlete doesn't get a participation point for a DQ) for the purpose of medaling.

Should they be required to earn more than just a participation point in two of three district meets in order to medal and/or go to state? Consensus is that we want to

require athletes to earn more than 3 points to get a district medal and to qualify for state.

What about an athlete who breaks a district record? Currently that qualifies them for state and it's not clear that they must participate in that event in at least two meets. Consensus is that we want them to qualify for breaking a record as long as they meet all other criteria, including participating in that event in at least two meets.

14.12.3 (Steer daubing, in the box) (page 55)

Change Rule:

If the athlete has not entered the chute **box** and called for it to be opened within sixty (60) seconds from the time their name is called.

Explanation:

This is just a correction of the term used. This would also be the same as rule 13.11.4 in roping.

Submitted by: Judge, Tri-River Valley District

Notes:

All are in agreement.

18.6 Dressage -

Delete Rule:

.18.6 Fall of horse or rider shall not be an elimination

Add Rule:

18.9.4.4 Fall of horse or rider shall be an elimination.

Explanation:

USEF/USDF rule changed January 2011, after our rule book was published. This will bring OHSET current with those rules.

Submitted by: Rules Chair

Notes:

This would bring us current with USDF. Consensus was to do this. Elimination still earns a participation event.

24.4.3.4 IHOR Optional Equipment (page 78)

Delete Rule:

Leg wraps as optional equipment

Explanation:

We do not allow boots or leg wraps in either if the other in-hand classes (in hand trail or showmanship). To be consistent they should not be allowed in IHOR.

Submitted by: Judge, Central District

Notes:

Donna said we should make the class accessible to all and the leg wraps don't hurt and don't help. In the "Expectations" it says they need to be "properly groomed as in a Showmanship Class." Does that mean no leg wraps and glitter? Karen said it can add to the overall presentation. Others said they'd rather see overall presentation based on the skills of the handlers, etc.

Committee didn't have a consensus on this so it should go back to district for their feedback.

25.3 Working Pairs, optional equipment (page 80)

Add to Rule:

25.3.12 Flags

25.3.12.1 If American flags are used, proper protocol must be maintained.

Explanation:

In the past couple of years athletes have ridden with flags for working pairs since it was not addressed in the rule book.

Submitted by: Coach, NW District

Notes:

Yes, let's allow this.

25 Working Pairs, Degree of Difficulty (page 80)

Add to Rule:

25.9 Define degree of Difficulty - maybe put rule 25.3.2.1 (2 hands on curbs) here..

Explanation:

Since there is now a place on the score sheet for this.

Submitted by: Coach, NW District

Notes:

For example, carrying flags increases degree of difficulty. Can we put this somewhere besides in the rule book? Maybe on the website? Consensus was not to make this part of a rule. It could also be covered at the coaches' training. For example, in diving competitions, certain elements get a specific number of points.

26.5.3 Timed Events, optional equipment, spurs (Page 81)

Add to Rule: Western Spurs

Explanation:

Cattle events and western classes specify western spurs, but not specific in gaming classes. Can an athlete wear English spurs?.

Submitted by: District Officer, Southern District

Notes:

Recommendation of committee is to not change this rule and to take "Western" out of all the other places spurs are mentioned in cattle classes.

27 Stock Seat, Western Trail (page 89)

Change Rule:

Change name to Western Horsemanship rather than Stock Seat

Explanation:

The name should be changed to reflect the current industry standard. Breed shows, college (Varsity Equestrian) call the event Horsemanship. The rule book refers to USEF which does not list an equitation event in it's western classes.

Submitted by: District Officer, NW District

Notes:

USEF calls it Western Seat Equitation (EQ4) There is also a Western Horsemanship section in these rules.

In colleges, it's called "Horsemanship." Suggestion was to call it "Western Horsemanship" and change Stock Seat Trail to "Western Trail."

30.2.5 Other Awards (page 93)

Change Rule:

- Timed Event - Overall and Individual
- Performance - Overall and Individual
- Versatility - Overall and Individual
- Scholarship - One per district

Add Rule:

Something about "see SOG's" for detailed explanations.

