



AMERICAN SHETLAND PONY CLUB, INC.

American Shetland Pony Registry • American Miniature Horse Registry • American Show Pony Registry

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**Proposed Rule Changes
Due January 1st of the Current Convention Year**

Proposed Rule Changes to be brought before the National Convention must be sent to the Director of Operations to send to the Rules Committee who will review the submissions for the duplication, clarity and conflict with existing rules.

All submissions must be postmarked on or before January 1 of the current Convention year so that they may go through the appropriate process and be able to be printed in the October issue of The Journal. All items **MUST BE** submitted on the following proposal form. All copies must be signed and must include the submitter's ASPC/AMHR membership number.

NO ITEMS WILL BE INTRODUCED FROM THE FLOOR AT CONVENTION!

Proposed ASPC/AMHR Rule Change (Please type or print – Must include Section, Article Part & Item Info)

Section, Article, Part & Item Number: See below Page # -----

Section XIII, Under Saddle Division Rules; Article 4, National Sport Performance Pony Registry

Indicate: Add or Delete: Add new Part for NSPPR Ranch Riding

Proposed Rule Change (provide desired language and intent of rule):

See Attached document for Section XIII; Article 4.3, NSPPR Ranch Riding

Reason/Justification for Rule Change (provide brief description of why this needs changed/added)

The Ranch Riding division gives NSPPR exhibitors a Western Riding class in which to exhibit their ponies that does not call for the unnatural head carriage and gaits commonly expected in a Western Pleasure class.

Proposed Effective Date: January 1, 2022

Committees/Rules that will be effected by change: Rules, NSPPR

Submitted by (please provide best contact info for questions/clarifications)

Name Shari Harders Phone 641-344-7900

Member# 15783 Signature Shari S. Harders

Section XIII, Under Saddle Class Division Rules

4.3 Ranch Riding

A. General Rules.

1. No hoof polish.
2. No braided or banded manes or tail extensions.
3. Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
4. Trimming bridle path is allowed as is trimming of fetlocks or long facial hair.
5. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.
6. Split reins are required.
7. Western tack and attire are required. See Halter Division rules.

B. Ranch Rail Riding Class.

1. The ranch rail riding class measures the ability of the pony to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from one ranch task to another and should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of the working pony. The pony should be well trained, soft and responsive at all gaits; ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint; responsive to the rider and makes timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner; soft in the bridle and yields to contact. The ideal ranch rail pony should have a natural head carriage at each gait. In all gaits, movement of the ranch rail pony should demonstrate a pony needing to cover long distances in a business-like manner. This class should show the pony's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control of the rider. Light contact should be rewarded; the pony shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. Overall manners and responsiveness of the pony while performing maneuvers and the pony's quality of movement are the primary considerations.
2. Required gaits:
 - a. Walk – the walk is a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground covering. As in all gaits, the pony should display a level, or slightly above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.
 - b. Extended Walk – the extended walk is straight, square, and flat-footed, and moves out freely with the pony looking ahead. The extended walk shows more length of stride than the walk.
 - c. Trot – the trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.
 - d. Extended Trot – the extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The pony should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with an above level topline.
 - e. Lope – the lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed with a ground covering stride.
 - f. Stop – from both the lope and the trot, the pony should be in the correct stopping position (both hocks engaged and stopping on the hindquarters). All four feet stop moving before the next maneuver is attempted.
 - g. Reverse – the pony briskly turns 180 degrees away from the rail without forward motion, pivoting on a back foot.
 - h. Back – back on command quietly, willingly and easily in a straight line without resistance.

3. Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A pony may be collected from the extended trot as the pony moves into the lope. The transition from the lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Ponies that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Ponies that stop or attempt to stop prior to trotting should be penalized. Judges should expect to see ponies that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the pony respond correctly should be a credit-earning situation.
4. To rein a pony is not only to guide the pony but also to control his/her every movement. The best reined pony should be willingly guided with little or no apparent resistance. Any movement on his/her own must be considered a lack of control.
5. Open to ponies three years of age and older.
6. This class is intended as a rail class but individuals working off the rail will not be penalized.
7. The rider may use only one hand on the reins. Hands may not be changed. The end of the split reins must fall on the side of the reining hand. One finger between reins is permitted.
8. Holding the saddle horn with the non-reining hand will not be penalized.
9. Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.
10. Class shall work both ways of the rail at all required gaits.