

2024 Rule Changes

2024 OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

On the following pages you will find the 2024 rule changes to the *NSBA Official Handbook*. Underlined text indicates new additions to the rules, while strike-through text indicates a deletion to the wording.

21. ~~d)~~ d) Two Year Olds shown in Longe Line or In Hand Trail may not show in any class under saddle at the same show.

64. ~~b) 2)~~ Leased horses are eligible to show in NSBA events. NSBA will accept leases that are recorded and approved with their appropriate NSBA REA, provided the lease is also recorded with NSBA and the horse holds a current registration with NSBA as long as the following criteria are met:

a) The completed NSBA Lease Authorization form and \$45 fee is received prior to competition.

b) The horse holds a current registration with NSBA.

c) The lessee and the owner as listed on the breed registration papers are both current NSBA members.

All appropriate lease paperwork must be received in the NSBA office prior to competition. A \$35 fee and a copy of the lease authorization is due with the completed NSBA Lease Authorization Form. Current NSBA membership is required for both the lessee and the owner. Only one lease per horse will be recognized at one

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time. During the term of the lease, only the lessee (~~and those related to the lessee~~) and their immediate family (see Rule #64b) may show the horse in NSBA Non Pro, Amateur and/or Youth/Junior events. All leases expire on December 31 of the year submitted and must be renewed annually to remain in effect. A lease submitted after December 1 will expire December 31 of the following year. During the term of the lease, all NSBA issued incentive fund money will be paid to the recorded owner. During the term of the lease, any money won by the horse at NSBA stand-alone events, including the NSBA World Championship Show, will be paid to the lessee and earnings recorded to the rider. If the lease is terminated before the recorded lease expiration date, a \$500 termination fee must be paid. NSBA will not record changes in ownership of the leased horse during the term of the lease until the lease is terminated and the \$500 termination fee is paid.

75. a) 1) The Novice rider has not won a world or reserve world title ~~or national or reserve national title~~ in the event in any equine breed association.

75. b) 2) The Non Pro rider has not won a world or reserve world title ~~or national or reserve national title~~ in the event in any equine breed association.

86. b) In Western classes, horses regardless of their age, may be ridden with one hand and a standard western bit as approved by NSBA or with two hands and a snaffle bit or bosal as described under NSBA Western Equipment rules (Rule #135). ~~Horses six years of age and older MUST be shown in a standard western curb bit.~~ In English classes, horses must be ridden with approved equipment per NSBA English Equipment (Rule #137).

134. All artificial appliances, including but not limited to nasal strips or nose nets (exception jumpers Rule #258 i.1) c.(5)), belly bands, boots, wraps and bandages are prohibited. In the case of inclement weather competition management may permit the use of bell boots.

135. In all western classes, horses will be shown in a traditional western saddle. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. In all NSBA Two Year Old and Three Year Old western classes entrants must use a snaffle or bosal. In combined aged classes (Three Years Old and Older) or Maturity classes, horses may be ridden with one hand and a standard western bit as approved by NSBA or with two hands and a snaffle bit or bosal as described under NSBA Western equipment rules. Horses 6 years of age and older MUST be shown in a standard western curb bit. Any horse of any age shown in any Novice Youth, Novice Amateur or Green class may be shown one or two handed with a snaffle bit/hackamore.

135. d) Snaffle or Hackamore entries may be shown with both hands on the reins or with one hand on the reins, as long as that hand is not be changed. When showing with both hands on the reins, the rider's hands should be carried near the pommel and no further than 4" out on either side of the saddle horn. Rider's hands must be steady and should be visible to the judge(s) at all times. Reins must be bridged with the tails of the reins on the opposite side of the neck. Exception: in ranch classes, only one rein may be crossed over the neck and held with two hands. When showing with one hand on the reins, the hand is to be around the reins; index finger only between split reins is permitted. Closed reins (example: Mecate) may not be used with any snaffle bit, except in ranch classes, where a mecate is permitted. Violation of this rule is an automatic disqualification.

135. h) 4) Splint boots or leg wraps except in Horsemanship and Ranch Riding Performance classes.

137. e) Any Two year old horse having been shown with a NSBA English approved bit is also eligible to show in the Two year old NSBA Western Events in a NSBA Western approved bit.

137. f) 1) English Spurs that are blunt, round or that include a smooth rolling rubber/stainless-steel ball or disc and no longer than 1".

146. Horses may be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore with both hands on the reins or with one hand on the reins, as long as that hand is not be changed. The tails of the reins must be crossed on the opposite side of the neck and bridged when riding with two hands on split reins. Exception: in ranch classes, only one rein may be crossed over the neck and held with two hands. Closed reins (example mecate) may not be used with a snaffle bit, except in ranch classes, where a mecate is permitted. Rider's hands should be carried near the pommel and not further than four (4) inches (10.16cm) out on either side of the saddle horn with very limited movement.

151. c) Overflexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently, except in Novice Non Pro or Novice Youth/Amateur which are faults, scored according to severity.

211. f) 1)

a. Walk-overs: Walk over no more than five logs or poles no more than 10" high. The space between logs or poles should be 26 - 36" 34". The formation may be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.

b. Trot-overs: Trot over no more than five logs or poles no more than 10" high. The space between logs or poles should be 36 - 42" 48". The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.

c. Extended trot-overs: Trot over no more than five logs or poles no more than 10" high. The space between logs or poles should be 6 - 8'6". The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.

d. Lope-overs: Lope over no more than five logs or poles no more than 10" high. The space between logs or poles should be 6 - 7' 8". The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged, or raised.

220.c) Faults which shall be cause for disqualification, except in Novice Non-Pro or Novice Youth which are faults, scored according to severity:

221. DISQUALIFICATIONS

a) Overflexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently, except in Novice Non Pro or Novice Youth/Amateur which are faults, scored according to severity.

223.a) Horses are to jump fences 2'6" - 2'9"-3'0" in height.

224.a) Horses are to jump fences 2'9" - 3'0"-3'3" in height.

226.a) To jump fences 2'6"-3'0" in height.

227.a) Horses are to jump fences 2'6" - 3'0" - 2'9"-3'3" in height.

229.c) 2) d. Minimum height for Junior horses, Non Pro, Youth and Amateur classes must be two feet nine inches (90 84 cm), with a maximum of three feet (90cm) three inches (1 meter); heights for Senior Horses must be a minimum of three feet (90 cm) with a maximum of three feet three inches (1 meter) two feet nine inches (90 cm), with a maximum of three feet six inches (1.07 meters), and all-ages must be a minimum of three feet (90 cm) with a maximum of three feet three inches (1 meter) (110 cm).

230.c) 5) In cases of broken equipment, that does not potentially endanger any exhibitor, the rider may either continue without penalty, or stop and correct the difficulty and be penalized the same as any loss of forward impulsion.

363.g) 4) a. One or two whips no longer than 3 feet 3 1/2 inches (1 meter), including the lash. Whips that are weighted at the end are prohibited.

EQUESTRIANS WITH DISABILITIES HALTER

CLASS FORMAT

369. Refer to Rule #165 for description with the following additional conditions:

In EWD Halter the Handler should be positioned immediately to the left of the exhibitor for the entirety of the class unless actively tracking the horse. If an EWD exhibitor is unable to safely track the horse, their designated handler may track the horse in their stead. The request for tracking assistance must be declared on the

entry prior to participation.

ELIGIBLE HORSES

370. Refer to Rules #53-54 with the exception that stallions are not eligible to be shown.

HALTER EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE

371. Class can be shown English or western attire but must be one way or the other. There will be no mixing of attire or equipment on a horse/exhibitor/handler. (Refer to Rule #133 for equipment)

SEX DIVISIONS

372. The EWD Halter classes will be offered based on sex divisions (mare & gelding only). The classes may be combined at show management discretion if there are less than three entries in either division.

JUDGING

373. Refer to Rule #169 for description and judging with the following exceptions: Contestants that do not get their horse set up for inspection long enough to allow for proper inspection of all 4 sides are not to be placed over any contestant that completes the set up and inspection but will not be disqualified. Handlers may not set-up the horse for inspection. Any horse set-up by the handler is not to be placed over any other contestant that did not have set-up assistance but will not be disqualified.

Entries who fail to complete the prescribed trot off for soundness pattern in three attempts are not to be placed over any entry that completes the trot off for soundness pattern but will not be disqualified.

All rules referencing handlers including Rule #364, apply once the handler has completed tracking.

If applicable this class will be eligible for Grand and Reserve Champion selection unless the class was combined.

BYLAWS OF THE NATIONAL SNAFFLE BIT ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE I

Section 1. This corporation shall be known as the National Snaffle Bit Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the association or NSBA).

Section 2. The purpose of the National Snaffle Bit Association, Inc., is to define, promote and improve the quality of the show horse; to promote exhibits, events, contests exhibitions and shows; to promote the training of show horses; to promote interest in showing horses among the younger horsemen, to use and to encourage the use of the standard rules for holding and judging contests of the show horse so as to encourage the development and betterment of this type of horse through a system of awards, using income

from membership, programs etc. of the association from ~~entry fees, gate receipts, and donations~~ to meet the necessary expenses of this Association.

ARTICLE II

Section 2. Each LIFETIME member, REGULAR member and YOUTH member shall pay those dues as that from time to time shall be determined by the Board of Directors. ~~Said Annual~~ dues shall become due and payable on January 1 of each year and shall be delinquent ~~by that date in February 1.~~ Members failing to pay the annual dues by such date in by February 1, shall be considered delinquent and will forfeit all rights and privileges of participation in any activities of the Association. Each member shall receive an annual membership card upon payment of his/her dues and such membership card shall be non-transferable. The membership card shall be in the form prescribed by the Board of Directors and each member, by accepting the membership card, shall be deemed to have agreed to comply with all provisions of the Bylaws and other rules and regulations of the Association.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. The annual meeting of the membership of this the Association shall be held at a place and date determined by the Board of Directors. This shall be published in the National Snaffle Bit Association newsletter or other such generally circulated publications. ~~As it shall be deemed adequate by the Board of Directors to give reasonable notice to such membership. No less than a 30 day notice must be given for annual membership meeting.~~

Section 2. Special meetings of the membership may be called by a majority of the Board of Directors or by the President and shall be called by the Board of Directors if the Executive Director receives written, dated and signed demands for a special meeting, describing the purpose for which it is to be held, from no less than ten (10) percent of the voting members of the Association. Notice of the time and place of the holding of any such special meeting of the membership shall be sent by regular mail or email to all members at the address indicated in the Association records at least ~~ten (10) thirty (30)~~ days prior to such meeting.

Section 3. The members present shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the members providing there are no less than 13 members present. ~~The number of voting members of the Association required to constitute a quorum to conduct business in any meeting shall be as determined from time to time by the Board of Directors.~~

ARTICLE IV

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, President-Elect, 2 Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers, except the President, shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association and shall serve until the close of the next annual meeting or until their

successors are duly elected or until they are replaced for cause by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. First Vice President and Second Vice President shall have such duties and responsibilities as assigned by the President or Board of Directors.

Section 5. The Secretary shall keep and safeguard a complete and accurate record of all proceedings of the Association, its Board of Directors and standing committee. ~~He/ She shall have possession of their records, attend to the proper publication of all reports, conduct official correspondence, attest documents, and perform such other duties as are usual to such office or as may be required by this Association. The secretary shall also issue notice on call to the Board of Directors and members, keep the membership roll, issue membership cards, and conduct, supervise, count and record the balloting of all elections. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and maintain the official minutes.~~

Section 6. The Treasurer shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and maintain the official records of the association shall have custody of all monies of the Association and shall keep regular books of accounts. He/She shall oversee the disbursement of the funds of the Association in Payment of just demands against the Association, taking proper vouchers for such disbursement. He/She shall render to the annual meeting of the Association, the Executive Committee, and Board of Directors, Finance Committee, from time to time as may be required of him/her, an accounting of all his/her transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the association. A surety bond will be provided for the Treasurer, the premium of which will be paid out of Association's funds. Written financial statements for the calendar year shall be presented to the membership at each annual meeting. The Treasurer shall Chair the Finance and Audit Committees and consults with the Executive Director and President to ensure that all financial reports to the Board, filings, and the annual audit are completed in a timely fashion.

