

JAN 09 2020



## AMERICAN SHETLAND PONY CLUB, INC.

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

81-B East Queenwood Road Morton Illinois 61550

Phone: 309-263-4044 Fax: 309-263-5113 www.shetlandminiature.com

### 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. All items **MUST BE** submitted on the following proposal form. All copies **MUST** be in type format, 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 (Must be typed – Must include Section, Article Part & Item Info)

Section, Article, Part & Item Number: Driving Performance Page # starts on pg. 25

my Rule book is 2021 edition  
Indicate: Add or Delete: clarify - change

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

answered in letter

Reason/Justification for Rule Change (provide brief description)

also in letter

Proposed Effective Date: 2026 Show season Submitted by (Membership #) 13398

Name Barbara DeShon Phone 208-680-2793

Signature Barbara L DeShon

To rules committee concerning Chariot Classes!!

November 2025

A few years back (2022 I believe) we took our chariot to the national show in OK. As per entry requirement we had been entered since the deadline. We were DQed in the warm up arena because we did not have wood wheels. At that moment I thought bad me for not being aware of this rule. We then went to Mike's concession booth and were fortunate as he had wood wheels that fit our chariot. We purchased them and changed our wheels. NOW legal we went back to the show ring. Again, we were DQed in the warm up arena because we had NOT participated in the qualifying class. I do understand that rules have to be followed! However, this was extremely disappointing!!

When I asked why the wood wheels were required, I was told for safety. That is the wrong answer! If I had been told for authenticity which is part of the criteria for judging I would have accepted it!

Here in Idaho we chariot race for REAL. Not minis and ponies (although we have requested a division for them) but real race horses!! It is a winter sport run from the Saturday after Thanks Giving until the world Playoff the last weekend in March or the first one in April. Several of our local horse people participate. The week end I originally wrote this we ran 7 races which is 14 teams minimum!! It is a speed event (RACE) at times run with runners to replace wheels when we have Idaho's ice and snow. My first chariot is an old racing unit and we still use her in mini classes. Today they race in aluminum carts that are much lighter, a whole lot stronger and dramatically more safe. I will grant that this race is a straight quarter mile, out of the starting gate and finishing in front of the grand stand. The only side pressure stress the cart wheels must endure is when they reach the track curve. Most are slowed down by that time and part are shut down to the trot. However: they come out of the gate two or three teams abreast and running HARD. Part run with spoke covers on their wheels preventing horses from getting a foot in them.

Another venue we have participated in is extreme cowboy competition. This Olympic style cross country event is run in early summer. It is divided: 1 under saddle and 2 driving but all sizes compete equally. This again is a timed event only in this event the competitor gains or loses points according to how close he gets to OPTIMAL time!! It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize my 32 inch mini team has to work much harder than the standard race horse size team. Some of the obstacles are bridges, water crossing, passing creatures you might meet on the trail like lamas, camels or scary packed donkeys, formidable short but steep mountains, very uneven footing like a creek bed and often a maze type obstacle designed to test the drivers mind as well as his driving skills. The entire course must be run in order and each obstacle negotiated exactly as prescribed! Plus they add new obstacles to keep competition FRESH and NEW. All obstacles are acceptable so long as they can be made safe.

There is no way I would have participated in this event with wood wheels as the water crossing would damage them. In fact the wheels on our chariot when we were DQed were competition wheels we had special ordered.

I have experienced running the rubber tires off wheels and collapsing them running hard in tight turns. I even rolled a chariot hand galloping through the arena corner at an AMHR show. With age and experience I have become MUCH less daring brave or crazy however you choose to look at it!! But I am passionate about needing to address the chariot wheel issue. Yes bicycle wheels and most cart wheels are NOT safe to corner at speed. However wood wheels are definitely NOT safe as well as being just as expensive as competition wheels that are designed for Olympic speed events!! The wood wheel that I broke cost well over \$300 plus shipping to repair. Some motor cycle wheels are small enough to look good and yet strong enough to be safe at speed plus they are much more economical than wood or competition wheels. WE also should consider requiring tire guards as is in the roadster classes to prevent cart entanglement and/or possibly wheel covers to prevent a horse from putting a leg through the spokes of his competitor.

Bottom line is the chariot wheel issue needs to be addressed. It needs to be rewritten and/or clarified to keep competition both safe and on an even playing field. From experience my recommendation is to state "Authenticity preference to be given for wood wheels" in the flat class rather than being required. However, we must REQUIRE SAFE WHEELS in the chariot race class. This will make a definition of safe wheels necessary!!!

Rules for Olympic cross country wheels state metal spoked wheels with welded hubs and solid rubber tires. No pneumatic tires! It also states the cart MUST have a low center of gravity! This may be more important than the wheels!!

**We have our own knight in shining armor. Dalley (all 200 pounds of him) who regularly slides our good cart sideways in the 4 tight corners of the race. Even the flat class can have challenging corners at the hand gallop!!!**

**I would also like to allow the race to be run single or team at the discretion of the driver so long as the chariot is safe and complies with all rules.**

**Thank you, Barbara DeShon #13398**



**P S... Because this is mostly a SAFTY rule, I would like to see it as an extraordinary rule change. I come to convention and would be happy to present this concern to the appropriate committee!! 208-680-2793 cell phone and I do take text**

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