



# Diagonal Breed Policies & Procedures

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Approved by PFHA Board of Directors on:  
1/18/2025

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# Paso Fino Horse Association, Inc.

## Diagonal Breed Policies & Procedures

### Chapter One – Diagonal Policies & Procedures General Statement

- A. The intent of this document is to summarize PFHA Board Policies & Procedures adopted in the past to facilitate offering classes for diagonal horses. This document is meant to support and supplement the PFHA Rule book as printed without being a duplicate copy of existing registration and show rules.
- B. Comparison to the PFHA Rule Book: After reviewing Chapter 8 of the Rule Book the Diagonal Task Force/Registration Committees found very few procedural registration differences. These situations are more specific to the diagonal registration forms; i.e. a “breed” field on the diagonal registration form, a different numbering sequence for printing registrations and a new form and procedures to change breed after registration. Therefore, the general registration rules and procedures as described in Chapter Eight of the 2016 PFHA Rule Book, pages 141-167 will be followed concerning diagonal registrations. *“Once any additional registries are determined to be established, all Association registration rules and requirements will pertain to said registry.” Rule Book Chapter 8, IV, B6.*
- C. The procedures detailed here within will serve to protect the integrity of both the Paso Fino Horse Registry, the PFHA Rule Book and the new PFHA Diagonal Registry.

### Chapter Two – Pedigree Eligibility for PFHA Diagonal Registration

- A. The PFHA Diagonal Registry is differentiated from the Paso Fino Registry by implementing a “D” in the registration number and adhering a silver seal to the Certificate of Registration. The diagonal pedigree/bloodlines have intermixing of the three diagonal breeds -Trocha, Trocha y Galope and Trote y Galope. The earliest generations of diagonal horses had intermixing of Paso Fino bloodlines and while this was accepted practice in the past, the PFHA diagonal registration policy will address this as follows:
  - 1. For an applicant - diagonal horse having no registration papers with any PFHA Approved Registry, the PFHA Diagonal Registry will not accept if there are Paso Fino bloodlines in the first, second or third generations.
  - 2. For an applicant - diagonal horse with a certificate of registration from any of **PFHA’s Accepted Registries**, the PFHA Registry will not accept if there are Paso Fino bloodlines in the first or second generations.
  - 3. Pedigrees may contain breed variations but not Paso Fino bloodlines as outlined in A1 and A2 above. “Registration of crosses of pure-bred Paso Fino horses to any other breed for which the Association maintains a registry will be strictly prohibited.” Rule Book, Chapter 8, IV, B6

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4. Every applicant must submit a Diagonal Registration Application. The Association will evaluate the application **for generation completeness** and determine if the applicant horse meets the requirements to be accepted into the Diagonal Registry. ***In the event of missing parentage in a sire or dam registered with PFHA prior to Jan. 1, 2020 their offspring will be grandfathered as eligible for the diagonal ancestry as long as no Paso Fino bloodlines. If a pedigree from an affiliate registry is missing generation completeness the Registration Advisory Committee will research and determine the eligibility for registration with PFHA.***
5. ***PFHA Show Validation Certificates issued prior to 2020 will expire with the ending of the 2020 show season. Beginning with the 2021 show season all diagonal horses must be either: a). registered with the Association or b). hold a valid PFHA International Show Validation Certificate. A PFHA International Show validation Certificate is good for one year and the fee will be determined by the Finance Committee.*** Applicant horses that do not have accessible DNA records must be DNA tested through PFHA at the diagonal owner's expense.
6. Microchips are required for PFHA Diagonal Registration.
7. ***Stallion Breeding Reports- Stallion Reports must be filed in accordance with the PFHA Rule Book, Chapter Eight, IV.(F) Page 149.***

### Chapter Three – Change of Gait and Evaluation.

#### A. Limitation on Number of Changes and Age of Horse

- 1 For horses under 85 months of age, only two gait changes are permitted
- 2 . For horses older than 85 months, one additional gait change request is allowed, and it shall be presented to the Registry Advisory Committee for review and approval.

#### B. Gait Evaluation Procedures.

1. The original Diagonal Certificate of Registration, the completed Gait Evaluation form and the recording fee must be mailed to the Association for any gait changes to be recorded.
2. For evaluations completed at a show, a copy of the completed evaluation form must be provided to the Show Secretary prior to class entry into the “new” gait/breed class.
3. The completed gait change form must be submitted to the Association by the show secretary within fifteen (15) days of the last day of the show, to retain any show points received.
4. Gait evaluation training and procedures for conducting will be provided at the yearly Education Clinic(s). Refer to the “Diagonal Evaluation Form” for details to schedule an evaluation.

