

E  **UINE**
Sports Council

2024

Standards and Guidelines

Forward

Welcome to the Equine Sports Council Standards & Guidelines, a reference guide for participants, officials, and enthusiasts of non-olympic equine sports. Our sanctioned network of horse shows is dedicated to promoting fairness, safety, and excellence in all facets of equine sports.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all those who have contributed to the development of these standards and guidelines. Your dedication and expertise are instrumental in shaping the future of equine sports.

Approval & Authorized Use

The 2024 Equine Sports Council Standards & Guidelines is organized in three sections:

- The *Standards & Guidelines* cover activity and conduct *outside of the show ring*.
- The Welfare and BioSecurity pillar outlines standards for human and animal welfare and our available drug testing program and the proper allowance of therapeutic medications.
- The Penalties section sets guidelines for disqualifications based on severities.
- The Sports Concepts are the class and judging specifications for how the sport of showing horses is to occur *inside the ring* grouped by breed and/or discipline.

Horse Shows occurring in 2024 that subscribe to the ESC Network and collect ESC sanctioning fees are hereby authorized by the Officers of Equine Sports Council full use of these rules and guidelines effective April 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

Table of Contents

Pillar 1	Standards & Guidelines
Pillar 2	Welfare & Biosecurity
Pillar 3	Penalties & Enforcements
Pillar 4	Sports Concepts
SC 1	American Saddlebred
SC2	American Hackey
SC3	American Morgan
SC4	Saddle Seat Equitation
SC5	Roadster
SC6	Monarch Single Bit
SC7	Hunter/Jumper
SC8	Ranch

STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

CHAPTER 1 – DEFINITIONS

DF100 - ESC Organization

Equine Sports Council is a non-member, private Alabama Corporation dedicated to the support and growth of the horse show industry by creating a network of horse shows that all use the same standardized set of rules and guidelines, and giving back to the breeds and disciplines who support our network.

DF100.1 ESC Horse Show Network

Horse shows within ESC's network are committed to providing a competition environment that promotes good sportsmanship, fair competition, and the highest standards of horsemanship. The welfare of the horse and the safety of exhibitors are paramount. Exhibitors at ESC shows are required to sign entry forms, and pay an ESC fee which constitutes a contractual agreement that these rules will be followed. Failure to do so may result in suspensions which are documented here: EquineSportsCouncil.org/info

DF100.2 Recommended Document Use

This document is developed for the shows within the ESC Network and is subject to ongoing updates and customization based on the class types offered at ESC Network horse shows. Federal or State Provincial laws, including but not limited to emergency preparedness, storm/weather evacuations, banned medication substances (which may include government drug testing which may differ from ESC) should always be followed. Individual Breed and Discipline Associations may have variances between one another in their rules and definitions, and those unique breed or discipline rules would apply accordingly. At ESC Governed events, the ESC Suspension list supersedes any other association or governing body, unless there is reciprocity. Show management may deny entry to any individual for any reason,

DF101 Age of Individual

Is determined by their age as of December 1 and will be maintained throughout the show year.

DF102 Adult/Senior

Individual who has reached his/her 18th birthday, and a **Master** is an individual who has reached their 50th birthday.

DF103 Juvenile Exhibitor

An individual who has not reached his/her 18th birthday.

DF104 Youth

An individual between the ages of 18-21.

DF105 Family

For show purposes the term family includes husband, wife, common law husband/wife, same/opposite gender partners, parent, step-parent, child, brother, step-child, sister, half brother and sister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandmother, grandfather, grandchildren, and in-laws of the same relation as stated above.

DF106 Trainer (PRO)

1. Any person who has “agent responsibility” for the care, training, custody or performance of a horse.
2. The trainer must be designated on, and must sign the entry blank.
3. If a minor exhibitor has no trainer, a parent or guardian must sign and assume responsibility as trainer.

DF107 Amateur (non-PRO)

A person competing in ESC amateur or non-PRO classes must adhere to the following practices:

1. An amateur **MAY** accept financial compensation for judging, instruction of academy/lesson riders under the direction of a professional trainer or instructor, article or photo publications, or coaching the disabled. ***This rule may differ among various Sanctioning Organizations and acceptance of compensation may affect one’s amateur status outside of the ESC affiliated network.***
2. An amateur may **NOT** accept financial compensation for training a horse or for showing a horse at any show.
3. An amateur may **NOT** accept financial compensation for coaching/instructing any non-academy person to ride, drive or to show in-hand; including coaching/instructing riding or driving clinics and seminars. (Exception: See DF101.6a)
4. An amateur may not train or show a horse, or instruct a non-academy rider, driver or handler, when compensation for this activity will be given to a corporation or farm which he, or his family, owns or controls.
5. An amateur may not act as an agent nor accept commission for the sale, purchase and/or lease of a horse unless said horse is owned by him/her or a family member.
6. Individuals who are interning to receive college credit may receive a stipend for such and may maintain amateur status. However, these students may only exhibit horses owned by themselves or the trainer for whom they are working. They may not exhibit client horses in the Youth or NON-Pro divisions.
7. Changing back to Amateur Status - Individuals who have not engaged in any of the activities in DF101.6 b-g during the preceding one (1) calendar year may compete in amateur classes.
8. For the purpose of the above rules, financial compensation is defined as rewards (monetary or in kind) received for duty and/or services rendered.

DF108 Amateur Owner Trainer (AOT)

1. Entries must be registered under the competitor's name or a family member's name. Leased entries are ineligible.
2. Joint ownership is prohibited unless all owners are from the same family.
3. Horses may be stabled with or hauled by a professional.
4. Headers and in-ring assistants must be amateurs at least 16 years old.
5. Professional coaching is not allowed in the warm-up ring or during the class.
6. Entries must not have received professional training for at least 60 days (American Saddlebred: 90 days) prior to the competition.
7. Amateur Owner/Trainers (AOTs) are permitted to take lessons and attend clinics, with restrictions on training.
8. Trainers or instructors may demonstrate training techniques on horses intended for AOT classes solely to educate the owner. Demonstrations may occur once every 30 days.

DF109 Coach

Any adult who provides riding, driving or handling instruction for non academy riders, drivers or handlers.

DF110 Agent

Any person who acts on behalf of an exhibitor, owner or lessee of a horse, trainer, rider, driver or handler at or in connection with a show.

DF111 “Client” Shall Include:

1. Any person who has received or who has a member of his/her family who has received horse training, instruction in riding, driving, or showing in-hand/halter from the official or from an official’s employee; regardless of whether compensation was exchanged outside of, or at a show.
2. Any person who pays board to the official, or to a member of his/her family. (Exception: Stud/Broodmare board)
3. Conducting clinics or instruction in group activities does not constitute a client relationship, unless individual instruction is given.

DF112 Lessee

An individual who leases a horse from an owner for the purpose of riding, driving or exhibiting said horse. A Lessee is considered the “owner” of the horse for the purpose of showing with proper documentation submitted with the entry forms.

DF113 Owner

The person(s) listed on the horse's registration or the lessee of the horse with proper documentation submitted with the entry forms.

DF114 Exhibitor

The person entered in a show as a rider, driver, vaulter or handler.

DF115 Horse

The term horse refers to any equine and may also include mule if the discipline allows such.

DF116 Horse Age / Status

An Equine is considered to be one year old on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling for show purposes.

1. A **Senior** horse is six years of age or older.
2. A **Junior** horse is generally four years of age or younger. Hackneys - four or younger. Friesians - six or younger. (See Breed/Discipline exceptions)
3. A **Green** horse is in their first show year of showing in any performance discipline.
4. A **Maiden** horse has not yet won a first place ribbon in a specific division. (See breed/discipline exceptions)
5. A **Novice** horse has not yet won three first place ribbons in a specific division. (See breed/discipline exceptions)
6. A **Limit** horse has not yet won six first place ribbons in a specific division. (See breed/discipline exceptions)

DF117 Horse Gender

Mare - female horse

Gelding - male horse that is castrated

Stallion - a male horse that is not castrated

DF118 Horse Size

Standard horse sizes vary by breed associations and their judging specifications. On average equines measuring greater than 14.2 hands are considered to be a "horse" versus a "pony," which typically measure under 14.2 hands. There are exceptions to these measurements. Refer to the breed judging standards for more specifics.

