



# SECTION B: BREEDS

## AMENDMENT SUMMARY

### EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026 – AMENDED MARCH 13, 2026

#### NOTE:

The following rules have been added or revised in the 2026 edition of the Equestrian Canada rules. All editions of Section B have been updated to include all of the changes in this document.

#### The following article numbers were amended March 13, 2026

- Part One Part One – American Saddlebred & Fine Harness Division – Title
- Article B302 Country Pleasure – Paragraph 1b

#### Part One – American Saddlebred ~~& Fine Harness Division~~

##### ARTICLE B101 ELIGIBILITY

1. [...]
2. Owners, ~~riders, drivers, handlers and trainers~~ of horses competing at EC licensed competitions in all American Saddlebred sections must be current competing members in good standing with the American Saddlebred Horse Association of Canada or the American Saddlebred Horse Association, Inc. and provide an original or copy of the ASHA of Canada membership card or ASHA unless the competition, at their discretion, confirms membership electronically with the ASHA of Canada office or the ASHA. Lessees are considered owners in connection with this membership requirement. In the event of an entry under multiple ownership, only one owner needs to be a member. Exception: Owners, ~~riders and trainers~~ of horses competing in American Saddlebred restricted walk/trot classes are exempt from ASHA of Canada and ASHA membership.
3. [...]

##### ARTICLE B302 COUNTRY PLEASURE

1. General.  
[...]
    - b) Country Pleasure horses must be plain shod suitable for trail riding without pads, bands or any device between hoof and shoe. Permissible as plain shod shall be a shoe (inclusive of caulks), which may be thicker at the heel and may include toe clips and side clips. One leather rim pad, no thicker than ¼” allowed. The rim pad is not to be any wider than the shoe. Also permissible is an eggbar shoe. Not permissible as plain shod: bands, bars, synthetic pads of any kind, wedges, lead, springs, any attachment that extends below the bottom of the shoe, and any foreign substance not specified as permissible. The sole and entire frog of the foot must be visible. Any animal with prohibited shoeing must be disqualified from further competition at that competition and forfeit all entry fees and winnings. Quarter boots are permitted only in Five-Gaited classes.
- [...]

#### Part Two – Arabian, Half-Arabian, Anglo-Arabia

##### ARTICLE B1304 GENERAL

4. Horses must wear a long, natural, unbraided mane (with or without clipped bridle path), and a natural, unset, unaltered/ungingered tail. No horse may compete in a class in the Arabian or Half/Anglo Arabian Division with a tail carriage that has been altered in any manner or by any means. Violations of this rule are considered serious infractions, because such alterations constitute misrepresentations of the breed type.  
**Exception:** Horses shown in Hunter, Show Hack, Jumper, Dressage, Sport Horse or Western Dressage. Appointments, or where permitted under the discipline rules are permitted to show with a shortened, pulled, braided mane and tail and Cutting horses with a shaved or roached mane. Manes and forelocks may be banded in Reining classes and Reining Seat Equitation (including Reining Seat Medal). Horses with dead or flaccid tails or who exhibit evidence of constricting device on tail must be severely penalized or eliminated from judging consideration. The use of glitter on or in the mane, tail, hair or hooves is prohibited. Any change of colour or markings is prohibited. Only clear grooming materials are allowed on hide and hair. Materials may be used to remove stains. Colouring of the chestnuts is prohibited.
  5. Horses must be shown without artificial appliances. Anything that alters the intended use of equipment as provided for in the description of appointments for a given class is considered to be an artificial appliance. This includes but is not limited to nasal strips, tongue ties and/or mouth ties. EXCEPTION: A single inconspicuous tongue stabilizertie, made of soft material, is permitted in the show ring for any horse competing in Park, English Pleasure, Country English Pleasure, Mounted Native Costume, English Show Hack, Formal Driving, Pleasure Driving, Country Pleasure Driving and Saddle Seat Equitation and for use by any horse competing in Ladies Side Saddle in English Show Hack attire or in English attire Walk-Trot/Walk-Jog 10 & Under in English attire and ATR/JTR/AATR Walk-Trot/Walk-Jog 11 and Over in English attire).  
Gag bits are prohibited
- [...]



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#### ARTICLE B1502 ABBREVIATIONS OF CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

[...]

##### 6. ACHIEVEMENT LEVELLING PROGRAM

[...]