### Chapter Four – Diagonal Division Classes

#### A. Diagonal Approved Classes for Regional Shows

1. The offering of diagonal breed classes at the Regional level is optional.

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2. Both classes & championship classes for each diagonal breed may be offered by gender and age. **Effective with the 2021 Show Year (Sept 1, 2020) a horse's age is stated in months as counted from the foaling date. For purposes of determining the appropriate class for competition, a horse's age is determined in months from the foaling date to the last day of the month preceding the month of the show.**
  - a. May be open (all ages & all sexes)
  - b. May be divided by ages (all sexes)
    - Schooling 36-60 months**
    - 61-84 months**
    - 85 months and older.**
  - c. May be divided by ages listed above in 2.b. and sexes
    - Fillies/Mares
    - Colts/Stallions
    - Geldings
  - d. **May offer amateur classes at the Regional and National level.**
3. To be eligible for entry into a Diagonal Championship class a horse must have been properly entered, shown and judged in one of the qualifying diagonal classes for their sex.
4. Show points for diagonal classes are the same as awarded to Paso Fino horses.
5. Trocha and Trocha y Galope horses may cross enter into Trocha and/or Trocha y Galope without requiring a gait/breed change.

### **B. National Show Classes**

1. Classes at the National level will be limited to Stallions/Colts, Mares/Fillies and Geldings in Trocha, Trote y Galope and Trocha y Galope.
2. Trocha and Trocha y Galope horses may cross enter Trocha and/or Trocha y Galope without requiring a gait/breed change.
3. Points for qualification for the National show shall be the same as for a Paso Fino horse.
4. Should a Trocha and/or Trocha y Galope gait/breed horse cross enter, qualifying points must be accumulated in each gait/breed.

### **C. Show Point Accumulation**

1. The Association shall maintain a record of points awarded horses competing in diagonal classes. A diagonal horse may have accumulated points in two diagonal gaits due to cross entry as for Trocha and Trocha y Galope.
2. Year End **High Point** Awards. Diagonal Horses earn points in the same method as a Paso Fino horse showing in multiple divisionsChapter Five – Qualifying Gaits

### **A. Gait Descriptions**

1. Trocha – The “trocha” a rhythmical and harmonious tempo but in four uneven beats, identified by the sound tras-tras-tras-tras. (Note - The debate on whether the gait is lateral or diagonal, because of disagreement on whether analysis begins with a hindleg or a foreleg is beyond the scope of this document).
2. Galope - The “galope” or canter is a movement of forward diagonal propulsion in three

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beats: the first stage begins with the striking of one hind leg; the second stage is taken by the opposite hind leg and the foreleg diagonal to it; then the third stage is completed when the last foreleg hits the ground. The beat makes a 1-2-3, or ca-tor-ce sound.

3. Trote – The “trote” is a movement described by successive and alternating diagonally-paired leg positions. Unlike the trot the trote is a smooth gait, with no suspension in the air, therefore posting is not required. This produces a 1-2-1-2 beat making a tas-tas-tas sound when striking the ground.

### Chapter Six – Class Procedures, Tack & Attire.

#### A. Trote Y Galop and Trocha Y Galope.

*Exhibitors will enter the ring in counterclockwise direction until instructed to reverse. The reverses will be made toward the center of the ring returning to the rail in the opposite direction. The horses will perform both gaits in both directions as follows*

1. Enter the ring to the right on the rail at the Trote (or Trocha)
2. Reverse
3. Galope when the horse returns to the rail
4. Trote (or Trocha)
5. Reverse
6. Galope when the horse returns to the rail
7. Bring the horse back to the Trote (or Trocha)
8. Sounding board in both directions starting with the Trote (or Trocha) and returning at the Galope
9. Line Up, where the horse will be asked to back-four to six steps back in a straight line backwards
10. Optional individual tests or work-offs
  - a. Figure Eight Pattern- 4 figure eights (2 in one direction at the Trote or Trocha, make a straight line then two additional eights in the opposite direction at the Galope; halt in the center between post; back 4 to 6 steps; traverse the sounding board in both directions (one at Trote/ Trocha and return at the Galope).
  - b. Horses in Parallel
  - c. Reverses on the Rail
  - d. Circles Test

