

2017 RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS

*Any addition wording to an existing rule is in bold text.
Any wording to be deleted from an existing rule is crossed out.*

C -1 ADD A RECREATIONAL RIDER MEMBERSHIP

Constitution, Article III Members, Section 4B2 Page 6

Proposed Change: **2. Recreational Rider Membership: Persons who desire participation in all Recreational Rider Programs only . It will allow transfer of horse but does not include registration of horses, Stallion Breeding Reports or PFHA shows. It does not include a subscription to PFW nor voting privileges. It can be upgraded at any time to a full membership by paying the additional fee.**

Rationale: By offering a new category to Recreational Rider membership at a reduced rate should get past members to renew.

Financial Impact: Should increase membership to those only wanting to do the Recreational Rider programs. Some Regular members may switch to the Recreational Rider membership.

C -2 BUDGET LINE ITEM CEILINGS SHALL BE SET BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Constitution, Article V, Section 4 Page 8

Proposed Change: The Treasurer, in conjunction with the Executive Director and Finance Committee, shall review and evaluate proposed budgets from various committees and the Association office to develop and recommend to the Board of Directors an annual budget for the Association. ***The Board of Directors shall approve the budget at the Fall board meeting. The Treasurer shall ensure the Association operates within the approved budget. The Treasurer shall immediately notify the Board of Directors if the expenditures within a line item exceeds the approved budget for that line item by 10%.***

Rationale: The Board of Directors approves the budget by line item. The budget by line items sets the priorities of the Association. The Treasurer, Executive Director and Finance Committee should execute the budget as approved by the board of directors.

Financial Impact: Better control and oversight of expenditures.

C- 3 ELECTRONIC ABSENTEE BALLOT

Constitution, Article VII, Section 9 Voting Page 13

Proposed Change: Amend the Absentee Ballot to provide for an electronic ballot available to all voting members. This ballot would be embedded on the Members' Page on the PFHA website. Boxes beside each candidate's name would be clicked as desired. Non-active/voting members would be auto-rejected, even if they could get onto the Members' Page. The ballot would remain changeable by the voter unless the locked-in box was checked, or it will auto-lock 10 days before the election. Administrative rights would be given to the independent auditing firm to ensure accurate tabulation/verification of vote counts.

Rationale: The current absentee ballot is cumbersome and requires mailing. Offering an electronic version would greatly simplify the voting process

Financial Impact: Reduced costs for postage on the part of members and for CPA time to verify the count. Some expense would be incurred to create the ballot page.

C 4 TRAINER ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Constitution, Article IX, Section 1 Page 15

Proposed Change: This committee shall consist of the officials elected by the membership (i.e., President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary., the immediate Past-President and three (3) members (Directors-at-Large appointed by the President, (who will each have one (1) vote on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee.)

One of the three Directors-at-Large shall be an active member of the Professional Paso Fino Trainers Association trainer.

Rationale: The policies and rules passed by the Executive Committee directly impact the PFHA trainers, hence the trainers should have a voice in the decisions.

Financial Impact: None

C -5 ADD ACTIVE COMMITTEES TO RULE BOOK

Constitution, Article X, Page 16

Proposed Change: Add the active committees and their suggested duties which are not already in the PFHA Rule Book. Committees/Board of Directors will detail duties/purpose/description of each committee.

INTERNATIONAL

This committee shall consist of 2 or more members of the Association. The duties of the committee shall be as follows:

- A. Promote the Paso Fino breed internationally***
- B. Inform the Board of international shows that include Paso Fino***
- C. Liaise directly with PFHA international partners such as CONFEPASO.***
- D. Work with the Events committee on shows/competitions in the US that feature international Paso Finos—such as Mundials.***
- E. Keep the Board informed of changes among our international partners.***
- F. As directed by the President, represent PFHA at for a involving international competition and /or partners.***

HISTORICAL

This committee shall consist of 2 or more members of the Association. The duties of the committee shall be as follows:

- A. Promote, preserve, and publicize the rich history of the Association—it's people and their Paso Finos.***
- B. Contribute to the general knowledge of the Associations' history via research and interviews.***
- C. Create articles of historical interest for publication—in PFHW and other equine media.***
- D. Develop educational materials about the Paso Fino breed for specifically targeted groups such as youth.***
- E. Acquire and organize all photographic material of historical interest.***
- F. Research and publish articles about past Paso Fino owners/members who gained prominence in their field.***
- G. Work with Regional counterparts in maintaining a complete history of PFHA and the breed.***

MARKETING

This committee shall consist of 3 or more members of the Association. The duties of the committee shall be as follows:

- A. Provide advice and assistance to Regions regarding marketing planning and execution.***
- B. Coordinate with the Events, National Show, and Communications committees on marketing the Paso Fino breed and its Association.***
- C. Develop an annual Marketing Plan that consist of Regional plans plus national level marketing.***
- D. Develop a funding profile and budget request to support execution of marketing plans.***
- E. Regularly provide updates during the year on marketing results.***
- F. Develop metrics that can help provide insights into marketing investment returns.***

PROFESSIONAL TRAINERS

The Professional Trainers Committee shall consist of 2 or more members of the Association—one of whom must be a professional trainer. The duties of the committee shall be as follows:

- A. *Maintain an active, accurate listing of all professional Paso Fino trainers.*
- B. *Ensure topics of interest are disseminated to Paso Fino trainers.*
- C. *Keep the Board informed of issues relevant and important to trainers.*
- D. *Ensure standards of conduct are maintained—especially at shows.*
- E. *Provide expert opinion on training-related matters to the Board and any committee seeking information.*

FUTURITY

This committee shall consist of 2 or more members of the Association. The duties of the committee shall be as follows:

- A. *With the staff accountant, ensure awareness of the financial status of the Futurity program.*
- B. *Assist in determining the annual futurity payout at the GNS.*
- C. *Publicize the futurity to members.*
- D. *Solicit futurity participants.*
- E. *Keep the President and Board informed regarding Futurity status.*

GELDING

This committee shall consist of 2 or more members of the Association. The duties of the committee shall be as follows:

- A. *With the staff accountant, ensure awareness of the financial status of the Geldings for Gold program.*
- B. *Assist in determining payouts for the National Show.*
- C. *Promote and publicize the Geldings for Gold program.*
- D. *Keep the President and Board informed regularly regarding Geldings for Gold status.*

Rationale: This rule will bring the list of committees defined in the Rule Book up to date with the committees that are currently active in the Paso Fino Horse Association.

Financial Impact: None

C-6 COMPUTER COMMITTEE DUTIES

Constitution, Article X, Section 2, Page 16

Proposed Change: Replace entire section with the following.

Section 2. Computer Committee

This committee shall consist of the Committee Chair, Executive Director, and at least two (2) other members selected by the Committee chairman. The duties of this committee shall be as follows:

- A. *Investigate, evaluate and recommend to the President and the PFHA Board of Directors computer hardware and software needs of the Association.*
- B. *Develop Request for Proposal (RFP) documents for submission to outside software/hardware suppliers.*
- C. *Evaluate all RFP/vendor responses and contracts to fulfill Association requirements. After evaluation, the contracts will be forwarded to the Executive Director for signature.*
- D. *The Committee Chair, or his designee, shall be the Program Manager on all software/hardware development/change/procurement programs.*
- E. *Evaluate and coordinate with the appropriate standing committees all change requests to the PFHA website and Registry System.*
- F. *Oversee the implementation of all approved changes to the PFHA website.*
- G. *Submit an annual budget to the Finance Committee.*
- H. *Manage the Committee budget as approved by the Board of Directors.*

Rationale: This change brings Section 2 into line with what the Computer Committee is actually doing. It will streamline the committee.

Financial Impact: None

C-7 ANNUAL RULE CHANGE

Constitution, Article X, Section 13, page 20 or Rule Book Chapter One, Section I.,A., page 24

Proposed Change: The **annual** responsibility of the Rules Committee are as follows

Rationale: Have annual rule changes rather than every other year.

Financial Impact: Increase cost of printing the Rule Book every year.

C-8 SECRET BALLOT VOTING FOR OFFICERS AND RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS

Constitution, Section VIII 9 B, Page 12

Proposed Change:

Change "Absentee Ballot" to "Secret Ballot"

Delete current C 1. replace with the following (keep C 2 the same):

~~C. Absentee and Proxy Voting.~~

- ~~1. An Absentee Ballot may be used only for the election of officers. Official notification of the meeting, including agenda and the form for the Absentee Ballot, must be made to the membership at least three (3) weeks prior to the meeting. All Absentee Ballots shall be completed according to the requirements stated on the ballot, shall be filed with the Association at least ten (10) days before the meeting and shall show the member's Regional Group affiliation.~~

C. Secret Ballot and Proxy Voting.

1. **A Secret Ballot** shall be used for **the election of officers and for voting on rule change proposals to the constitution and Rule Book of the Association**. Official notification of the meeting, including the agenda and the form **and procedures for the Secret Ballot**, must be made to the membership at least three (3) weeks prior to the meeting. All **Secret Ballots** shall be completed according to the requirements stated on the ballot, shall be filed with the Association at least ten (10) days before the meeting or presented to the Association by the voting member at the meeting where the voting will take place, and shall show the member's Regional Affiliation.

Rationale: The officers of the Association and the contents of the Constitution and Rule Book which govern the association are all vital and critical aspects of our Association and its future. The only true voice any member has in the association is through their right to vote for representation and through their right to vote for amendments and changes to the Constitution and to the Rule Book. No member should ever feel pressured, coerced, or intimidated to vote in a certain manner and no member's vote should ever be taken for granted. Every member counts and therefore every member's vote counts. The only way to guarantee that we each have the opportunity to freely express ourselves and to freely exercise our right to vote for our choice of elected officers and for changes to the Constitution and the Rule Book is to vote by a secret ballot. Please, support this change.

Financial Impact: Variable, depending upon methods chosen to implement the secret ballot voting.

C-9 JUDGES AND STEWARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS MAY NOT OFFICIATE WHILE THEY SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE

Constitution, Article X 6 , Page 18, 19

Proposed Change: Add:

All certified officials, judge or steward, serving in the committee, MAY NOT officiate for the period of time, he or she, serves in the committee. Those officials will be credited the number of shows needed to maintain their cards active for each year served. Each judge or steward must keep up with their clinic and education requirements as if they were officiating to maintain active status

Rationale: In order for the PFHA to improve the credibility of their officials; officials must be held accountable. This shall give the members confidence that the committee will do the "right thing" by the Association and its events.

Financial Impact: None

C-10 JUDGES SANCTIONS

Constitution, Article X 6, Page 18

Proposed Change: Replace Section F with the following.

F. Serving as a judge or a steward is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by the Judges and Stewards Committee according to procedures formulated by it, to individuals whose equine expertise and personal character merit the honor. Such designation is revocable by the Judges and Stewards Committee with notice and formal hearing.

