



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 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: Judges: VII, 1.4, D Page #102; 44-45

Amateur: III, 3, 3.1(all)

Indicate: Add or Delete: Revision as below

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

Language: Attached re: Amateur rules substitutes for III, 3, 3.1 (Eligibility)

Delete rule excluding any judge from amateur status, VII, 1.4, D

Intent of proposal: This proposal updates the current amateur eligibility rule and makes it more consistent with USEF recognized entities (of which ASPC is one. See links on attached chart). It allows ASPC/AMHR/ASPR to take advantage of recent thorough updating by USEF (12/01/2021—see attached chart and its attachments), while adopting language suitable to our Association (i.e., not adopting some programs with significant monitoring expenses).

Specific changes in this proposed rule include: Token of appreciation raised to \$1000; deletion of wide disqualification of spouses and "significant others" of trainers from amateur status to adopt more nuanced language directed at excluding those who get remuneration rather than based on marital status or status as undefined "significant others"; clarification of incidental activities that do not exclude a competitor from amateur status; and allowing amateurs to become judges yet retain their amateur status.

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

Rewrite rule to update and make consistent with best practices in defining amateurs: See the attached chart and its attachments for more detail and comparison, particularly fn.1. The chart, its footnotes, and its attachments are incorporated by reference as intent and reason/justification.

Because this proposal will be presented at Convention, severance of parts of the proposal may occur. The submitting sponsors will be available to facilitate that work.

Proposed Effective Date: _____

Committees/Rules that will be effected by change: Amateur, membership, judges

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

Mark Cronin, Amateur Comm. Chair

Name Sylvia Glover, Amateur Comm. Member Phone 605-695-5283; 509-979-5017

Member# 94594; 104603 Signature 

AMATEURS AND PROFESSIONALS

For purposes of this Subchapter the following definitions apply:

Social Media Brand Ambassadors are social media users who spread the word about a company/brand or its products by posting about them on social media and promoting them to their unique social audience.

Social Media Influencers are individuals who have built a reputation for their knowledge, content creation, and expertise on a specific topic. They make regular posts about that topic on their preferred social media channels and generate large followings of enthusiastic, engaged people who pay close attention to their content.

Sponsored Rider is an individual who is paid by companies, sponsors, and/or owner/s to compete and perform, leveraging their exposure and performance in competition.

Professional/Amateur Status

1. **Amateur.** Regardless of one's equestrian skills and/or accomplishments, a person is an amateur if after his 18th birthday, as defined in this Rule Book, the person has not engaged in any of the activities identified in Section 5-6 below. Only senior active members of the Association may obtain amateur status. Every persons who has reached that person's 18th birthday and competes in classes for amateurs under association rules must possess current amateur status issued by ASPC/AMHR/ASPR. Amateur status will be issued only upon approval of an application submitted in paper or electronic form; amateur status is revocable at any time for cause in accordance with Association hearing processes herein.
2. **Remuneration.** Remuneration is defined as compensation or payment in any form such as: cash, goods, sponsorships, discounts or services; reimbursement of any expenses; and/or trade or in-kind exchange of goods or services such as board or training.
3. **Amateurs are permitted to accept remuneration for the following activities, however:**
 - A. Accept remuneration for barn duties on or off competition grounds. Barn duties include but are not limited to grooming, tacking and un-tacking, bathing, clipping, lunging, braiding, and stall and tack cleaning.
 - B. Accept remuneration for teaching or training disabled riders for therapeutic purposes.
 - C. Accept reimbursement for expenses associated with conducting classroom seminars.
 - D. Accept remuneration for serving as a camp counselor when not hired in the exclusive capacity as an equestrian instructor.
 - E. Accept remuneration as a Social Media Influencer or Social Media Brand Ambassador.
 - F. Accept remuneration for providing service in one's capacity as a: clinic manager or organizer (so long as they are not performing the activities of instructor or trainer), accept remuneration as presenter or panelist at a ASPC/AMHR/ASPR licensed officials' clinic or other association's clinic, accept remuneration as competition manager, competition secretary, judge, steward, technical delegate, course designer, announcer, TV commentator, veterinarian, groom, farrier, tack shop operator, breeder, or boarder, or horse transporter.