Explanation:

I understand that these are listed in the SOG's with the breakdowns for overall and individual awards. However, the athletes do not read (or have any idea that they are listed on the website) the SOG's. They read the rule book (well, they are supposed to read it!)

Since we have taken a lot of "non-rules" out of the rule book, there needs to be a statement in the rule book that says some of the "procedures and non-rules" can be found on the web site, or under each section a reference to see SOGs for further information..

Submitted by: Coach, NW District

Notes:

Need a section that explains what SOGs are and where they can be found, and what rules are. Wherever an event has SOGs associated, put it in the rule book. Include a note "For most current SOGs, see website."

Miscellaneous:

Need 2 different Code of Conduct forms, one for Advisors and Coaches and a different one for all others, parents, trainers etc. Un-Attached Volunteer form seems to indicate that the person filling out the form is not "attached" to any team.

Submitted by: Coach, NW District

Notes:

Candi will do this. It's not a rule.

Unable to find a rule for coaching from the side lines.

Coaching from the sidelines takes place most often in timed and cattle events. Teams practice for a reason. Once the athlete is in the arena, all coaching should stop. This is their event to showcase what they have practiced, for better or worse. Though not as prevalent in performance events, coaching from the sidelines should cease in these events as well.

Submitted by Coach, Central District

Notes:

There would need to be a rule about penalty for this as well

It was suggested that gaming events would be very boring without the kind of "cheering" that goes with it. Karen said that as a judge, if someone calls out some coaching from the audience, it may affect an athlete's score, because if a person picks up a wrong lead and fixes on their own they will score higher than someone who needs coaching. Consensus was that this doesn't need to be a rule.

Need to address a person that signs on as a coach for multiple teams. Seems to be a huge conflict of interest.

Submitted by District officer, Southern District

Notes:

Consensus was that we don't need to address this. Some teams need a coach and if someone is willing to help more than one team – great.

(The following was submitted in letter form, and have been paraphrased here.)

Submitted by Coach, Tri River Valley District

English performance events prohibit any bit with a twist. I understand that OHSET does not want to allow cruel bits, but many of the bits used in gaming far exceed the strength of any bit that is currently prohibited in English Events.

Notes:

Emphasis should be on hands not on bits. Consensus was to allow these bits in Hunt Seat events or Saddle Seat events, but not dressage, because dressage rule specifically forbid them.

Dropped nosebands should be allowed in only dressage, where it is common practice for them. All other English events should prohibit them, including trail.

Notes:

Consensus was to leave our rules as they are.

Running martingales are prohibited in equitation over fences in open shows that typically follow USEF rules, therefore running martingales should be prohibited.

Notes:

Martingales (not specified as to type) are allowed in Equitation over fences - USEF EQ 109.2 KB

Apparently in another section, it indicates that only standing martingales are allowed in equitation over fences. Karen will further research this.

Tack and equipment checks are only done for Driving and Over Fences. They are time consuming and unnecessary. Gaming and Cattle events are dangerous, too, and don't have equipment checks.

Notes:

Karen said she has found some dangerous equipment in both Driving and Over Fences. Outside of OHSET, tack checks are not the norm. Why do we do it for Driving and Over Fences but not for gaming and cattle events? Judges commented that often kids have coaches who don't know much about Over Fences and Driving, but are more knowledgeable in those other events. Consensus was that we leave the rules as they are. We might have more liability issues if we have it in now and remove it.

No cross judging of performance classes of Dressage, Reining, Hunter Equitation (flat and over fences) Western equitation, driving and saddle seat. Cross judging may occur between western equitation, rancher, trail, showmanship, IHOR, drill, gaming and cattle events. This would increase athlete satisfaction which would translate into an increase in OHSET participation.

Notes:

Great idea but can't work in the real world. This would be too challenging in terms of expenses and scheduling. We have an OHSET training that people who want to judge for OHSET can attend. The problem is that it's once a year and on a busy week. Could there be a second training? Maybe one that is especially for judges who are carded in other organizations just to learn about OHSET's rules and expectations? It's also very important for the judges to all talk together about the patterns and rules at the training. Consensus was to take this back to the districts. Candi will also talk with JoAnn to see if there is some way to provide other training.

