



2021 MIHA Rule Proposals
February 13th, 2021
Annual Winter Meeting-Virtual

Dear MIHA Membership,

Please review these rules prior to the Feb 13th, 2021 Winter Meeting. To respect everyone's time for the day, the Executive Board is asking the following:

- The person or district proposing the rule, begins to discuss the rule proposal and rationale. If not present, the Rules Chair will introduce the proposal. **They will have a maximum time of 3 minutes. The ZOOM host will mute your microphone if you exceed the time. Please prepare what you would like to say ahead of time.**
- Those that would like to comment to the membership will send a message to the ZOOM Host. Please limit your thoughts to 2 minutes or less. **Please prepare what you would like to say ahead of time. The ZOOM host will mute your microphone if you exceed the time.**
- When addressing your comments on the microphone, introduce your name and district (this helps with meeting minutes)
- Due to the virtual environment, **there will be no friendly amendments.**
- All voting will take place in virtual space with a link provided to all Event Bright registered members. If you have not registered for the Winter Meeting, you will not be eligible to vote.
- Results will be shared with the membership within approximately 48-72 hours once all votes have been cross referenced with registered voters. DC's will be given an Excel spreadsheet with the results.

Respectfully,

Amy Franks
MIHA Rules Chair

RP#1

pdv
check
1003

RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL

District Number:

Name:

David Cox

Phone Number:

517/581-6081

Please state rule as written (include page number, article, and section):

Page 1 Article VII Competition
Season The MIHA Year will run from January 1st to December 31st of each year.

Please state proposed rule change (include page number, article, and section):

Season The MIHA Year will run from July 1st to June 30th of each year.

Give a brief description of why this rule change is proposed:

Rational:

We are a school activity, we would be more in-line with the schools calendar as the other sports and school activities do. This would also make it easier for Junior Teams knowing the rules and patterns. They would not have to wait on the rule book and would have established rule and patters in place.

Deadline: December 31st of current year

Please submit your rule change and \$10 to:

Amy Franks, MIHA State Rules Chair
68406 39th Street Paw Paw MI 49079
exec_board@miha.org

RP#2

Not Paid

RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL

District Number:

Name:

Steve Luyk

Phone Number:

616.293.2847

Please state rule as written (include page number, article, and section):

Page 12-13, Article XIII- Team Structure and Slotting Rules (on attached page)

Please state proposed rule change (include page number, article, and section):

Page 12-13, Article XIII- Team Structure and Slotting Rules

A. Each team will be categorized as either

1. Division A team with 10 or more riders (63 slots)
2. Division B team with 5 to 10 riders (42 slots)
3. Division C team with 2 to 5 riders (24 slots)
4. Division D team with 1 or 2 riders (16 slots)

Schools having 15 or more riders may have 2 teams, one being an A Team and the other a Division B or C as members warrant. The A team must be filled with 11 or more riders before a B or C team may be formed. No rider may interchange between teams.

Schools having 25 or more riders may have three teams, an A team, a B team, and a C team. The A team must be filled with 11 or more riders before a B or C team may be formed. No rider may interchange between teams.

Schools having 31 or more riders may have four teams.

1. Two A teams, one B team, and one C team.
2. One A team, two B teams, and one C team.
3. The A team must be filled with 11 or more riders. The B team must be filled 6-10 riders and the C team will have 2-5 riders.

Give a brief description of why this rule change is proposed:

Removing the slot restrictions gives coaches the ability to put their best team together and compete at their greatest potential. For example, if a team has inexperienced riders/horses this would allow the coach to put their experienced riders/horses in enough classes to fill their allotted slots. Or if a team has single-discipline riders/horses (ie: jumping, gaming) this would allow the coach to put their all-around riders/horses in enough classes to fill their allotted slots.

