

SUBJECT: Clarifying Country English Pleasure (USEF/EC)

Amendment 1 (Blue)

(STANDARD)

Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 101 & 102 for submission requirements.

Committee Action:

Committees required to review: *(This section to be completed by the Agenda & Resolutions Committee)*

Approve

Disapprove

Amateur Committee			<b>O</b>
Competition Advisory Committee			
Education/Evaluation Commission			<b>O</b>
Professional Horsemen Committee			
U.S. National Show Commission			
USEF Arabian Division Committee			
Youth/Mid-Summer National Show Commission	O		

CONVENTION ACTION:

\_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Approved with Modification \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved

\_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Referred to Committee \_\_\_\_\_

PROPOSED CHANGE: (**Check one**) \_\_\_\_\_ Add new rule \_\_\_\_\_ Delete existing rule   X   Change existing text  
Indicate affected Article/Rule number (AHA/USEF/EC) Subchapter AR-8 & Subchapter AR-23

RESOLUTION: Use **bold/italic** for new wording, ~~strikethrough~~ to indicate deletion

Whereas, Country pleasure since its inception has looked to separate itself from English pleasure and be a more relaxed and easier way of going class, and

Whereas, In the opinion of the proponent, asking for a "STRONG TROT" and/or a "HAND GALLOP" goes against what the class title implies, and,

Whereas, In the opinion of the proponent, focusing on the finer points of Country Pleasure like attitude, smooth transitions and quiet mouths, etc. would be a better barometer for what's important, and

Whereas, In the opinion of the proponent, the halt and back portion of the required "test" in all Country classes has proven to be ineffective and time consuming while walking on a loose rein has been found as an adequate barometer of a "Country" attitude, and

Whereas, Changing the word "Trot" to read "Country Trot" and implementing the above-mentioned changes will help to bring separation and identity to the Country division; Therefore, Be It

Resolved, That the AR sections contained in Subchapter AR-8 Country Pleasure Section be amended by striking out, inserting and renumbering the following:

AR135 Conduct

- Competitors enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction, at the ~~normal~~ **Country Trot**.
- Light contact must be maintained with all reins at all gaits.
- It is imperative that the horse gives the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride.
- All gaits must be performed with willingness and obvious ease, cadence, balance and smoothness.
- It is mandatory that horses be asked to halt on the rail, stand quietly, back and walk off on a loose rein at least one direction of the ring. A true flat walk must be demonstrated on a loose rein with horse's neck relaxed and head slightly lowered. Failure to demonstrate a true flat walk MUST be penalized.
- ~~A back is optional and may be called for on the rail or in line up.~~
- A quiet, responsive mouth is paramount.
- High action at the canter or **Country Trot** must be penalized. Rider to post the trot.

8.9. Extreme speed at the **Country** Canter or **Country** Trot must be penalized.

9.10. For Country English Pleasure performance criteria, see AR Country English Pleasure Chart below.

	Good	Minor Fault	Major Fault	Elimination General Items
<b>Country</b> Walk	relaxed flat footed moving forward	a few hesitant strides	jigging, anxious not walking, standing or consistent circling in a corner	Blood in the mouth, chin shoulder or flanks (AR105.6)
<b>Country</b> Trot	cadenced unhurried, moderate shift of balance point	a few missed steps varied speed	break of gait aggressive gait extreme speed extreme shift of balance point high action, i.e. consistently trotting over level	lame (AR105.1 - must be serviceably sound) whip marks (AR105.6) abusive treatment (AR105.4)
<b>Country</b> Canter	straight and true	crooked varied speed	chagy wrong lead cross cantering high action	dangerous to other exhibitors (AR105.5)
<b>Country</b> Hand Gallop	true change of gait longer stride	minimal change of stride	cross cantering change of lead extreme speed	rearing, running backwards, bucking, out of control (AR105.5 - these would be examples of dangerous to others and possibly rider)
Stop, back, walk on a loose rein <del>The back is optional</del>	straight square halt, straight unhurried back, relaxed walk with lowered frame relaxed gathering of the reins	crooked halt premature back crooked back hesitant walk slight resistance to the gathering reins	antsy or no halt refusal to back forced back no loose rein chagy or no walk no lowered frame no relaxed lowered frame major resistance to the gathering of reins	fall of horse or rider, if due to bad manners of horse (AR109.1-3)
			Horses with an unnatural tail carriage (see AR105.2b) must be positioned last in the class. BOD 6/20/23 Effective 12/1/23	