DF119 Soundness and Loss of Sight

1. All horses at ESC governed events must be serviceably sound. Horses that show signs of recent cruelty or abuse should be reported to show management immediately and examined by the show vet. Horses exhibited with labored breathing, poor cadence and/or minor soundness issues may be penalized at the judge's discretion.
2. A horse with loss of sight in one eye may be deemed eligible to compete in performance classes provided the division rules allow it.

3. Horses with loss of sight in at least one eye in breeding classes may be deemed ineligible based on the standards of the breed.

CHAPTER 2 – GUIDELINES

GL201 Show Year

Begins January 1 and ends December 31.

GL202 Roles & Responsibilities of Show Personnel

All ESC shows are required to designate, prior to the start of the show, named individuals fulfilling the roles of: Show Manager, Steward and Judge. The Judge's role cannot be interchangeable with other responsibilities.

The primary Roles and Responsibilities of show personnel are as follows:

GL202 Show Manager

Overall responsibility for operations.

GL203 Show Secretary

Processes and keeps the records of the show.

GL204 Show Judge

Officiates classes and awards class placings.

GL205 Steward or Technical Delegate

Provides guidance on the rules.

GL205.1 Show Commission

All ESC shows appoint a three person "Show Commission" that is designated in the prize list and/or show website. The Show Commission must consist of adults at least 18 years of age that are familiar with the ESC Rules and able to provide guidance.

The Show Commission cannot consist of the show's judge. The Show Commission should include individuals that are present at the show such as the Show Manager, Ring Master, Show Secretary or show committee member(s). The Show Commission is empowered to make unanimous decisions, including disqualification and removal of exhibitors from the show grounds.

GL206 Ringmaster

Assists the Judge and oversees ring safety.

GL207 Show Farrier

Provides shoeing services at the show.

GL208 Show Vet

Provides veterinary care & determines lameness.

GL209 Paddock Manager

Monitors entries entering and exiting the classes and announces class status to the barns.

GL210 Show Volunteers

All other individuals that perform tasks for the Show Committee such as ring maintenance and ribbon presentations.

GL211 Division

The term "Division" is interchanged between referring to the specific breed or disciplines rules and the types of classes within a specific breed or discipline type of class (i.e. Saddlebred Division and the Three Gaited Division within)

GL212 Commencement and Completion of Classes

1. In classes where horses compete collectively, a 2-minute warning is issued, and the in-gate must be closed after the last horse enters the ring or when the 2-minutes are up; whichever is the latter.
2. Judging may not commence until the gate is closed.
3. In classes where horses compete collectively, a class is considered completed when the class has been judged in accordance with the rules and the judge(s) submit their cards to the ringmaster or announcer.
4. In a class where horses compete individually, a class is considered completed when all horses have completed the class routine as designated by the rules.

GL213 Shown and Judged

In classes where horses compete together, a horse has shown and been judged after performing all required gaits both ways of the ring and remaining in the ring until excused by the judge.

GL214 Disqualification in a Show

1. To exclude an exhibitor from participation.
2. If the exhibitor is disqualified after competing, but received an award, the award must be forfeited and may not use the class to qualify for a Championship.

GL215 Elimination

An exhibitor who is eliminated for cause is ineligible to receive an award in that class and may be eliminated from the entire show at the discretion of show officials.

GL216 Excused

1. An exhibitor may request to be excused from a class and may leave the ring upon permission from the judge.
2. A judge has the authority to excuse an exhibitor from the ring when there is a safety concern, or an act was performed that has disqualified the exhibitor from competition. An exhibitor who is excused is ineligible to receive an award for that class.

GL217 Falls of Rider or Horse

1. A rider has fallen if s/he is involuntarily disengaged from his horse which requires them to remount.
2. A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground.
3. The fall of a horse and/or rider will disqualify the entry if the fall was due to bad manners of the horse or if the safety of the rider is threatened. A fall in the Western, Reining and Dressage divisions require disqualification. Refer to Breed Specific judging standards.

CHAPTER 3 – CLASS TYPES

The status of Maiden, Novice or Limit entries is as of the closing date of entries for any particular show. Ribbons won in one-horse classes do not count.

CL301 Maiden

Horses that have not won a first place ribbon at any sanctioned or open show.

CL302 Novice

1. **HORSES** that have not yet won 3 (three) first place ribbons at any sanctioned or open show.
2. **RIDERS** who have not yet won 3 (three) first place ribbons at any sanctioned or open show.
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CL303 Limit

1. **HORSES** that have not yet won 6 (six) first place ribbons at any sanctioned or open show.
RIDERS who have not yet won 6 (six) first place ribbons at any sanctioned or open show.

CL304 Division Designation Differences

For the following breeds/disciplines: Friesian, Hackney, Morgan, Roadster, and Open Western, ribbons won within one division do not count against the determination of Maiden, Novice or Limit status if the horse is shown in a different division (i.e. A horse that is no longer Novice in Morgan Park Harness may still be eligible as a Novice Western Morgan Pleasure horse).

CL305 Saddlebred Designation Differences

First place ribbons won in any under saddle classes impact the status of a horse for under saddle divisions, but do not affect the status for driving classes, and vice versa. (i.e. A horse that is no longer Novice for Country Pleasure under saddle, would no longer be eligible for any under saddle Novice classes, but could be eligible for a Novice Country Pleasure Driving class.

CL306 Hackney Designation Differences

1. The status for Hackney ponies is impacted between the Roadster Pony and Hackney Roadster classes. (i.e. If a Hackney pony is no longer eligible for Novice Roaster pony, they would not be eligible for Hackney Roadster Pony).
2. Riders - see breed/divisions rules to determine Maiden, Novice or Limit status of riders, drivers and handlers.
3. Ribbons won in one-horse classes do not count in reckoning the maiden, novice or limit status of either horse and/or rider/driver in any division.
4. The status of Maiden, Novice or Limit entries is as of the closing date of entries for any particular show.
5. Ribbons won within one section or division do count in the reckoning of Maiden, Novice, or Limit status if horses compete in a different division.

CL307 Open Classes

May include horses of any age or sex, or riders, drivers, handlers of any status. The show should make clear distinctions for these classes.

CL308 Owner's Classes

Must consist of exhibitors that own the horse being shown or may be a member of the owner's immediate family unless otherwise stated in the prize list.

CL308 Amateur Classes

Must consist of individuals who are eligible in accordance with DF101.6 may compete in these classes. Amateur classes are restricted to riders, drivers or handlers who are no longer eligible to compete as a Juvenile Exhibitor unless Juvenile Exhibitor classes are not available at the show.

CL309 Amateur/Owner Classes

The Exhibitor must be an amateur and the owner, or an amateur member of the owner's family.

CL310 Amateur Owned and Trained Classes

1. Open to horses that are owned, trained and exhibited by an amateur and/or an amateur within their immediate family.
2. A horse may not have had professional training within 90 days prior to being shown and may not be professionally trained at the show when being shown in an AOT class.

CL311 Breeding or In-Hand

1. Breeding or In-Hand classes may be offered in any division. The prize list must designate the age, sex, height, rider status (if necessary) and manner of showing for these classes.
2. All Futurity classes are considered part of the respective Breeding sections.

CL312 Model Classes

Model classes may be offered in any division. They may be divided by, age, sex, and height or rider status and may be held prior to a Breeding section to provide a standard for judging.

CL313 Local Classes

Classes in which entry is limited to territory/state (whether bred or resides) or members of a club. Any specs outside of division specs must be listed in the prize list or the show's website.

CL314 Academy Classes

Entries are limited to beginners and/or intermediate exhibitors. Once an exhibitor shows in regular performance classes, they are no longer eligible to show in Academy classes.

1. Exception: riders who have shown in performance under saddle may show Academy driving and Driver who has driven in performance may show Academy under saddle.
2. Horses in academy classes should be “lesson-type” horses that are regularly used in a lesson program. Horses may be privately owned, but they should not be “in training”.
3. Unless local rules specify otherwise, academy horses may be cross entered into performance classes with a different rider.
4. Horses may be flat shod. Refer to local rules regarding the use of pads.
5. Hoof blacking is encouraged, but braiding is not permitted.
6. Juvenile Exhibitor academy riders must wear riding helmets.