Deadline: December 31st of current year

Please submit your rule change and \$10 to:

Amy Franks, MIHA State Rules Chair
68406 39th Street Paw Paw MI 49079
exec_board@miha.org

Article XIII – Team Structure and Slotting Rules

A. Each team will be categorized as either

1. Division A team with 10 or more riders (63 slots)
2. Division B team with 5 to 10 riders (42 slots)
3. Division C team with 2 to 5 riders (24 slots)
4. Division D team with 1 or 2 riders (16 slots)

B. Coaches will assign class slots to each rider. Each rider shall not participate in more than EIGHT EVENTS in any one meet unless one of the following occurs:

1. Division D team exists – 16 total slots
 - a. 2 rider team – no rider may be assigned more than 11 slots.
 - b. 1 rider team – rider is allotted 16 slots.
2. Division C team exists – 24 total slots
 - a. 3 rider team – no rider may be assigned more than 11 slots.
 - b. 2 rider team – no rider may be assigned more than 15 slots.
 - c. 1 rider team – rider is allotted 16 slots.
3. Division B team exists – 42 total slots
 - a. 6 rider team – no rider may be assigned more than 11 slots.
 - b. 5 rider team - no rider may be assigned more than 12 slots.
 - c. 4 rider team - no rider may be assigned more than 14 slots.
 - d. 2 or 3 rider team - no rider may be assigned more than 17 slots.
4. Division A team exists – 63 total slots
 - a. 8 rider team – no rider may be assigned more than 11 slots.
 - b. 7 rider team - no rider may be assigned more than 12 slots.
 - c. 6 rider team - no rider may be assigned more than 14 slots.
 - d. 5 rider team - no rider may be assigned more than 16 slots.
 - e. 3 or 4 rider team – no rider may be assigned more than 17 slots.

Schools having 15 or more riders may have 2 teams, one being an A Team and the other a Division B or C as members warrant. The A team must be filled with 11 or more riders before a B or C team may be formed. No rider may interchange between teams.

Schools having 25 or more riders may have three teams, an A team, a B team, and a C team. The A team must be filled with 11 or more riders before a B or C team may be formed. No rider may interchange between teams.

Schools having 31 or more riders may have four teams.

1. Two A teams, one B team, and one C team.
2. One A team, two B teams, and one C team.
3. The A team must be filled with 11 or more riders. The B team must be filled 6-10 riders and the C team will have 2-5 riders.

C. ABSENT RIDER SLOT ALLOTMENT. In the event that a registered team member would:

1. Decide not to be a participating member of the team for the entire season and notifies the coach of this decision,
2. Become injured and unable to compete at any or all of the meets.
3. Notify the coach that they cannot attend one or more of the meets.
4. Becomes ineligible to compete because of grades or disciplinary action:
 - a. The coach must notify their District Chairperson or Regional Chairperson of the situation and the change in the number of riders competing on the team for that meet. This must be done in the time allotted, as defined within each district or region and as determined by the Chairperson at the State Championship meet. If all requirements are met, the team will then be allowed to use the absent riders slots. They need to comply with the formula stated in Article XIII Section B.

RP#3

pdv #1112

RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL

District Number: XIV

Name:

Amv Kotsch—Kingston

Phone Number:

989 683 3271

Please state rule as written (include page number, article, and section):

page 13 XIV—Regional/ State Championship

Please state proposed rule change (include page number, article, and section):

page 13 XIV—Regional/ State Championship

ADD-- At the district level an individual rider would have to earn a combined total in any one class of 22 points or more to make them eligible to compete in that class ONLY at the regional competition. At the regional meet individual riders would compete in the same division group as their district level team, no extra individual class would be offered.

EXAMPLE

Rider 1 from an A division team that doesn't qualify as a team to go to regionals has placed 1st, 2nd, & 2nd in Western Fitting & Showing earning 22 points. Rider 1 would be eligible to compete at regionals in the A division Western Fitting & Showing Class.

ADD: At the regional level an individual rider would have to earn a combined total in any one class of 18 points to make them eligible to compete in that class ONLY at the state competition. At the state meet individual riders would compete in the same division group as their district level team, no extra individual class would be offered.

EXAMPLE

Rider 2 from a C division team that doesn't qualify as a team to go to state has placed 1st & 3rd in Western Fitting & Showing earning 18 points. Rider 2 would be eligible to compete at regionals in the A division Western Fitting & Showing Class.

Give a brief description of why this rule change is proposed:

MIHA rule change to allow for **INDIVIDUALS** to qualify for Regionals and possibly State as well. This would allow for Regional & State Champions in each class, which is similar to other sports that allow for team & individual competition like track and swim whose point system and competition in different events aligns well to equestrian.