#### AR137 Qualifying Gaits

1. **Country** Walk, a four-beat gait: To be true, flat-footed and ground covering.
2. ~~Normal~~ **Country** Trot, a two-beat gait: To be an overall balanced, relaxed, easy-going trot with elasticity and freedom of movement.
3. **Country** Strong Trot, a two-beat gait: To be faster with lengthened stride, maintaining balance, ease and freedom of movement.
4. ~~3-~~ **Country** Canter, a three-beat gait: To be smooth, unhurried, straight and correct on both leads.
5. **Country** Hand Gallop: To be a faster gait, lengthened stride and controlled, straight and correct on both leads.

#### AR138 Country English Pleasure Class Specifications

1. OPEN. To be shown at a **Country** Walk, ~~normal~~ **Country** Trot, **Country** Strong Trot, ~~and~~ **Country** Canter and **Country** Hand Gallop. To be judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality and conformation.
2. AMATEUR. To be shown at a **Country** Walk, ~~normal~~ **Country** Trot and **Country** Canter. To be judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality, conformation and suitability of horse to rider.
3. LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be shown at a **Country** Walk, ~~normal~~ **Country** Trot and **Country** Canter. To be judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality, conformation and suitability of horse to rider.
4. JUNIOR HORSE To be shown at a **Country** Walk, ~~normal~~ **Country** Trot and **Country** Canter. To be judged on attitude, manners, quality, and performance.; and, Be It Further

Resolved That the AR sections contained in Subchapter AR-23 Country Pleasure Driving Section be amended by striking out and adding the following:

AR198 Conduct

1. Competitors enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction at the ~~normal~~ **Country** Trot ....

AR200 Qualifying Gaits

1. **Country** Walk, a four-beat gait: To be true, flat-footed and ground covering.
2. ~~Normal Country~~ Trot, a two-beat gait: To be an overall balanced, relaxed, easy-going trot with elasticity and freedom of movement. High action MUST be penalized.
3. **Country Strong** Trot, a two-beat gait: To be faster with lengthened stride, maintaining balance, ease and freedom of movement. High action MUST be penalized.

AR201 Country Pleasure Driving Class Specifications

1. OPEN. To be shown at the **Country** Walk ~~and normal Country~~ Trot and **Country Strong** Trot. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality and conformation.
2. AMATEUR, LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be shown at a **Country** Walk ~~and normal Country~~ Trot and **Country Strong** Trot. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality, conformation and suitability of horse to driver.
3. JUNIOR HORSE. To be shown at a **Country** Walk ~~and normal Country~~ Trot and **Country Strong** Trot. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on attitude, manners, quality and performance.

Effective: December 31, 2026, or when approved by USEF/EC

(If a Standard resolution, the effective date will be December 31 of the year after the Convention)

RESOLUTION TYPE (REQUIRED): Standard ☒ Extraordinary ☐ "If indicated as "Extraordinary", the proponent must list reasons which establish Chapter 9, RULE 101.3.a. has been met)

PROPOSERS FINANCIAL IMPACT (REQUIRED): Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 102.6. & 102.7 for financial requirements

None

AHA IMPACT STATEMENT: (To be completed by AHA Staff)

Contact Person:

SUBMITTED BY: Professional Horsemen Committee

Region Number:

☐ Member Organization ☒ Committee ☐ Commission ☐ Board ☐ Region (check one ☒)

Who voted: ☒ Members ☐ Board ☐ Delegates (check voting body)

Total Number Eligible to Vote: 96 Number of Yes votes: 26 Number of No votes: 10

How vote was taken: ☐ mail ☒ email/other electronic means ☐ phone ☐ meeting (check one) (Must have Quorum with majority of yes votes)

Where documentation of this vote is recorded: At the AHA Office (Must have printed documentation on file)

Date vote taken: August 12-15, 2025

Contact Person: John Power (Has authority to amend, combine or withdraw)

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