CL315 Exhibition (Demonstration)

A performance included in the schedule which highlights certain skills/qualities of interest to the equestrian community.

CL316 Opportunity Class

Open to any horse and does not require registration papers to enter. Opportunity classes only qualify for Opportunity Championships. Unless otherwise stated in Prize List, entries may cross entered in Opportunity and non-Opportunity classes.

CHAPTER 4 - REQUIREMENTS OF SHOWS

RS401 ESC Registration for Horse Show Network

Competitions must register annually for the ESC Horse Show Network. This ensures the horse show additional protections and benefits through utilization of the ESC Network, its standardized rules and guidelines, officials' insurance, and our dispute resolution process. The shows will collect a \$15 ESC Affiliation Fee for each Performance (non-Academy) horse shown. Academy riders will be charged \$5 each. The ESC exhibitor fees collected are due to ESC within thirty (30) business days following the conclusion of the show.

ESC Marketing Grant Year 2 & Subsequent Years – Based on the prior year exhibitor fees collected by a competition, 25% of the total collected will be re-invested in a managed marketing grant to include class sponsorships, digital and print advertising, or other approved promotional activities.

ESC Marketing Grant Guarantees & Forfeitures – shows must remain within the ESC Network or forfeit their earned marketing grants.

RS402 Drug Testing Fees

1. Competitions with at least 250 entries may elect to have drug testing at their event.
2. Competitions utilizing ESC drug testing will collect \$10 ESC drug fee per PERFORMANCE horse exhibited to remit to ESC after the competition.
3. ESC will contract with a local licensed veterinarian to randomly perform drug testing.
4. Competitions will agree to provide assistance to the testing Veterinarian and proper facilities as necessary.
5. Horse Shows in the ESC Network have the right to drug test any horse on the show grounds where animal welfare is a concern. All drug testing must be approved through ESC by calling 1-855-Equine1

All horses at ESC events are required to submit to random drug testing at the direction of ESC, state/local authorities, show staff and/or the show vet. Refusal to cooperate or preventing immediate access to the horse for drug testing will presume an admission of guilt to a Class 1 drug offense.

RS403 Show Commitment to ESC

Show Management, Trainers and Exhibitors agree to follow the rules, standards and class specifications provided herein, and agree to operate the show in accordance with these guidelines.

RS404 Insurance Coverage

1. It is required that all shows provide proof of \$1 Million Dollar General Liability insurance for each show. Equine Sports Council must be named as an additional insured, and certificate must stipulate date and location of event. Certificate of Insurance must be submitted to Equine Sports Council 30 days prior to the start of the show.
2. Equine Sports Council will provide a one (1) year Official's Liability Insurance which covers \$6 million per claim and \$14 Million aggregate for any Judge officiating at an ESC affiliated show. Policy will start on the first day of judging at an ESC show and will be effective for one year.

RS405 Required Designated Show Officials

The following are required official positions: Manager, Steward, Secretary, Judge, Show Commission, Announcer, Ringmaster, Paddock Master, Farrier and Gatekeeper. Except for the Judge, individuals may serve in more than one capacity.

RS406 Optional Show Officials

The following are optional officials and/or staff/volunteers the show is encouraged to provide: Photographer, Videographer, Veterinarian, (may be on call), Awards Coordinator, Safety Coordinator

RS407 Required Emergency Medical Staff

It is strongly recommended that all shows, regardless of their size, have an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or Qualified Medical Personnel present during all scheduled performances for treatment of human injury, and have a Human Ambulance Service ON CALL.

Shows with greater than 250 entries are REQUIRED to have a designated Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or Qualified Medical Personnel on site during scheduled classes.

Major competitions, with more than 1,000 entries, should make every effort to have an ambulance on site during all scheduled performances.

Shows are also strongly encouraged to have readily available emergency transport equipment for horses.

CHAPTER 5 – SHOW OFFICIALS

SO501 Show Officials

Horse shows are responsible for appointing qualified individuals and verifying the appropriate level of experience for judging officials. It is highly recommended that experienced judging officials are utilized for major events.

Judges of any ESC Network show must register with ESC and will receive complementary Officials Liability insurance.

The Judge, Show Manager and Steward must be documented in the prize list prior to the start of the show. The Show Manager may also serve as the Steward or Show Commission member, but the role of the Judge must be independent.

SO502 Show Manager

Has the ultimate decision-making authority at all ESC governed horse shows. It shall be the duty of the Manager to:

1. Provide all necessary physical facilities to accommodate the show.
2. Accept responsibility to ensure that all rules are enforced.
3. Hire personnel needed to ensure a successful show.
4. Investigate and act on any rule violation brought to his/her attention.

SO503 Show Secretary

1. Shall accept entries, collect fees and keep accurate records and documentation of all classes.
2. Provide the announcer and gate/paddock person with class sheets and/or order of go.
Responsible for splitting classes and posting class splits, if the number of entries warrants.
3. Provide the judge with cards for respective classes.
4. Post and submit the show results to relevant organizations.

SO504 Show Judges

The Judge is responsible for awarding placings for performances inside the show ring. The Judge should:

1. Officiate each class in conformity with the rules and specifications of classes as they appear in the ESC rules.
2. Ensure ring safety and excuse any unruly horses from the ring.
3. Report any observed rule violation to the Steward and/or Manager so that necessary investigation and/or action can be taken.

4. Report to the Steward and/or Manager all abusive, threatening or harassing behavior that may be a violation of ESC rules, animal or human welfare, or unsportsmanlike conduct.
5. Failure of a Judge to “Officiate” at a show which s/he has committed to officiate may constitute a breach of contract, except in cases of family or personal emergencies.
6. When more than one Judge is used to officiate, it is the responsibility of those Judges to place the classes independently.
7. Judges are required to file a report with ESC should any individual materially violate ESC’s rules in Ethical Engagement of Officials.

SO505 Prohibited Conflicts of Interest

1. A Judge or their family may not be an exhibitor, trainer or other official at that show while serving as judge.
2. A Judge may not officiate in any division where a family member is exhibiting or where a horse owned by the judge is being presented.
3. A Judge may not be the house-guest of a person who is exhibiting in the show or whose family is exhibiting in the show.

SO506 30 Day No-Transaction Period

1. No horse may be shown before a Judge that has been sold by said Judge, his employer, or employee within a period of 30 days prior to the show unless *otherwise specified in the prize list or breed/discipline rules*.
2. No horse may be shown before a Judge that has been boarded, owned, trained, or shown by said Judge within a period of 30 days prior to the show unless otherwise specified in the prize list or breed/discipline rules.
3. No one may show before a Judge where either the Judge or exhibitor has compensated the other person for the leasing, boarding, riding, training, consulting, schooling, assisting, or tutoring of any horse within a period of 30 days, unless otherwise specified in the prize list or breed/discipline rules. This does not apply to stud fees and broodmare care.

SO507 Requesting Judges Feedback

An exhibitor may make a request through the Show Steward or Manager for the Judge’s opinion concerning that exhibitor’s horse. The request must be made at the conclusion of the show. It is the judge’s discretion whether they speak with an exhibitor.

SO508 Show Ring Announcer Responsibilities

1. Under the instruction of the judge (via the Ringmaster) the announcer is to call the classes to the ring, to call all gaits, and to announce any additional instructions as may be necessary during the classes.
2. The Announcer may provide general information about classes and horses, make special announcements and keep the general interest of spectators.

3. The Announcer does not have the authority to call a timeout or excuse an exhibitor without the express direction of the Judge.

SO509 Ringmaster Responsibilities

1. The main responsibility is to assist the designated judge when needed, monitor the show ring for any potential dangers, and to accept a request for “time out”.
2. Escort any person to center ring, such as a ribbon presenter, whose presence is needed in center ring.
3. Ringmasters shall only directly engage judging staff during a class when there are potential emergencies.
4. The Ringmaster has no authority to call a timeout or excuse an exhibitor without the express direction of the Judge.

SO510 Farrier Responsibilities

1. A Farrier is to be available throughout the Show and/or on call; and may be called upon during hours prior to and after the show.|
2. The farrier must be knowledgeable about the shoeing rules of the breed/disciplines competing at the show.

