

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES FOR 2026

- **Clarify location of class specs for judges**

Article 104 GENERAL CONDUCT OF SHOWS: Management

Show Management must make available appropriate entry forms, WPCSA membership applications, WPCSA measurement forms, JUDGE'S CARDS AND CLASS SHEETS. The class specifications must appear ~~on~~ with the judge's cards.

- **Clarify class restrictions for Walk-Trot/Jog Classes in the following Articles**

RIDERS in this division may not compete in any other classes at this show that require jumping (~~exception for trail~~) or cantering/loping.

Article 112.3 *WPCSA JUNIOR WALK-TROT/JOG PLEASURE* Article 112.3.1 General

Article 112.4 WPCSA ADULT WALK-TROT/JOG PLEASURE Article 112.4.1 General

Article 117.7 *WPCSA WALK-TROT EQUITATION*

Article 117.8 *WPCSA WALK-TROT ADULT EQUITATION*

- **Re-number/order Articles in List of Non-Division Point Classes (Article 111.12)**

Article 111.12 NON-DIVISION POINT CLASSES

WPCSA Trail (Performance) Ponies/Cobs/Half-Welsh/Part-Bred may compete together

Separate classes must be offered for Juniors & Adults.

Article ~~118.5~~ **118**

WPCSA In Hand Trail (A,B,C,D,H,P) Junior or Adult

Article ~~118.6~~ **118**

WPCSA Leading Rein (Performance) To be ridden by a Junior 4 - 8 years old.

***12.2 hands and under**

Article ~~118.1~~ **119.1**

WPCSA Child's First Pony (Performance) To be ridden by a Junior 4 - 10 years old.

***12.2 hands and under**

***If entries warrant, class will split to 12 hh & Under and Over 12 hh to 12.2 hh.**

Article ~~118.2~~ **119.2**

WPCSA Ridden Welsh Classic Sec A & B Judged 50% performance 50% conformation

WPCSA Ridden Welsh Classic Sec C & D Judged 50% performance 50% conformation

WPCSA Ridden Welsh Classic Half-Welsh/Part-Bred Judged 50% performance 50% conformation

WPCSA Ridden Welsh Classic Championship Judged 50% performance 50% conformation

Article ~~118.3~~ **119.3**

WPCSA Dressage Suitability Under Saddle (A,B,C,D,H,P) Junior or Adult

Article ~~118.4~~ **119.4**

WPCSA Ranch Pony ~~Pleasure~~

Juniors or Adults

Article ~~118.7.1~~ **119.5.1**

WPCSA Western Riding

Juniors or Adults

Article ~~118.7.2~~ **119.5.2**

WPCSA Reining

Juniors or Adults

Article ~~118.7.3~~ **119.5.3**

- **Remove Article 119 Miscellaneous Non-point Classes completely**

~~Article 119 MISCELLANEOUS NON-POINT CLASSES~~

~~Article 119.3 *WELSH GREEN HUNTER*~~

~~Article 119.3.4 Tack—See Article 114.1.4.~~

~~Article 119.3.5 Judging—See Article 114.1.6.~~

~~Article 119.3.6 Soundness—See Article 114.1.7.~~

~~Article 119.3.7 Faults in Over Fences Classes—See Article 114.1.8.~~

~~Article 119.3.8 Elimination—See Article 114.1.9.~~

~~Article 119.3.9 Suggested Scoring Procedure~~

~~Article 119.3.10 Over Fences~~

~~Article 119.3.11 Under Saddle Classes~~

~~Article 119.3.12 Green Hunter Class Specification~~

~~Article 119.4 *COSTUME*~~

~~Article 119.5 *WALK TROT TRAIL*~~

~~Article 119.6 *LEADLINE TRAIL*~~

~~Article 119.7 *LEAD OVER TRAIL* (Pet Pony Trail)~~

- **Create new article number for Trail & Re-number Misc. Pointed Classes**

Article 117 EQUITATION & HANDLER

Article 118 *WPCSA TRAIL*

Article 118 119 MISCELLANEOUS POINTED CLASSES

Article 118.1 119.1 *WPCSA LEADING REIN* (*Performance*)

Article 118.2 119.2 *WPCSA CHILD'S FIRST PONY* (*Performance*)

Article 118.3 119.3 *WPCSA RIDDEN WELSH CLASSIC*

Article 118.4 119.4 *WPCSA DRESSAGE SUITABILITY UNDER SADDLE*

Article 118.7 119.5 WPCSA WORKING WESTERN

Article 120 APPLYING FOR SHOW SANCTIONING

- **Change name from ‘Ranch Pony Pleasure’ to ‘Ranch Pony’**

Ranch Pony ~~Pleasure~~-in:

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• New Trail Rules

Article 118 *WPCSA RIDDEN TRAIL & IN-HAND TRAIL*

Article 118.1 General

Classes are open to all Ponies/Cobs/Half-Welsh/Part-Breds. The animal/rider (or handler) team is judged on the correctness, efficiency and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the animal. Judging emphasis shall be placed on identifying the well-broke, responsive and well-mannered equine which can correctly navigate and negotiate the course.

