



# PFHA 2023

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J&S Clinic

Judges and Steward interactions





# Judges and Steward Expectations

- Judges judge gait and look over welfare of our Paso Fino horses.
- Stewards look over welfare of our Paso Finos and assist Judges, Show Management, Exhibitors as needed with rules and issues.
- Easy right....
- Absolutely not, but made easier when issues arise if Judges would ask Stewards into the ring (ie, lameness, blood, illegal tack)



# Judges and Steward Expectations

- Maintain up to date with current rule book
- Understand how to use/find rules
- Be able to provide constructive feedback during show
  - This applies during show (lineup and microphone) and when exhibitor requests time to speak with judge(s) after show through steward.
- Stay current with maintaining **Annual** membership and renewal of licenses (PFHA, USEF)
- Stay current with maintaining clinic
  - certified every 2 years, Senior Certified every 3 years





# Judges and Steward Expectations

have the right to appeal or may make application again at a later date in the manner prescribed by these rules.

## **B. Due Date.**

All the Judge and Steward annual renewal dues must be paid not later than September 30 each year. If the Judge or Steward does not pay the renewal dues by September 30, then the renewal will be permitted only if the Judge or Steward pays the renewal dues and application late fee by October 31 of that year. In no case will a Judge or Steward card be issued for that show year if dues and fees are not paid by October 31 of that year.

## **C. Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy.**

Judges/Stewards renewing their certification each year must submit a signed Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy Statement with their appropriate renewal fee

## **D. Clinic Requirement.**

A Senior Certified Judge or Senior Certified Steward is required to attend a clinic at least once every three (3) years. A Certified Judge or Certified Steward is required to attend a clinic at least once every two (2) years. A Judges and Stewards Clinic will be held annually.

## **VI. Complaint.**

Any member may file a complaint with the Association office alleging that a Judge or Steward failed to attend a show, failed to conduct a class in accordance with the specifications or in violation of the rules and/or failed to perform their duties according to the rules. On receipt of such a complaint, the Executive Director or Judges and Stewards Committee shall investigate the complaint. Any complaint must be made and handled in accordance with the procedures described in Chapter One, Section IX. B. and C., with the exception that either the Executive Director or the Judges and Stewards Committee may determine that sufficient cause exists to schedule a hearing on the matter.

The Judges and Stewards Committee can issue a written warning to the official if the Judges and Stewards Committee deems necessary. A warning card will be issued for issues not severe enough for a Hearing. If the official receives three warning cards in a one (1) year period, the matter will be referred to the Hearing Committee.

F. Perform any additional duties in connection with the finances of the Association as requested by the President or the Board.

G. Annually review the dues structure of the Association and make recommendations to the Board for any changes. (See Article III, Section 2.)

## **Section 6. Judges and Stewards Committee.**

This committee shall consist of 5-7 members of the Association. The duties of the committee shall be as follows:

- A. With the approval of the Board, establish, maintain and upgrade standards for all Judges and Stewards.
- B. Cooperate with the Education and Clinic Committees in the execution of the Association Judges and Stewards Clinic. A Senior Certified Judge or Steward is required to attend a clinic at least once every three (3) years. A Certified Judge or Steward is required to attend a clinic at least once every two (2) years. A Judges and Stewards Clinic will be held annually. Any official who fails to fulfill clinic requirements or who fails to meet officiating requirements will not be eligible to have his/her license renewed and will have to apply for an extension. The Judges and Stewards Committee has the option of allowing a one year clinic extension with officiating restriction or a one year officiating extension. All requests must be received in writing via mail, email, or fax. This committee will also develop such materials as is necessary for the upgrading of the judging of the breed as outlined in the Constitution.
- C. Act upon every application for enrollment, renewal, review, promotion and certification of Judges and Stewards.
- D. Maintain a current file in the Association office of all Judges and Stewards and Applicant Judges and Applicant Stewards. This file will include all decisions and actions of the committee. This file is confidential, however, upon request, Judges, Stewards and applicants must be shown any material pertaining to them as an individual. However, consistent with Chapter Five, I. B., all information regarding references or questionnaires sent out as part of the application process is confidential and not subject to inspection by individuals.
- E. Develop, implement and maintain an effective feedback system concerning the expertise and ability of Judges to judge according to the breed standard and the rules.