SO511 Paddock Master

1. Responsible for maintaining a safe environment of entry into the ring and in the warm-up areas and helping to communicate announcements to the barns of current class schedule in the ring.
2. Integral in managing the flow of the schedule.
3. Must report to the Steward and/or Management any possible violations as observed in the warm-up areas.

SO512 Show Commission (Stewards or Technical Delegates)

1. Have full knowledge of the current Rules
2. ESC encourages the use of individuals who have been trained to be Stewards, however, the designation of a "Steward" can alternatively be a show manager or a Show Commission member with the ability to enforce guidelines.
3. Be available to all officials and exhibitors to assist in the interpretation and application of the rules.
4. Be available to investigate any allegation of rule violation or any other behavior which may result in a possible violation.
5. Report any offenses or violations of the rules to the Manager, Show Commission and/or ESC.
6. The Steward, after independently investigating, or in concert with manager, may deem a violation has occurred and may request winnings returned, placings changed, or eliminated in cases of abuse or egregious actions.
7. May not officiate in any division which s/he, members of his family, or any of his clients are an exhibitor.

SO513 Show Veterinarian

1. An equine veterinarian that is licensed in the same state or province (or has reciprocity licensure) to where the horse show is being held must officiate in the capacity of horse show veterinarian.
2. The veterinarian shall assist the Show Manager and/or Steward in situations regarding the health and/or welfare of a horse on the show grounds.
3. If the veterinarian is asked his/her opinion on the soundness of a horse, that decision will be final and may affect the placing of the horse, if necessary.
4. S/He may not rule on the soundness of a horse which a family member may be showing.
5. The show veterinarian may compete at the show but must hold the position of show veterinarian as a priority over showing.

SO514 Show Commission

All ESC shows are required to establish a three (3) member "Show Commission" composed of adults who are knowledgeable of the ESC show rules. The Show Commission is responsible for the successful execution of all ESC Rules and Guidelines.

1. The Show Commission shall be available at all times to act in the capacity to hear formal complaints filed at the show.
2. Shall consist of at least three responsible people which may include Horse Show Board/Committee Members or Show Officials.
3. The Show Commission will be responsible to submit a written report to ESC of any complaints heard by said group.
4. Shall have the authority to cause an exhibitor to return winnings, have placings changed, or to disqualify in situations which warrant.

SO515 Course Designer

1. A Course Designer will be responsible for laying out the courses, building the obstacles, and for the measurement of the course.
2. Shall be present or have a designated representative present to report to the Judge that the course is ready in all respects.
3. Copies of the courses must be given to the Judges.

SO516 Show Staff

The competition may provide additional staff and/or volunteers to assist with running the show as necessary.

SO517 Prize Lists

Prize lists must include: location and date of show, closing date of entries, the officials, local or facility rules, class schedule, any special class descriptions and all relevant fees. Prize lists must contain an entry blank which includes the ESC disclaimer language listed below:

EVERY ENTRY AT A SHOW THAT PAYS THE EQUINE SPORTS COUNCIL EXHIBITION AND/OR DRUG FEES AND IS EXHIBITED AND JUDGED ACCORDING TO THE ESC RULES AND GUIDELINES SHALL CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT AND AFFIRMATION THAT: (1) THE OWNER, AGENT, LESSEE, TRAINER, MANAGER, COACH, DRIVER AND RIDER AND ANY OF HIS/HER REPRESENTATIVES ARE BOUND BY THE SHOW RULES; (2) THAT EVERY HORSE, RIDER, AND/OR DRIVER IS ELIGIBLE AS ENTERED, INCLUDING AMATEUR OR PROFESSIONAL STATUS; (3) THEY AGREE TO ACCEPT AS FINAL THE DECISION OF SHOW MANAGEMENT ON ANY QUESTION ARISING UNDER SAID RULES, AND AGREE TO HOLD THE SHOW, EQUINE SPORTS COUNCIL, THEIR OFFICIALS, DIRECTORS, AND EMPLOYEES HARMLESS FOR ANY ACTION TAKEN; (4) THAT THE OWNER, RIDER/DRIVER AND ANY OF THEIR AGENTS OR REPRESENTATIVES AGREE TO HOLD THE SHOW, EQUINE SPORTS COUNCIL, AND THEIR OFFICIALS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS HARMLESS FOR ANY INJURY OR LOSS SUFFERED DURING OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SHOW, WHETHER OR NOT SUCH INJURY OR LOSS RESULTED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM THE NEGLIGENT ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF SAID OFFICIALS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES OR AGENTS OF THE SHOW OR EQUINE SPORTS COUNCIL.

SO518 Prize Money

The schedule of payment must be stated in the prize list, along with the timeline for payment.

SO519 Refund Policy

Must be included in the prize list.

SO520 Adherence to Prize Money Payout

Shows must adhere to prize payout and refund policies stated in their prize list and may be subject to disciplinary action, if after receiving a complaint from an exhibitor, ESC discovers it was not followed.

SO521 Changes to the Prize List

After publication of the prize list, changes must be posted on the show's website, communicated to exhibitors by any means available to the show and posted in the show office. Show management must advise exhibitors of the additions upon check in, post notices in the office and make announcements during the show.

SO522 Submission of Show Entries

1. Entries must be signed by the participants and must be accompanied by funds to cover show fees. When a participant is under 18, his/her parent, guardian, or trainer, must sign an entry blank on the minor's behalf.
2. For on-line entries, electronic signatures may be accepted in accordance with applicable laws in the state where the show is being held.

SO523 Post Entry Policy

Shows may create their own post entry policy but shall include such in the prize list.

SO524 Collection & Non Payment of Show Fees

1. Competitions must set criteria in the prize list for instances that entry fees may be refunded.
2. Insufficient payment for fees related to show entries and other show related expenses may be submitted to ESC for assistance in collection.
3. An individual or entity who submits a payment to the show or facility for entry fees, stabling, shavings, feed/hay which is denied/declined; whether invalid credit card, bounced check, stop payment, etc. may be refused entry at that and other ESC shows until such time as the debt is resolved with the affected show(s).
4. The show may submit proof (notification from the bank or credit card company) of invalid payment to ESC within 30 days of notice.
5. ESC will contact the individual to attempt to resolve the issue.
6. If the debt is not paid, ESC will post the individual/entity's name on the ESC website. The affected show and other ESC affiliated shows MUST refuse entries from anyone on the ESC's Infraction list for past due debt. Once the amount past due is paid, ESC should be notified for reinstatement.

Please see ESC's Infractions list for suspended exhibitors:

<https://equinesportscouncil.org/info/>

SO525 Submission of Show Results to ESC

1. Show results must be submitted to ESC electronically within thirty (30) days of the last scheduled show date.
2. Show results not submitted electronically will be assessed a special handling fee.
3. Failure to submit the show results or notification of cancellation to ESC within thirty (30) days of the last scheduled show date may result in future approval being denied.
4. Shows may use the coding for relevant classes already made available in the horse show software they have been using.
5. Shows are encouraged to retain copies of entries for at least one (1) year following the show.

SO526 Refusing Entries of Suspended Exhibitors

Shows MUST refuse entries of exhibitors that appear on ESC's infraction list as SUSPENDED. Shows that fail to refuse suspended entries are in breach of their contractual responsibilities with ESC and risk the loss of protection provided by the ESC Network. See ESC's Infractions list of suspended individuals: <https://equinesportscouncil.org/info/>

SO527 Reasons for Suspensions

Each Show Commission has final decision making authority for refusing entries. Exhibitor Suspensions generally fall into the following categories:

1. Human or Animal Welfare Violations – Show Management may refuse entries and/or entrance to the show grounds to any individual that is at high risk to cause or that has physically or

mentally harmed or caused pain and suffering to another human or animal. This includes but not limited to Violation of ESC's Drug & Medication Policy and Violation of ESC's Welfare Policy.

2. Unsportsmanlike Behavior - Show Management may reserve the right to refuse the entry of an exhibitor who has demonstrated continued unsportsmanlike behavior at a show, provided the exhibitor so excluded shall have the right to be heard on the issue by Show Management before the refusal of entry is made.
3. If an entry has previously unsettled debt.
4. In the case of an individual suspended, or otherwise not permitted by ESC.