The chair of the Judges and Stewards Committee may periodically review files of Judges and Stewards and recommend sanctions for, suspension of, revocation of or refusal to renew the card of a Judge or Steward if considered appropriate. In such instances, the Judge or Steward will be notified in writing of the recommendation and the reasons and be given the opportunity of a hearing by the Hearing Committee. An individual's conduct as a member, exhibitor and judge must be exemplary and is subject to continual review by the Judges and Stewards Committee.

The following list of sanctions will serve as protocol for the Judges and Stewards committee and Hearing committee alike to use when determining appropriate reprimands.

These violations, if proven, will result in the revocation of a judge's or steward's license with leave to reapply after a time to be determined by the hearing committee taking into account the facts and circumstances of the violation

- 1. Officiating while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, to the extent that his or her normal faculties are impaired.*
- 2. Placing bets personally or through another individual at any PFHA event while servicing as a licensed official.*
- 4. Receiving money or favors like compensation for tipping the scale in favor of a particular horse, owner, trainer, or competitor.*
- 5. Engaging in unethical conduct. Unethical conduct is defined as behavior that falls below or violates the professional standards in a particular field. It is an action that falls outside which is considered morally right or proper for a person. Examples would including changing information on the record of a horse belonging to the official so that it may be shown at a PFHA event in which the individual is officiating.*

These violations may result in a one year suspension of a judge's or steward's license:

- 1. Failing to have unity of interests or responsibilities with one's peers while officiating.*
- 2. Failure to abide by association rules while officiating.*
- 3. Acceptance of or asking for free or discounted stallion services of horses competing in PFHA competitions when officiating before or during the competition unless free or discounted stallion services are being offered to all.*
- 4. Refusal to give an explanation of an event when an exhibitor properly asks for a meeting with the judges through the officiating steward at a PFHA event.*
- 5. Over charging or falsifying expenses on transportation, lodging, food when contracted to officiate.*
- 6. Attending social gatherings with owners, breeders, riders, or horse farm managers without approval of the show committee and accompaniment of the competition steward while officiating at a PFHA competition.*

7. *Holding conversations with owners, horse farm managers, trainers, riders, or grooms within the officials area during a PFHA competition. This raises the appearance of impropriety and should not occur.*
8. *Judging ineligible exhibitors as defined in Ch. 5, IX. B. 1,2,3. ; D.; E.; F.; G.*
9. *Judging ineligible horses as defined in Ch. 5, C.*
10. *Failing to attend the judges and stewards clinic as required by the rules.*

G. A PFHA judge shall not have a conflict of interest between PFHA's objective and his or her own personal business or pecuniary interests. Each judge should refrain from using his or her official status to further one's own personal or financial purpose. When such conflict of interest arises, the judge is expected to either withdraw the personal objective from the transaction in question or resign as a PFHA approved judge, so he or she may pursue the personal objective. Breach of this ethical rule shall be subject to review. If a judge cannot exercise an objective opinion, free from possible prejudice, bias or outside influence, because of a connection with an owner, exhibitor or anyone else connected with the horse, or, for that matter, if such connection would appear to others as possible bias, whether or not the judge feels he or she would be affected, a judge must disqualify himself or herself.

Rationale: Clarify and define violations.

Financial Impact: None

1-1 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Chapter 1, Section IX, Page 33

Proposed Change: Replace Section IX with the following

IX. Disciplinary Procedures.

A. Potential Penalties for Violations.

Upon the filing of a complaint, protest, or charge resulting in the determination by the Association Hearing Committee, any member may be subject to sanctions as set forth herein which shall include but not be limited to discipline, probation, suspension, fines, censure or expulsion from the Association. This may also include the denial of any and all privileges of the Association for any member or nonmember.

Additionally any Certificate of Registration issued to such person may be canceled whenever it has been established by evidence presented at a hearing that such member or nonmember has violated any rule or written policy of the Association.

B. Protocol for Hearings.

1. General Information: *Any person who believes that any other person has violated any rule or written policy of the Association may file a complaint, protest, or charge requesting a hearing on the violation with the Executive Director or President of the Association. All charges, protests, or complaints must be in writing, signed and dated. The Executive Director and his/her staff shall investigate any charge, protest, or complaint to determine if sufficient cause exists to convene a hearing before the Association Hearing Committee.*

Sufficient cause exists if the investigation shows that it is more probable than not that a violation of a rule or written policy occurred. Once cause has been determined to convene a hearing, no other Association entity may cancel the hearing. The Association Hearing Committee must conduct a hearing.

The individual(s) making the complaint, protest, or charge must be prepared for full disclosure, to the party or parties accused, of all information associated with the charge, protest, or complaint. All parties must be prepared to be present at a hearing either in person or by video conferencing to address all issues presented to the Association Hearing Committee.

Definitions:

(1) A complaint is defined as an allegation of a violation of any rule or written policy of the Association brought forward in writing to the Executive Director or President of the Association by any person (i.e. rider, handler, exhibitor, owner, agent, trainer or the parent of a junior exhibitor) provided that the person reporting the allegation is not a Show or Licensed Official in the performance of their duties at a sanctioned show.

A complaint must be:

- a. In writing;**
- b. signed and dated by the person(s) alleging the violation;**
- ,c. addressed to the Executive Director and President of the Association; and**
- d. received at the Association office within 30 days of the alleged violation.**

(2) A protest is defined as an allegation of a violation of any rule or written policy of the Association committed during a sanctioned show or activity brought forward in writing with the Show Committee or the Show Hearing Committee by any person (i.e. rider, driver, handler, exhibitor, owner, agent, trainer or the parent of a junior exhibitor) present at the show or activity.

A protest must be:

- a. in writing;**
- b. signed by the person presenting the protest;**
- c. addressed to the Show Manager of the show or Event Chair at which the alleged violation occurred, or to the Show Hearing Committee, or received by the steward, technical delegate, a member of the Show Committee, the show manager or the show secretary within 48 hours of the alleged violation.**
- d. If made directly to the Show Hearing Committee, the protest must be received by the Executive Director and President within 30 days of the last recognized day of the show.**

(3) A charge is defined as a report of an alleged violation of any rule or written policy of the Association committed during a sanctioned show brought forward in writing to the Show Hearing Committee or Show Management by a show or licensed official assigned to the said show or activity.

A charge must be:

- a. in writing;**
- b. signed by the person making the charge;**
- c.. addressed to Show Management of the show at which the alleged violation occurred, or to the Show Hearing Committee; and**
- d. If made to Show Management, it must be received by the steward, technical delegate or a member of the Show Committee within 48 hours of the alleged violation and then forwarded to the Executive Director or President of the Association within 30 days of the last recognized day of the show.**
- e. If made to the Show Hearing Committee, it must be received by the Executive Director and President of the Association within 30 days of the last recognized day of the show.**

2. Procedure upon presentation of complaint, protest, or charge:

All complaints, protests, or charges, whether presented by a member of the PFHA, either in a personal capacity, or as a trainer, or owner, or in the capacity as a judge, steward, or other show official shall be filed with the Executive Director or President of the Association within 30 days after occurrence of incident in question.

The complaint, protest, or charge shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Director or the President of the Association by the person making the complaint, protest, or charge to determine if sufficient cause exists to convene a hearing before the Association Hearing Committee.

The Executive Director, in consultation with the Chair of the Association Hearing Committee, shall have the authority to schedule a disciplinary hearing when he/she determines there is sufficient cause for a hearing. Additionally, a disciplinary hearing shall be held if it is requested by two (2) members of the Executive Committee or by the President.

When it is determined that there is sufficient cause for a hearing, a Letter of Inquiry shall be forwarded to the Respondent and the Complainant from the Chair of the Association Hearing Committee within 30 days after receipt of the complaint, protest, or charge by the Executive Director or President. The Letter of Inquiry shall contain notification of the alleged violation and written notice of the date, time and place of the hearing. A copy of the complaint, protest, or charge which was filed with the Association shall also be included with the notice mailed to each person.

The Respondent shall respond to the complaint, protest, or charge set forth in the Letter of Inquiry no later than 21 days from the date of the Letter of Inquiry. The Respondent shall additionally present any evidence in support of his or her position in response to the complaint, protest, or charge to the Chair of the Hearing Committee.

Each party shall be entitled to request and shall receive one initial continuance at the discretion of the President. All initial continuances by either party must be made within 7 days of date of the Letter of Inquiry. Each party shall also be entitled to request two additional continuances beyond the initial continuance with a \$500.00 charge for each additional continuance. No more than a total of 3 continuances of a hearing, which shall include the initial continuance, shall be granted to either party.

Each party shall have the right to appear at the hearing and produce witnesses and other relevant evidence on their behalf. The Association Hearing Committee shall have the right to hear and examine witnesses and other relevant evidence relating to the complaint, protest, or charge for the purpose of making a complete determination of the issues.

The hearing shall be held within 90 days from the date of the Letter of Inquiry on the issues set forth in the Letter of Inquiry unless a continuance is requested and granted. The determination of the Hearing Committee shall be based upon a deciding vote of 51% by the members hearing the charges.

All exhibits and witness lists shall be exchanged 14 days prior to the hearing by the complainant and the respondent or by counsel representing the complainant and counsel representing the respondent. Any requests for discovery made by the complainant or the respondent or on their behalf shall be answered within 28 days or receipt of same.

Following the hearing, a Determination Letter prepared by the Chair of the Association Hearing Committee shall be forwarded to the Respondent which shall be dated no later than 7 days from the date of the hearing held on the complaint, charge, or protest.

The Chair of the Association Hearing Committee shall prepare a Press Release which shall be forwarded to the PFHA offices for publication in the Paso Fino World.

3. Hearing Procedure.

Quorum. *There must be Fifty-one percent (51%) of the members of the Association Hearing Committee for purposes of a quorum for a disciplinary hearing.*

Testimony via Telephone. *Testimony may be taken at a hearing via telephone or video conference. Any person desiring to present testimony via telephone should notify the Executive Director 14 days prior to the scheduled hearing. This notice should contain the name, address and telephone number of each person who will testify via telephone. This provision is not intended to limit or preclude other appropriate procedures for offering testimony or evidence at hearings.*

Testimony by Notarized Statement. *Testimony may be given at a hearing by notarized statement in writing at least 14 days prior to the hearing. Any person desiring to present testimony in this manner shall notify the Executive Director and provide the written notarized testimony at least 14 days prior to the hearing.*

Failure of Charged Person to Appear. *In the event the person or persons alleged to have violated a rule or written policy of the Association fails to appear at the scheduled hearing or fails to file a notarized statement of the evidence regarding the alleged violation, a copy of the hearing notice and the date of mailing thereof shall be entered in the record of the proceedings, and the Association Hearing Committee shall then have the right to conduct the hearing and make a final determination of the issues.*

Decision of Hearing Committee. *The Association Hearing Committee shall decide if a violation of a rule or policy occurred by a determining vote of 51% of the members present at the hearing. Upon the determination of a violation, the Association Hearing Committee shall determine the level of sanction to be issued associated with the violation. The decision and disciplinary action of the Association Hearing Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.*

4. Levels of Sanctions

A sanction issued by the USEF shall not preclude the Association Hearing Committee from issuing a sanction on the same incident in the event a charge is filed with the PFHA.

