



**American Shetland Pony Club
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: Section XII. 1.3 Page # 287-289

Indicate: Add or Delete: Delete and replace

Proposed Rule Change (provide desired language and intent of rule):
Replace section 1.3 with new section 1.3 (see attached)

Reason/Justification for Rule Change (provide brief description of why this needs changed/added)
As the obstacle classes become more popular and larger, the requirements for the classes, including course design, need further clarified. Additionally, the scoring and judging criteria, prohibited obstacles, and minimum / maximum measurements for obstacles need to be standardized.

Proposed Effective Date: Proposed effective January 2021

Committees/Rules that will be effected by change: AMHR, Classic, Show Managers, Judges

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

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Signature 

1.3 Halter Obstacle (ASPC/AMHR)

A. General

1. Age:

Ponies and horses must be at least one year old.

2. Tack:

To be shown in a halter with appropriate lead, chain on lead permitted under the chin of the horse.

3. Pony/Horse to be penalized for any unnecessary delay or excessive time at an object. Judge(s) can advance an exhibitor to the next obstacle if a pony/horse is taking excessive time at an obstacle. Maximum time of thirty (30) seconds or 2 attempts per obstacle.

5. Edible treats to encourage an animal to perform one of the obstacles are not allowed.

6. Whips are not allowed.

B. Equipment

1. All Equipment must be safe, and free from rough or sharp edges that could cause injury. Footing surfaces must not be slippery. Round pipes or rails cannot be used for ground rails in the in-hand obstacle classes unless they are secured. Flat, square, or octagonal rails can be used. Poles or rails must be heavy enough not to create a safety hazard – the use of aluminum or poly / PVC gutter or downspouts is prohibited.

The following Prohibited Equipment shall not be used

- a. Jumps
- b. Tires
- c. Stair Steps
- d. Obstacles that require backing up or down an incline, or onto or off of a raised platform or step.
- e. Obstacles that are intentionally frightening.
- f. Obstacles with any moving parts
- g. Obstacles that, by design, do not present the same to each exhibitor (e.g. use of hay bales near a ground tie. After a horse pulls hay out of the bale closer to the tie, the obstacle is no longer the same for the remaining horses as it was for the initial horses).
- h. Obstacles that require spraying the animal with any substance.
- i. Use of hay, grain, or any other type of feed as part of an obstacle (this does not include course decorations that are not part of an obstacle. However, course decorations must be placed so they do not inadvertently become part of an obstacle. For example, potted plants used as decoration must be far enough away from a ground tie area that they do not become a distraction to the ground tied animal).

Overs (bridge, tarp, etc. Horse and handler to cross)

	Minimum width	48" / 48" / 48"
	Minimum length	48" / 48" / 48"
Multiple pole Walk over	Between poles	16-20/16-20/18-24
Multiple pole Trot over	Between poles	20-24" / 20-24" / 24-28"
Elevated Single Pole walk or trot over	Maximum height	8" / 8" / 12"
Elevated Multiple Pole walk or trot over	Maximum height	6" / 6" / 10"

NOTE: Walk and trot over poles may be angled, however, the distances apart at the actual track (where the animal will cross) must meet the above requirements.

Walk through / Trot through patterns	Distance between markers	
	Minimum	6' / 6' / 8'
	Maximum	8' / 8' / 10'
Back Through	Minimum width	24" / 28" / 30"
Curtains / Tunnels	Minimum height	6' / 6' / 7'
	Minimum width	5' / 5' / 5'

Curtains must freely move over the animal and handler without possibility of hanging up or wrapping around either.

Side Pass	Minimum width	24"
Side Pass (elevated)	Maximum height	6"

C. Course Design

1. There must be a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 8 obstacles.
2. At least three (3) different categories of obstacles must be used.
3. In shows where open, amateur and youth obstacle classes are offered, the course for the Open class must be different than the course for the Youth and Amateur classes. Youth and Amateurs may have different courses or may use the same course.
4. Courses must be designed to demonstrate the training and ability of the animal and handler, and the manner in which they work together. Obstacles must not be designed to "trick", "trap", or "spook" the animal.

D. Judging

Entries are to be judged on performance (responsiveness, willingness, general attitude) manners, and appointments, in that order. Entries are to demonstrate control, flexibility, and calmness.

- j. Elevated Poles that roll. Flat blocks, boards, or similar cannot be used to elevate round poles. Round poles may be elevated using a jump standard on one side only, using rail raisers, or similar method where at least one end of the pole is secured from rolling.

2. Obstacle Categories and Obstacles

a. Overs

Crossing over a bridge (can have incline and decline, step up and/or down, or be flat), tarp (edges must be secured), water, carpet, mats, or planks, or poles.

b. Patterns

Walking or trotting through a specified pattern (serpentine, cloverleaf, figure 8, or other pattern).

c. Control Obstacles

i. Backing

Backing the horse through a pattern or around / past an obstacle, or backing onto, off of, or through an over or under obstacle.

ii. Ground Tie

Stand horse/pony at a designated location while exhibitor moves around or away from and back to animal.

iii. Turn on the Forehand / Turn on the Haunches

Horse to turn around the forehand or the haunches

iv. Turn in Box

Horse to turn while remaining inside a box defined by poles, cones or markers. This turn can be a forehand turn, a haunches turn, or, if not specified, a combination of both.

v. Sidepass

d. Unders

- i. Crossing under an obstacle that is over or on both sides of the animal, such as tunnels or curtains.

e. Daily Chores

- i. Open, walkthrough, and close gate
- ii. Put on / take off overcoat / slicker / blanket
- iii. Pick up and/or carry object such as letter, bucket, flag.
- iv. Open and close mailbox

3. Mandatory Obstacle Dimensions

Dimensions shown as Mini A / Mini B / ASPC

Overs (plank, bridge, tarp, etc. Horse only to cross)

Minimum width 12" / 12" / 18"

Obstacle classes are to be scored with an eye to the positive aspects of the performance. Each obstacle is scored, and penalty scores applied as appropriate.

The following will result in the exhibitor being excused from the course and disqualified from the class:

1. Carrying a whip or crop.
2. Handler physically moving or coercing the pony/horse by touching
3. Refusals of three (3) obstacles.
4. Attendants interfering with the performance of the individual or equine.
5. Off course or Horse leaving the obstacle course

Off course is defined as:

1. Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.
2. Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side.
3. Skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge.
4. Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence.
5. Off pattern.