SO528 Measurement of Height

Animals showing in classes with height restrictions must have a measurement card from an issuing association and/or be measured at the show. **Official Measurements from other governing organizations will be accepted.** Measurement may be taken by any two officials from the following list: Steward, Veterinarian or Manager. Courtesy measurements may be taken.

SO529 Measurement Process

The measurement process will be as follows:

1. Pony measurement is effective from issue date through the end of the current year, December 31st.
2. This measurement supersedes any previous measurements that may be on file with the show office.
3. ESC recognizes pony measurement cards taken from any steward or vet, and presented to the show office.
4. Owners/agents unable to present a valid Pony Measurement card, must get re-measured and supply the show office the results.
5. Show Management may require any pony to be measured. All measurements are final. When multiple Pony Measurement cards are identified, the card with the latest effective date must be used.
6. Agents/Owners unable to provide the show office with a valid Pony Measurement Card, will not be permitted to enter the class.
7. Before taking pony measurements your credentials must be on file at: [ESC Official's Registry](#)
8. Measurement officials record results through the ESC Pony Measurement at: [EquineHorseCouncil.org/INFO](#)

9. Officials must use their own Pony Measurement Stick of industry standard issue that is unbendable when placed on a flat surface. Measurements must be taken upon a flat or hard surface such as concrete or asphalt. Dirt or gravel surfaces cannot be used.
10. Ponies must stand square, and may not be stretched out. Weight must be evenly distributed.
11. Measurement arm of stick should center over the highest point of the ponies withers.
12. When Pony height is being contested, take two measurements (one from the left side and one from the right side), take the average of the two measurements as the final gross measurement.

CHAPTER 6 – SHOW PROTOCOL

SP601 Judge's Decision

1. Once a class has been judged, it shall not be re-judged.
2. The Judge's decision is final once the Judge has marked his/her card and valid placements of awards have been made, there shall be no changing of the Judge's record except in the case of obvious clerical error, or in the event of post disqualification by the Show Commission or ESC.

SP602 Appropriate Attire

1. Riders, drivers and/or handlers must be appropriately attired for the class in question (See division rules), including show number. Attendants should be neatly dressed.
2. ESC encourages the use of protective headgear (ASTM-American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI-Safety Equipment Institute) and makes no guarantees about protection of headgear. The show and ESC are not responsible for checking headgear or ensuring proper use.
3. Competitors may wear protective headgear and/or a protective vest, either body protecting or inflatable, in any division or class without penalty from the judge.
4. While warming up and in classes over fences, competitors must wear properly fastened protective headgear which meets or exceeds ASTM/SEI standards. Show Management may bar riders without protective headgear from entering the ring.

SP603 Artificial Markings and Appliances

Any change of color or markings other than mane, tail or hoof is prohibited. Only clear grooming materials are allowed on the hide and hair. Materials may be used to remove stains. Any artificial appliances not listed as permitted in the respective division rules are prohibited.

SP604 Use of Whips

1. One whip per handler is permitted while showing a horse in Saddle Seat, Hunt Seat, Pleasure Driving, Fine Harness and In-Hand. Whips are not permitted in Western, Ranch, Dressage, Reining.
2. Whips must be no longer than 6' including the snapper or lash.
3. One lunging whip is permitted only when lunging.

SP605 Showing Unshod Horses

A horse may not be excused from the ring if unshod, but a judge may penalize a barefoot horse in a class where horses are typically shod and way of going is affected. See breed/discipline rules for specifics on shoeing recommendations/restrictions.

SP606 Championships

1. The prize list must state how Championship classes will be offered and qualified for; whether on points (i.e. point accumulation in an in-hand division) or by holding a championship class (i.e. in performance classes). Judging specifications must follow those of the qualifying class in performance championships.
2. If an entry must withdraw from a qualifying class due to equipment failure or inability to fix a shoeing issue during the class, that entry may be eligible for the Championship provided the show has not limited the Championship to qualifying class ribbon winners.
3. Entries in an in-hand or breeding class do not qualify for a performance championship unless the show sets special criteria to include such classes.
4. Junior Breeding or In-Hand Championships are to be offered for two-year-olds and under; Senior Breeding or InHand Championships are to be offered for three-year-olds and over.
5. In Breeding Championships, the Champion and Reserve Champion may be awarded either to the first and second place horses from the qualifying class, or by other means indicated in the prize list. If the first or second place winners from a qualifying class choose not to compete for the Championship or be disqualified, the horse with the next highest placing in the qualifying class shall have the option of moving up for the Championship and Reserve only.

SP607 Division of Classes

Classes can be divided by sex of the horse or rider, age of the horse or rider and/or status of the rider (i.e. Amateur or Professional classes may be offered).

SP608 Showing Stallions

Whether stallions may be shown will be determined by the breed and/or discipline for which they are competing.

SP609 Showing Ponies

1. Ponies may not be shown as a horse in one class and a pony in another class at the same show.
2. Ponies who are shown in a class restricted to a horse (if pony classes are offered at said show) may not be shown as a pony the rest of the show year unless the pony is under new ownership.

SP610 Hors de Concours

Show Management may permit an exhibitor to show a horse Hors de Concours (unjudged). If a horse is shown Hors de Concours, that horse cannot be shown for a prize in the same ring on the same day. However, the rider of an Hors de Concours horse may compete in subsequent classes.

SP611 Managing the Schedule

1. From time to time, it may be necessary to change the schedule. It is incumbent on the manager to work with all affected exhibitors to negotiate such changes and to ensure those changes are posted and announced.
2. When the start of a class is delayed due to an exhibitor not being ready, or horses not showing up, a warning will be issued with two minutes time to report.
3. A class may be canceled if entries do not show up for their scheduled ride times.
4. In classes which compete collectively, officiating may not begin until the gate is closed or at the end of the two-minute call.
5. An order of go should be established in classes where horses compete individually.
6. It will be the responsibility and authority of management to determine whether to stop a performance due to inclement weather and/or emergency situation using the following guidelines:
7. Management will advise how the show will reconvene once conditions support such. Management should make every effort to communicate and work with the exhibitors on the best plan forward.
8. If the show must be delayed a day which exhibitors did not expect to show, the horse show should provide some relief to the exhibitors, if not to refund all show fees affected by the delay.
9. Refer to breed/division rules for the number of entries required to split a class.

SP612 Time-Outs

1. An exhibitor may request one time-out during a class which may last up to five minutes.
2. To request a time-out the exhibitor should go to the center of the ring and get the attention of the ring master or judge.
3. When a shoe is cast, the five minutes will begin once the farrier starts to reapply the shoe.
4. Two attendants may assist the exhibitor during the time out.
5. A judge may request a time-out for an exhibitor if he believes one is warranted.

SP613 Warm-up and Schooling Areas

Shows must provide adequate warm-up and schooling areas which include the necessary equipment for scheduled classes. Such must be properly lit if exhibitors will be utilizing these areas after sunset.

SP614 Attention-Getting Devices

Devices used to arouse attention from a horse (excluding proper use of a whip) are prohibited during warm-up and show sessions. Such devices include but are not limited to: laser/strobe lights, tape measures, firecrackers, fire extinguishers, sirens, horns and other noise making devices.

SP615 Accidents, Injuries or Fatalities

1. Horse shows should develop an Accident Preparedness Plan in concert with the facility and state and local regulations. This plan should be shared with horse show officials prior to the start of competition. Consult <https://www.ready.gov/>.
2. In the event of a human injury requiring medical treatment and/or results in fatality, notification to local authorities and insurance providers must be made immediately. The show should not continue without approval from local/state authorities. In the event of horse fatality or serious injury show management should consult with the vet and follow recommended protocol. Shows must notify ESC of all horse and human fatalities and provide a police report within 24 hours.
3. If an exhibitor is suspected of having a concussion upon evaluation by appropriate medical personnel, they may return to show upon providing a signed release from a licensed physician.
4. A show may restrict a rider/driver from competing if suspected of having a concussion.