Level I Sanction - *A Level I sanction is associated with a violation involving an action which includes but not be limited to a minor, first time infraction of the PFHA Rules. This would include but not be limited to as an example, a board pass not allowed under the rules; or a failure to pay dues. (Fine of \$100.00 and Letter of Reprimand)*

Level II Sanction - *A Level II sanction is associated with a violation involving an action by a member which includes but is not be limited to any act done willfully or with the specific intent to deceive or cheat; or an Intentional action taken by a member to defraud or trick while knowing the representation made to be false. This would include but not be limited to any fraudulent action taken by a member of the PFHA as defined under General Rules, Sec. VIII. It may also include improper influence; unfair dealings concerning horses; use of performance enhancing drugs with horses; falsifying registrations; falsifying a signature on a stallion report; unfair dealings involving horse sales; and any fraudulent action involving a registration of a horse. (Fine of \$300.00 to \$2,500.00; and the committee shall have the right to suspend up to 5 years depending upon the severity of the violation.)*

Level III Sanction - *A Level III sanction is associated with a violation involving an action by a member which includes but not be limited to any action taken by a member who impacts a horse and/or other members. This would include but not be limited to violations as defined under General Rules, Sec. VII(A)(1-3). This would also include threats of violence to an owner, horse, trainer, or participant, or rider; and acts of violence or abuse*

to an owner, horse, trainer, or participant. Violence or abuse to a person is defined as placing someone in fear of imminent serious physical harm, or the act of physical harm to a person.

Violence or abuse of a horse is defined as inflicting physical pain, suffering, or death on an animal, usually a tame one, beyond the necessity for normal discipline. It can include neglect, such as withholding food and water, resulting in the suffering, death, or imminent danger of death to the animal. It may also include the use of banned drugs with a horse. (Fine of \$500.00 to \$5,000.00; and the committee shall have the right to suspend up to 5 years depending upon the severity of the violation.)

Level IV Sanction - A Level IV sanction would include but not be limited to any action taken by a member involving a continual and total disregard for the rules, policies, and Constitution of the PFHA. This would also include any actions taken by a member which are three or more offenses similar in severity. It may also include any action taken by a member which results in the death of a person or animal. The Association Hearing Committee shall be entitled to consider additional sanctions beyond the sanctions in Levels I, II, and III, with a mandatory minimum fine of \$1,000.00 and a mandatory minimum suspension of 1 year.

5 *Notice of Decision. As set forth above, a Determination Letter shall be forwarded to all parties documenting the decision of the Association Hearing Committee.*

During the period of denial of Association privileges, failure to comply with these restrictions and any other express conditions or restrictions of said disciplinary actions may constitute grounds for further disciplinary action.

6. Effect of Suspension or Denial of Privileges.

On or after such time as any person has been suspended or denied further Association privileges, the following restrictions shall apply:

- a. Person May Not Participate in Events. That person shall not participate and shall be ineligible to participate in any Paso Fino Horse Association approved event. Nor shall such person be eligible to hold approved Judge's credentials or any other Association accreditation.*
- b. Restrictions on Registration and Transfers. That person or spouse or minor child shall not register any horse with the Association or transfer registered horses into his or her name or that of his or her spouse, child or business in which the person is an owner. However, the signatures of the suspended person and that person's spouse will be honored on transfer reports for the purpose of allowing such disciplined person or spouse to transfer horses recorded in his or her ownership at the time of notice of disciplinary action. In addition, written leases filed with the Association prior to date of notice of suspension, covering horses owned by the suspended member shall be valid and the signature of the lessee shall be accepted during the original term of such lease, but not during the renewal period of such lease,*
- c. No Registration If Breeding Date During Period: Of Suspension. No horse shall be registered which is sired by a stallion, or out of a mare, owned or leased by such person or spouse or business where the breeding date is shown to be on or subsequent to the date of notice of disciplinary action¹, until fees, penalties, or fines are paid in full to the Association.*
- d. Horses May Not Participate in Events. No horse which is registered in the name of such person or spouse is eligible to participate in any event approved or recognized by the Association.*

- e. **No Recognition of Signatures.** *The Association shall not accept the signature of such person, nor such person's spouse, nor that of such person's children under the age of eighteen (18) on any breeder's certificate or stallion reports evidencing breeding taking place on or after the date of notice of suspension.*
- f. **No advertisement** *No person on suspension or that person's spouse may advertise in Paso Fino Horse World during the period of his suspension, nor may that person's name, or that of his/her spouse appear in any advertisements in Paso Fino Horse World during the period of suspension.*

7. Probation.

Probation is defined as a period in which the disciplined member's conduct and actions with respect to all Paso Fino Horse Association activities are subject to strict review. A person who violates an Association rule or written policy while on probation is subject to additional disciplinary action.

8. Additional Violations During Suspension. *Failure to comply with the sanctions issued or any other express conditions or restrictions of the disciplinary action during the period of suspension or denial of Association privileges will constitute grounds for further disciplinary action.*

9. Publication,

When a member is disciplined, suspended, expelled or fined, or a nonmember is denied membership privileges, publication of the action shall be made as soon as practical in Paso Fino Horse World. The notice shall include the specific violation. The Association office shall also notify the management of every Association sanctioned show by letter of the penalizing of any person and of the person thereof.

10. Reimbursement for Costs in Unsuccessful Challenge to Association, Venue for Legal Action.

The Association has adopted the following provision for the mutual benefit of the members. The intention is to reduce the Association's litigation expenses, which expenses would ultimately be borne by members and nonmembers participating in Association activities. Every member, by joining the Association, or nonmember, by purchasing Paso Fino horses, filing a registration application or other documents with the Association, or participating in Association approved events, does thereby agree as follows:

a. *If unsuccessful in an attempt to overturn Association decision, actions, rules or regulations, to reimburse the Association for its reasonable attorney's fees, court costs and other expenses in defense of such suit; and*

b. *That he/she will not commence any action, whether in law or equity, against the Association in any courts other than those federal and state courts located in the state of Kentucky.*

11. United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. On receipt of official notice that disciplinary action has been taken by United States Equestrian

Federation, Inc. (USEF), such disciplinary action shall be upheld by the Association in conformity with existing USEF rules regarding such reciprocity.

Rationale: Chapter I, General Rule IX has been modified and streamlined to allow for a more concise read of the disciplinary procedures. Additionally, the levels of sanctions which have been used by the Hearing Committee over the last two years as policy in addressing the discipline for violations of the rules have been added in Ch. 1, GR IX. The modification of the disciplinary procedure is much needed for a thorough understanding of the Hearing Process by the members of the Association.

Financial Impact: None

1-2 PFHA HORSE SLAUGHTER POSITION STATEMENT

Chapter 1, Section II B , Page 27

Proposed Change: Add the following to the paragraph.

B. Welfare of Breed Paramount.

In every situation, the welfare of the breed shall be paramount over all other considerations. The best interest of the Paso Fino horse must be the only criterion in all actions and decisions of all owners, breeders, exhibitors, trainers, members and employees of the Association. ***The PFHA opposes horse slaughter and shall adopt an anti-horse slaughter position. The Anti Horse Slaughter Position Statement and/or Position Paper shall be posted in a publicly accessible area of the association website.***

Rationale: Creating a formal PFHA Anti Horse Slaughter Position is another way to fulfill the Mission Statement in the Constitution. The Mission of the PFHA shall be to protect and promote the best interests and welfare of the Paso Fino Horse; to protect and maintain the integrity of the Registry and the natural characteristics and heritage of the Paso Fino Horse; promote and enhance the appeal and versatility of the Paso Fino horse; and provide and support member services. It is consistent with the Welfare of Breed Paramount statement (above) in the Rule Book. Other breed associations have created such a statement/document. Protecting our horses is paramount. Horse slaughter is not a humane method of euthanasia. The majority of Americas are opposed to horse slaughter. Thus, sending horses to slaughter should be discouraged as a method of culling our herds or getting rid of unwanted horses. More humane alternatives are available and should be utilized such as re-homing horses, utilizing rescues and sanctuaries, and humane euthanasia. Putting Paso Fino horses into the 'slaughter pipeline' devalues our breed in the eyes of the public and contributes to a bad and negative image of our Association, members, owners, and horses. Adopting an anti-horse slaughter position shows the public we are serious about protecting and promoting the welfare of our horses and it promotes a positive image to the public of our Association, and its members and horses.

Financial Impact: None

1-3 DONATIONS MADE BY PFHA AND REGIONS

Chapter 1, Section II H, Page 28

Proposed Change: Add the following section.

H. Charitable Donations.

Charitable donations given by PFHA shall be made only to those organizations that possess IRS tax exempt status as 501(c)3 charitable organizations.

Rationale: PFHA has a duty and a responsibility to be good stewards of their members' treasuries. Donations to IRS 501(c) 3 tax exempt organizations are tax deductible. However, money or items given to individuals and non-tax exempt entities are not tax deductible and are treated as gifts for tax accounting purposes which may present ethical concerns for PFHA and Regional groups. IRS 501(c) 3 tax exempt organizations offer transparency to donors that may be lacking when money is gifted to individuals or to non-tax exempt entities. When any organization gives money to an individual for whatever reason, the organization opens itself up to questions regarding ethical practices and proper management of members' monies. One simple way to avoid any appearance of impropriety is to have a rule that charitable donations shall only be given to organizations that possess IRS 501(c) 3 status.

Financial Impact: None

1-4 PAID ADVERTISEMENT AND SPONSORED CONTENT IS CLEARLY MARKED

Chapter 1, Section II I, Page 28

Proposed Change: Add the following section.

I PFHA Publications.

Any multi-page or single-page advertisement or sponsored content that could be confused for a magazine article shall be clearly marked as "Advertisement" at the top of each page where the advertisement/sponsored content appears.

Rationale: PFHA has a duty and a responsibility to the members to operate with the highest ethical standards and this includes the association's magazines and publications. Therefore, any paid advertisements or sponsored content should be clearly identified to the reader as such so as to avoid any confusion by the reader as to what is a magazine article and what is paid advertising and sponsored content. This is done in other magazines and so is consistent with good editorial practices.

Financial Impact: None

1-5 INHUMANE TACK AND EQUIPMENT MAY NOT APPEAR IN PHOTOS IN PFHA PUBLICATIONS

Chapter 1, Section II J, Page 28

Proposed Change: Add the following section.

