



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 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: Section X, 4.1-4.8 inclusive Page # 198-203

Indicate: Add or Delete: Delete entire section and add new section

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

Remove entire section and replace with new section (see attached)

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

The NSPPR registry is seeing increased interest, and more varied horses being registered and shown. The rules for the standards and halter section are in many cases unclear, and confusing to exhibitors. This rewrite condenses and clarifies the requirements for the NSPPR pony and the showing of the ponies in halter.

Proposed Effective Date: January 2021

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

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

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Signature

## **NATIONAL SPORT PERFORMANCE PONY**

### **Standards and Halter Division Rules**

#### **4.1 Eligibility**

The National Sport Performance Pony Registry is open to any pony 14.2 hands and under that is verified to be at least 50% registered ASPC and/or registered AMHR breeding.

#### **4.2 Standard**

The NSPPR Pony Division is a performance division. Therefore, the appearance of the NSPPR pony should show style and substance, beauty and symmetry, being a balanced individual regardless of size and correct in all aspects of conformation with regard to form to function.

The correct NSPPR type should be based on Form Follows Function. The more correct type will be dictated by the discipline in which it is engaged or exhibited, such as performance halter classes, light or heavy harness, hunter/jumper, competitive driving, or as a mount for riding disciplines.

All types (stock, pleasure, hunter, saddle) are acceptable and none is a preferred type; rather, the type of horse should be suitable to the discipline and style of showing it is performing in.

##### **A. Quality**

The pony should be well proportioned, in good health and flesh (not too fat or too thin), with the overall appearance of refinement, style, beauty and substance.

Healthy mane, tail and forelock should be present. Inconspicuously added hair in mane and tail is allowed. Ponies may be shown with either natural or shortened manes and/or tails. False tails are not allowed.

##### **B. Gaits**

###### **1. Walk**

The walk should be straight with a relatively long stride fitting the horse's type and discipline. The walk must be a flat footed, four-beat gait.

###### **2. Jog / Trot**

The Western jog is a soft, relaxed and quiet, 2 beat gait. A gait resembling a running walk or a rough and stilted walk must be penalized in judging. The speed and stride should be compatible with the size of the pony.

The English trot is either a free-moving, ground covering stride, executed in a long, low frame or a more elevated frame (depending on the type of horse presented). Quick, short strides are to be penalized.

###### **3. Lope / Canter**

The Western lope is a rolling and comfortable, natural 3 beat gait. A four beat lope, and/or excessive slowness (lack of forward motion) is to be heavily penalized.

The English canter is either a ground covering, rolling gait, or a more elevated “uphill” gate (depending on the type of horse presented). It must be a true 3 beat gait. A four beat canter and/or excessive slowness is to be heavily penalized.

#### C. Manners

Good manners are demonstrated by the pony’s obedience to all commands and includes the ability to stand quietly, back readily, walk, jog/trot, lope/canter or halt as requested and, in general, to be guided by a light mouth. Pulling on the bit, head tossing, breaking stride, traveling side-ways and wringing the tail are objectionable.

#### D. Presence

Ponies should exhibit an animation, self-assurance, alertness and personality that stems from good grooming, good care, good training and good handling. Evidence of being “professional” in its line is also present, in that the pony senses what is required and readily expends the effort necessary to obey the demands of its rider, driver or handler.

#### E. Height

Small ponies are not to exceed 10.2 hands (42”); medium ponies are over 10.2 (42”) and do not exceed 12.2 hands (50”); large ponies are over 12.2 hands (50”) and do not exceed 14.2 hands (58”). Classes are open to all registered ponies not exceeding 14.2 hands (58”).

#### F. Shoeing

Hooves must be clean and may have clear or black hoof dressings applied or be shown naturally. Ponies one year and older show barefoot or shod as appropriate to the type being shown.

### 4.3. Performance Halter Class

Halter Classes shall be judged 40% on manners and 60% on balance, conformation, quality and performance (movement) as they represent form to function.

Blemishes, such as scars, splints, and spavins are to be marked down only according to their effect on the soundness of the NSPPR pony. Transmissible weakness and/or unsoundness are to be counted strongly against the pony. Complete or partial loss of sight in either eye will not be a disqualification if the loss of sight results from a traumatic injury. A licensed veterinarian must verify the etiology of the sight loss as traumatic and such copy must accompany the ponies’ papers.

Ponies are to be shown in hand at a walk and jog/trot.

A pony’s height shall not be discriminated against the pony’s placing in halter classes

Pony to be shown in hand according to type (Hunter, Stock, Pleasure, Saddle, etc.) and is judged according to type of discipline presented. No preference is given to any type of in hand tack and attire, but it must be clean, tasteful and appropriate for the show ring.

Halter Classes are chosen from the approved class list.

## A. Ring Procedure

Horses to be shown in halter at a walk and trot. Judge to ask for horse to walk past them and trot away; horse to turn 90 degrees making an "L" and continue to trot into line up. Judges will observe the pony throughout the entire pattern in order to view the horse's movement from front, back and side view.

Entries will be examined by the judge in the lineup.

Pony will stand as appropriate for its type and discipline and remain quiet and exhibit good manners.

## B. Halter Tack and Attire

Ponies may be shown in Western or English tack and attire.

### 1. Western Tack and Attire:

Neat western show halter and lead strap are permitted, silver or decorative halters are allowed.

Whips and/or crops are prohibited.

The chain of the lead strap may be in under the chin, but may not be over the nose of the pony. Lip chains are not allowed.

Artificial appliances including tail braces, false tails or tail extensions are not allowed.

Exhibitor shall wear Western clothes consisting of boots, western hat, pants and long sleeved shirt. Neat and clean blue jeans and short sleeve shirts with a collar are not to be penalized. Vests, coats, ties, and gloves are optional.

### 2. English Tack and Attire

Hunter, pleasure, or saddle type tack and attire are all acceptable, in accordance with the horse's type.

#### a. Hunter Tack and Attire

Bridle is optional on yearlings and younger ponies but mandatory on ponies two and older. Decorative bridles and halters (silver or colored) are prohibited.

Bridle must have egg butt, D-ring, O-ring or full-cheek snaffle bit.

For ponies one year old and younger, the halter and lead must be plain leather with no silver or other decorations.

The chain on the lead may be under the chin; however, no chains are allowed over the nose or in the pony's mouth and no lip chains are allowed.

Attire of the handler should permit free movement. Color may be chosen to compliment the pony, but it should be conservative. Suitable attire shall be a collared polo shirt or

collared dress shirt (solid-colored and either white or another conservative color), or suitable Huntseat attire. Vest, coat, ties and gloves are optional. Jeans are prohibited. Running shoes, paddock boots, hunt boots or other appropriate footwear is allowed; cowboy boots are prohibited.

b. **Pleasure / Saddle Tack and attire**

Full bridles, Mare bridles, or cable type halters are all acceptable. Yearlings and younger ponies may not show in bridles.

Attire of the handler should permit free movement and be appropriate to the type of pony being shown.