Deadline: December 31st of current year

Please submit your rule change and \$10 to:

Amy Franks, MIHA State Rules Chair
68406 39th Street Paw Paw MI 49079
exec_board@miha.org

RP#4

not

RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL

District Number:

Name:

Phone Number:

Please state rule as written (include page number, article, and section):

Page 15—Regional/State Championship—Article XIV-- (begins at the bottom of page 13)
 J—Protests must be in writing and received by the show office prior to the commencement of the next class in your division. A \$25.0 fee is required for a protest at the regional level. A \$50.00 fee is required for a protest at the state meet. All fees must be in cash.
 K—This fee will be refunded if the protest is found to be valid.
 Article XV—Investigation of Rule Infraction (first paragraph)
 Suspected rule infractions of riders, coaches, adult volunteers, judges, grooms, and/or show committee are to be treated through the formal protest procedure to qualify for an investigation. Once a suspected rule infraction has been filed as a formal protest the investigation will be handled as follows: A, B, C, D, E—no change, as currently written. F-- The District Chairperson, the Regional Chairperson or the Executive Board Officers will close the matter making a general announcement of their findings and the action being taken. The announcement should be along the following lines:
 Page 16--item 1—In the case of (as balance is currently written) Item 2—In the case of (as balance is currently written)

Please state proposed rule change (include page number, article, and section):
 Page 15—Regional/State Championship—Article XIV—(begins at the bottom of page 13)
 J—(eliminate completely)
 K—(eliminate completely) L & M will then become J & K
 Article XV—Investigation of Rule Infraction
 Suspected rule infractions of riders, coaches, adult volunteers, judges, grooms, and/or show committee are to be in writing to the person in charge at a district, regional, or state meet. Once a suspected rule infraction has been filed the investigation will be handled as follows: A, B, C, D, E—no change, as currently written. F—The District Chairperson, the Regional Chairperson or the Executive Board Officers will close the matter by contacting those involved to let them know if there was merit or not.
 Page 16—items 1 & 2—eliminate completely

Give a brief description of why this rule change is proposed:

Protests serve no purpose. The judge's decision is considered final and a protest takes up valuable time with those in charge talking to the judge, only to find out the original decision stands.
 The protest promotes hard feelings and unwanted questions during a time that we should be concentrating on having fun.
 I do not know any other horse organization that allows this type of behavior.

Deadline: December 31st of current year

Please submit your rule change and \$10 to:

Amy Franks, MIHA State Rules Chair
 68406 39th Street Paw Paw MI 49079
exec_board@miha.org

RP#5

not

RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL

District Number:

Name:

Phone Number:

Please state rule as written (include page number, article, and section):

Page 18—General Rules (begins at the bottom of page 17)

I—One of the following class methods will be selected by the judge, in consultation with the show chairperson:

1. Rail work only: walk, jog/trot or second gait and lope/canter in each direction.
2. Rail work: walk, jog/trot or second gate and lope/canter in at least one direction, followed by a pattern or test of the top exhibitors.
3. If patterns are used, rail work is optional. If rail work is performed, it must be at least one way with all 3 gaits. At the State Championship meet, a pattern will be performed by all exhibitors.

Please state proposed rule change (include page number, article, and section):

Page 18—General Rules (begins at the bottom of page 17)

I—One of the following class methods will be selected by the judge, in consultation with the show chairperson:

1. Rail work only: walk, jog/trot or second gait and lope/canter in each direction.
2. Rail work: walk, jog/trot or second gate and lope/canter in at least one direction, followed by a pattern or test of the top exhibitors.
3. Rail work and patterns will be performed at the regional and state meets. All 3 gaits must be used at least one way in rail work. Rail work will be performed first with each judge pulling their top 12 from each split to perform the pattern. Splits are divided evenly if 22 or more entries are in the class. Less than 22 will have all riders perform the rail work and then the pattern. Using a scoring combination of the rail and pattern work each judge will place their top 11 riders.

Give a brief description of why this rule change is proposed:

This change was proposed at the annual meeting last year as a way to save time with our shows getting longer and longer, and a comment that most breed associations are following this procedure. We tried this in 2020 and actually spent more time than what we had many years before.

Most breed associations are not following this format—Quarter Horse—yes, but not all. We have always been an association that tries to provide good competition for all breeds, and especially with the pleasure horses being able to show their movement on the rail is important. Most pleasure breeds do rail and pattern work and depending on the conversation with the judge before the show the rail work is 40% to 50% of the total score.