# Show thoughts

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## Poll Questions:

- 1) When J&S accept a show to officiate at, when should they look at their certification/renewal status?
- 2) When accepting a show, does it matter if it is USEF as well?
- 3) What obligations would a USEF show add to J&S?
- 4) Should I have current rule book (hardcopy or electronic)





# Prior to Show

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- Am I current with my official certification (recertified annually)
- If not, do not accept show
  - Contact PFHA office and Judges and Steward Committee Chair
  - Reinstatement steps (could be fines and learner shows...)
- Am I current with Safe Sport and other USEF requirements
- Do I have any learners to mentor?
  - Who can do this Certified? Sr Certified?
  - Do I have forms to fill out? Where do I get them?



# Prior to start of show

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- Review show schedule and classes posted
- How getting to show grounds!
- Go over any show management requests, if any
- Timelines, ie when does show start, does show have dinner scheduled, etc
- Review Rule Book!





# Prior to start of show

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- Review and approve patters for trail and horsemanship as applicable
  - Judges/Steward must ensure patterns meets rules
  - Judges review for their understanding and scoring of class
  - Pattern must be posted at least 2 hours before class
- Judge - Sign off on all patterns
- The two hour rule is even more important at shows where they start with trail class....





# During show

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- Welfare issues Lameness
  - Lameness, now more than in previous years as there may be only one Judge at the show, if going to excuse exhibitor may want to call in Steward to help in interaction and documentation
  - Explanation that this does not DQ from show but only excuse from that class (if did not complete class cannot enter championship). If excused from lineup and completed class requirements exhibitor may go into championship if horse is not lame later.
  - If horse was only lame for example just stepping on a rock and then later same day fine, can compete in other classes



# When to interact?

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Poll Questions

Welfare issues Shoes

- What classes are shoes mandatory?
- Can they use aluminum front steel back?
- Horse has shoes on front but not back? Good?





# During show

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## Welfare issues Shoes

- Mandatory in FINO
- Must be same type front and back
- Must be all four feet
- Issues: Explanation that this does not DQ from show but only that class (if did not complete class cannot enter championship)
- Can correct shoes and continue to compete in other classes, next day



## During show - Shoes Page 80

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- All horses showing in Classic Fino must be shown shod. The length of the shod hooves is not to exceed four and one-half (4-1/2) inches, including shoes.
  - All four (4) feet must be shod with the same type of shoe of the same material, weight and thickness, although front and back hooves may be shod in different sizes. Each shoe cannot exceed ten (10) ounces. Weighted shoes, trailers, heel caulks, and any style of pads are prohibited. Toe and/or side clips drawn from the shoe are allowed as long as the clips are an integral part of the plate shoe. Any horse found to have illegal shoe weight (10 ounces) or material will be disqualified from the class.





# Polling Question

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- Horse Throws Shoe during class
  - What do we do? See next slide
- Can exhibitor correct shoes and continue to compete?



# Process to throws shoe in class

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Stop Class, line up horses

- Call in Steward
- Look for shoe
- If found, weigh, what is allowed?
- Ask exhibitor if they want to have shoe replaced, or compete as is or be excused?
- Call in Farrier
- How long does the farrier have to replace shoe?
- Can correct shoes and continue to compete?





## Horse throws shoes - pg 93

- If a horse casts a shoe ( $\leq 10$  Oz) in a class, time starts (after weighing, measuring and/or gauging has concluded, if applicable) when the farrier or his assistant touches the shoe or the horse. No more than three minutes will be allotted to find a shoe; if the shoe is not found, the exhibitor may elect to continue or withdraw. If a horse is removed from the ring for the purposes of shoeing, the steward or judge shall accompany and remain with the horse until it is returned to the ring, excused or disqualified from the class.
- Two attendants are permitted in the ring to assist a competitor during his/her time-out. If at the expiration of five minutes the repair has not been made, the competitor may proceed as is or be excused or disqualified.
- The steward or judge is responsible for timing unless an official timer is present.



## During show

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- Welfare issues Blood
  - If blood found on horses mouth during class (typically seen at lineup) call in steward to document as this is immediate DQ
  - Other areas on horse, whip marks, spur marks





# When to interact - Blood

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## F. Cruelty and Abuse Page 80, 81

- Showing a horse with raw or bleeding sores or raw or
- bleeding abrasions around the muzzle, nose, jaw, chin groove or jaw is considered an act of abuse and must be disqualified from the competition.