All score sheets for all of the performance events should be made available to all OHSET coaches, trainers, advisors and athletes. A way to do this would be to copy all score sheets and place them in a notebook.

Notes:

This seems to be a change that is intended to find out how other people scored so judging may be called into question. It may also change the way judges write comments. Judges want to give comments for that particular athlete, not to everyone. Consensus was that we don't want to do this.

Hunt seat equitation has become a highly participated class. . . many come from hunter/jumper aspect. . . many also come from western/English rail and pattern aspect. Suggest we divide hunt seat into rail type equitation and jumping type equitation. Get appropriate judges specific to those areas, athletes would declare which venue they prefer.

Notes:

I cannot find any association that does this. KB

Suggestion was to divide this up into two classes, and athletes couldn't switch during the season. Karen said there is no separate standard for riders in flat classes versus riders preparing to go over fences. Lynley said that's true, but that's not the way it ends up being judged. Candi said that in OHSET we have patterns with elements that are scored separately, so a stock type horse that can do the elements perfectly is going to score higher than a hunter type horse that can't do a haunch or forehand turn. Donna said that one of the things that's most important about OHSET is that we provide a great diversity of disciplines, which is great for the kids, but it also creates a challenge in finding capable judges.

Other rules suggestions that came in late....

Driving - Want to require Thimbles or Breeching on all vehicles. Karen said lighter vehicles usually have wrap straps and they work fine. 4H requires Thimbles or Breeching on all vehicles. Karen said she's never seen a problem in many years of judging and participating in driving. Consensus was to not make a rule change

Helmets – Wants to require for all people riding at any OHSET meet, including coaches who may ride a horse for training. Consensus was that we probably shouldn't have anyone but athletes riding at meets, and if anyone does, they should wear a helmet but we don't want to police it and can't really do much in terms of consequences.

Page 29, Rule 2.3.1.0 Medical insurance info – if required by high school. 2.3.11 copy of medical card if required by high school, 2.3.12 same as above. Consensus was to not make a rule change.

Take OHA out of our rule book – Consensus was yes.

Page 28, Eligibility. Not all schools are holding OHSET athletes to their OSAA standards because they are a "club." Our rules indicate that our athletes must meet the requirements of an OSAA athlete at their school, including academic requirements. Exceptions must be approved by the state board. We need to make this very clear and perhaps identify some consequences for riders and their teams where an athlete competes while ineligible.

2.4..2.1 should say "may only contain..."

2.8.1.1 should say any 'equine requiring any "controlled" medication' and "prior to competing" meaning prior to the event, not prior to the meet, as the need for the medication may arise during the meet.

2.8.3 If one athlete uses a horse in Working Fours, can a different athlete use the same horse for Drill? Yes, horse can participate once in Fours and Drill, with different riders. Riders can still not ride both. Safety of riding one drill is important.

Need to all "allow split reins in team penning." This was a change that got left out of rule book last year.

18.2 – whips will not be allowed at state meet. Does this include trail? Yes.

28.3 – Optional should include protective boots, leg wraps

Committee members should look over the Timed Events suggested changes before the judges' clinic, and get feedback back to Candi by Sept. 5. Consider it a new section. Most of it is exactly how we're operating, but it's not in the rule book. So check it against our rule book and WHO rule book.

Also, Candi passed out updated SOGs and asked for feedback on this also by Sept. 5.

Next Rules meeting will be after state board meeting Sept. 25.

TIMED EVENTS

See separate document

Keyhole

Section 4

Change Rule: It will be considered off course when the horse steps past (with any number of feet) the entrance lines (the end closest to the start/finish line) outside of the 5 foot wide chute.

Explanation: There is a conflict between two statements in the rule book. This was discussed at the most recent (2010) judges clinic. It was decided that "with all four feet" was a mistaken interpretation

Submitted by: Judge

Notes:

Keyhole

Section 4

Change Rule: It will be considered off course when horse goes by entrance lines.

Explanation: Fix in correct wording

Submitted by: Judge

Notes:
