

CHAPTER ONE – GENERAL RULES

I. General.

All members and competitors are expected to act in compliance with the rules and with good sportsmanship at all times. Failure to comply with the rules is grounds for sanctions up to and including suspension of membership from the organization.

The show rules of the association must be followed by the members, competitors, and exhibitors. Since a primary goal of our association is to promote the show horse, it is imperative that horses being shown exhibit good manners and the gait or modality called for in the class. For example, a horse that misbehaves presents both a danger to its rider and the other competitors or interferes with the judging in the class. A horse will be excused if, in the discretion of the judges, it misbehaves such that it presents a danger or interferes with the judging in the class. As to gait, for example, in the pleasure division, a requirement of the class is that the horse performs a “flat” walk. A horse that does not walk when asked does not meet the requirements of the class. Consistently failing to walk is a failure to meet a requirement of the class and is grounds for dismissal.

Horses may be shown by professional trainers and any other riders, including youth, in the professional divisions. A professional is a person who is compensated for the training or showing of a horse or the training of a rider. The non-professional (non-pro) divisions are for members who are the owners of the horses. In order to ride a horse in the non-pro division, the rider or a member of his or her immediate family must be shown on the registration as the owner of the horse he or she is showing. Immediate family is defined as spouse, parents, children, brothers, sisters, grandparents, and grandchildren.

Youth riders may show only in the youth classes or professional division. A rider is a youth if he or she is eighteen (18) years or younger on January 1st of the show year. The youth classes may be divided by age groups at the discretion of show management. A youth rider may not show a stallion or ride a stallion on the show grounds.

Schooling horses are horses that are thirty six (36) months or over but less than sixty-one (61) months on the first day of the show. Schooling classes may be divided by gender and age groups at the discretion of show management. Schooling horses, in every division, may be shown with double reins. The reins, clips, or snaps may not be overly weighted so as to

affect the performance of the horse. Any metal within a nosepiece or chin piece may be used with schooling horses only and must be covered with a flexible material. Horses over the age of sixty (60) months must be shown on the bit only. Horses over the age of sixty (60) months may not be shown with any metal within the nosepiece or chin piece.

For the purposes of competitions, classes may be divided by gender and months of age. "Months of age" is established from the foaling date until the first day of the entered competition. Age groups are divided as follows:

- 36 - 48 months of age (This is considered a schooling division.)
- 49 - 60 months of age (This is considered a schooling division.)
- 61 - 77 months of age
- 78 months and over

Entry and stall fees must be paid and/or secured by the time the horse competes. There will be no refund of show fees once entry forms are submitted without a veterinarian or physician excuse.

Show management has the discretion to permit each exhibitor and horse to enter the competition area individually. The name of the rider, owner/farm, and horse will be announced. Show management has the discretion to select what division and/or classes will be included in its show schedule.

Judges are required to follow the rules of the Federation and perform their duties knowledgably and with integrity and professionalism. The conduct and performance of the judges are always under scrutiny since it is their responsibility to enforce and apply the rules of the federation. Failure to do so will result in suspension of that judge.

Judges have the discretion to use individual tests to determine the placements in the class, if necessary. Judges are responsible for educating not only the exhibitors but the spectators. This means that judges, when time permits, should explain their placements to the exhibitors and to the spectators. This can be accomplished by the use of a microphone. These actions will promote a better understanding of the requirements of the classes and an appreciation for the uniqueness of the Paso horse. It is only through education that the Federation can promote the Paso show horse.

The Federation recognizes that there are Paso owners who enjoy attending competitions but are not interested in competing their horses in Federation sanctioned shows. The Federation will establish a recreational committee

to promote trail rides, demonstrations, parades and events which showcase the multi-faceted talents of the Paso horse. All Federation members are encouraged to promote and participate in these recreational activities so as to promote the Paso horse.