# When to interact- Tack

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- Welfare issues Tack
  - The Judge **MUST** check tack in every class (possibly during and expected at lineup)
    - While Stewards do their best to look over horses before class, unless there is a “prepista” cannot ascertain that all are checked
    - Even if there is a “prepista” doesn’t mean tack is same as checked or that Steward missed seeing something
    - **DO NOT ASSUME TACK AND ATTIRE ARE CORRECT**
  - Illegal tack, specifically bits/severe headstalls call in Steward to interact and document
  - Bits can be checked at any time discretion of J/S and show management





# When to interact

During show

- Welfare issues Tack
  - Illegal bit (ex gag)
  - Illegal placement of curb chain
  - Illegal Headgear (Metal, severe)







# When to interact – Tack - Drop Bit

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- During show- Welfare issues Tack
  - At any PFHA sanctioned show at any time, the show steward may require a rider or riders to dismount and drop their horse's bit(s) for inspection. Show officials may select entire classes or individuals in any division for inspection. In championship classes, the steward or judge may inspect the bits for the horses awarded top placements at the end of the class. This may be done in the ring or as the horses exit the ring. For safety, riders must dismount and drop the horse's bit for inspection. Show officials may determine the level and number of placements to be checked and the location for the inspection.





# When to use Sounding Board?

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- 1) Only Fino
- 2) Pleasure Performance Fino
- 3) Western Pleasure
- 4) Trail and Horsemanship
- 5) Bella Forma
- 6) Country Pleasure
- 7) Equitation
- 8) PFHA International Equitation



# When to use Sounding Board?

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- 1) ~~Only Fino~~
- 2) Pleasure Performance Fino
- 3) Western Pleasure – As a test after line up
- 4) Trail and Horsemanship – where approved on pattern
- 5) Bella Forma - as a work off test
- 6) ~~Country Pleasure~~
- 7) ~~Equitation~~
- 8) PFHA International Equitation





# When to use Sounding Board page 167

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## **I. Use of Sounding Board.**

*Judges may use the sounding board in Classic Fino, Paso Performance, Paso Pleasure and Bellas Formas classes or as a test in Western Pleasure and, after prior consultation with Show Management, as an obstacle in a Paso Trail class. The Judge may not require a horse to perform the Paso Largo on the sounding board.*



# When should DQ or Excuse?

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- What classes can judge DQ exhibitor due to not gaiting?
  - Any?
  - None?
  - Thoughts?





# When should DQ or Excuse?

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## K. Disqualified/Excused. Page 95

**Disqualified from class.** While the class is working, horse is required to leave the ring by the exhibitor or by the judge prior to the lineup. The horse is not qualified for the championship.

**Disqualified from competition.** Horse will be disqualified from the entire competition under the following circumstances.

- a. Horse exits arena without permission.
- b. Abuse/cruelty.
- c. Ineligible exhibitor due to relationship with judge.
- d. Ineligible horse due to relationship with judge
- e. Undue stress on horse.
- f. Soreing.

**Excused from class.** Exhibitor completes the class and remains in the ring at the lineup. Horse is qualified for the championship.



# When should DQ or Excuse?

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- What classes can DQ/Excuse exhibitor due to not gaiting/meeting class expectations?
- What classes can DQ/Excuse Youth?





# When should DQ or Excuse?

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- What classes can Excuse/DQ exhibitor due to not gaiting/meeting class expectations?

**Time Out:** The competitor may call only two time-outs per class. The penalty for exceeding the allowed time out(s) is for the entry to be **excused or disqualified**.

**International Eq:** Participants that turn in circles around one of the poles during the Figure Eight test to show off shall be **disqualified in classes over 9 years of age**. Younger ages shall be penalized. Participants shall be penalized if they enter the Figure Eight incorrectly or, perform more or less than three figure eights in the manner described herein.



# When should DQ or Excuse?

- What classes can Excuse/DQ exhibitor due to not gaiting/meeting class expectations?

**Bella Forma:** Any horse that fails to demonstrate the Paso Fino gait, so that the Judge can evaluate and ascribe gait percentages, shall be **disqualified** from placement.