Actually this should be a top priority for all breeds because the way the horse moves on the rail is part of their breed standard and should be shown. This also gives a very unfair advantage to the stock horse when all they have to do is a pattern and then leave.

Comments from some judges this year indicate they felt it was unfair to not have any rail work.

Deadline: December 31st of current year

RP#16

pdv
check#
1002

RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL

District Number:

Name:

Phone Number:

Please state rule as written (include page number, article, and section):

Page 22. Western Performance Classes A,2 Appointments of Rider: Rider must wear western hat or protective headgear (not required to be of western style), long sleeve shirt with any type of collar...

Page 28.Saddle Seat Performance Classes A,3 Exhibitors must wear a derby, Homberg, snap brim or protective head gear.

Please state proposed rule change (include page number, article, and section):

Appointments of Rider: Rider must wear an **ASTM/SEI approved protective helmet, any time a rider is mounted, with strap or harness secured under the chin**, long sleeve shirt with any type of collar, pants or trouser, a belt when belt loops are present and western boots. A vest, jacket, coat or sweater may also be worn. Chaps, gloves and spurs are optional. No bats, hand quirts or whips of any kind.

Exhibitors must wear a derby, an **ASTM/SEI approved protective helmet, any time a rider is mounted, with strap or harness secured under the chin.**

Give a brief description of why this rule change is proposed:

Deadline: December 31st of current year

Our riders are in greater danger than football players of sustains a head injuries (1). Equine riders are 20x more likely to sustaining an injury than a motorcycle riders per year. (2) 60 number of deaths/year due to head injury (compared with 8 for Football). (2) 1 in 5 equestrian injuries, are head injuries. (3) 60% of riding fatalities occur from head injuries. 15,000 number of ER admissions for equine-related head injuries in 2009.(3) 2 feet number of feet at which head injury can occur. (3) Head injuries are the most common reason for admission to hospital or death among riders. According to the Northern Brain Injury Association (NBIA), injuries to the brain are among the most likely to result in permanent disability or death. (4)

1. Anna Blake, Horse Network digital publishing 2016
2. Dr. Chambless, Vanderbilt University 2011
3. The American Association of Neurological Surgeons 2014
4. Horse Journalsmagazine. 2019

Please submit your rule change and \$10 to:

Amy Franks, MIHA State Rules Chair
 68406 39th Street Paw Paw MI 49079
exec_board@miha.org

RP#7

RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL

District Number:

Name:

Jordan Hewitt

Phone Number:

989-274-7715

pdv
#123

Please state rule as written (include page number, article, and section):

Saddle Seat Performance Classes

1. Clothing and Equipment

1. Appointments of Horse:

1. Saddle must be a flat English type commonly called cutback. Dressage, Forward seat, Western and Side Saddles are prohibited.
2. Entries shall be shown in a full bridle (snaffle and curb) or Pelham. Four reins are required on the bridle.

Page: 28

Please state proposed rule change (include page number, article, and section):

Saddle Seat Performance Classes

1. Clothing and Equipment

1. Appointments of Horse:

1. Saddle must be a flat English type commonly called cutback. Dressage, Forward seat, Western and Side Saddles are prohibited.
2. Entries shall be shown in a full bridle (snaffle and curb) or English Pelham. Four reins are required on the bridle.

Give a brief description of why this rule change is proposed:

During this year's regional meet a rider from another team entered in the saddle seat class with a western styled Pelham (Argentine type bit) including a western styled curb chain. When questioned about the legality, it was stated that it was a Pelham and thus legal, and no judge came forward with a disqualification and the rider was placed in the class. Clarification is needed so the appropriate equipment is used in the correct classes.

Deadline: December 31st of current year

Please submit your rule change and \$10 to:

Amy Franks, MIHA State Rules Chair
68406 39th Street Paw Paw MI 49079
exec_board@miha.org

RP#18

RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL

District Number: BOD

Name:

ExecBoard

Phone Number:

Please state rule as written (include page number, article, and section):

Page 31: Hunt Seat Classes A. Clothing and Equipment 1. Appointments of the Horse:

- a. Saddles must be of the English forward seat, hunting style or dressage style.
- b. Only hunt seat bridles and dressage style bridles are permitted. A cavesson or drop nose band is required (except in timed events). Only regulation snaffles, pelhams, kimberwicks and full bridles (curb and snaffle) will be allowed. References to snaffle bits mean conventional O-ring, Egg-butt or D-ring.
- c. Breastplates are permitted but not required.
- d. Martingales, bell boots and splint boots are permitted in the equitation over fences class but prohibited in flat classes.
- e. The use of a fitted saddle pad and stirrup treads are recommended.
- f. Crops must be of the regular Hunt Seat type if used.
- g. Colored brow bands or colored nose bands are prohibited.