This class is judged 100% on the performance of the equine over and between obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Judges are encouraged to advance onto the next obstacle any equine taking excessive time at an obstacle. No time outs will be allowed.

Article 118.2 Course

Course diagrams must be announced and posted near the course at least one (1) hour before scheduled time of class unless they have been illustrated in the Prize List. The plan or diagram of the course must show the obstacles which must be taken in order indicated by numbers. All Trail and Working Western patterns must be posted to include both a pictorial and verbal description of the course.

Once the course is set up, no animals may be led through or around the course area. Competitors may walk the course prior to the start of the class. The judge must inspect the course prior to the start of the event. The judge may alter the course prior to the course walk with permission from the Course Designer or Show Management and has the right to remove any obstacle that is deemed to be unsafe. Any changes to the course must be made known to all Trail exhibitors. Score cards **may** be posted for exhibitor review by the end of the show day.

The course will include natural obstacles typically encountered on a trail. The course must be designed using the required maneuvers and optional obstacles. Combining two (2) or more of the obstacles is acceptable. Courses can be designed to either be adjusted between trail classes, or to apply for all trail classes, assuming distances and heights are correct for obstacles that may vary in cadence across classes (trot/jog-overs, canter/lope-overs, etc.).

Courses must include a minimum of six (6) obstacles and a maximum of twelve (12). Tests which may be required include:

1. Negotiating a gate
2. Carrying objects from one part of the arena to another
3. Stepping over simulated brush, logs or poles (natural logs are encouraged but not required)
4. Crossing a bridge
5. Riding down into and up out of ditch without lunging or jumping
6. Backing through obstacles
7. Side passing
8. Weaving through cones
9. And/or otherwise performing over any reasonable conditions encountered along the trail

Unnatural obstacles shall not be used. See Article 118.3 for details on allowed and prohibited obstacles.

Cadence between obstacles should be considered as part of the maneuver score. Each animal is required to show specific gaits required for each class.

- Adult and Junior Ridden Trail: Walk, Trot/Jog and Canter/Lope right and left lead
- In-Hand Trail: Walk and Trot/Jog

Walk can be a part of an obstacle score or be scored in the approach to an obstacle. Trot/jog shall be scored in the approach to obstacles. In ridden trail, Canter/Lope must be lead-specific and scored in the approach to obstacles. If the gait is specified in the obstacle, (i.e. walk-over, trot-over, etc.), the gait shall be scored in the approach to, execution of, and the departure from the obstacle.

Care in preparing the course should be exercised to prevent a direct advantage to either a small or large animal. When setting courses, management should keep in mind that the idea is not to trap an animal, or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult.

If at any time a trail obstacle is deemed to be unsafe by the judge, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If removed and animals have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be excluded from all previous rounds for that class. No animal shall be asked to repeat the course.

The same exhibitor may enter two or more animals in the same class. The same animal may enter different trail classes with an age-appropriate rider/handler, but may not enter the same class twice.

Article 118.3 Obstacle Details and Dimensions

As mentioned in Article 118.2, the judge has the right to alter the course if he or she deems it is a safety concern for the animal and/or rider.

Note: All elevated poles must be in a pole holder (trail blocks, trail risers, standard jump cups or similar type of supports).

1. Walk-Over's
 - a. Single poles: maximum height eight inches (8")
 - b. Multiples: maximum height six inches (6")
 - c. Minimum width between poles twenty inches (20") to twenty-four inches (24") or multiples thereof, between poles for walk-overs, depending upon difficulty desired.
 - d. May be straight, zigzagged, or raised.
2. Trot/Jog-Over's
 - a. Single poles: maximum height six inches (6")
 - b. Multiples: maximum height six inches (6")
 - c. Minimum width between poles twenty-eight inches (28") to thirty-six inches (36") or multiples thereof, between poles is generally considered good spacing for trot-overs, depending upon difficulty desired.
 - d. May be straight, zigzagged, or raised.
3. Canter/Lope-Over's (only for Adult and Junior Trail)
 - a. Single poles: maximum height six inches (6")
 - b. Multiples: maximum height six inches (6")
 - c. Minimum width between poles sixty-six inches (66") to seventy-two inches (72") or multiples thereof, between poles is generally considered good spacing for lope-overs, depending upon difficulty desired.
 - d. May be straight, zigzagged, or raised.
4. Jumps
 - a. Mounted or Lead Over: maximum height twelve inches (12")
 - b. Minimum width between standards of a jump: four feet (4')
 - c. Combinations: twelve feet (12') for a one stride; six feet (6') for a no stride
 - d. Box Jumps and L Jumps: poles must be at least twelve feet (12') long
5. Cavaletti
 - a. Jog-Over's: three feet (3') apart or multiples thereof (space is measured between poles)
 - b. Lope-Over's: six feet (6') apart or multiples thereof (space is measured between poles)
6. Back Through's
 - a. On Ground: minimum twenty-eight inches (28")
 - b. Elevated: minimum thirty inches (30")
 - c. Barrels: minimum thirty-two inches (32")
7. Side Passes
 - a. Single poles (single pole, L's, V's, etc.): maximum twelve inches (12") in width
 - b. Slots: never closer than twenty-four inches (24") wide (space measured between poles)
8. Serpentine's (Jog Around's):
 - a. Pylons: minimum six feet (6') apart (base to base)
 - b. Guardrails, if used, should not be less than three feet (3') from either side of the standard or pylon