SP616 Workouts

1. All horses chosen for a workout must be worked both ways of the ring at each gait asked for by the Judge. This does not have to include all gaits requested during the initial class.
2. Workouts shall be judged as a new and separate class.
3. The horses in the workout may be used by the judge(s) for any or all placings.
4. If an exhibitor recuses himself from the workout for any reason, they may be awarded the last ribbon in the workout. In the case of more than one exhibitor asking to be recused, the fall of the cards will be the placings.

SP617 Possible Violation

If any act committed at, or related to an ESC show which may be deemed prejudicial to the best interest of the ESC, the horse show and/or its participants, including but not limited to the following specific acts:

1. Failing to follow relevant rules for participation.
2. Failing to settle unpaid fines to ESC.
3. Showing or attempting to show while under ESC suspension or for a suspended person who is benefiting from such.
4. Showing or attempting to show a horse that is under suspension.
5. Failing to pay debt owed to a show or facility relative to entry fees, stabling, bedding and/or feed/hay.
6. Acting or permitting participants for whom said person has authority over, to act in a manner which would be deemed unsportsmanlike or unethical.

7. Behavior which would be considered offensive and/or made with the intent to influence or cast aspersions against judge(s) or other officials at a show.
8. Inhumane or cruel treatment of a horse.
9. Failing to observe any penalty imposed by the ESC.

WELFARE & BIOSECURITY

CHAPTER 7 - WELFARE

Equine Sports Council has a zero tolerance policy towards individuals who put the welfare of animals and/or humans at risk. It is against US Federal law for individuals to witness or participate in the activities that comprise the Welfare of Humans or Animals and not report it to government authorities.

Nothing in these rules shall prohibit show management from refusing entries or prohibiting attendance by persons, to the extent that such refusal or prohibition does not conflict with applicable state or federal law.

WL701 Harassment or Assault

1. **Harassment** of any kind is illegal in every state and must be reported immediately by calling 911. State and federal police are the only institutions legally permitted to investigate and convict those who commit these types of crimes. We strongly encourage all participants of ESC events to view these educational videos: <https://EquineSportsCouncil.org/safe>
2. **Bullying** by individuals or corporations either active, passive or cyber is not tolerated at any ESC event. 46 of the 50 US states have anti-bullying laws. If you are the witness or victim of bullying at an ESC governed show, please notify the Show Commission or ESC at 1-855-Equine1. For confidential help or advice with bullying issues, StompOutBullying.org is the national nonprofit help center.

WL702 Violation of the ESC Drug & Medication Policy

Constitutes risks to animal welfare and may result in loss of ribbons, suspensions and/or fines.

WL703 Cruelty, Abuse or Inhumane Treatment of Horses

Individuals at an ESC exhibition may not abuse or inhumanely treat a horse. Any inhumane actions against a horse may constitute elimination from the show, or other actions deemed appropriate by the show officials and/or the ESC upon receipt of reports from the show officials.

WL704 Horse Protection Act

Equine Sports Council strongly encourages all participants to be knowledgeable and follow the guidelines established in the Horse Protection Act of 1970.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116thcongress/senate-bill/1455/text>

WL705 Horse Inspections

The Show Manager, Show Commission and/or Steward may request a veterinarian to inspect any horse on the grounds should there may be signs of lameness, soundness or animal welfare concerns.

Refusing to allow a veterinarian to inspect the horse may be cause for elimination from the show and/or further action deemed appropriate by the Show Commission upon receipt of reports from the show officials.

WL706 Prohibited Practices

Horse shows may ban any person from the show grounds for the following practices, and must be reported to ESC:

1. Use of non-therapeutic agents that cause extreme heat or promote irritation to the epidermis or oral cavities of a horse.
2. Tying a horse in a manner to cause undue discomfort or distress in a stall or trailer.
3. Letting blood from a horse without medical reason to do so.
4. Use of excessive and/or cruel training methods such as: poling or striking horses' legs with objects (i.e. Tack & Apparel poles, jump poles, etc.), striking a horse's head on the poll and forward of the poll except in situations where safety is a concern.
5. Use of any item that materially restricts the movement of the tail resulting in loss of blood circulation.
6. Intentional treatment that causes a horse to bleed.
7. Showing a horse with raw or bleeding sores around the coronets, pasterns or legs.
8. Use of shackles/running-W, hock hobbles or similar devices. Refer to breed/discipline rules regarding the use of stretchers.
9. Excessive spurring or whipping unless an emergency situation warrants.
10. Excessive jerking of reins.
11. Excessive fencing.
12. Excessive spinning as a training technique.
13. Excessive lunging.
14. Exhibiting a horse which appears to be sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired.
15. Applying excessive pressure on or excessively jerking of a halter lead shank or an allowed lip chain.
16. Signs of recent abuse to a horse's mouth, nose, jaw, or any other area shows signs of broken skin, rawness, or bleeding.
17. Withholding of feed and water for prolonged periods without medical justification for doing so.
18. Soring of any horse to cause pain and/or affect a horse's performance.
19. Inserting or leaving an object in a horse's mouth to cause undue discomfort or distress.
20. Any other treatment or conduct deemed by the Show Commission to be inhumane or abusive

WL707 Equine Biosecurity Guidelines

Local, State or governing officials may have specific recommendations based on current infectious

	Standards & Guidelines ESC2024 EquineSportsCouncil.org 1-855-Equine1	Page: 29 of 165 Year: 2024 Version: 5.0
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disease trends for a specific area.

ESC requires that all equine arrivals on the show grounds have current vet certificates (CVI) and vaccination records. Non-compliance to required certificates are subject to Class 1 violations, and not permitted on the show grounds.

Should local government guidelines not be immediately available, ESC recommends the following American Equine Practitioners biosecurity guidelines which can also be found at

<https://aaep.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/BiosecurityGuidelines%20-%20BOD%20-%20Final.pdf>

ESC requires immediate notification of Show Vet when a horse is exhibiting a temperature greater than 101.5. or diagnosed with a potentially infectious virus. Vet must submit an ESC Medical Report with diagnosis (including isolation instructions) and recommendation to remain on the show grounds.

<https://equinesportscouncil.org/info/>

Routine Biosecurity Protocols

1. Equine entry onto the premises

a. Routine requirements

i. For events or stables, restrict entry to healthy equids only and set policy for refusing entry of equids displaying clinical signs of infectious disease (see Section III.b.iii). Ideally, staff should observe equids upon arrival to confirm animal identification, check health documents and observe equids for general signs of good health. Consideration can be given to the requirement for a recent certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) and certification by the exhibitor or owner regarding the horse's recent disease exposure history.

ii. New entries to stables where there are long-term resident equids should be isolated from the resident equids for 2-3 weeks and monitored for signs of contagious disease. During this time, equipment should not be shared among new and resident equids, and caretakers should ideally follow protocols described in

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iii. Resident equids returning to their home stable from an event should be fully isolated or at least have their temperatures checked twice daily for at least 1 week to allow early detection of disease.

iv. It is good practice to segregate equids on a facility by use and age. For example, show equids should be segregated from resident broodmares and their foals.

v. Premises may require that equids have documentation of specific vaccinations (See AAEP Vaccination Guidelines for recommendations).

1. For premises with increased public exposure risks, a rabies vaccination requirement is prudent to protect both animal and public health.

vi. Apply animal health standards for other species of animals (e.g., cattle) entering the premises.

1. Recommend housing different species of animals separate from equine populations.

vii. Equids belonging to the same owner or trainer should be housed together with empty stalls between groups of equids if possible.

b. Requirements for entry during local disease outbreak

i. When an infectious disease outbreak occurs locally, additional restrictions should be applied for animal entry to events or stables.

ii. Restrict entry to equids for which the owner/agent provides a CVI issued within 7 days of arrival at the event venue. A CVI issued 72 hours before arrival is optimal. If a CVI is not required, then an owner/agent declaration statement attesting that the listed equid(s) arriving at the premises has/have been healthy with no clinical signs of a contagious disease or body temperature(s) above 101.5°F (38.61°C) for the preceding 7 days may be warranted.

iii. Additional health requirements may be required such as a written statement on the CVI which attests to the equid's health and exposure status. For example, an additional requirement may include a statement that "The listed equid(s) has/have not been on a premises with a confirmed case of neurologic form of EHV-1 in the preceding twenty-one (21) days" if there is a local outbreak of neurologic EHV-1.

c. Facility records should be maintained on equid movements (entering, remaining on, and exiting the premises), location of individual animals, and equid health status procedures (monitoring and treatment records).