## **Horsemanship: Youth and Amateur**

- Horses that do not perform the Paso Fino gait will be **excused** after lining up. (Prior to performing pattern) Note: **Off Pattern** A rider will **not** be disqualified for failure to complete the pattern in the correct sequence, but must be placed accordingly.

**Versatility:** Failure to properly execute the Paso Corto and Paso Largo, demonstrating an evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait, will automatically **disqualify** the horse and it will not be asked to do the individual work out to execute a figure eight maneuver at a Paso Corto and taking the jump from a Canter. Failure to perform jump (allowed one refusal) is **disqualification**.





# When should DQ or Excuse?

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What classes can DQ/Excuse Youth?

- **Junior Riders May be Excused.** A Junior Youth rider may be excused from a class if the rider's horse does not meet the requirements of the class.
- All exhibitors including YOUTH can be excused due to safety and with unruly horses – Please let steward know so we can document and potentially explain to parents...



# When should DQ or Excuse?

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Potential situation: Age of Youth and riding stallion/colt

- Youth says they are 13 at gate and enter Youth Fino Class on a stallion
- During class you are informed youth is only 12

What do you do? Verify age - An exhibitor's classes shall be determined by the exhibitor's age on the first day (September 1) of the current show year, and this age shall remain the same throughout the show year.

- Do you as judges/stewards Allow to finish class, get placement and they tell them about the issue or Immediately stop the class? (best to have them dismount and have a handler walk out stallion)





# When should DQ or Excuse?

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Potential situation:

**Handling Stallions.** A child under thirteen (13) years of age, as determined by the current show year (See Chapter Three. Section I. A. 2.), shall not at any time ride, handle or exhibit a colt or stallion on the show grounds during an Association sanctioned show. This rule applies to all classes, pointed or non-pointed, specifically including Leadline classes. **The adult responsible for such a child who violates this rule will be subject to dismissal from the show grounds and forfeiture of any remaining fees.**

By allowing we are open to potential issues including fines, child must dismount and an adult or 13 and older lead horse out.

This happens more than you know! Hopefully stopped at in gate!



# When should DQ or Excuse?

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- What classes can Excuse/DQ exhibitor
- Safety issues, any exhibitor can be DQ/excused during class including youth of all ages
- QUESTION>>>>
- What about sub-juniors in Open and Amateur classes? Can they be DQ/Excused like adult? YES





# When should DQ or Excuse?

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- What classes can Excuse/DQ exhibitor due to not gaiting/meeting class expectations?

**Pleasure class:** Horse refuses to back?

EX or DQ

**Western Pleasure class:** Horse refuses to back?

EX or DQ

Why?



# When should DQ or Excuse?

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- What classes can Excuse/DQ exhibitor due to not gaiting/meeting class expectations?

**Pleasure class:** Horse refuses to back?

EX or DQ No, its 5% of class, pin down accordingly Rule follows

**Western Pleasure class:** Horse refuses to back?

DQ

Why? Rules follows





# When should DQ or Excuse?

- What classes can Excuse/DQ exhibitor due to not gaiting/meeting class expectations?

## **Pleasure class:** Horse refuses to back?

This class shall be judged 20% on the Paso Corto, 20% on the Paso Largo, 20% on the flat Walk, 5% on the back and 25% on manners, conformation, attitude and way of going and 10% on the sounding board when available.

Each rider shall be asked to demonstrate the back from the line-up. In the back, the horse shall maintain proper head position, show evidence of a good mouth, back in a straight line and be readily responsive.

## **Western Pleasure class:** Horse refuses to back?

This class shall be judged 35% on the Paso Corto, 30% on the Lope, 10% on the flat Walk and 25% on manners, attitude and way of going.

- All horses being considered for an award are required to back in a straight line for placement. **Refusal to back disqualifies the horse from placement.**



# Review

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- It is important for Judges and Stewards to interact as we are the officials of the show and the “face” of “PFHA”
- Stewards are a “line of defense” for judges and can only help with as much as they are told.
- Judges please let your steward know about lameness, blood, Disqualifications and other issues so stewards can add to report and help diffuse problems.
- Exhibitors and parents can often get hot headed about Disqualifications and Excusals and when we work as a team it can ease the issue.





## Q & A

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Questions?

Thank you for your active participation during this presentation and for serving as Judges and Stewards for our Paso Fino Horse Association