J. Photos in PFHA or Regional group publications.

Photographs, pictures, or drawings of horses or tack and equipment in any PFHA or Regional group print or digital publications, including websites, shall not be allowed when inhumane and/or severe tack or equipment is being used or shown in the photo. Exceptions shall be for a photo/picture being used for illustration purposes to provide education regarding inhumane/severe tack and equipment and is so noted. Advertisements showing inhumane and/or severe tack or equipment shall be rejected. Photos or pictures showing inhumane and/or severe tack or equipment submitted to accompany an article shall be rejected with the exception noted above.

Rationale: It sends a very confusing, contradictory, and negative message to the readers when inhumane and severe tack and equipment is shown in photographs in any PFHA publication. We should be discouraging the use of inhumane and severe tack and equipment at all times. We should not be endorsing the use of cruel and abusive tack or equipment by allowing photos of it in our publications. The tack and equipment guide is available to the public on the association website and advertisers, authors, and photographers could be directed to the guide as a resource in order to abide by this rule.

Financial Impact: None

1-6 NO HORSE PUT TO SLAUGHTER

Chapter 1, Section II K, Page 28

Proposed Change: Add the following segment.

J. No Horse Put to Slaughter.

Any owner, breeder, or trainer who has knowingly, or without conducting due diligence, sold a horse to slaughter, either directly or indirectly, and by a factual determination shall be banned permanently from participating in all PFHA shows, events, and activities, and shall be banned from registering horses with PFHA. Procedures for reporting of violations to this rule and determinations shall be established by the Executive Committee, Hearing Committee and/or other committee(s) as so directed. However, the signature of the banned person and that person's spouse will be honored on transferred reports for the purpose of allowing such

disciplined person or spouse to transfer horse recorded in his or her ownership at the time of notice of disciplinary action

Rationale: Selling Paso Finos at auction to kill/slaughter brokers or selling directly to kill buyers/brokers devalues our breed and does irreparable harm to our association's reputation. The realization that Paso Fino horses are shipping to slaughter in large numbers is sickening to the majority of Paso Fino owners. Large breeding farms that "cull" their horse herds and owners and trainers who get rid of failed show prospects by selling to slaughter are causing harm to the horse as it is an inhumane and cruel death and there should be a zero tolerance for this practice. There are humane alternatives available. The horses can be re-homed to responsible owners, placed with horse rescues and sanctuaries that adopt out "unwanted" horses, or humanely euthanized.

Horse slaughter should not be considered part of the "business plan" for horse breeders and trainers and passing this rule will show all owners that we will not tolerate our horses being sent to slaughter. Passing this rule shows the public that we value each and every Paso Fino horse and we take their welfare seriously. This rule is consistent with our General Code of Ethics section of the Rule Book: Welfare of Breed Paramount. In every situation, the welfare of the breed shall be paramount over all other considerations. The best interest of the Paso Fino horse must be the only criterion in all actions and decisions of all owners, breeders, exhibitors, trainers, members and employees of the Association. This rule is consistent with our Mission Statement: The Mission of the Paso Fino Horse Association shall be to protect and promote the best interests and welfare of the Paso Fino Horse; to protect and maintain the integrity of the Registry and the natural characteristics and heritage of the Paso Fino Horse; promote and enhance the appeal and versatility of the Paso Fino Horse; and provide and support member services. It is consistent with what other horse associations are doing to address the slaughter issue such as Thoroughbred racing associations. This rule will bring value back to the Paso Fino breed and may lead to more responsible breeding practices. It may even bring more members back to the association and attract new members who believe in the importance of protecting our horses and being good stewards of the breed. Passing this rule and having it "on the books" sends a stern warning and will serve as a deterrent to disposing of Paso Finos into the slaughter pipeline. Please support this rule change and bring back value to our horses.

Financial Impact: None or may produce revenues for PFHA if fines are levied.

1-7 (A) PUBLIC ACCESS TO LIST OF SANCTIONED MEMBERS (1-7 A,B,& C ARE ONE PROPOSAL)

Chapter 1, Section VII B, Page 31

Proposed Change: At end of paragraph add: ***Upon a penalty by the Hearing Committee or by the Executive Director, the name of the member or non-member and the violation and penalty shall be posted on the Association website in an area easily accessible to the public***

Rationale: Currently, the list of sanctioned and suspended members and non-members on the website is only available in the private Members Log-in area. When this information is essentially hidden in the website, it has potential to cause harm to the public and to horses. Placing this data in a publicly accessible location along with information on the specific constitution or rule violated protects the public, members, and horses. It shows that we take violations of our Constitution and Rules very seriously, that we are making every effort possible to safeguard the public and horses, and that we place the safety and welfare of the public, our members, and horses above that of protecting the identity of the violator(s). In addition, posting the violators publicly on the website may act as a

deterrent to others and encourage all members and non-members to follow the Constitution and Rules of the Association.

Financial Impact: None

1-7 (B) PUBLIC ACCESS TO LIST OF SANCTIONED MEMBERS

Chapter 1, Section VII C.2 Page 31,32

Proposed Change: Upon suspension by the Executive Director, the name of suspended member shall be published in the next available issue of the Association's official publication, PFHW, from date of suspension **and shall also be published on the Association website in an area easily accessible to the public.** The complete historical list of all suspended members will be published in the Association's official electronic publication(s) website (s)

Rationale: Currently, the list of sanctioned and suspended members and non-members on the website is only available in the private Members Log-in area. When this information is essentially hidden in the website, it has potential to cause harm to the public and to horses. Placing this data in a publicly accessible location along with information on the specific constitution or rule violated protects the public, members, and horses. It shows that we take violations of our Constitution and Rules very seriously, that we are making every effort possible to safeguard the public and horses, and that we place the safety and welfare of the public, our members, and horses above that of protecting the identity of the violator(s). In addition, posting the violators publicly on the website may act as a deterrent to others and encourage all members and non-members to follow the Constitution and Rules of the Association.

Financial Impact: None

1-7 (C) PUBLIC ACCESS TO LIST OF SANCTIONED MEMBERS

Chapter 1, Section IX.I Page 39

Proposed Change:

I. Publication.

When a member is disciplined, suspended, expelled or fined, or a nonmember is denied membership privileges, publication of the action shall be made as soon as practical in Paso Fino Horse World **and on the Association website in an area easily accessible to the public.** Said publication shall include rule number violated. The Association office shall also notify the management of every Association sanctioned show by letter of the penalizing of any person and of the person thereof.

Rationale: Currently, the list of sanctioned and suspended members and non-members on the website is only available in the private Members Log-in area. When this information is essentially hidden in the website, it has potential to cause harm to the public and to horses. Placing this data in a publicly accessible location along with information on the specific constitution or rule violated protects the public, members, and horses. It shows that we take violations of our Constitution and Rules very seriously, that we are making every effort possible to safeguard the public and horses, and that we place the safety and welfare of the public, our members, and horses above that of protecting the identity of the violator(s). In addition, posting the violators publicly on the website may act as a deterrent to others and encourage all members and non-members to follow the Constitution and Rules of the Association.

Financial Impact: None

2-1 SHOETING

Chapter Two, Section IV C, Page 52

Proposed Change: All four (4) feet must be shod with the same type of shoe of the same material, weight and thickness, although front and back hooves may be shod in different sizes. Each shoe cannot exceed ten (10) ounces. ~~Weighted shoes and pads are prohibited. However, toe and/or side clips drawn from the same shoe are allowed as long as the clips are an integral part of plate shoe which does not exceed ten (10) ounces in weight.~~

Weighted shoes, trailers, heel caulks, and any style of pads are prohibited. Toe and/or side clips drawn from the show are allowed as long as the clips are an integral part of the plate shoe. Any horse found to have illegal show weight (10 ounces) or material will be disqualified from the class.

Rationale: To show illegal show weight or material will result in disqualifications from the class. Agreed with USEF PF 102.

Financial Impact: None

2-2 SOREING

Chapter 2, Section IV E, Page 52

Proposed Change: Section IV E Soreing of a horse is prohibited. Any physical evidence, including but not limited to scars or blisters, of training with heavy shoes or artificial devices or soreing ~~cause the horse to be disqualified~~ **shall disqualify the horse for the remainder of the competition.**

Rationale: Consistent wording in sections

Financial Impact: None

2-3 CRUEL AND ABUSE

Chapter 2, Section IV F, Page 52

Proposed Change: ~~4-~~Showing a horse with raw or bleeding sores or raw or bleeding abrasions around the muzzle, nose, jaw, chin groove or *jaw is considered an act of abuse and must be disqualified from the competition.*

Rationale: Clarify the rule and to mirror USEF Paso Fino rule 102.3.b.2.b & 102.12.

Financial Impact: None

2-4 BRIDLE MATERIAL

Chapter 2, Section VII E, Page 57

Proposed Change: Bridles can be Colombian- or English type headstalls, flat, rolled or braided. Bridles must be leather, goatskin, or flat rawhide **or black or brown synthetic.** Twisted rawhide is allowed in Schooling classes only.

Rationale: Synthetic material is easier to sanitize, clean and does not “rot” like leather making it safer. The synthetic material is now so leather like it is almost impossible to monitor unless each exhibitor is examined such as at Nationals. Many of these bridles also match synthetic saddles now in use, and look as professional as genuine leather.

Financial Impact: None

2-5 MOUNTING BLOCK AT SHOW

Chapter 2, Section VII K, Page 60

Proposed Change: Each show ~~have~~ **must** have a mounting block.

Rationale: Changing have to must

Financial Impact: None

2-6 SAFETY HEADGEAR IN DRIVING CARTS

Chapter 2, Section VII M4, Page 61

Proposed Change: .All riders/*exhibitors* twelve (12) years of age and under, including Walk-Corto Leadline riders are required to wear Safety headgear at all times while on horseback, **or driving or while in the driving cart** at any Association authorized function.

Rationale: Agrees with USEF Paso Fino rule 106.5

Financial Impact: None

2-7 TIE OPTION

Chapter 2, Section VII M1, Page 61

Proposed Change: Male riders shall wear ~~a~~ an unadorned tie.

Rationale: Current rule states males shall wear an unadorned tie for the official Paso Fino Show Costume, females are except from the tie, but can wear the exact tie i.e. a Paso Fino horse bolo, etc into the same class as males and a steward must tell the males to change their tie to meet the rules.

Financial Impact: None

2-8 TIME OUT

Chapter 2, Section VIII E, Page 62

Proposed Change: Add the following new Section E and then renumber remaining sections.

E. Time-Out

A suspension of judging which may be requested by a competitor or directed by the judge(s).