9. Gate
 - a. Gates should be safe to negotiate regardless of style
 - b. Latch should be set at a height suitable for all entrants
 - c. The approach to a gate should not be too narrow or otherwise difficult for any contestant to reach, regardless of the size of the animal
10. Bridge
 - a. Bridges should be safe to negotiate regardless of dimensions
 - b. Minimum of thirty-six inches (36") wide
 - c. Minimum of six feet (6') long
 - d. No higher than twelve inches (12")
11. Any Other Maneuvers
 - a. Figure animal's wheelbase at five feet (5') - front hooves to back hooves.
12. Prohibited Obstacles
 - a. Live animals, hides, tires, kiddie pools, PVC pipe used as a jump or walk over, rocking or moving bridges, perforated plywood, flames, logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll, pool noodles and balloons
 - b. Hay bales (can be used for décor or roping dummy, but should not otherwise be directly involved in the performance of an obstacle)
 - c. Water boxes (including those with floating, moving parts or slick bottoms)
 - d. Smoke-generating devices (i.e., fog machines, dry ice, fire extinguisher, smoke bombs, etc.)
 - e. Any obstacle that changes the approach, the obstacle itself, or the exit from the obstacles for each exhibitor, and/or other obvious unsafe elements shall not be used (at the discretion of management and judge)

Article 118.4 Scoring (For Trail and Working Western Classes)

An animal's score is calculated starting with a base score of seventy (70) (representing an average performance) and adjusting it with maneuver scores (credits and debits for performance quality in increments of one-half (1/2) ranging from negative one and one-half (-1 1/2) to positive one and one-half (+1 1/2)) and penalty points (deductions for specific faults). A score of zero (0) indicates a major performance fault but is still eligible for placing under those without zero (0) scores; being disqualified (DQ) is reserved for more serious rule violations and is not eligible for placement. **Score cards for Trail and Working Western classes may** be posted after the completion of the classes.

Credits

- Being balanced, carrying his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with or slightly above the withers while on the line of travel between obstacles.
- Negotiating the obstacles with style and efficiency, providing correctness is not sacrificed.
- Showing attentiveness to obstacles.
- Showing the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it.
- Willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles.

Debits/Faults

- Creating any unnecessary delay while approaching obstacles.
- Having an artificial appearance over obstacles.
- Opening or gaping of the mouth excessively.
- Showing the appearance of intimidation.
- Stumbling.
- Uncontrollable speed.
- Wringing of the tail.

Article 118.5 Penalties (For Trail and Working Western Classes)

The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:

One-Half (1/2) Point Penalty

- Each tick or light touch of a log, cone, plant or any component of the obstacle.

One (1) Point Penalty

- Both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space at a walk or trot/jog.
- Break of gait or incorrect gait at the walk or trot/jog for two (2) strides or less.
- Each hit, bite, or stepping on a log, cone, plant or any component of the obstacle.
- Incorrect number of strides, if specified.

- Skipping over or failing to step into required space.
- Splitting a log (log between the two (2) front or two (2) hind feet) at the lope.
- Wrong lead or out of lead for two (2) strides or less.

Three (3) Point Penalty

- Break of gait at canter/lope (except to correct a lead).
- Break of gait at walk or trot/jog for more than two (2) strides.
- Holding the saddle with either hand (except as needed for a drag obstacle or jump).
- Missing or evading part of a log/obstacle with 1 foot.
- Severely disturbing an obstacle.
- Stepping out of or falling off an obstacle with 1 foot.
- Use of either hand to instill fear or praise.

Five (5) Point Penalty

- 1st or 2nd refusal on obstacle.
- Blatant disobediences including but not limited to kicking, biting, bucking, rearing, striking.
- Dropping an object required to be carried.
- Failure to open and shut gate, failure to complete the gate or letting go of the gate.
- Five or more steps in dismount/remount or ground tie.
- Incomplete or failed attempts at a maneuver.
- Cueing or spurring in front of the cinch/girth.
- Stepping out of or falling off an obstacle with more than 1 foot.