2. Equine Health Monitoring

a. Continuous health monitoring of all equids on the premises should be required. This is the key to early identification and containment of infectious disease with minimal disruption.

i. Options include having designated staff performing periodic walkthroughs of stables to directly observe equids for any clinical signs of disease or relying on self-reporting of disease by exhibitors or owners (the requirement for which should be stipulated in entry forms or boarding agreements). AAEP BIOSECURITY GUIDELINES © Copyright AAEP – Revised 2022

ii. Any sign of disease should be reported to the designated individual with the authority to initiate immediate disease control measures, such as isolation.

iii. Requirements at events should include taking equid temperatures twice daily and documenting temperature readings in a log. Consider requiring the posting of a temperature monitoring log on the stall door which allows designated staff to easily perform checks on temperature recordings. To ensure compliance with the equid temperature monitoring requirement, staff should perform random audits of logs.

iv. Owners of equids at boarding stables should be instructed to report clinical signs of disease in their equid to the facility owner or manager.

CHAPTER 8 - DRUGS & MEDICATIONS POLICY

DM801 Drug Testing

The welfare of our show horses is of utmost importance to our industry. It is imperative that the health of the horse comes before any competition. Horse Show Management and ESC have the right to randomly drug test any horse on the show grounds, and may be required by law should there be an animal welfare concern. ESC will provide results of those tests to government authorities where required by law. Notify ESC when animal welfare drug testing is needed by calling 1-855-Equine1.

Any individual that delays, disrupts, impedes or does not cooperate with the drug testing process is assumed guilty of a Class 1 offense.

DM802 Medication Classifications & International Standards

ESC's random drug testing program partners with one of the premiere equine testing labs that follows ISO compliant processing of specimen samples including chain of custody processing. The lab tests for medications that impact the performance of a show horse. ESC commissions licensed veterinarians to perform randomized drug testing. ESC subscribes to ARCI International Standards for classification of drugs proven to impact the performance of a horse.

ESC subscribes to ARCI International & HISA US Federal Classification of medications based on performance enhancing elements and **strictly prohibits use of BANNED medications Class 1 and Class 2 below.**

ESC allows Controlled and limited use of several Class 3 medications, when prescribed by a US licensed veterinarian and requires submission of ESC Medical Report.

ESC permits use of some therapeutic substances in Drug Classes 4 and 5 when used as directed.

ESC Medication Form can be found at:

<https://equinesportscouncil.org/info/>

DM803 Banned Medications by Classification of Drug

CLASS 1: Stimulant & Depressant drugs that have the highest potential to affect performance and that have no generally accepted medical use in equines. Many of these agents are Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) schedule II substances.

These include the following drugs and their metabolites: Opiates, opium derivatives, synthetic opioids and psychoactive drugs, amphetamines and amphetamine-like drugs as well as related drugs, including but not limited to apomorphine, nikethamide, mazindol, pemoline, and pentylentetrazol. Though not used as therapeutic agents, all DEA Schedule 1 agents are included in Class 1 because they are potent stimulant or depressant substances with psychotropic and often habituating actions. This class also includes all erythropoietin stimulating substances and their analogues.

CLASS 2: High Potential to Affect Performance, but less of a potential than drugs in Class 1. These drugs are 1) not generally accepted as therapeutic agents in equines, or 2) they are therapeutic agents that have a high potential for abuse. Drugs in this class include: psychotropic drugs, certain nervous system and cardiovascular system stimulants, depressants, and neuromuscular blocking agents. Injectable local anesthetics are included in this class because of their high potential for abuse as nerve blocking agents.

DM804 Controlled Therapies by Drug Classifications

When used responsibly and in a controlled environment, these medications have less potential to affect performance and many are required as health management regimens for equines. The practice of “Stacking” or “Cocktailing” multiple therapeutic medications can be a health risk to horses and will result in suspensions and/or penalties. Please consult with your veterinarian for correct dosing amounts. When using controlled therapeutic medications, an ESC Medication Form must be electronically submitted. Failure to submit an ESC Medication Form may result in suspensions, loss of ribbon/points and/or penalties. Dosing amounts are for guideline purposes.

CLASS 3: Potential to Affect Performance in equines, but the pharmacology of which suggests less potential to affect performance than drugs in Class 2. Drugs in this class include bronchodilators, anabolic steroids and other drugs with primary effects on the autonomic nervous system, procaine, antihistamines with sedative properties and the high-ceiling diuretics. **Minimally permitted at ESC events,** see below guidelines.

CLASS 4: NSAIDs & Similar Therapeutics that have less potential to affect performance than those in Class 3. Drugs in this class include less potent diuretics; corticosteroids; antihistamines and skeletal muscle relaxants without prominent central nervous system (CNS) effects; expectorants and mucolytics; hemostatics; cardiac glycosides and antiarrhythmics; topical anesthetics; antidiarrheals and mild analgesics. This class also includes the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), at concentrations greater than established limits.

CLASS 5: Localized Therapeutics only, such as anti-ulcer drugs, and certain anti-allergic drugs. The anticoagulant drugs are also included.

DM805 - Controlled Therapeutic Administration Guidelines

ESC drug testing monitors for use of Controlled Therapeutics, and ensures that dosing amounts do not exceed Federal guidelines. When a Medication Form is required, Testing positive for a therapeutic medication without a form on file may result in loss of ribbons, suspensions and/or penalties. No other substances or therapies except those listed below are permitted.

DM805.1 - Use as Directed Therapies - No Medication Form Required

Class 3-5 medications. These therapies are permitted for intended use only. ESC drug testing monitors for levels of misuse especially with medications to control mare hormones and cushings. These medications must be used as prescribed for treatment of the intended condition. Horses testing positive for these medications, without corresponding medical conditions, are subject to loss of ribbons, suspensions and/or fines.

1. **Omeprazole/Ranitidine** - use as directed for stomach ulcers
2. **Pergolide/Prascend** - use as directed for Cushings
3. **Isoxsuprine** - 1600 mg/1000LB, 4 hours before competing, navicular laminitis
4. **Mare Hormones** - suppression of estrus, use as directed in **MARES ONLY**
5. **Electromagnetic, PEMF therapies** - use as directed
6. **Shock Wave Therapy** - allowed 48 hours prior to competing
7. **EPM treatment** - use as directed

DM805.2 - Controlled Medications - NSAID - Medication Form Required

[EquineSportsCouncil.org/INFO](https://www.equinecouncil.org/INFO)

A single use of the following Class 4 anti-inflammatory medications are permitted with submission of an ESC Medical Form by administrator of the therapy. “Cocktailing” or “Stacking” multiple **NSAIDS (items 1-5 below)** is dangerous to the health of horses and not permitted unless used as a life saving measure. **Licensed US veterinarians are required to prescribe use of multiple NSAIDS.** Administrator of emergency therapy must submit an ESC Medication Reporting form. Federal dosing guidelines are below.