#### B. Trocha Pura.

*Exhibitors will enter to the right and circle the arena in a counterclockwise direction until instructed to reverse. Horses must work in both directions. The reverses will be made toward the center of the ring returning to the rail in the opposite direction.*

Continuing in the trocha gait, the horses must:

1. Reverse

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2. **Travel the sounding board upon direction.**
3. **Line up, where the horse will be asked to back four to six steps in a straight line.**
4. **Optional individual tests or work-offs**
  - a. **Figure Eight pattern for Trocha- Each selected horse will perform three figure eights (2 in one direction, make a straight line then one additional eight in the opposite direction); halt in the center between the two posts; back 4 to 6 steps; traverse the sounding board in both directions.**
  - b. **Horses in parallel**
  - c. **Circles test (3 circles in one direction, change direction towards the pole and 3 additional circles in the opposite direction)**

**C. For All Paso International Shows (AP-I) Effective with the 2021 show year.**

**All Paso International (AP-I) shows shall follow the class Procedures above, except that after line up inspection is complete- all horses moving forward in competition will be required to individually perform the figure eight pattern as follows:**

**Trocha Horses: 3 figure eights (2 in one direction, make a straight line then one additional eight in the opposite direction); halt in the center between post; back 4 to 6 steps; traverse the sounding board in both directions.**

**Two Gait Horses (Trote y Galope and Trocha y Galope): 4 figure eights (2 in one direction at the Trote or Trocha, make a straight line then two additional eights in the opposite direction at the Galope; halt in the center between post; back 4 to 6 steps; traverse the sounding board in both directions (one at Trote/ Trocha and return at the Galope).**

**Should an additional work off be requested it must be requested in the following order:**

1. **Reverse of directions on the rail four times.**
2. **Traverse the sounding board in both directions. A parallel comparison up and back.**
3. **Complete 3 circles in one direction, then at the **starting point**, change direction to perform 3 additional circles in the opposite direction.**

**These tests can't be combined and must be performed independently and in sequential order starting with #1 with two or more horses. After the first test is completed, if the judges are not ready to pin, they can request the next test in the order and so on. For horses that perform two gaits, the tests will be called starting at the Trote/ Trocha and the second part of the test at the Galope.**

- D. **Tack and attire shall be the same as Classic Fino with the exception that the rider's hat color is white. Optional zamarros or chaps may be worn. In schooling classes horse may use schooling headgear. (See PFHA Rule Book, Chapter Two, Section VII. C. Schooling Headgear).**
- E. **Horse's Manes: In keeping with the Colombian heritage manes may be either roached or long and free flowing.**
- F. **Judging Percentages for Diagonal classes.**

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<b>Category</b>	<b>Evaluation Percent</b>
<b>Execution &amp; Naturalness of the Gait</b>	50%
<b>Appearance &amp; Conformation</b>	25%
<b>Manners &amp; Way of Going</b>	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>



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## Addendum:

This document was approved by PFHA BOD (Date) \_\_4/4/2020\_\_\_\_\_

## **Modifications: #, Comment and Date PFHA BOD Approved Modification.**

**April 4, 2020 presenting the following changes for BOD approval: Approved 4/4/2020**

## Revision/Clarifications:

1. Chapter Two A (4)- In the event of missing parentage for a sire or dam holding a PFHA diagonal registration issued prior to Jan. 1, 2020 their offspring will be grandfathered as eligible for the registry if no Paso Fino bloodlines.
2. Chapter Two A (5) Affiliate Registrations having missing parentage will be reviewed by Registry Advisory Committee.
3. Chapter Two A (5) Expiration of PFHA Show Validation Certificates at the end of the 2020 show season. Add wording for new PFHA International Show Validation Certificates beginning 2021 show season.
4. Chapter Three A (2) -Changing the age limit for gait changes.
5. Chapter Four A (2)- Inclusion of the 2019 rule change proposal for ages by month.
6. Chapter Six (A) and (B)- Clarification of call procedures to match the Judge's Cards.
7. Chapter Six (C)- PFHA shows classified as an International Competition – Figure eights
8. Chapter Six (E) –New clarification for Manes.

Revised 3/13/20

**January 18,2025 presenting the following changes for BOD approval: Approved 1/18/2025**

1. Chapter Four A (d)- May offer amateur classes at the Regional and National level.

Revised 1/22/2025