5. Any amateur which has held a Professional status may not compete in any division in the Amateur Select/Choice/Primetime levels or the Open Select/Choice Levels; and the Non-Pro Rookie/ Limited/ Intermediate/ Primetime and Open Limited/Intermediate levels in Reining regardless of their leveling point status. Riders may only compete in the Elite Amateur or Open in all current leveling seats and Non-Pro and Open in Reining.

6. Professionals moving to Amateur status must contact the Arabian Horse Association office to have their leveling record recorded as an Elite/Non-Pro rider.

[...]

##### 7. PERFORMANCE HALTER SECTION

[...]

##### Procedure

[...]

5. A horse must be handled and shown throughout an entire class by only one and the same person, except that a substitute handler may be used if, during a class, the original handler becomes ill or is injured, or a Designated Runner Exemption has been granted. Time allowed for the change of handler shall be in accordance with Time Out Rules. No handler may show more than one horse per class.

[...]

#### ARTICLE B2301 GENERAL

Dress, Saddlery and Equipment must comply with EC Section E, Chapter 4, which can be accessed from the website: [www.equestrian.ca](http://www.equestrian.ca) rules, Section E Dressage.

[...]

##### 18. Inspection process - tack check

a. Equipment inspections at Region and National Dressage Championships

i. At Arabian Regional Championships, show management will have the discretion to check at least one third of the horses in the class or every horse upon exiting the arena.

ii. At Arabian National Championships, equipment inspections are required for each horse in the class upon exiting the arena.

a-b. The tack inspections process will be performed as described in Section E of the EC rule book for all Arabian/Half-Arabian breed restriction classes. During any hands-on equipment checking, if the ring steward/equipment checker determines it to be unsafe to conduct the hands-on bit inspection portion on a selected horse, or in the event of a questionable bit, the technical delegate or steward may be called to follow the horse back to their barn, stall or trailer, where the bridle can be dropped to conduct the bit inspection.

#### ARTICLE B3102 Working Western Definitions

[...]

##### 2. Gaits Definitions for Ranch classes

In all gaits, movement of the ranch horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. The following terminology shall apply:

[...]

g. The simple lead change is performed through the walk or trot within three strides.

#### ARTICLE B3116 Walk-Trot/Jog Trail Class Requirements

1. Exhibitors may not be more than ten years of age as of December 1 of the current competition year. For the 11 years and over class, exhibitors must be eleven (11) years of age or older as of December 1 of the current competition year. Horse and exhibitor must follow the appointments as set forth in AR211 for Western Walk/Jog Trail and English Walk/Trot Trail.

The exhibitor must never have been judged in a class at a Licensed Competition that required a canter or lope.

Exception: Exhibitors may have cantered in Short Stirrup Reining and Cross Rails 10 & Under classes.

##### 2. Permitted Obstacles

[...]

f. Open Gates – Exhibitors shall not be asked to open and close a gate; however, simulation of doing so by touching gate standards is permitted. A single non-elevated walk over pole may be placed in the “open” gate. Exhibitors 11 & over may be asked to open and close a gate.

[...]

j. Side-pass- A single ground pole up to 6” high is allowed for the 11 & over age division.

##### 3. Prohibited Obstacles

[...]

e. Closed gates for the 10 & Under age division

f. Side pass for the 10 & Under age division



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#### ARTICLE B3122 Reined Cow Horse and Herd Work Class Specifications

[...]

3. Boxing/Limited Reined Cow Horse, and Box Drive (Reined Cow Horse) classes are for non-pro/amateur exhibitors. Boxing/Limited Reined Cow Horse and Box Drive (Reined Cow Horse) classes are for amateur and junior exhibitors who have not shown down the fence for 3 runs in any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales. Exhibitors who have not shown in any cow horse class down the fence for 5 years are eligible for the class. Being entered in a class that includes the fence work will be counted as going down the fence regardless if the exhibitor boxed the cow and pulled up before the run was completed. This class is also open to approved Non-Pro Limited riders who comply with all eligibility rules (See NRCHA Non-Pro eligibility rules/Federation Amateur rules). After Non-Pro competitors reach the age of fifty (50), they may fall back into the Non-Pro Boxing/Limited class (Boxing/Limited Reined Cow Horse).

The Non-Pro Boxing/Limited Competitors

[...]

d. A Non-Pro exhibitor may show in both the Reined Cow Horse and Box-Drive (Reined Cow Horse) classes or both the Boxing/Limited Reined Cow and Box-Drive (Reined Cow Horse) classes, but not both the Reined Cow and Boxing Classes.