- G. Accept reimbursement for any expenses directly related to the owned or leased horse (i.e. farrier/vet bills, entries). Travel, hotel, equipment, and room and board are not considered expenses related to the horse.
4. Other Permitted activities by Amateurs. An Amateur is permitted to do the following:
- A. Appear in advertisements and/or articles related to acknowledgement of one's own personal or business (such as for one's own ponies, for example).
 - B. Sponsorship of a competition and/or awards earned by one's owned horses.
 - C. Accept prize money as the owner of an equine in any class.
 - D. Accept a non-monetary token gift of appreciation valued less than \$1,000 annually. This is the total token of appreciation from all sources.
 - E. Serve as an intern for college credit or course requirements at an accredited institution provided one has never held professional status in any equine association. In addition, one may accept reimbursement for expenses without profit, as prescribed by the educational institution's program, for the internship. At the request of this association, an Amateur shall provide certification from the accredited educational institution under whose auspices a student is pursuing an internship that he is undertaking the internship to meet course or degree requirements. The intern may also accept a stipend (maximum value of the federal minimum wage rate) and reimbursement of expenses during the internship served under the above paragraph. During the internship, the student may only exhibit equines owned by the student or the student's family as defined herein.
 - F. Write books or articles related to horses.
 - G. Accept educational, competition, or training grant(s).
 - H. Assist in setting schooling fences or other equine patterns without remuneration.
5. Professional based on one's own activities. A person is a professional if the person does any of the following after the person's 18th birthday:
- A. Accepts remuneration AND rides, exercises, drives, shows, trains, assists in training, schools or conducts clinics or seminars, except as provided at 3(F), above.
 - B. Accepts remuneration AND gives equestrian lessons, trains horses, or provides consultation services in riding, driving, showmanship, equitation, or training of horses, except as provided at 3(B), above.
 - C. Accepts remuneration AND acts as an employee in a position such as a groom, farrier, bookkeeper, veterinarian or barn manager AND instructs, rides, drives, shows, trains or schools horses that are owned, boarded or trained by his employer, any member of his employer's family, or a business in which his employer has an ownership interest.
 - D. Rides, drives or shows any horse that a cohabitant or family member or a cohabitant or family member's business receives remuneration for boarding, training, riding, driving or showing. A cohabitant or family member of a trainer may not absolve themselves of this

rule by entering into a lease or any other agreement for a horse owned by a client of the trainer.

- E. Gives instruction to any person or rides, drives, or shows any horse, for which activity the purported amateur's cohabitant or another person in the purported amateur's family or business in which the cohabitant or a family member controls will receive remuneration for the activity. A cohabitant or family member of a trainer may not absolve themselves of this rule by entering into a lease or any other agreement for a horse owned by a client of the trainer.
- F. Accepts remuneration AND acts as an agent in the sale of a horse or pony or accepts a horse or pony on consignment for the purpose of sale or training that is not owned by him, his cohabitant, or a member of his family, or a farm/business in which he, his cohabitant, or a member of his family controls.
- G. Advertises one's equestrian services such as training or instruction.
- H. Accepts remuneration AND acts as an intern, apprentice, or working student whose responsibilities include, but are not limited to, riding, driving, showmanship, handling, showing, training, or assisting in training, giving lessons/coaching and/or schooling horses other than horses actually owned by him.
- I. Accepts remuneration for the use of commercially logoed items while on competition grounds, as a Sponsored Rider.

6. Professional based on one's own activity along with another's. A person is also deemed a professional after that person's 18th birthday, if the person accepts remuneration for the person's spouse, family member, or cohabitant engaging in any activity enumerated in Section 4, above. For the purposes of this rule, the term cohabitant is defined as any individuals living together in a relationship, as would a married couple, but not legally married.

7. Violations of Amateur status. The holding of an amateur card does not preclude the question of amateur standing being raised. After an investigation as to proper status has been initiated, and upon request by the association, an Amateur must submit verifiable proof of Amateur status. Failure to submit requested documentation may be deemed a violation of this rule. Any responsible person(s) found to have violated these rules, may be subject to penalties as merited by the violation and as determined by hearing processes set forth herein and at the discretion of the hearing committee including censure, suspension (of self and owned/leased animals), expulsion from association competitions, expulsion or suspension from membership, permanent ineligibility from membership or competition, forfeiture of prizes, points and other winnings connection with the offense, suspension from offenses including as steward, judge, area representative, committee chair or member or the like, and/or fine.

8. Questions about whether you are an Amateur or Professional. For specific inquiries, email INSERT.