Section 7. Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, First and Second Vice Presidents of the Association. This committee will serve as the base for the hearing committee for all disciplinary actions and would also serve as a planning committee to allow for a smoother flow of business and goals between incoming and outgoing Presidents. Recommendations from the Executive Committee will be brought before the Board of Directors for final review and approval. No member, or immediate family member, shall serve on the NSBA executive committee while also serving concurrently on the executive leadership of an alliance association.

Section 8. Executive Director. The Executive Director is the chief operating officer of NSBA, and pursuant to the direction

of the Board of Directors, shall implement the actions, decisions and directions of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee; shall manage NSBA's physical facilities and personnel. The Executive Director shall be the custodian for the safekeeping of all documents and records of NSBA and authority of such. She/He shall collect all monies due the NSBA and report to the Treasurer and Board of Directors ~~turn the records over to the Treasurer.~~ She/He shall be the ex-officio secretary of all standing committees appointed by the President. She/He shall make a report of his/her office to the Board of Directors when demanded and to the annual membership meeting, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

ARTICLE V

Section 3. The Board of Directors will meet annually prior to the annual membership meeting to conduct business deemed necessary for the Association. Other meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or five (5) members of said Board of Directors on at least one (1) month prior to written notice delivered by regular mail or electronic means facsimile.

Section 4. ~~Ten (10)~~ ~~Four (4)~~ members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors. A majority of such quorum may decide any business that comes before this meeting. The Board of Directors reserves the right to move to a closed executive session at any Board meeting excusing all non-voting members from the meeting.

Section 5. Each member of the Board of Directors including all Past Presidents shall accept the responsibility of attending all meetings. In the event that a member fails to attend two (2) consecutive meetings, such member shall be removed from the Board of Directors.

Section 7. "Vote by mail or facsimile or electronic mail" procedure may be used by the Board of Directors when requested by a member. A copy of the statement or motion from the Association shall be sent to each member and with "approval" or "disapproval" written and signed by the member. It must be returned to the Association office within five business (5) days.

The results of the voting will be tabulated and reported to the members within five business (5) days.

ARTICLE VI

Section 3. Any proposed changes in rules or regulations proposed from the floor of any annual meeting must be considered and voted upon by the ~~newly-elected~~ Board of Directors at the next convened Board of Directors meeting, within fifteen (15) business days after said annual meeting and If adopted by the Board, the rule will be effective on January 1 of the following year, or at an earlier date should it appear imperative to the wellbeing of the Association. Membership will be notified of any rule or regulation changes prior to their implementation.

ARTICLE VII

Section 1. Prior to the annual membership meeting each year, the Nominating Committee, made up of the current President, President Elect, and Past Presidents, shall recommend a person for each office to be elected. The Nominating Committee shall report its findings to the members at the annual meeting. Nominations shall also be received from the floor at the annual membership meeting. Nominees must have served for no less than two years on the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 2. Bylaws may also be changed or amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors at two (2) consecutive meetings provided that such proposed changes be published ~~in~~ by the National Snaffle Bit Association on the NSBA website newsletter thirty (30) days prior to the second of the two (2) consecutive meeting whereafter lifetime and regular members in good standing of the Association may express written opinion of the proposed changes to Secretary of the Association who shall inform the Committee of such objections. The Board of Directors shall consider these objections in its decision to ratify or further modify or amend such Bylaw changes as voted upon at the second of such two (2) consecutive meetings. Such changes and amendments to the Bylaws so voted by the Board of Directors shall become effective on January 1 of the following year. ■

To view the complete 2024 NSBA Rulebook or to order a printed copy, visit nsba.com/rulebook.