1. **Firocoxib/Equioxx** - 45.5 mg/1000Lb, oral, 12 hrs before competing
2. **Phenylbutazone/Butazolidin** - 2.0 gram/1000Lb, oral, 12 hrs before competing
3. **Flunixin meglumine/Banamine** - 500 mg/1000Lb, oral/IV, 12 hrs before competing
4. **Meclofenamic acid/Arque** - 500 mg/1000Lb, oral, 12 hrs before competing
5. **Naproxen/Naprosyn** - 4.0 grams/1000Lb, oral, 12 hrs before competing

	Standards & Guidelines ESC2024 EquineSportsCouncil.org 1-855-Equine1	Page: 34 of 165 Year: 2024 Version: 5.0
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Use (items 6-9) below as directed, then no Medication Form required

6. **DMSO** - 70 mL 90% DMSO in 500 mL LRS IV, 48 hrs before competing
7. **Diclofenac/Surpass** - 5 inch ribbon, ½ inch thick, one site, topical, 12 hrs before competing
8. **Ketoprofen/Ketofen** - 1.0 gram/1000Lb, oral, 12 hrs before competing
9. **Methocarbamol/Robaxin** - 5.0 grams/1000Lb, oral, 12 hrs before competing

DM805.3 Controlled Medications - Allergy - Medication Form Required

[EquineSportsCouncil.org/INFO](https://www.equinesportscouncil.org/INFO)

Dexamethasone is permitted for treatment of allergy or hives. Medications in this group must be prescribed by a US Licensed veterinarian, and an ESC Medication Form must be submitted by drug administrator at the time of use. Federal dosing guidelines are below:

1. **Dexamethasone/Azium IV** - 5.0 mg/1000Lb, IV, 6 hrs before competing
2. **Dexamethasone/Azium oral** - Single 20 mg oral dose, 72 hrs before competing

DM805.4 Controlled Medications - Therapeutic/Safety Sedatives - Medication Form Required - [EquineSportsCouncil.org/INFO](https://www.equinesportscouncil.org/INFO)

Acepromazine and Dormosedan are permitted for use as a therapeutic/safety measure when needed to clip and/or ship horses before competitions that otherwise would create an unsafe environment for both humans and horses. Use of these sedatives is not permitted for competition purposes. A US licensed veterinarian must prescribe the therapy, and the Administrator of the medication must submit an ESC Medication Form at time of use. Federal dosing guidelines are below for 1000lb:

1. **Acepromazine oral** - 65mg **single oral dose**, 72hrs before competing
2. **Acepromazine IV** - 25mg **single IV dose**, 48hrs before competing
3. **Detomidine/Dormosedan** - 10mg or 20mg **single IV dose**, 48hrs before competing

PENALTIES & ENFORCEMENTS

CHAPTER 9 - RULE ENFORCEMENT

RE901 - Purpose and General Responsibility

1. Each show within ESC's network is committed to providing a competition environment that promotes good sportsmanship, fair competition, and the highest standards of horsemanship. The welfare of the horse and the safety of exhibitors is paramount.
2. Each show shall be responsible for enforcement of the show rules and shall appoint a Show Commission composed of three adults with knowledge of the show rules.
3. The members of the Show Commission shall be designated at least 30 days prior to the date of the horse show and their names shall be published in the show's prize list and/or on the show's website.

RE902 – Reporting & Investigating Conduct Violations

1. All violations of these rules other than drug and medication violations shall be considered Conduct Violations. A participant or show official may lodge a complaint alleging a Conduct Violation against an exhibitor, trainer, rider, handler, show official, or groom.
2. Conduct Violations shall be determined by the Show Commission.
3. If a complaint alleging a Conduct Violation is lodged during the show, the Show Commission shall, when practicable, investigate the complaint and make a determination prior to the show's conclusion.
4. If the complaint cannot be fully investigated and determined prior to the show's conclusion, then the Show Commission shall complete its investigation and determination thereafter and shall notify the accused of the determination no later than 15 days following the conclusion of the show. Notification shall be made in writing and sent via electronic mail and regular mail.
5. Any complaint that is not lodged during the horse show shall be made within fifteen (15) days of the show's conclusion and shall be sent via electronic mail and regular mail to the Show Commission at the address provided in the prize list.
6. The Show Commission shall thereafter convene an investigation, and a determination shall be made no later than thirty (30) days following the conclusion of the show. Notification shall be made in writing and sent via electronic mail and regular mail to the accused.
7. The decision of the Show Commission shall be made in writing and provided to both the accused and to ESC. In the event that the Show Commission finds that an accused committed a Conduct Violation, the Show Commission shall offer to the accused in writing an Acceptance of Penalty in accordance with the Table of Penalties set forth herein. The accused may accept or reject the Acceptance of Penalty.
8. If the accused refuses the Acceptance of Penalty, such refusal must be made in writing and provided to the Show Commission and to ESC via electronic mail and regular mail within five

(5) days of the offer of Acceptance of Penalty. The Penalty shall then be implemented unless the accused proceeds with an Administrative Hearing under RE 1105.

RE903 - Drugs & Medications Rule Violations

1. In the event that the results of a drug test performed pursuant to DM800 et seq. show a violation of these rules (D&M Violation), the results shall be transmitted to the Show Commission and to ESC by the third-party testing facility.
2. “Responsible Person(s)” include the owner(s), trainer(s), rider(s), and/or handler(s) of a horse exhibited at an ESC affiliated show.
3. Within fifteen (15) days of receipt of notice of a D&M Violation, the Show Commission shall notify the Responsible Person(s) of the test result and offer an Acceptance of Penalty in accordance with the Table of Penalties set forth herein. Notice shall be provided in writing via electronic and regular mail.
4. If an accused refuses the Acceptance of Penalty, such refusal must be made in writing and provided to the Show Commission and to ESC via electronic mail and regular mail within five (5) days of the offer of Administrative Penalty. The Penalty shall then be implemented unless the accused proceeds with an Administrative Hearing under RE 102.

RE904 – Administrative Hearings

Administrative hearings shall be conducted by a neutral third party arbitrator.

RE905 – Administrative Hearing Request

To request an Administrative Hearing, the requesting party must submit a \$1000 filing fee payable to ESC within five (5) days of the refusal of the offer of Acceptance of Penalty. ESC will then provide a list of at least two (2) available third party neutrals.

RE906 Hearing Location

The hearings shall take place via videoconference.

RE907 Costs of Hearing

The arbitrator shall have the discretion to impose the costs of the hearing on either party or apportion them between the parties. The hearing process shall not exceed a total of five (5) hours at a fixed per hour rate of \$500 per hearing officer, unless the parties agree otherwise, and the arbitrator approves. Neither party shall be responsible for the opposing party’s attorneys’ fees under any circumstances, and the arbitrator shall not have the discretion to award attorneys’ fees or a party’s costs, other than the costs charged by the arbitrator for the hearing.

RE908 Manner of Hearing and Finality of Decisions

The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with standard administrative procedures including the right to call witnesses, present evidence, and cross-examine witnesses. The Decision by the arbitrator or hearing officer shall be final and binding. By competing in an ESC affiliated competition, all participants including, but not limited to, exhibitors, owners, trainers, riders, and/or handlers waive the right to file a lawsuit in any court to seek review of an Administrative Hearing Decision, and agree to indemnify the Show Commission and/or ESC for all attorneys’ fees and costs of defending any such action brought by an exhibitor.

RE909 Table of Penalties

Penalties are assessed according to the level of severity of the violation. The following penalties may be implemented by the Show Commission or the Administrative Hearing Officer or Panel upon a determination that a violation has occurred. Infractions and Suspensions can be found at EquineSportsCouncil.org/info

a. Severe Infraction Penalty

The following are considered Severe Infractions:

1. D&M Violations involving a Class 1 Medication
2. D&M Violations involving “Stacking” or “Cocktailing” medications such as NSAIDS.
3. Conduct Violations involving the welfare or safety of a horse or other animal on show grounds.
4. Unsportsmanlike conduct, harassment, or abuse of a person on the show grounds.

For any violation that is determined to be a Severe Infraction, the following penalties may be imposed:

1. Immediate Loss of Ribbon & Points
2. 3-6 Month Suspension
3. \$500 fee per Infraction
4. Recorded on ESC Infraction List for the duration of the suspension period.

b. Medium Infraction Penalty

The following violations are considered Medium Infractions:

1. D&M Violations involving a Class 2 through Class 4 medication or the use of banned training devices or equipment
2. Showing with incorrect shoeing to gain a competitive advantage
3. Falsifying entries and/or showing in classes where eligibility criteria are not met or where an unfair advantage is gained.

For any violation that is determined to be a Medium Infraction, the following penalties may be imposed:

1. Immediate Loss of Ribbon & Points
2. Possible 30 Day Suspension
3. \$300 fee per Infraction
4. Recorded on ESC Infraction List for 30 days

c. Lesser Infraction Penalty

Lesser Violations are primarily violations to administration guidelines such as bounced checks, uncollected office fees, or actions that are mischievous vs. harmful or dangerous. For any violation that is determined to be a Lesser Infraction, the following penalties may be imposed:

1. Possible Loss of Ribbon & Points
2. Public Written Warning
3. Suspended until Debt has been Paid
4. \$100 fee per Infraction
5. Recorded on ESC Infraction List for 30 days, or until debt is paid, whichever comes later.