

## Rules Missing in the Rule Book.

- In **roping and daubing**, mounted athletes may help other athletes into the box. The "helper" must be clear of the box before the athlete asks for their calf. All time limits still apply.
- In **working rancher**, protective boots, leg wraps, bandages are **optional**
- In **reining**, end cones should be a minimum of 50' from the end wall.
- In **IHOR**, the correct score sheet was sent out, but is not in the book...the correct scoresheet does include an overall horsemanship score, that includes all handlers at all times.

## Split Reins in Stock Seat

Please refer to page EQ 29 in the current USEF rule book.

You can find this book on line at USEF.org.

Go to Rules, then 2009 Rules,  
then the Equitation section  
then page 29.

This is a chart for "western seat/Reining seat" equitation (USEF has not called it "Stock seat" for a number of years)

If you look at the second row of the chart, "Hands", you will note that under "elimination" it says  
Two hands on the reins  
finger between romel reins  
more than one finger between split reins  
less than 16" of slack between rein hands

There has been some confusion among judges and athletes about "bridging" split reins - crossing the reins to have the left rein fall over the right shoulder and the right rein fall over the left shoulder, and then holding them with a flat hand and four fingers between the reins. This error is on par with, and should be treated the same, as having 2 hands on the reins.

## Clarifications to Questions Asked.

Q: Can a team declare everyone as an **alternate** for every team event? Everyone can be in the pool?

A: RULE 2.7.3 (page 34) Says that "a pool of alternates will be named for teams in each qualifying event before the first competition".

There is no definition of who makes up this pool or how many alternates may be named to a pool. So, yes, as the rule is written, a team can declare their entire team to be alternates for every team event, except athletes already designated for a specific team event as their pool of alternates.

Q: Regarding the Rulebook, what happened to 1.3.4.? "Should any **clarification become necessary** after the new season starts, they will be made public via email, and other appropriate lines of communication including direct communication with the District Chairs and State Board Members."

A: That rule is now 1.2.7, the wording is exact.

Q: In **Trail**, the 20 ft measurement for the fan puts them beside the bridge...what is the correct measurement?

A: The fan should be positioned 20 feet to the left of the side pass pole and with 20 feet of straight line approach after the turn out of the box. The bridge is roughly 17 feet from that same spot, so the fan will actually wind up 3 feet beyond the bridge and side pass rail. What might be unclear is where to start that 20' measurement, but the pattern places it at or slightly beyond the outside edge of the box. With the distance between the side pass pole and the fan at 20', the placement of the fan will not interfere with that element. We do need to be sure that the bridge and side pass pole are not in the way of the line out of the fan. 3' should be ample.

Q: In **Working Rancher**, what do we do with our rope after we recoil?

A: You may tie it on or lay it over the horn.

Q: In **Working Rancher**, when dragging the log...does the log go to the cone or the rider?

A: The pattern states "Drag log around barrel (5)", then "turn back, still dragging log, to cone (6)". As we are talking about dragging the log around the barrel, we are still talking about dragging the log to the cone - the log should be dragged to the cone.

Q: In **Working Rancher**, what changes for left handed ropers?

A: The only change may be positioning on the log. After leading forward, they (just like right handed ropers) should stop, undally, turn and redally before backing – always dallying the same direction.

Q: In **Working Rancher**, is the gate to be done on the offside?

A: The dismount is done on the off side. It does not say which side the gate should be done from. We don't want to see athletes pulling their horses into them. Judges should not penalize the athlete for which side of the horse they are on to do this - just technique, safety, efficiency.

Q: In **Driving**, does the driver really back over the top of the log? With just the right wheel?

A: NO, the pattern says "back right wheel completely through" - and that is after walking through "with the right wheel **between** the poles". If a wheel rolls onto or over the log, it should be considered a major error.

Q: In **Driving**, Is it safe and appropriate to drive one of the cart wheels between the 8" space and is that really what we're asking to do?

A: Yes, that is what's being asked. It's not an easy task, but common place in the industry and doable by all sizes of horses, minis, and ponies.

Q: In **Showmanship**, the last 25 ft measurement - is it from the **judge** to the last cone?

A: YES

Q: In **Showmanship**, is the haunch turn after the back and close ends up being a **270** and the offside trot is a straight line to the last cone (instead of being a diagonal like the pattern shows).

A: It should be a **225 degree** turn. A 270 degree turn would have the horse trotting from the judge at a 90 degree angle from the line of approach. The score sheet in the book and on the web site are correct in stating that the turn is 225 degrees

Q: In **Showmanship**, after the final 90 degree turn, where does the athlete stand.

A: Depends on where the judge is in relation, if all went well, it appears the handler should be on the near side, because the judge would be behind the heart girth on the near side.

Q: In the **Working Pairs** pattern, there is a part where we canter down centerline, but it does not specify what lead

A: Since the canter/lope occurs on a straight line with no turns, there is no "correct" lead. The main point of this element is to pick up the gait simultaneously, stay side by side, and stop together.

## Reminders

- **Helmets:** Nothing can be under the helmet other than the athletes head! No sweatshirt hoods, hats or ear muffs, the helmet will not work or fit properly if something is under it.
- If a rider enters the arena two handed in a curb, (except in drill or pairs where they will be scored accordingly) they will be disqualified and may not continue to ride. It's illegal use of equipment. If they enter and ride correctly and just take their horse two handed for an element, it is a zero on that element.
- If an athlete enters event with the wrong equipment, or illegal equipment, they do not ride/drive, and it's a DQ. If one rider on a team is illegal, it will DQ the entire team.