Please state proposed rule change (include page number, article, and section):

Page 31: Hunt Seat Classes A. Clothing and Equipment 1. Appointments of the Horse:

- a. Saddles must be of the English forward seat, hunting style or dressage style.
- b. Only hunt seat bridles and dressage style bridles are permitted. A cavesson or drop nose band is required (except in timed events). Only regulation snaffles, pelhams, kimberwicks and full bridles (curb and snaffle) will be allowed. References to snaffle bits mean conventional O-ring, Egg-butt or D-ring.
- c. Breastplates are permitted but not required.
- d. Martingales, bell boots and splint boots are permitted in the equitation over fences class but prohibited in flat classes.
- e. The use of a fitted saddle pad and stirrup treads are recommended.
- f. Crops must be of the regular Hunt Seat type if used.
- g. Colored brow bands or colored nose bands are prohibited.
- h. In all Hunt Seat classes, if you braid the tail you must braid the mane. If you have a roached mane, do not braid the tail. Braiding of the mane only will be acceptable. Braiding yarn should match the mane and tail in color. It is recommended that if you do braid, do both the mane and the tail, or let the mane and tail flow free and natural. Braiding is optional and the Judge is not to take preference. Banding of the mane is permissible.

Give a brief description of why this rule change is proposed:

Currently, the braiding requirements only apply to Fitting & Showing. Why are there braiding requirements ONLY in Fitting & Showing? This will keep consistency within our rulebook.

Please submit your rule change and \$10 to:

Amy Franks, MIHA State Rules Chair
68406 39th Street Paw Paw MI 49079
exec_board@miha.org

RP#19

~~NO \$~~ Steve?

RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL

District Number:

Name:

Phone Number:

Please state rule as written (include page number, article, and section):

(Page 33, A Clothing and Equipment, 1. Appointments of the horse, d.)
Martingales, bell boots and splint boots are permitted in the equitation over fences class but prohibited in flat classes.

Please state proposed rule change (include page number, article, and section):

(Page 33, A Clothing and Equipment, 1. Appointments of the horse, d.)
Martingales, bell boots, wraps, or protective boots are permitted in the equitation over fences class but prohibited in flat classes.

Give a brief description of why this rule change is proposed:

There has been some confusion regarding what types of boots are allowed in the equitation over fences class. This clarifies that not only splint boots are allowed but any wrap or protective boot is permitted in this class.

Deadline: December 31st of current year

Please submit your rule change and \$10 to:
Amy Franks, MIHA State Rules Chair
68406 39th Street Paw Paw MI 49079
exec_board@miha.org

RP#10

RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL

District Number:

Name:

Phone Number:

Please state rule as written (include page number, article, and section):

Page 37-38:

D. Scoring Guidelines:

3 point penalty:

*Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off an obstacle (such as a back-through grid, bridge, side pass, box or water box) with one foot. Each foot will accrue additional penalties

5 point penalty:

- *Dropping a slicker or other object that is required to be carried on the course.
- *Refusing, balking or attempting to evade an obstacle by shying or backing (first time).
- *Failing to ever demonstrate a correct lead or gait, if designated.
- *Walk/Trot /Lope overs; missing log with 2-3 feet.
- *Refusing, balking or attempting to evade an obstacle by shying or backing (second time)

Please state proposed rule change (include page number, article, and section):

Page 37-38: D. **Scoring Guidelines:**

3 point penalty:

*Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off an obstacle (such as a back-through grid, bridge, side pass, box or water box) with one foot. **Each foot will accrue additional penalties**

5 point penalty:

- *Dropping a slicker or other object that is required to be carried on the course.
- *Refusing, balking or attempting to evade an obstacle by shying or backing (first time).
- *Failing to ever demonstrate a correct lead or gait, if designated.
- *Walk/Trot /Lope overs; missing log with 2-3 feet.
- *Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off an obstacle with more than one (1) foot.**
- *Refusing, balking or attempting to evade an obstacle by shying or backing (second time)

Give a brief description of why this rule change is proposed:

We do not have this rule currently, and it aligns with **all the other breed associations** that our judges are familiar with. The current MIHA scoring results in up to a 12 point penalty if the horse steps off with all 4 feet. That's a lot of math!