Zero (0) Score (Still eligible for placing under those without zero (0) scores)

- 3rd refusal on obstacle.
- Failure to enter, exit, or work obstacle from correct side or direction.
- In ridden Western and one-handed/using a curb bit, changing hands on reins or using two hands at any point in the pattern EXCEPT when necessary to work an obstacle. Once the obstacle is complete, the rider must return reins as they were when the exhibitor started the pattern.
- Dropping a rein that contacts the ground while the pony is in motion.
- Eliminates or adds maneuver.
- Failure to complete a pattern
- Failure to get correct lead or gait if specified.
- Repeated blatant disobedience.
- Running away or failing to guide where it becomes impossible to discern whether the entry is on pattern.
- Failure to wear appropriate attire as outlined in the WPCSA Rulebook. (Questions on attire should be brought to the Judge, Ring Steward or Show Management prior to the start of the class).

Disqualified (DQ) (Reserved for more serious rule violations and is not eligible for placement)

- Abuse of an animal in the show arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred prior to or during the exhibition of a pony in competition, including but not limited to excessive spurring or whipping.
- Fall of animal and/or rider.
- Lameness.
- Major disobedience
- Leaving the course.
- Excused by the judge.
- Disrespect or misconduct by the exhibitor.
- Equipment failure that delays completion of the pattern.
- Illegal equipment (as outlined in Article 112.2.6 for Western and Article 112.1.1 for English).
- Any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail.
- Carrying a whip, bat or crop except riders with English tack/attire and all competitors in In-Hand Trail.

Article 118.6 Trail Scoring Guidelines

A guideline for a given performance and the probable assigned Maneuver Scores (credits and debits) for specific obstacles are listed in the chart below.

Maneuver Score	+1 ½	+1	+½	0	-½	-1	-1 ½
Control Obstacles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gate ○ Back Through ○ Side Pass ○ Forehand or Hindquarter Turns 	Smooth; Attentive; Willing; Good position; Easily guided; Proper flexion; No over- or under-turn; Responsive to aids; Minimal aides from rider; Fluidity (no repeated pauses)	Smooth; Attentive; Willing; Good position; Easily guided; Proper flexion; No over- or under-turn; Responsive to aids.	Smooth; Willing; Good position; Easily guided; Responsive to aids.	Completes obstacle; Nothing stands out (“clean run”).	Slanted or crooked side passes; Crooked back; Inconsistent back; Slow response; Poor head position.	Stepping outside the confines of back through, side pass, or box; Knocking down an elevated obstacle.	Refusals; Letting go of gate; Failure to complete obstacle; Severely disturbing an obstacle.
Agility Obstacles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jumps ○ Walk-Overs ○ Trot/Jog-Overs ○ Canter/ Lope-Overs ○ Bridge 	Smooth; Attentive; Willing; Easily guided; Careful; Proper flexion; Animal is thoughtful with foot placement; Centered over obstacle; Balanced;	Smooth; Attentive; Willing; Easily guided; Careful; Proper flexion; Animal is thoughtful with foot placement; Centered over obstacle.	Smooth; Attentive; Willing; Easily guided.	Completes obstacle; Nothing stands out (“clean run”).	Minor “tick” of obstacle; Front and hind feet in a single strided slot; Split pole in canter/ lope over; Failing to step into a required space; Too fast;	Major hit of obstacle; Stumbles over obstacle; Hesitant; Poor head position; Poor jumping form; Handler or rider must	Refusals; Failure to complete obstacle; Severely damaging an obstacle; Falling or jumping off/out of an obstacle.

	Correct cadence; Proper foot placement.				Too slow.	“coerce” animal through obstacles.	
Calmness Obstacles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water ○ Plastic ○ Brush ○ Carrying objects ○ Dally & drag ○ Bridge 	Smooth; Willing; Attentive; Easily guided; Proper flexion; Careful; Waits for rider cues; No issue negotiating the obstacle.	Smooth; Willing; Attentive; Easily guided; Proper flexion.	Smooth; Willing.	Completes obstacle; Nothing stands out (“clean run”).	Tense over obstacles; Nervous when carrying objects.	Paces; Poor head position; Handler or rider must “coerce” animal through obstacles.	Refusals; Dropping object; Severely disturbing an obstacle; Falling or jumping off/out of an obstacle.
General Appearance	Smooth; Willing; Attentive; Easily guided; Proper flexion; Careful; Waits for rider cues.	Smooth; Willing; Attentive; Easily guided; Proper flexion.	Smooth; Willing.	Completes obstacle; Nothing stands out (“clean run”).	Tense at moments; Anxious at moments; Rushes obstacle; Loses attention at times.	Tense or anxious during maneuver; Rushes though obstacle; Doesn’t wait for rider cues; Difficult to guide at times.	Unwilling; Tense or anxious through obstacle; Inattentive to rider cues; Difficult to maneuver during obstacle.