#### ARTICLE B3135 Ranch Rail Scoring

[...]

4. Penalties. An exhibitor must be penalized for:

[...]

1. Walking or trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change.

[...]

#### ARTICLE B3136 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot ~~10 & Under~~ General

1. For the 10 & under class exhibitors Exhibitors must not be more than ten (10) years of age as of December 1 of the current competition year.

2. For the 11 & Over class, exhibitors must be eleven (11) years of age or older as of December 1 of the current competition year.

2-3. The exhibitor must never have been judged in a class at a Licensed Competition that required a canter or lope. Exception: Short Stirrup Reining exhibitors and Cross Rails 10 & Under.

#### ARTICLE B3137 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot ~~10 & Under~~ Appointments

Horse and exhibitor must follow the appointments as set forth in the Arabian Western Pleasure Sub-Chapter B3103.

#### ARTICLE B3138 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot ~~10 & Under~~ Class Specifications and Patterns

1. Horses to enter at walk or trot in either direction at discretion of the judge.

2. Entries will be worked both directions of the ring at both qualifying gaits the walk and the trot.

##### Patterns

1. Patterns must be chosen from the current Arabian Horse Association (AHA) Patterns which may be found on the AHA website. There is no time limit required for a Ranch Riding pattern.

a. Gaits: a judge may ask for a walk, extended walk, trot, extended trot and stop.

b. Optional maneuvers backing, turns in either direction, walking and or trotting over poles.

2. Posting at the extended trot is permitted.

4-3. Holding the horn is acceptable at the extended trot.

#### ARTICLE B3139 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot ~~10 & Under~~ Scoring

[...]

#### ARTICLE B3151 Ranch Horse Trail Walk-Trot ~~10 & Under~~ General

1. For the 10 & Under class, exhibitors Exhibitors must not be more than ten (10) years of age as of December 1 of the current competition year.

2. For the 11 & Over class, exhibitors must be eleven (11) years of age or older as of December 1 of the current competition year.

2-3. The exhibitor must never have been judged in a class at a Licensed Competition that required a canter or lope. (Exception: Short Stirrup Reining exhibitors and Cross Rails 10 & Under).



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### ARTICLE B3153 Ranch Horse Trail Walk-Trot ~~10 & Under~~ Course Information

#### 1. Acceptable Obstacles:

[...]

c. Open Gates- Exhibitors 10 & under shall not be asked to open and close a gate; however, simulation of doing so by touching gate standards is encouraged. A single non-elevated walk over pole may be placed in the “open” gate.

Exhibitors 11 & over may be asked to open and close a gate.

[...]

g. Trot through ~~cones~~: ~~cones~~markers must be spaced a minimum of ten (10) feet apart. Markers may include, but are not limited to; cones, plants, hay bales, etc.

[...]

#### 2. Option Obstacles – 11 & over

For 11 & over, optional obstacles may be used provided the obstacles can be found in everyday ranch work. Optional obstacles from which selections can be made include, but are not limited to:

a. Remove and replace materials from a mailbox.

b. Stand to mount with mounting block.

c. Open gate on foot.

d. Pick up feet.

e. Ground tie. (Hobbles are not allowed)

f. Lead at the trot.

g. Side pass-A single ground pole up to 6” high is allowed for the 11 & Over age division

#### 2.3. Prohibited Obstacles

[...]

c. Closed gates for the 10 & under age division.

d. Pick up objects

e. Side pass for the 10 & under age division.

[...]

### ARTICLE B3159 VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work Amateur/Youth (Box – Drive – Box - Drive) General

Note: “Open VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work” classes may be held at the AHA Local and Regional level (not an AHA National Level class)- Open, Amateur (Adult/Youth), Amateur Restricted (Adult/Youth), Jr Horse classes may be offered at Local, Regional and National Level.

1. Exhibitors in the VRH Limited amateur and VRH Limited Youth Ranch Cow Work (~~Box-Drive-Box-Drive~~) Amateur (Youth/Adult) may not have shown more than three times have previously shown down the fence in any Cow Horse class, Reined Cow Horse class or VRH Cow Work class.

2. Exhibitors in the VRH Limited Amateur and VRH Limited Youth Ranch Cow Work (Box-Drive-Box-Drive) Open and Junior Horse may have previously shown down the fence in any Cow Horse Class, Reined Cow Horse Class, or VRH Cow Work Class.