For Example: **3 point penalty:**

Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off an obstacle (such as a back-through grid, bridge, side pass, box or water box) with one foot. **Each foot will accrue additional penalties (4x3=12) vs. a Penalty 5.**

Deadline: December 31st of current year

Please submit your rule change and \$10 to:

Amy Franks, MIHA State Rules Chair

2020 Proposed Rule Changes for the addition of Dressage Classes

This is a proposal to add a Dressage Seat Test class to our current rule book. We consider it one rule change but if approved the other two changes need to be approved for the rulebook to be cohesive with the change.

Change #1

Rationale: Current information tells us that we have more riders in our state that consider Dressage their primary discipline than Saddle Seat. If we want to encourage organizational growth and offer an opportunity for personal growth, we should make Dressage a recognized discipline in our current format. We currently offer no Dressage events at our meets. To encourage participation, we should have Dressage discipline classes with appropriate rules. Contingent on rule change #1.

We are also wanting to add Western Dressage to the class list. We are offering Western Dressage as a way to encourage those riders who are not able to participate in other Western events such as Western Riding or Western Reining another outlet for their Western discipline. Current information tells us that this will be a welcomed change to the list of classes and will be widely accepted.

Not currently in the book:

Dressage Seat Test Class English/Western

A. Clothing and Equipment

1) Appointments of the Horse English:

- a) Saddles must be of the English forward seat, hunting style or dressage style.*
- b) Rider must use a plain snaffle bit. References to snaffle bits mean conventional O-ring, Eggbutt or D-ring and any bit currently approved by the USEF as suitable for dressage classes. Only hunt seat bridles and dressage style bridles are permitted. Bridle must have a cavesson, flash, figure-eight or dropped noseband.*
- c) The use of a fitted saddle pad or dressage type pad is recommended.*
- d) Whips measuring 48 inches or less (including the lash) are permitted.*

Appointments of the Horse Western:

- a) Saddles must be of the Western seat. A stock saddle, working saddle, Australian stock saddle, or Western side saddle are acceptable. A horn is optional, but western style fenders are required. A breastplate or crupper may be used.*
- b) Any western-type headstall must be used, with or without a cavesson. A bitless bridle of western style made of leather or leather-like material is also acceptable.*
- c) Any bit currently approved by WDAA as suitable for Western Dressage classes are allowed.*
- d) Whips no longer than 47.2 inches, including lash, is allowed.*

2) Appointments of the Rider English:

- a) Exhibitors must wear a hunt STMI/SEI approved helmet with strap or harness secured under the chin.*
- b) A dark hunt coat, dressage jacket or cutaway coat with short tails is required. Contrasting color and piping is allowed.*
- c) A traditional English shirt in white with ratcatcher collar, white dress shirt with tie or stock tie with appropriate shirt are all considered acceptable. White dickets are allowed as long as the rider is wearing a camisole, tank top or t-shirt underneath the dicket and hunt coat.*
- d) Breeches in white, grey or light tan are required, and a belt if belt loops are present.*
- e) Exhibitors must wear black Dress or Field boots, no half chaps, gaiters or leggings are allowed. Gloves and spurs (must be of the English unroweled type) are optional.*

Appointments of the Rider Western:

- a) Suitable western hat. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty.*
- b) Long-sleeved shirt of any color, short sleeves may be worn at the discretion of the judge.*

- c) Trousers, pants, a one-piece long-sleeved equitation suit, provided it includes a collar.
- d) Western boots.
- e) Optional apparel includes: Necktie, kerchief, bolo tie, pin, vest, jacket, coat, sweater, chaps, shotgun chaps, chinks, or split riding skirt.
- f) Spurs of Western or English style. Western spurs with rowels must not have sharp tines.