Article 118.7 Ridden Trail Class Specifications

Open to all Ponies/Cobs/Half-Welsh/Part-Breds, stallions, mares or geldings. Trail animals are required to work over and through obstacles, and must not be required to work on the rail. Course to include Walk, Trot/Jog and Canter/Lope on right and left leads.

Animals may be shown under English or Western tack. Both the rider and animal should be appointed suitably following the appointment guidelines for the style of riding chosen: English (Article 112.1) or Western (Article 112.2).

Good working equipment will not be penalized. Trail classes must be offered separately for Junior and Adult riders. To be judged 100% on performance.

WPCSA ADULT TRAIL Riders 18 & Over

WPCSA JUNIOR TRAIL Riders 17 & Under

Article 118.8 In-Hand Trail Specifications

Open to all Ponies/Cobs/Half-Welsh/Part-Breds of any age, led by Juniors or Adults. In-Hand Trail animals are required to be led over and through obstacles at the Walk and Trot/Jog only.

Animals may be shown under English, Western, or breed-class tack and attire. Both the handler and animal should be appointed suitably following the appointment guidelines for the style of equipment/tack chosen: English (See Article 112.1) or Western (See Article 112.2) or showing in breed classes (See Articles 105.3 and 110.5). Good working equipment will not be penalized.

A leather, nylon or web halter with or without a chain lead may be used. However, if a chain is used it must be under the jaw and the handler may not touch the chain while showing the animal. A bridle or rope halter is also permitted.

The general rules, courses, obstacles and scoring in Articles 118.1 through 118.4 also apply to In-Hand Trail where applicable to walk and walk/jog only.

This class may be split according to the chart below. To be judged 100% on performance. Year-end high score awards will be given for Animals 2 & Under, Animals 3 & Over - Junior Exhibitor and Animals 3 & Over - Adult Exhibitor.

Classes as They Must Appear in Prize List/Premium Book for Regional/National Points				
WPCSA In-Hand Trail, Animals any age, Junior or Adult		WPCSA In-Hand Trail, Animals 2 & Under, Junior or Adult		WPCSA In-Hand Trail, Animals 2 & Under, Junior or Adult
	OR	WPCSA In-Hand Trail, Animals 3 & Over, Junior or Adult	OR	WPCSA In-Hand Trail, Animals 3 & Over, Junior Exhibitor
				WPCSA In-Hand Trail, Animals 3 & Over, Adult Exhibitor

- **Revised Working Western Rules and New Article Numbers**

Article ~~118.7~~ 119.5 *WPCSA WORKING WESTERN*

Classes are open to all Ponies/Cobs/Half-Welsh/Part-Breds. Animals may be ridden by Juniors or Adults. In each of the classes, the animal performs the pattern individually. To be judged 100% on performance. See WPCSA website under Compete/Show-Officials/Show Resources-Score Cards for scoring guidelines and sample patterns.

Article ~~118.7.1~~ 119.5.1 WPCSA Ranch Pony ~~Pleasure~~

Article 119.5.1.1 General

The purpose of Ranch Pony ~~Pleasure~~ should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working ~~pony~~ animal. The ~~pony's animal's~~ performance should simulate ~~a pony an animal~~ riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch ~~pony~~ animal. This class should show the ~~pony's animal's~~ ability to work at a forward, working speed while under the control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded and the ~~pony~~ animal shall not be shown on a full drape of reins or with excessive contact. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ~~pony~~ animal while performing the maneuvers in the class pattern requirements are the primary consideration. ~~Posting or a two-point position is acceptable at the extended trot.~~ To be judged 100% on performance.

Article 119.5.1.2 Patterns

The required maneuvers include the walk, trot and lope in both directions, and the extended trot and extended lope and three-hundred sixty (360) degree turn in at least one direction as well as stops (not sliding) and back. ~~with~~ Four (4) obstacles to be completed per pattern. Obstacles may include ~~but are not limited to:~~ carrying objects, drag (no cans in bag), gate (solid recommended but a rope gate may be used), ground-tie (hobbles allowed), throwing a rope at an object (actual catching the object is not the test), trot-overs thirty (30) to thirty-six (36) inches apart and walk-overs (twenty (20) to twenty-four (24) inches apart). The use of natural logs is encouraged. ~~Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.~~ Sample patterns are available on wpcsa.org under show rules (Compete/WPCSA Shows/Show Rules).

Note: A stop after an extended lope is allowed. A sliding stop is not required and excessive sliding should be penalized. A proper, safe and immediate stop should be rewarded.

Article 119.5.1.3 Scoring The 70-point scoring system is used for this class. See Articles 118.4 and 118.5 for a description of the scoring method and general credits and faults for WPCSA Trail and WPCSA Ranch Pony classes. Score cards are available on wpcsa.org under show rules (Compete/WPCSA Shows/Show Rules).