- 1. A competitor is entitled to request a time-out for a period not to exceed five minutes in aggregate in order to make obvious adjustments or to repair broken equipment or to rectify a similar condition, or to replace a shoe.*
- 2. The competitor may call only two time-outs per class. The penalty for exceeding the allowed time out(s) is for the entry to be excused or disqualified.*
- 3. To request a time-out for any such emergency, the competitor must go to the center of the ring (if possible) and be acknowledged by the judge. The announcer will declare that a request for time-out has been made and permission granted; time will be taken from the moment such announcement is made.*
- 4. If a horse casts a show in a class, time starts (after weighing, measuring and/or gauging has concluded, if applicable) when the farrier or his assistant touches the show or the horse. No more than three minutes will be allotted to find a show; if the shoe is not found, the exhibitor may elect to continue or withdraw. If a horse is removed from the ring for the purposes of shoeing, the steward or judge shall accompany and remain with the horse until it is returned to the ring, excused or disqualified from the class.*
- 5. Two attendants are permitted in the ring to assist a competitor during his/her time-out. If at the expiration of five minutes the repair has not been made, the competitor may proceed as is or be excused or disqualified.*
- 6. The steward or judge is responsible for timing unless an official timer is present.*

Competitors who are not involved in a time-out may make minor adjustments that can be performed with the assistance of one attendant and not be charged with a time-out. Minor adjustments do not include replacing shoes.

- 7. At any time the judge(s) considers it necessary he/she may call for a time-out. Said time-out may be charged to a that, in the judge's opinion, is responsible for the suspension of judging as long as the competitor is so informed by the judge prior to calling the class back to order.*

Rationale: Time-outs are called for at most shows. There need to have correct procedures in the PFHA Rule Book.

Financial Impact: None

2-9 CONCURRENT CLASSES

Chapter 2, Section VIII F, Page 62

Proposed Change: Add new Section F and then renumber remaining sections.

F. Concurrent Classes

1. **Competition management may choose to hold classes concurrently (one performance, multiple judges, multiple sets of placings) provided both classes are held in accordance with all applicable rules.**
2. **Competition management may choose to run two separate classes in the arena at the same time provided:**
 - a. **There are no duplicate riders;**
 - b. **The class specifications are the same for both classes;**
 - c. **The combined class size does not exceed 25 horses;**
 - d. **The same judges are adjudicating both classes and turn in separate cards for each class.**

Rationale: The term often used is “combining classes” when the correct term is “running classes concurrently”.

Financial Impact: None

2-10 CAN RIDE MULTIPLE HORSES IN TRAIL CLASS

Chapter 2, Section VII H, Page 63

Proposed Change: In saddle classes, a rider may only ride one horse in a class. In addition, in any saddle class, riders cannot be changed in the middle of the class. ~~Even in classes with individual work, for example, the Paso Trail class, one rider cannot show two (2) different horses.~~ **Exhibitors may show more than one horse in trail as long as they have a handler for each entry. Exhibitor should ride the last horse in to minimize time. Handlers walk other entries to accept ribbons.**

Rationale: This is not a rail work class. Multiple horses could be shown by one exhibitor.

Financial Impact: Could increase class size and revenue. Trainers often have to choose which client’s horse they will ride in the trail class. By allowing them to ride multiple horses, they can keep multiple clients interested in showing in the trail class.

2-11 LEASED HORSE MAY COMPETE IN AMATEUR OWNED CLASS

Chapter 2, Section XII, Page 65

Proposed Change: **A horse that is the subject of a lease to an Amateur is considered owned by that Amateur for purposes of this definition.**

Rationale: We allow false affidavit of sales to be filed that allows horses not owned by the rider to be entered in the Amateur Owned classes. A lease is a better definition of what the transaction is between the horse owner and the rider.

Financial Impact: This could result in more horses in the Amateur classes. We could charge for recording the lease.

*Will have to change Chapter 8 VII Leases C Recording pg. 157-158

2-12 AFFIDAVIT OF SALE FOLLOW-UP

Chapter 2, Section II D, Page 51

Proposed Change: **If an "affidavit of sale contract" is filed at a show, the necessary paperwork to change the recorded owner or a lease agreement must be received in the PFHA office within 45 days of affidavit being filed. If the transfer of ownership does not occur within this time frame, all show points awarded become invalid.**

Rationale: Affidavit of sale contracts are being filed at shows in which the ownership of the horse is not being transferred afterwards. Participants are being allowed to show horses and gain points on horses which they do not own nor plan to own in the future. This presents an unfair advantage over true amateur owners who participate and show their own horses.

Financial Impact: None

2-13 ELIMINATE REQUIREMENT TO OWN HORSE IN AMATEUR CLASS

Chapter 2, Section XII, Page 65, 85, 86, 88, 90

Proposed Change: Remove the requirement to own the horse in order to complete in amateur classes. Change the “amateur owner” classes to “amateur” classes.

Rationale: If an amateur doesn’t own a horse, the only classes in which they can currently compete are the open classes and amateur specialty classes. We have young riders that are too old to compete in the youth classes and do not own a horse, and new to the breed riders that would like to try showing but are prohibited from showing in amateur classes unless they complete a sales affidavit. In the spirit of promoting as much participation as possible, we should open up opportunities for amateurs who do not own show horses at the present time to be able to compete.

Members have circumvented the current "amateur owner" rule by submitting “Affidavit of Sale” forms or adding their name to the horse’s registration either directly or by participating in business ownership of a horse. Since submitting a false affidavit of sale is against our rules, we basically have an amateur class for those people who “bend” the rule or have enough connections to have their names added to a horse's registration. Removing the "owner" requirement will level the playing field and encourage competition in the amateur division.

Financial Impact: Increased participation in amateur classes, more show revenue.

2-14 NUMBER OF STEWARDS BASED UPON NUMBER OF HORSES

Chapter 2, Section 1A, Page 42

Proposed Change: Add the following.

Shows with more than one-hundred seventy-five (175) Paso Fino horses competing shall be required to have at least two (2) Stewards with the count to be determined by the previous year's steward's report .

Rationale: As per the General Responsibilities of Steward at a Show (Chap 5, Section VIII. A.) the responsibilities of a steward include 1). Being a representative of the association at a show or event, 2). Being available to exhibitors and show management at all times to clarify the rules, and 3). Investigate any situation where rules are not upheld.

For those shows with a high number of horses and competitors, it is difficult for one steward to adequately monitor the show rings and warm-up areas as well as the barns, stables, and grounds for violations of the rules, particularly the rules regarding cruelty and abuse. Since the public image of our breed and association is so vital to the growth of our breed, it is important that cruelty and abuse do not occur anywhere on the show grounds and when it does occur that it is dealt with quickly and in a diplomatic manner by a show steward according to the rules. Therefore, large shows with more than 175 Paso Fino horses competing will benefit by having an additional steward available

Financial Impact: None

2-15 SIGNAGE AT ALL SHOWS TO REPORT HORSE CRUELTY AND ABUSE

Chapter 2, Section 1 D 16, Page 49

Proposed Change: Add the following section.

D. Compliance with Show Requirements.

The Regional Group that sponsors any Association show is required to:

16. Post signage addressing horse cruelty and abuse in multiple conspicuous locations throughout the show venue, including arena and stabling areas, in order to encourage the concept of "if you see something, say something". The signage shall be posted by the first day of the opening of the venue grounds and remain until all horses have left the venue grounds. The purpose of the signage is so that violators may be identified and dealt with in a diplomatic and appropriate manner according to the rules of the association and/or local ordinances. Including this information in the exhibitor's packet is optional but encouraged

The following types of information, at a minimum, shall be in the signage and shall be approved according to guidelines established by the President or designee(s):

- a. *requesting the Public, Exhibitors, owners, trainers, grooms, and guests assistance in observing, documenting (for example by video or photos), and reporting any perceived or alleged instances of cruelty or abuse towards a horse or the use of any cruel or inhumane tack or equipment being used on a horse anywhere on the show or event grounds.*
- b. *information/instructions on how to properly report the alleged cruelty or abuse to the appropriate people such as show management, stewards, show veterinarian, etc.*
- c. *reporting of ill or sick horses optional but strongly encouraged.*
- d. *bi-lingual signage is strongly encouraged.*
- e. *other requirements as determined by established guidelines.*

Rationale: This rule change shows the public that we have a commitment to doing right by our horses and that we are proud to enlist the help of the public in encouraging only the humane treatment, handling, and training of our horses. This rule change also provides a good opportunity for the association to provide education and information to both the public and to any offender regarding cruelty, abuse or inhumane tack and equipment as the goal should be to educate rather than to punish. Cruel and inhumane acts against a horse or the use of cruel and inhumane tack and equipment should never be tolerated in our breed. Maintaining a positive image of our breed and our members is paramount to promoting our horses especially at shows and other public events. The public is watching very closely and social media has made it ever more important to conduct ourselves with the utmost care around and towards our horses. It is important that cruel and inhumane activities be eliminated from the show grounds and not just while in the show rings. Signage at shows will help remind all attendees that if they "see something" that it is OK to report alleged cruelty or abuse and we welcome and desire the information so that it may be properly addressed. It shows all members and the public that this is a priority and that we are serious about preventing cruelty and abuse of our horses.

Financial Impact: None

2-16 VENDORS SHALL NOT DISPLAY OR SELL INHUMANE TACK/EQUIPMENT AT SHOWS

Chapter 2, Section I D 17, Page 49

Proposed Change:

D. Compliance with Show Requirements.

The Regional Group that sponsors any Association show is required to:

17. Inform vendors that no tack or equipment that is cruel, inhumane and/or severe shall be displayed or sold while on show or event grounds.

Rationale: It is hypocritical to allow vendors to display or sell any items that are inconsistent with the rules of the association especially if those items are considered cruel, inhumane and/or severe. It sends a very mixed message to the public and guests attending the show or event and creates a negative impression of our association, members and breed when inhumane tack and equipment is offered for sale at a show or event

Financial Impact: None

2-17 EXPAND LIST OF CRUELTY AND ABUSE TO INCLUDE INHUMANE TACK/EQUIPMENT

Chapter 2, Section IV, Page 52, 53

Proposed Change: F. Cruelty and Abuse.