B. Dressage Seat Test:

1. Suggested Dressage Seat Tests from USEF and WDAA (Tests will be shown in the Appendix section of this rule book.)
2. Test to be determined annually by the membership from suggested list.
3. Judge will use individual score sheets to be provided by MIHA (example found in the Appendix section of this rule book.)
4. A reader shall be permitted to read for the rider. Each movement of the test shall be read only once, not repeated. Error or lateness in reading the test shall not relieve the rider from error penalties.
5. Test should take place in a dressage-type arena with letters marking the boundaries. The arena should be approximately 66 feet by 132 feet.
6. Exhibitors should always enter and exit at A.
7. Exhibitors not entering or exiting at A or stepping all four feet out of bounds during the test shall be considered off course and disqualified.
8. When a rider makes an error in the course, the judge should sound a bell or whistle. The judge should then, if necessary, show the rider the point at which they must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed. The judge then leaves the rider to continue by themselves. A course error includes such faults as taking a wrong turn or omitting a movement.
9. When the rider makes an error of test such as rising trot when the test calls for sitting trot the judge does not necessarily ring the bell but should note the error.
10. All errors should be penalized in the following manner: First error -2 points, Second error-4 points, Third error- elimination.
11. Judges will use the following numerical score will reflect movement adjudication.
 - 10=Excellent
 - 9=Very Good
 - 8=Good
 - 7=Fairly Good
 - 6=Satisfactory
 - 5=Marginal
 - 4=Insufficient
 - 3=Fairly Bad
 - 2=Bad
 - 1=Very Bad
 - 0=Not Executed

DRESSAGE ARENA LAYOUT:

All MIHA Dressage Seat Test classes should take place in a dressage-type arena with letters marking the boundaries. The arena should be approximately 66 feet by 132 feet. The site chosen for the arena must be as level as possible. If there is only one judge, he or she is placed behind the letter C. If two judges are used, the second judge may be placed behind the letter B or E. Letters along the boundaries may be marked with plaques or cones. Marking the corners of the arena is highly suggested. The use of planks, boards, poles,, or PVC are options traditionally used for this purpose.

Change #2

Current Rule:

RP# 13-2

A. All meets shall consist of these classes but the order of the classes will be at the discretion of the show committee or the District Chairperson.

B. Suggested Class Order at the high school meets shall be:

1. Western Fitting and Showing
2. Hunt Seat Fitting and Showing
3. Saddle Seat Fitting and Showing
4. Saddle Seat Equitation
5. Saddle Seat Pattern
6. Saddle Seat Bareback
7. Hunt Seat Equitation
8. Hunt Seat Bareback
9. Equitation Over Fences
10. Western Equitation
11. Western Bareback
12. Western Riding or Western Reining
13. Trail
14. Flag Race
15. Cloverleaf
16. Timed Events Pattern
17. Two-Person Relay Race

Proposed Change:

A. All meets shall consist of these classes but the order of the classes will be at the discretion of the show committee or the District Chairperson.

B. Suggested Class Order at the high school meets shall be:

- 1. Western Fitting and Showing*
- 2. Hunt Seat Seat Fitting and Showing*
- 3. Saddle Seat Fitting and Showing*
- 4. Saddle Seat Equitation*
- 5. Saddle Seat Bareback Equitation*
- 6. Saddle Seat Pattern*
- 7. Dressage Seat Test (English and Western)*
- 8. Hunt Seat Equitation*
- 9. Equitation Over Fences*
- 10. Hunt Seat Bareback*
- 11. Western Equitation*
- 12. Western Riding or Reining*
- 13. Western Bareback Equitation*
- 14. Trail*
- 15. Flag Race*
- 16. Cloverleaf*
- 17. Timed Events Pattern*
- 18. Two-Person Relay Race*

Change #3

Current Rule:

RP# 13-3

- C. Western Riding/Reining Pattern, Trail, Saddle Seat Pattern, Equitation Over Fences and the Two-Person Relay Race will have a limit of THREE (3) entries per class per team, with the remaining classes to have a limit of FOUR (4) entries per class per team. Each available entry space will be called a "slot".
- D. Article XIII – Team Structure and Slotting Rules
- D. *Coaches will have a limit of three (3) entries per class per team in the following classes:*
 - a. *Saddle Seat Pattern*
 - b. *Dressage Seat Test*
 - c. *Equitation over Fences*
 - d. *Reining/Western Riding*
 - e. *Trail*
 - f. *Two Person Relay*
- E. *Coaches will have a limit of four (4) entries per class per team in any of the remaining classes.*
- F. *Each available entry space will be called a "Slot".*

Rationale: We struggled finding a rule in the rule book addressing this, it is at the bottom of page 2 but we feel it should be in the team Structure and Slotting Rules section.