Article 119.5.1.4 Penalties Penalty points will be applied for each occurrence and will be deducted from the final score. See Article 118.5 for a list of penalties for WPCSA Trail and WPCSA Working Western classes.

Article ~~118.7.2~~ 119.5.2 WPCSA Western Riding

Article 119.5.2.1 General

The ~~pony~~ animal is judged on quality of gaits, lead changes (~~simple or flying~~) at the lope, response to the rider, manners, and disposition. The ~~pony~~ animal should perform with reasonable speed and be sensible, well-mannered, free and easy moving. Credit shall be given for and emphasis placed on smoothness, even cadence of gaits (i.e. starting and finishing pattern with the same cadence) and the ~~pony's animal's~~ ability to change leads (flying or simple) precisely and easily at the center point between markers. ~~Ponies Animals~~ may be ridden with light contact or on a reasonably loose rein. The ~~pony~~ animal should cross the log both at the jog and lope without breaking gait or radically changing stride. To be judged 100% on performance.

Article 119.5.2.2 Patterns

Sample patterns are available on wpcsa.org under show rules (Compete/WPCSA Shows/Show Rules).

The small circles on the patterns represent pylon markers which are recommended. These should be separated by a uniform measured distance of not less than thirty (30) feet nor more than fifty (50) feet on the sides with five (5) markers (see diagram). The markers on the opposite side should be set adjacent to the appropriate markers. It is recommended that markers be set a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from the fence and with fifty (50) to eighty (80) feet in width in the pattern, as the arena permits.

A solid log or pole should be used and must be a minimum of eight (8) feet in length.

A cone or other obvious marker shall be placed along the wall or rail of the arena to designate where the pattern begins and where the exhibitor should initiate the walk. The on-deck exhibitor should not go to the start-marker until the contestant on-pattern has cleared the working area by the start-marker for the final time.

Article 119.5.2.3 Scoring The 70-point scoring system is used for this class. **See Articles 118.4 and 118.5** for a description of the scoring method and general credits and faults for WPCSA Trail and WPCSA Ranch Pony classes. Score cards are available on wpcsa.org under show rules (Compete/WPCSA Shows/Show Rules).

Article 119.5.2.4 Penalties Penalty points will be applied for each occurrence and will be deducted from the final score. **See Article 118.5** for a list of penalties for WPCSA Trail and WPCSA Working Western classes.

Article ~~118.7.3~~ 119.5.3 WPCSA Reining

Article 119.5.3.1 General

Reining is a judged event designed to show the athletic ability of a ranch type ~~pony~~ animal in the confines of a show arena. The Reining class will demonstrate the ability of the ranch animal to be reined willfully through all maneuvers of the pattern. Animals are judged immediately upon entering the arena and any fault incurred prior to the commencement of the pattern will be scored accordingly. Judging will cease after the completion of the last maneuver. No schooling is allowed from the time the animal enters the arena.

All ~~Contestants~~ competitors are required to individually complete ~~one of several~~ the same designated WPCSA approved pattern. Each pattern ~~may include:~~ small slow circles, large fast circles, changes of lead, rollbacks over the hocks, a series of ~~three hundred sixty (360) degree turns spins~~ done in place, and stops (sliding stops are not necessary). ~~Ponies will be judged immediately upon entering the arena.~~ Sample patterns are available on wpcsa.org under show rules (Compete/WPCSA Shows/Show Rules).

The best reined animal should be willingly guided and controlled with little or no apparent resistance. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of, or temporary loss of control and faulted according to the severity of deviation. Credit will be given for the smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness, and authority in performing the various maneuvers while using controlled speed, raising the difficulty level. To be judged 100% on performance.

Article 119.5.3.2 Reining Maneuvers

Judges are required to score a reining animal based on its execution of the maneuver groups required in each pattern. All WPCSA patterns are divided into seven or eight maneuver groups. Descriptions of ideal maneuvers required of a reining animal are as follows:

1. WALK-IN and JOG-IN: Depending on the pattern, contestants have the option to either walk-in or jog-in to get to the center of the arena for the designated start of the pattern. Breaking gait, stopping or checking is a fault which shall be marked down according to the severity in the first maneuver score. Walking or jogging anywhere else not required in the pattern will incur a penalty.
2. STOPS: Stops are the act of slowing the animal from a lope to a stop position by bringing the hind legs under the animal in a locked position, maintaining a proper head position and response to a light rein.

