

## SECTION III

### GENERAL RULES

#### Part 7 - Safety Rules

### 2019 RULEBOOK

of the  
**American Shetland Pony Club**  
**American Miniature Horse Registry**  
**American Show Pony Registry**  
**National Sport Performance Pony Registry**  
**American Shetland Pony International Registry**



## SECTION III

### GENERAL RULES - SAFETY

**Part 7 – Safety** - The following are considered best practice guidelines for Safety and will serve as rules for shows and ASPC/AMHR/ASPR sanctioned events.

#### A. General

1. Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear (Certified ASTM/SEI Equine Helmet) in any division or class without penalty from the judge(s).
2. All youth **MUST** wear protective headgear (Certified ASTM/SEI Equine Helmet) in Roadster and Under Saddle classes. Headgear harness must be secured and properly fitted.

#### B. Halter

1. Spotter - Any class where a Youth 7 & Younger is competing is allowed a spotter for safety reasons, the spotter must be at least 16 years of age or older. The spotter must stand back 2 paces from the Youth and pony/horse, where they are to remain except in an emergency.

#### C. Driving

##### 1. General

- a. All persons involved in driving – drivers, grooms, competition officials, spectators, etc., should place safety first.
- b. Horses should never be left unattended while hitched to a vehicle.
- c. A driver should never allow passengers to enter a vehicle until driver is seated with reins in hand and driver must never dismount while passengers are in the vehicle.
- d. All rules of the road should be observed unless officials direct otherwise.

## 2. In the Ring

### a. Header

- (1). Must be 16 years or older.
- (2). Enter the ring when the line-up is called.
- (3) May assist in setting up the animal.
- (4) Stands two paces back from the pony/horses head and will remain there, except in emergency, until the Judge's card(s) are turned in.
- (5) The header should not step back to allow judge in between pony/horse and header.
- (6) Required in all youth driving classes.
- (7) All youth exhibiting in any non-youth driving class must have a header.
- (8) All headers should be appropriately attired.
- (9) In Versatility Classes a "groom" is a header.
- (10) In youth and COOL classes where a passenger is used for safety, they may also serve as the header.

b. For safety reasons any unruly pony/horse, unsafe vehicle, unsafe equipment or unsafe hitching of ponies/horses may be excused from the ring by the judge, ring master, or Steward. An exhibitor cannot protest this action.

c. Excessively large classes may be divided by management or Judge, as conditions warrant.

d. All driving ponies/horses shall show on the rail at all times except while passing. The Judge is to take this into consideration while judging and ponies/horses shown off the rail shall be penalized.

e. Exhibitor numbers must be worn on the back of the exhibitor. Numbers may also be attached to the back and/or sides of the cart in an easily visible position for all driving divisions, except Roadster which the number must be worn on the back of the exhibitor.

- f. It is permissible for a driver to talk to a pony/horse in a subdued tone of voice, although a driver should strive to control the pony's/horse's movement with a minimum of vocal aids. Talking loud, whistling, or shouting at a pony/horse is not acceptable.
- g. No entry may leave the ring after judging has begun without the permission of the Judge or ring steward.
- h. During the class, minor adjustments to harness may be made upon permission from the Judge. A groom may assist with the adjustment without penalty (a time out). See Current USEF Rule Book, General Rule (GR833).
  - (1) The time out shall be clocked and the adjustment or repair is not to exceed 5 minutes.
  - (2) Only one time out per class per entry is allowed and must not exceed the 5 minutes allowed.
  - (3) After the class has begun no groom may enter the ring without permission of the Judge.
- i. If the class or ring size justifies the Judge may ask the pony/horse to reverse on the diagonal for safety reasons. The Judge may ask for a reverse on the diagonal at a walk or collected trot.
- j. In Versatility Classes - for purposes of safety the cart must be removed from the horse before the horse is unbridled.