3. Exhibitors in the VRH Limited Amateur and VRH Limited Youth Ranch Cow Work (Box-Drive-Box-Drive) Amateur Restricted (Adult/Youth) may have not previously shown more than three (3) times down the fence in any Cow Horse, Reined Cow Horse Class or VRH Cow Work Class.

4. Exhibitors in any VRH Limited Amateur and VRH Limited Youth Ranch Cow Work (Box-Drive-Box-Drive) classes may not cross enter in any (down the fence) Cow Horse class, Reined Cow class at the same show with the same horse. However exhibitors may cross enter Herd Work and Limited Reined Cow Horse Classes.

Example: Rider A may show Horse A in “Down the Fence classes” Rider A may not show Horse A in any Box-Drive-Box-Drive Classes at the same show.

### ARTICLE B3160 VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work Amateur/Youth (Box – Drive – Box-Drive) Class

#### Specifications

1. ~~Limited Ranch Cow Work exhibitors~~Exhibitors are allotted one minute and forty-five seconds to complete the work. When there is 50 seconds left, the announcer will announce, “50 seconds remaining.” At one minute and forty-five seconds, the announcer will call for time.

[...]



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#### ARTICLE B3603 DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION

[...]

14. ~~a. When a pattern is provided: A rider going off pattern will not result in elimination but will be penalized.~~
- ~~b. If a rider does not complete the rail portion, and the pattern of the class when required it would result in elimination.~~
- ~~c. In addition to rail work, all contestants are required to perform three or more individual tests from B3603.5.~~
- ~~d. A rider going off pattern will not result in elimination but will be penalized.~~
- ~~e. If a rider does not complete both the rail and the pattern phases of the class, it would result in elimination.~~

#### ARTICLE B3801 GENERAL RULES

[...]

12. Judges must use the prescribed Showmanship Score Card. At all multi judge shows, all multi judge Regional shows and all National Shows; score cards must be posted one hour after the completion of the session. It is mandatory at any show posting cards to have a designated walker and scribe.

#### ARTICLE B3802 CLASS ROUTINE

[...]

- ~~4. Handlers may be asked to perform additional tests at the Judge's discretion.~~

#### ARTICLE B3905 CLASS CONDUCT

1. Competitors to enter the ring in a count-clockwise direction at a walk or jog/trot. This will be specified in the prize list how they will enter.
- [...]

#### B3906 ATR/JTR/AATR WALK-TROT/WALK-JOG 11 AND OVER SECTION

Class Requirements Open to Amateur or Junior Exhibitors 11 years old and older as of December 1st of the current competition year. An amateur card is not required for JTR, ATR OR AATR Walk/Trot-Jog 11 and over.

1. Division of Classes
    - a. Classes may be held as JTR, ATR and/or AATR and may be divided by age of exhibitor.

[...]
  2. Classes may be offered ~~for Western Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure, Country English Pleasure, Sport Horse Under Saddle, Western Seat Equitation, Hunter Seat Equitation Not to Jump, Saddle Seat Equitation, and Dressage Seat Equitation–B3603~~ in any seat and any discipline. Exceptions: Reining, Reined Cow Horse and Working Cow Horse.

[...]
  5. An exhibitor that shows in Walk/Trot or Jog 11 and Over classes may show in classes requiring a canter or lope at a later show in that show season, but, once they do so, cannot show in Walk/Trot or Jog classes for the remainder of that show season.  
Exception: Cross Rail Riders and Short Stirrup Reining.
- [...]

#### Part Five –Hackney

#### ARTICLE B4611 JUNIOR COMPETITOR

[...]

4. Canadian Hackney Society Junior Competitor Divisions:
  - a) Canadian Hackney Society Junior Driver: Open to any registered Hackney horse or pony. To be shown to a suitable 4wheeled vehicle. To have long mane and tail or with a braided mane or the appearance of a braided mane (artificial braids accepted) and a short or docked tail or the appearance of a short docked tail. To be judged on manners, quality and performance of the animal and driver's ability; 50% for the driver's ability and 50% for the suitability of the animal. Headers are permitted, but are not to handle the pony. Competitor or a member of his/her immediate family must be a member of the Canadian Hackney Society.

#### Part Nine – Welsh Pony & Cob Division

#### ARTICLE B7502 ELIGIBILITY

[...]