3. **SPIN(S):** Spins are a single or series of consistent and positioned three-hundred sixty (360) degree turns, executed over a stationary (inside) hind leg. The correctness and effectiveness of this is noticeable and should be judged accordingly.
4. **ROLLBACKS:** Rollbacks are the 180-degree reversal of forward motion. There should be no hesitation.
5. **CIRCLES:** Circles are controlled maneuvers at the lope, of designated size and speed, which demonstrate control, willingness to guide, and degree of difficulty in speed and speed changes.
6. **BACKUPS:** A backup is a maneuver requiring the animal to be moved in a reverse motion in a straight line at a required distance; at least 10 feet.
7. **HESITATE:** To hesitate is the act of demonstrating the animal's ability to pause in a relaxed manner, at a designated time in the pattern. All WPCSA patterns require a hesitation at the end of the final maneuver to indicate the completion of the pattern. Failure to do reflects an omitted maneuver. A slight pause to regain footing or balance should not be deemed hesitation.
8. **LEAD CHANGES:** Lead changes are the act of changing the propelling side of the animal's body by changing the leading legs of the front and rear pairs of legs, at a lope, when changing the direction traveled. The lead change must be executed at a lope with no change of gait or speed and be performed in the exact geographical position in the arena specified in the pattern description.
9. **RUNDOWNS AND RUN-AROUNDS:** Rundowns are runs lengthwise through the middle of the arena, and run-arounds are along the side(s) lengthwise and ends of the arena.

Article 119.5.3.3 Scoring The 70-point scoring system is used for this class. **See Articles 118.4 and 118.5** for a description of the scoring method and general credits and faults for WPCSA Trail and WPCSA Ranch Pony classes. Score cards are available on wpcsa.org under show rules (Compete/WPCSA Shows/Show Rules).

Article 119.5.3.4 Additional Faults for Reining In addition to those credits and faults specified in Article 118.4, the following are faults specific to Reining:

1. Excessive jawing, opening mouth, or head raising on stop.
2. Failure to run circles of figure eights within the markers is not considered a fault depending on arena conditions and size. However, failure to go beyond markers on rollbacks and stops is considered a fault and will incur a two (2) point penalty.
3. Lack of smooth, straight stop on haunches, such as a bouncing or sideways stop.

Article 119.5.3.5 Penalties Penalty points will be applied for each occurrence and will be deducted from the final score. **See Article 118.5** for a list of penalties for WPCSA Trail and WPCSA Working Western classes. In addition to the penalties specified in Article 118.4, the following are penalties specific to Reining:

One-Half (1/2) Point Penalty

- Delaying changes of lead by one (1) stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description.
- Failure to remain a minimum of ten (10) feet from either side of the centerline of the arena in a pattern requiring a run-around (for small arenas it will be at the judge's discretion).
- Failure to remain a minimum of twenty (20) feet from the side of the arena when approaching a stop and/or rollback (for small arenas it will be at the judge's discretion).
- Over- or under-spinning up to one-eighth (1/8) of a turn; an animal can only be assessed one (1) over- or under-spin penalty per maneuver.
- Starting a circle at a jog (a lope departure from a jog) or exiting rollbacks at a jog up to two (2) strides.

One (1) Point Penalty

- Each instance of being out of lead; for each one quarter (1/4) of the circumference of a circle or any part thereof that an animal is out of lead.
- Freeze up in spins or rollbacks.
- Over or under-spinning one-eighth (1/8) to one-fourth (1/4) turn. An animal can only be assessed for one (1) over or under-spin penalty per maneuver.
- Scotching or anticipating a stop.
- When rounding the end of the arena, failure to be on the correct lead for up to 1/2 turn.

Three (3) Point Penalty

- Jogging beyond two (2) strides, but less than half (1/2) the circle or half (1/2) the length of the arena.
- On walk-in or trot-in patterns, loping prior to reaching the center of the arena and/or failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure.
- On run-in patterns, failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker or break of gait prior to the first marker, or failing to pick up the lope from a walk (i.e., animal jogs into transition) if choosing to walk into the gate to begin a run-in pattern.
- Animal does not completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position.
- When rounding the end of the arena, failure to be on the correct lead for more than one-half (1/2) turn.

Five (5) Point Penalty

- Simple lead change.

Zero (0) Score

- Failure to trot in on a trot-in pattern.
- Jogging in excess of one half (1/2) circle or one half (1/2) the length of the arena.
- On run in patterns, once beginning a lope, a complete stop prior to reaching the first marker.
- Over-spins of more than one quarter (1/4) turn.
- When going to and coming out of a rollback in a pattern requiring run-around, a rollback that crosses the center line.

Reining Rule Diagrams (Over/Under Spins, Lead Departures, Circle Penalties and Out of Lead on Run-Arounds are available on wpcsa.org under show rules (Compete/WPCSA Shows/Show Rules).

• Clarification for Zone Shows and Steward/Technical Delegate requirements

Article 120.6 National, Zone and Regional Titles There ~~will~~ **may** be one Titled show in each of the six regions (Northeast, Southeast, North Central, South Central, Northwest and Southwest). The South Central titled show will be the American National show. Titled shows will be named from regional applicants by the Board of Directors.