The use of any tack or equipment that is illegal due to being deemed cruel, inhumane and/or severe shall not be allowed to be used on any horse at any time while on the competition or event grounds before, during, or after a competition or event and any action against a horse or neglect of a horse, by any persons anywhere on the competition or event grounds which is deemed cruel, inhumane, and abusive by a Judge, Steward or show veterinarian shall be punished by an official warning, elimination or other sanctions deemed appropriate by the show committee or Association Hearing Committee. Acts, tack, and equipment that are cruel, inhumane, severe, and abusive include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. ***Excessive use of a whip or spurs on any horse. A whip or spur mark or welt is an inflammation of the skin and subcutaneous tissue resulting in a swelling and in extreme cases in an abrasion or laceration. The signs of inflammation include heat, pain (sensitivity to palpation) and swelling.***
2. ***Use of an electrical device on a horse.***
3. ***Excessively tying-down of the horse's tongue or excessively tying-down or binding the head by the use of, including but not limited to, draw reins, martingales, and tie downs or the tying of the reins for the purpose of holding the head in vertical flexion or beyond vertical flexion or to hold the head in a lateral flexed position. This does not include "flexing" the horse momentarily by the rider while the horse is being ridden or handled/trained from the ground.***
4. ***Showing a horse with raw or bleeding sores or raw or bleeding abrasions around the muzzle, nose, jaw, chin groove or jaw or raw or bleeding sores around the coronets, pasterns, or legs.***
5. ***Rapping the legs of a horse with the butt end of a riding crop or whip or other implement.***
6. ***Use of shackles, hock hobbles and similar devices. Exceptions include: Hobbles that are used appropriately such as while overnight camping with a horse at a sanctioned trail ride or event; or the demonstration and teaching of the proper use of hobbles during a sanctioned advanced training clinic by a qualified clinician.***
7. ***Inhumane treatment of a horse in a stall, runway, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds, by any person.***
8. ***Withholding of feed and water for prolonged periods.***
9. ***Use of any soreing or action device on any limb, at any time. An action device is defined by the USDA as any boot, collar, chain, roller, or other device that encircles or is placed upon the lower extremity of the leg of a horse in such a manner that it can rotate around the leg or slide up and down the leg so as to cause friction or strike the hoof, coronet band, fetlock joint or pastern of the horse. Protective bell boots or heel boots are excluded from this definition.***
10. ***Any bit, basal, barbada, or other tack and equipment that is illegal due to being deemed cruel, inhumane, and/or severe.***

Rationale: Cruel and inhumane acts against a horse or the use of cruel and inhumane tack and equipment should never be tolerated in our breed. Protecting our horses should be a top priority. Maintaining a positive image of our breed and our members is paramount to promoting our horses especially at shows and other events. The public is watching very closely and social media has made it ever more important to conduct ourselves with the utmost care around and toward our horses. It's important that cruel and inhumane practices be eliminated from the show grounds and not just while in the show rings. This rule change shows that we have a commitment to doing right by our horses and that we are proud to encourage and demonstrate only humane treatment and training.

Financial Impact: Could generate revenue if fines were imposed as penalties.

2-18 SICK HORSE SHALL BE EVALUATED BY THE SHOW VET

Chapter 2, Section IV H I, Page 53

Proposed Change: H. Inspection. At the line-up in all classes, Judges will carefully inspect the horses for artificial devices, training scars, raw or bleeding sores, soundness, marked lameness, signs of illness, and welts from whips or spurs in accordance with these *rules and sick or ill appearing horses shall be referred to and evaluated by the show veterinarian at the owner's expense.*

1. Any horse appearing sick or ill while on the show or event grounds shall be reported to the show management and/or steward who shall then notify the show veterinarian. Any veterinarian costs related to the evaluation and treatment of horse shall be paid for by the horse's owner.

Rationale: Sick horses can spread diseases to other horses. A viral or bacterial disease outbreak can spread rapidly to horses at a show. Exposed/contagious horses can take diseases back to their "home" barns and expose other horses to disease. The sooner a sick or diseased horse can be identified the greater the chances are of halting the

spread of disease. Thus, it is important that stewards, judges, and show management participate in the identification and reporting of any sick or ill appearing horses so they may be evaluated, treated, and managed appropriately by the show veterinarian.

Financial Impact: None or may produce revenues for PFHA if fines are levied.

2-19 DEATH OF HORSE AT A SHOW

Chapter 2, Section IV J, Page 53

Proposed Change: Add the following section.

J. Horse Death.

The death of a horse occurring at a show or event shall be promptly reported by the horse owner and/or trainer to the show management/committee and/or steward(s) and notify the show veterinarian. Law enforcement shall be notified by the show veterinarian or at the discretion of the show management and/or the steward(s) if deemed warranted, such as for alleged animal cruelty or abuse. The show veterinarian shall order a necropsy and toxicology studies, and other studies as deemed necessary such as testing for diseases or pre-existing conditions all of which shall be paid for by the owner of the horse to determine cause of death. The show management and steward(s) shall report the death along with a written summary of events to PFHA within 7 days following the show or event. All horse deaths occurring while on show or event grounds shall be fully investigated by PFHA, including a review of the show veterinarian's notes, including but not limited to necropsy and toxicology reports and other records pertaining to the horse's death as soon as possible after the event to determine the circumstances of the cause of death including but not limited to a root cause analysis performed by a person or committee tasked by the Executive Committee to conduct the study. All members involved shall fully cooperate with the investigation and failure to cooperate shall result in sanctions. Actions and possible sanctions, based on the findings, shall be determined by the Hearing committee or other appropriate committee

Rationale: When a horse dies at a show it should be treated as a serious matter. It is a terrible heartbreaking, and traumatic event for all involved and for those witnessing it. The death needs to be reported promptly and an investigation needs to be done as to the cause of the death. If the death was preventable, then appropriate actions need to be taken towards those involved such as the owner(s), trainer(s), and groom(s) which may include providing education as well as sanctions if warranted. The death could serve as a "teachable moment" for all PFHA members, owners, trainers, and grooms.

Financial Impact: None or may produce revenues for PFHA if fines are levied.

2-20 COSMETIC TAIL ALTERATIONS

Chapter 2, Section VI A, Page 55

Proposed Change: VI. Surgical Procedures and Injections. General Prohibition.

This rule shall not apply to castration ~~or the cosmetic alteration of the horse's tail.~~ ***No horse born after 2018 shall be allowed to show or participate at a PFHA sanctioned show or event with a tail surgically altered for cosmetic reasons.*** The horse's tail may not be altered by the insertion of a foreign object, foreign substance, drug, or surgery. Under no circumstances may a horse with a "dead tail" be shown at a PFHA sanctioned show.

Rationale: Surgically altering a horse's tail for cosmetic reasons is a dangerous and outdated practice and the time has come to finally put an end to doing this procedure on our horses. Surgically altering a horse's tail serves absolutely no purpose to the horse whatsoever. It is done only for an arbitrary "cosmetic" reason and to create an aesthetic characteristic that the horse lacks naturally, in other words, it could be considered a form of cheating. It blatantly belies and contradicts our claim that our horses are "natural" when exhibited. A horse with a "cut" (surgically altered) tail may be left with several complications, some severe, including infections, a deformed tail, and a tail that loses the ability to swat flies and insects by swishing. Death can also occur from a botched procedure. The surgery is done illicitly by unlicensed people which is illegal and more importantly, very dangerous

for the horse when complications occur during or after the procedure. Colombia's former President Sr. Uribe has even come out against the practice of tail cutting and has asked horse owners to stop doing it. Please, for once and for all, let's end the barbaric practice of tail cutting/surgical alteration from now going forward. Aren't our horses beautiful enough as they are?

Financial Impact: None or may produce revenues for PFHA if fines are levied.

2-21 MINIMUM AGE OF HORSE IN SADDLE CLASS MUST BE 36 MONTHS

Chapter 2, Section IX A, Page 63

Proposed Change: IX. Schooling Classes

A. Horse must be ~~thirty (30)~~ **thirty-six (36)** Months.

Notwithstanding the fact that a horse may be considered a three (3) year old under the rule in Section VIII., C., above, no horse may be ridden in a saddle class, whether a schooling or regular class, until it is at least ~~thirty (30)~~ **thirty-six (36)** months old, based on the actual date of foaling.

Rationale: A horse's bones and joints are still growing and developing at 30 months of age. In order to get a filly or colt ready for competition at 30-36 months of age means they are being started, ridden, and trained for competition well before they reach 30 months of age. This places extra-ordinary stress on the young horse and can cause long term and permanent damage and even death. A young filly or colt can be easily traumatized from the rigors of training for competition which leads to the young horse being "ruined" or killed before they have even had a chance to grow up and mature. Horses that have been traumatized and pushed too hard at such a young age are extremely difficult and costly to rehabilitate and retrain. As a result, many end up going to slaughter or passed from owner to owner and trainer to trainer. Our horses do not deserve to be treated as "throwaways" but riding them in competition at less than 36 months of age certainly sets them up for failure and in essence creates "throwaway" horses in the process.

The public and prospective owners watch very closely what we do in regards to how we raise, train, and exhibit our horses. Thus, it is important that we present the best possible image of our horses and our members. We demonstrate a commitment to protecting the welfare, health, soundness, and therefore the best interests of our horses when we delay the age at which we begin saddle training and exhibiting in saddle classes. Thirty-six (36) months of age is still young for a horse to be ridden in competition but this rule change is a good step in the right direction for protecting our horses in the long term.

Financial Impact: None

2-22 MINIMUM AGE OF HORSE RIDDEN BY AMATEUR MUST BE 48 MONTHS

Chapter 2, Section IX A, Page 63

Proposed Change: IX. Schooling Classes

A. Horse must be thirty (30) Months.

Notwithstanding the fact that a horse may be considered a three (3) year old under the rule in Section VIII., C., above, no horse may be ridden in a saddle class, whether a schooling or regular class, until it is at least thirty (30) months old, based on the actual date of foaling, **and no Amateur Owner or Youth may ride a horse in a saddle class, whether a schooling or regular class, until the horse is at least forty-eight (48) months or older based on the actual date of foaling.**

Rationale: This rule change will allow only professional trainers to ride 3 year old horses in saddle classes. The reason for this proposal is for the safety of the Amateur rider. A three year old horse is a green horse. As such, they can be unpredictable and even dangerous when faced or over-faced with new situations. Professional trainers are better equipped to handle these situations than most amateur riders. In addition to looking out for the safety of the rider and horse, there is a public image aspect to consider, too. It never looks good when a rider comes off a horse or when a horse rears up, bucks, spooks, or shies all of which can happen with a green horse in a new

environment. Limiting the three year old saddle classes to only professionals will give the horse another year to be "seasoned" and to mature as a show horse before being ridden competitively by amateur riders

Financial Impact: None

2-23 MINIMUM AGE OF HORSE IN SADDLE CLASS MUST BE 48 MONTHS

Chapter 2, Section IX A, Page 63

Proposed Change: IX. Schooling Classes

A. Horse must be forty-eight (48) Months.

Notwithstanding the fact that a horse may be considered a ~~three (3) year old~~ **a four (4) year old** under the rule in Section VIII., C., above, no horse may be ridden in a saddle class, whether a schooling or regular class, until it is at least ~~thirty (30)~~ **forty-eight (48)** months old, based on the actual date of foaling.