2. In order to show, all animals foaled in Canada and/or owned by a Canadian resident, or animals leased by a Canadian resident, or animals imported into Canada by a Canadian resident, shall be registered in the Stud Book of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society of Canada, or if under one year of age, be eligible for registration in the Welsh Pony and Cob Society of Canada Stud Book. In order to be eligible for registration in the Welsh Pony and Cob Society of Canada Stud Book, both the Sire and the Dam shall be registered in the Welsh Pony and Cob Society of Canada Stud Book, with the following exceptions:

[...]

  - d) Unless otherwise specified in a Prize List, all Welsh Ponies of Cob Type, Section C, and Welsh Cobs, Section D, are eligible to be shown together, ~~regardless of the percentage of Cob blood shown on their registration papers.~~

[...]



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#### ARTICLE B7505 BREED TYPE AND CONFORMATION

1. WELSH MOUNTAIN PONY, SECTION A.

GENERAL CHARACTER: hardy, spirited and pony-like.

COLOUR: any colour ~~except piebald and skewbald (pinto).~~

[...]

ACTION: free and straight from the shoulder, well away in front. Hocks under the body, well flexed, with straight and powerful leverage.

1. ~~2.~~ 3.—WELSH PONY, SECTION B. The Welsh Pony, Section B, has greater emphasis on riding action, while retaining true Welsh breed type and quality, with adequate bone and substance. Feather may be clipped.

COLOUR: any colour.

2. ~~3.~~ 3.—WELSH PONY OF COB TYPE, SECTION C. The Welsh Pony of Cob Type, Section C, is a sturdier counterpart of the Welsh Mountain Pony, Section A, but having a percentage of Welsh Pony of Cob Type, Section C, or Welsh Cob, Section D, blood. A moderate quantity of silky feather is desirable.

COLOUR: any colour.

4. WELSH COB, SECTION D.

GENERAL CHARACTER: strong, hardy and active, with pony character, and as much substance as possible.

COLOUR: any colour ~~except piebald and skewbald (pinto).~~

[...]

#### ARTICLE B7507 GENERAL CONDUCT OF SHOWS

[...]

3. Juniors and/or Youth are considered any exhibitor who as of January 1st of the current year has not reached their 18th birthday.

**Exception:** Hunter & Jumper classes where a specific jump order is given. In classes where animals are shown collectively, a warning is given and the in-gate must be closed two (2) minutes after the first animal entered the ring.

#### ARTICLE B7509 ATTIRE

[...]

2. Junior competitors must wear approved protective headgear at all times whenever mounted or in a driven vehicle while on the show grounds. Junior exhibitors 12 years and under, as of January 1st of the current year, must wear approved protective headgear at all times in the show ring. Harness must be secured and properly fitted. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further competition until such approved protective headgear is properly in place.

[...]

5. Whips may not exceed 75cm in any in hand classes.

#### ARTICLE B7510 DISQUALIFICATIONS

[...]

6. Any performance animal under 2-3 years of age.

7. Foal cannot compete less than a month old.

8. Youth are not eligible to show colts, yearling and above, or stallions. Colt foals of the current year are permissible.

[...]

#### ARTICLE B7601 GENERAL INFORMATION

[...]

10. Youth competitors are not eligible to show colts, yearling and above, or stallions. Colt foals of the current year are permissible.

#### Article B7603 STALLIONS

Stallions three years old and over must have all the fully developed physical characteristics (both testicles must be present) of a stallion and must be masculine in appearance. Any question in this regard shall be determined by the official veterinarian. ~~Stallions may be exhibited by Junior Exhibitor Competitors unless the prize list prohibits.~~



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#### ARTICLE B7707 WELSH PONY/COB HUNTER

##### JUDGING

[...]

5. All animals being considered for a ribbon shall be jogged for soundness with rider dismounted and saddle removed. Riders do not dismount in under saddle classes. All animals shall be serviceably sound when jogged.

[...]

##### ELIMINATION.

[...]

- ~~Failure to immediately retrieve a lost approved protective headgear, replace it and do up the harness before taking the next fence on course. Assistance may be given by the Ring Master in retrieving the approved protective headgear.~~

[...]

#### ARTICLE B7804 RECOMMENDED SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES

1. a) JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP 12 YEARS AND UNDER. Open to Junior competitors until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 12 years Mares or geldings only to be shown. ~~No~~ Junior competitor may be accompanied into the ring by another person, with the understanding that this may affect the judge's placings.

[...]