Rationale: The bones of 2 and 3 year old horses are still growing and developing. While light riding and basic training may be appropriate, training for competition places extra-ordinary stress on the young horse and often causes long term and permanent damage and even death. The damage may not show up for years but it results in limiting the usefulness of the older horse and shortens the horse's competitive career years. Preparing a young horse for competition is akin to training an athlete and requires a high level of not only physical stress and conditioning but also mental stress and conditioning. The truth is that many young horses just cannot take the stress of being pushed and break down as a result and/or wash out of the show ring or die. Horses that have been traumatized and pushed too hard too young are very difficult and time consuming to rehabilitate and retrain. The ones that survive often end up as "unwanted,, horses. These horses get passed from owner to owner and trainer to trainer and many end up heading through the "slaughter pipeline", from auction to kill pen broker/feed lot and to slaughter in foreign countries.

If the age for showing in saddle classes was delayed until the horse reached 4 years of age, it would give the young horse a life-long advantage. It would allow the young horse's bones to grow and develop properly and allow another several months to mature mentally and emotionally. This mental maturity and slower training progression will be better in the long run for the horse and will make training for showing easier and less dangerous for the trainer and owner. Young, green horses that spook, shy, rear, buck and basically melt down in the show ring because they lack mental maturity and experience presents a bad image of our horses to the public and creates a dangerous situation for all the horses and riders, judges, and others present in the show ring.

Financial Impact: None

2-24 LENGTH OF PORT

Chapter 2, Section VII I, Page 58

Proposed Change: All ports must be less than three (3) inches in height in horses **less than five (5) years of age and may be three and one half (3 ½) inches or less in height in horses five (5) years of age and** older as measured from the bottom of the mouthpiece to the top of the port or spoon.

Rationale: Safety. Older horses may require larger port to be properly restrained in competition.

Financial Impact: None

3-1 SUB-JUNIOR CANNOT COMPETE IN AMATEUR CLASS

Chapter 3, Section 1A, Page 69

Proposed Change: *Sub-Juniors cannot enter into Amateur or Open classes in Pleasure, Performance and Fino Divisions*

Rationale: Current rule does not prohibit youth riders from entering the Divisional classes. By not allowing cross entering of sub-junior riders into Amateur and Open classes would be a safety issue as they are competing with adults. Sub-juniors do not have the years of experience and sometimes the physical strength to help them in bad

situations. Also if they enter Championships, they may be competing with Amateurs and Open exhibitors on colts and stallions and may not be able to distance their horse if necessary. There are many class opportunities for our youth and once they become Junior riders could, they could enter them.

Financial Impact: None

3-2 GOLD MEDAL ADVANCED EQUITATION

Chapter 3, Section I B 8, Page 71

Proposed Change: Add the following additional paragraph.

Once a Youth rider has placed first in a Silver Medal Class, that youth rider is not eligible to exhibit in another Silver Medal Class for the remainder of the current competition year. The Youth rider may, but is not required to ride the same horse at Gold Medal Final Class that the rider rode when he/she qualified to participate in the Gold Medal Final Class. The winner of the Gold Medal Class is no longer eligible to compete in medal classes after having won twice.

Rationale: Agree with USEF Paso Fino rule 107 2.b

Financial Impact: None

3-3 DRIVING APPOINTMENTS

Chapter 3, Section VII E 2, Page 106

Proposed Change: Add the following paragraph.

All exhibitors, twelve (12) years of age and under are required to wear safety headgear at all time while driving or while in the driving cart at any association authorized function.

Rationale: Safety. Agree with USEF Paso Fino rule 106.5

Financial Impact: None

3-4 MINIMUM AGE OF HORSE IN DRIVING CLASS MUST BE 48 MONTHS

Chapter 3, Section VII E, Page 105, 106

Proposed Change: E. Paso Pleasure Driving Class.

This class is open to Paso Fino horses ~~thirty-six months (36)~~ **forty-eight (48) months** or older, as determined by the actual date of foaling.

Rationale: The reason for this proposal is for the safety and welfare of the Amateur driver and his or her young, green horse and for the safety of the other drivers and their horses, judges, and others in the show ring. A three year old horse is a green horse. As such, they are unpredictable and even dangerous when faced or over-faced with new situations. The fact that there could be multiple sets of horses and drivers/carts means there is an even greater risk of harm to horses and humans when things go wrong. An older horse may be more "seasoned" and less likely to cause a wreck if spooked. In addition to looking out for the safety of the driver and horse, there is a public image aspect to consider, too. It never looks good when a horse tied to a cart spooks, runs off, or crashes with another horse and cart, all of which can happen with a green horse in a new environment. Allowing the driving horse another year to mature and become a seasoned cart horse may help preserve the safety of the horse, driver, fellow horses and drivers, and others present in the show ring.

Financial Impact: None

3-5 EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Chapter 3, Section I A 5 & 9, Page 69 & 71

Proposed Change: Under I A 5:

Points shall be accumulated based on the specific horse a Youth rides in Classic Fino, Paso Performance, Horsemanship and Paso Pleasure Youth classes. ***The exception to this rule is Equitation classes, points are***

accumulated in Equitation classes by the rider regardless of the horse ridden and, therefore, a rider in Equitation may ride a different horse in the Equitation Championship than in the qualifying class.

Qualification in Equitation for the Association's Grand National Championship show is dependent only on the rider's point count in the Equitation division.

Under A 9:

To be eligible for entry into a Championship class, a horse/rider combination must have been properly entered, shown and judged in one of the qualifying classes. **Exception is an Equitation rider may ride a different horse than in the qualifying class.**

Rationale: This is a Rule Clarification that was ratified by the BOD July 8, 2017

Financial Impact: None

3-6 THREE QUARTER SLEEVE LENGTHS ALLOWED IN PLEASURE DIVISION

Chapter 3, Section V-VI, Page 90, 94

Proposed Change: Where English or Plantation type tack is used, the rider's attire shall consist of or a long-sleeved shirt, full-length trouser, **a three quarter sleeve jacket with a short sleeve shirt,** tailored jacket or vest, hat and riding boots.

Rationale: Allowing exhibitors in the pleasure divisions the option to wear a three quarters length jackets instead of requiring long sleeves gives the exhibitors more flexibility in the pleasure division, allows for comfort during hot weather, and expands the options for purchasing commercially available, seasonally appropriate attire for showing in the pleasure divisions.

Financial Impact: None

4-1 FUTURITY NOTIFICATION

Chapter 4 II B page 109

Proposed Change: The PFHA Futurity Committee shall contact all nominated horse owners eligible for entry into the Fabulous Futurity Classes at the Grand National Show before the 1st tier deadline for entries of the Grand National Show and shall present proof of such contact to the Grand National Show Committee.

Rationale: Horse owners are not aware that their horse is eligible for entry into the Fabulous Futurity classes and therefore do not enter or fail to enter.

Financial Impact: Potentially increase in revenues via more entries into the Grand National Show Fabulous Futurity Classes

5-1 EMERITUS STATUS

Chapter 5, Section III, Page 115

Proposed Change: Add this new section F and renumber the remaining sections.

F. Judges/Stewards Emeritus

To award Paso Fino Horse Association Judges and Stewards the title of Judge/Steward Emeritus in recognition of their services to the Paso Fino Horse Association after their retirement as such.

A. Eligibility:

Minimal of 4 of the following must be met:

- 1. Senior Certified Judge/ Steward active and with a participation for a minimum of 10 years. (Active may be waived for individuals that previous went inactive).**
- 2. Have demonstrated excellence in his/her performance as Judge or Steward.**
- 3. Have actively participated in different PFHA Committees (Judges and Stewards, Clinic and Education, Hearing)**

4. *Have actively participated in PFHA education and clinics.*
5. *Have published articles, books, etc. related to the Paso Fino breed.*
6. *Have international judging or stewarding experience.*

Curriculum vitae needs to be submitted for the consideration of the Judges and Stewards Committee which the Board of Directors will ratify.

B. Privileges:

1. *Listed in the Judges/Stewards list with their title. (Emeritus)*
2. *Assigned office facilities and support for research, if available.*
3. *Invitation to participate in Seminars, clinics, lectures and adhoc committees.*
4. *Library privileges.*

Rationale: To award retired Paso Fino Horse Association Judges and Stewards the title of Judge/Steward Emeritus in recognition of their services to the Paso Fino Horse Association after their retirement as such.

Financial Impact: None

7-1 AWARDS FOR COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDES

Chapter 7, Section IV, Page 137, 138

Proposed Change:

A. Competitive Trail Rides.

The Association shall award points for miles ridden, for final impression score and ~~for placement (if placed) in veterinarian/lay Judge~~ judging categories in a Competitive Trail Ride at the following rate: One (1) point shall be awarded for each five (5) mile increment completed of the competitive trail ride for rides of twenty five (25) through twenty nine (29) miles; two (2) points for each five (5) mile increment for rides of thirty (30) miles up to an including forty (49) miles; three (3) points for each five (5) mile increment for rides of fifty (50) miles up to an including seventy four (74) miles; four (4) points for each five (5) mile increment for rides of seventy five (75) miles up to an including ninety nine (99) miles; and (5) five points for each five (5) mile increment for rides of one hundred (100) miles. For example: A horse that completes a seventy five (75) mile ride will be awarded sixty (60) points for mileage.

The Association also shall award points for placement in the following categories established by the competitive trail ride management, as shown below:

~~1. Placement from Veterinarian Judge. Points for first (1st) through sixth (6th) placements are as follows:~~

~~First (1st): eighteen (18) points, second (2nd): fifteen (15) points, third (3rd): twelve (12) points, fourth (4th): nine (9) points, fifth (5th): six (6) points and sixth (6th): five (5) points.~~

In addition to points already awarded to Competitive Trail Rides for mileage, ~~placement (if placed) from veterinarian Judge and (if placed) from trail/lay Judge(s),~~ points also shall be awarded for the average of the final overall impression scores from the veterinary and trail/lay Judge(s) as follows:

- Ninety eight (98) to one hundred (100): eighteen (18) points,
- Ninety five (95) to ninety seven (97): sixteen (16) points,
- Ninety two (92) to ninety four (94): fourteen (14)points,
- Eighty nine (89) to ninety one (91): twelve (12) points,
- Eighty six (86) to eighty eight (88): ten (10) points,
- Eighty three (83) to eighty five (85): eight (8) points,
- Eighty (80) to eighty two (82): six (6) points,
- Seventy seven (77) to seventy nine (79): four (4) points and
- Seventy four (74) to seventy six (76): two (2) points.

If the average of the scores comes out to 96.5, for example, the points shall be rounded up to the next highest number, in this case, 97. If the ride does not have a trail/lay component, then the overall score

from the veterinarian will be used. If a ride uses a score other than 100 (such as 200, 300, 400, etc.) then the final score will be divided by two, three, four, etc., to obtain a number between zero and 100. For example: Ride A uses 200 as its top score. Applicant Paso Fino scores 160. Divide 160 by two, which equals 80, which equals six PFHA points. Ride B uses 400 as the top score. Applicant Paso Fino scores 380. Divide 380 by four, which equals 95 or 16 PFHA points.

If the score comes to 95.5, for example, the score will be rounded up to 96. If the score comes to 95.4, it will be rounded down to 94.

Rationale: To standardize the points awarded so that there are no biases based upon regional distance organization scoring (ECTRA, SEDRA, NACMO) and no biases based on number of participants in the ride.

Financial Impact: None

7-2 CHANGE MILES FOR COMPETITIVE TRAIL RIDE AWARDS

Chapter 7, Section IV, Page 137

Proposed Change:

B. Competitive Trail Rides.

The Association shall award points for miles ridden, for final impression score and for placement (if placed) in veterinarian/lay Judge judging categories in a Competitive Trail Ride at the following rate:

One (1) point shall be awarded for each five (5) mile increment completed of the competitive trail ride for rides of ~~twenty five (25)~~ **fifteen (15)** through twenty nine (29) miles;

Rationale: NATRC rules state a minimum of 15 miles on any one day is acceptable for points. The PFHA follows NATRC rules.

Financial Impact: Increased membership revenue for Paso Fino horses competing in Competitive Trail Rides.

Recreational Rider Committee Comments: Committee split. Two members are in favor of this RCO since NATRC recognizes 15 mile rides. Two other members are opposed stating CTR mileage for non-NATRC National organizations is 25 miles, with condition rides being 10 to 15 miles. They felt it would be unfair to provide the same points to someone riding 15 miles as those individual riding 25

7-3 CHANGE ENDURANCE RIDE POINTS

Chapter 7, Section IV, Page 138

Proposed Change:

C. Endurance Rides.

The Association shall award points for miles ridden and completed with a fit horse with an 'official completion' recorded by a veterinarian on Vet Ride Book/Card, ~~and placement for Time Finished, for Best Condition~~ and Post-Ride Vet Check Overall Impression Score at the following rate:

One (1) point shall be awarded for each five (5) mile increment completed on the endurance ride with a fit horse earning a completion recorded as such on the veterinarian ride book or card for a ride of twenty five (25) through twenty nine (29) miles; two (2) points for each five (5) mile increment for rides of thirty (30) miles up to and including forty nine (49) miles; three (3) points for each five (5) mile increment for rides of fifty (50) miles up to and including seventy four (74) miles; four (4) points for each five (5) mile increment for rides of seventy five (75) miles up to and including ninety nine (99) miles; and five (5) points for each five (5) mile increment for rides of one hundred (100) miles.

For example, horse that completes a fifty (50) mile ride will be awarded thirty (30) points for mileage. The Association also shall award points for placement in the following categories, with a fit horse with an 'official completion' recorded by a veterinarian on Vet Ride Book/Card established by the endurance ride management as shown below:

1. Placement ~~Error! Bookmark not defined.~~ for Time Finished. Points for first (1st) through tenth (10th) place are as follows:

- First (1st): eighteen (18) points,
- Second (2nd): sixteen (16) points,
- Third (3rd): fourteen (14) points,
- Fourth (4th): twelve (12) points,
- Fifth (5th): ten (10) points,
- Sixth (6th): eight (8) points,
- Seventh (7th): six (6) points,
- Eighth (8th): four (4) points,
- Ninth (9th): two (2) points and
- Tenth (10th): one (1) point.

2. Placement for Best Condition Award. Points for first (1st) through tenth (10th) place are as follows:

- First (1st): eighteen (18) points,
- Second (2nd): sixteen (16) points,
- Third (3rd): fourteen (14) points,
- Fourth (4th): twelve (12) points,
- Fifth (5th): ten (10) points,
- Sixth (6th): eight (8) points,
- Seventh (7th): six (6) points,
- Eighth (8th): four (4) points,
- Ninth (9th): two (2) points and
- Tenth (10th): one (1) point.

The Association also shall award points for Placement for Post-Ride Vet Check-Overall Impression Score. Points for scores are as follows:

- A+: eighteen (18) points,
- A: sixteen (16) points,
- A-: fourteen (14) points,
- B+: twelve (12) points,
- B: ten (10) points,
- B-: eight (8) points,
- C+: six (6) points,
- C: four (4) points and
- C-: two (2) points.

Rationale: To standardize the points awarded so that there are no biases based upon the number of participants in the ride. Regional differences in participation vary widely. Both the above criteria are unfairly affected by participation.

Financial Impact: None

8-1 REGISTRATION OF HORSES WITH “SPECIAL/UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES”

Chapter 8, Section X D, Page 161

Proposed Change: Add this as new section D and then re-letter the remaining sections

Transfer of Rescues

In case of rescue or “unusual circumstances”, requests for registration or transfer of Paso Fino horses will be taken on a case by case basis. A Committee will be appointed by the President to oversee and present to the Executive Committee, the reasons that exceptions should be made in each case. The appointed Committee shall work jointly with the Registry Advisory Committee. The Committee will have the right to dismiss a case if

majority agrees an exception should not be made. Each case would be taken on its own merit with regards to the circumstances. The Committee will always keep the integrity of our registration first and foremost.

Rationale: In the case of registered horses where registrations have been lost, or former owner refuses to sign off, or bill of sale is not written on the PFHA approved form, or executors for the deceased owner refuse to search for the original registration, the committee will take information and decide validity of the request for make change on registration and true ownership of the horse. In the case of rescue, when DNA can be traced to registered horse, PFHA should have in place a way for the new owner to get the horse registered or transferred without the former owner having to sign off.

Financial Impact: Possible loss of revenue if Committee decides certain forms are not necessary.

8-2 MICROCHIP ALL PFHA REGISTERED HORSES

Chapter 8, Section IV A, Page 144

Proposed Change: Add this as new section A and then re-letter the remaining sections

All horses being registered with PFHA after 2018 shall be microchipped.

Rationale: Assists in the identification of the horse, specifically helpful in finding the lineage of rescue horses.

Financial Impact: Increased revenue from microchip fees.

8-3 RECORD OF OWNERSHIP WITH EMBRYO TRANSFERS

Chapter 8, Section I 1 & 3, Page 149

Proposed Change:

1. General Rule: Applicant Horse is Registered in Name of Owner or Lessee of Dam.

Except as provided in Subsection 2. below, the applicant horse must be registered in the name of the recorded owner or lessee of the dam at the time of foaling **or at the time of breeding if the foal is the result of an embryo transfer.**

3. No exception if Foal Transferred.

b. If, pursuant to the general rule provided in Subsection 1. above, the ownership of the applicant horse at the time of foaling, **or at the time of breeding if the foal is the result of an embryo transfer**, is listed in two or more names, the recorded owners of the foal will be listed as owners in the conjunctive by use of the ampersand symbol...

Rationale: Clarification that foals resulting from embryo transfer will require the signature(s) from the owner(s) of the dam at the time of breeding. If the genetic dam is sold before the foal is born, the new owner appears to be required to sign as the owner of the dam at the time of foaling.

Financial Impact: None

8-4 EMBRYO TRANSFER REGISTRATION SIGNATURES

Chapter 8, Section VI A 2, Page 156

Proposed Change:

2. **The owner of the genetic dam at the time of breeding shall sign the registration application as the owner of the dam at the time of foaling.** An Embryo/Oocyte Transfer Permit must be filed with the Association or accompany any registration of a foal as a result of an embryo/oocyte transfer. There will be a fee to file this permit. The Board of Directors will determine the fee.

Rationale: There is currently nothing in place that specifies the required signatures for foals resulted by Embryo Transfer. If the genetic dam is sold before the foal is born, the new owner appears to be required to sign as the owner of the dam at the time of foaling, for a foal they have never seen.

Financial Impact: None

G-1 GLOSSARY ADDITION-BOLERO JACKET

Glossary

Proposed Change: Bolero Jacket – A style of jacket that ends approximately with the rider’s waist. *Bolero jackets should not touch the back of the saddle and/or the rider should not be sitting on the jacket.*

Rationale: A better definition of what a Bolero jacket should be. This was taken from the rule clarification of June 2016.

Financial Impact: None

G-2 GLOSSARY ADDITION-HEEL ON BOOTS

Glossary

Proposed Change: *Boots/shoes must have a distinguishable heel.*

Rationale: Safety of rider.

Financial Impact: None

G-3 GLOSSARY ADDITION-DEFINITION OF HALT

Glossary

Proposed Change: *The halt is to bring your horse to a complete stop. If the horse has halted correctly, they will have their nose down, will not swing to one side or turn into the rail, and will be standing more or less square (“a leg in each corner”). You should get a sense that the horse would move forward immediately when asked rather than using the halt as an excuse to shut down. All of this shows that the horse understands the concept of moving in both reins in balance.*

Rationale: A definition of halt so that exhibitors know that they are not supposed to turn their horses into the rail when a halt is called.

Financial Impact: None

G-4 GLOSSARY ADDITION-CONSERVATIVE COLOR

Glossary

Proposed Change: *Conservative in Color – Conservative colors (including trim) are black, white, off white, darker shades of grey, blue, green, red, brown and purple.*

Rationale: Our rule book mentions “conservative in color” in several sections. This RCP defines such colors. This was taken from the rule clarification June 2016.

Financial Impact: None

G-5 DEFINITION OF DISQUALIFICATION AND EXCUSED

Chapter 2, Section VIII G, Page 63

Proposed Change: Insert the following section.

G. *Disqualified/Excused*

1. *Disqualified from class –While the class is working, horse is required to leave the ring by the exhibitor or by the judge prior to the lineup. The horse is not qualified for the championship.*
2. *Disqualified from competition – Horse will be disqualified from the entire competition under the following circumstances.*
 - a. *Horse exits arena without permission.*
 - b. *Abuse/cruelty.*
 - c. *Ineligible exhibitor due to relationship with judge.*
 - d. *Ineligible horse to due to relationship with judge.*

e. Undue stress on horse.

f. Soreing

3. Excused from class – Exhibitor completes the class and remains in the ring at the line up. Horse is qualified for the championship.

Rationale: Clarify disqualified from class, disqualified from competition and excused from class.

Financial Impact: None

G-6 GLOSSARY ADDITION-DISQUALIFICATION FROM CLASS

Glossary

Proposed Change: Disqualification from class

Horse will be disqualified from the entire competition under the following circumstances.

a. Horse exits arena without permission.

b. Abuse/cruelty.

c. Ineligible exhibitor due to relationship with judge.

d. Ineligible horse to due to relationship with judge.

e. Undue stress on horse.

f. Soreing

Rationale:

Financial Impact: None

G-7 GLOSSARY ADDITION-DEFINITION OF EXCUSED FROM CLASS

Glossary

Proposed Change: *Excused from class – Exhibitor completes the class and remains in the ring at the line up. Horse is qualified for the championship*

Rationale:

Financial Impact: None