One titled show in each of the zones (East, Central and West) ~~will~~ **may be a Zone Show and have** the opportunity to receive quadruple points. The American National will be the **Zone** Show for the Central Zone. Competitors at these shows with 150 or more animals will receive quadruple points. If these shows have less than 150 animals, triple points will be awarded.

No other sanctioned shows may be held during the American National dates.

In addition to the general requirements of gold shows, the following apply: a) prize money offered must not be less than \$600; b) an article must be submitted by either the judge or show management for the WPCSA Yearbook; c) the Half-Welsh/Part-Bred division must consist of a minimum of 2 years and under, 3 years and over, a Grand Championship, and 2 performance divisions; d) American National shows must offer 12 performance divisions and the Regional Titled shows must offer 10 performance divisions; e) must have held a show previously that met all the criteria to qualify as a gold-rated show f) American Nationals must be held at a facility with lights and g) ~~Titled~~ **Zone** shows are required to have a Steward or Technical Delegate recognized by USEF or another organization or a WPCSA Technical Delegate.

Shows must complete the Application for National Title in addition to the regular show sanctioning application. Applications for National titles must be submitted by October 1 of the year preceding the show.

- **Clarification of responsibilities of Rules Commission/Steward or TD**

Article 122 *SHOW MANAGEMENT*

Article 122.1 General

A show (except USEF-sanctioned) must have a three-member Rules Commission, or a Steward or Technical Delegate recognized by another organization, or a WPCSA Technical Delegate (see Article ~~134~~124).

National ~~and Zone~~ shows are required to have a Steward or Technical Delegate. ~~Regional Titled~~ and Gold shows are strongly encouraged to have one rather than a Rules Commission. USEF-sanctioned shows are required to have a USEF steward.

The Rules Commission/Steward or TD will be responsible for the following:

1. Have animals officially measured.
2. Act upon ~~protests or confer with available WPCSA officials to resolve them.~~ potential WPCSA rule violations to rectify problems ahead of time.
3. Report to WPCSA ~~by certified mail~~ in writing within fourteen (14) days about the show in general, describing any irregularity. (The WPCSA will forward copies as required to WPCSA Show Rules Committee or Licensed Officials Committee for action.)
4. ~~It is the TD's responsibility to check the proper attachment of the headline in Leadline classes.~~

- **Update to Judge's Qualifications & Responsibilities**

Article 123 JUDGES QUALIFICATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Article 123.1 Learner Judges

Requirements:

1. Applicants must be ~~or become WPCSA members at the time of application.~~ an Annual or Life Member of WPCSA and at least 21 years of age.
2. Applicants must complete the Learner Judge Application and pay the required one-time \$50 filing fee.
3. Applicants must complete a written exam and score ~~not~~ less than 85%.
4. Applicants must be current on SafeSport before they Learner Judge at a show.

The Process (Once all the above requirements are met):

3. ~~Applicants must include references from three WPCSA adult members who are familiar with the applicant's ability to judge and who are unrelated to the applicant judge (by blood or marriage).~~
1. Applicants must Learner Judge under an Approved Judge (Gold Rated) at a Gold or Silver Rated show.
2. Applicants ~~wishing to Learner Judge at a show~~ must request permission ~~to do so~~ from the WPCSA National Office, the Approved Judge, and Show Management ~~and be granted permission by all three, to officially Learner Judge at a show. Only one Learner Judge is allowed in the ring at a time regardless of the number of judges.~~
3. Learner Judges must mark a judge's card and discuss the placings with the Approved Judge officiating at a convenient time **AFTER** the Approved Judge has turned in their card.
4. The Learner Judge must respect the Approved Judge's opinions and discussion, which must be kept totally confidential.

5. Learner Judges may not talk to the judge about or draw the judge's attention to any animal or exhibitor while the Approved Judge is judging the class.
6. Learner Judges may not be given any other duties while they are Learner judging.
7. Learner Judges may not learner judge at any show where family members, clients or the Learner Judge's trainer is exhibiting.
8. Learner Judges are responsible for bringing their own judging tools such as judges' cards, clipboards, pencils, etc.
9. Learner Judges are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from the show and for securing and paying for their own lodging and meals during the time of the show.
- ~~The \$50 one time judge application fee must be paid. The annual renewal fee is \$25 to remain on the judges' list.~~

The Completion:

1. The Approved judge will submit their comments after completion to the Licensed Officials Committee.

NOTE: All applications are reviewed by the Licensed Officials Committee and are recommended for approval on a case-by-case basis. Additional requirements may be asked for at the discretion of the Licensed Officials Committee and/or Board of Directors.

Article 123.2 Guest Judges

Requirements for Judges holding a current Judge card with another approved organization that have NOT applied for a Provisional Judge Card with WPCSA:

1. Must be at least 21 years of age.
2. Complete the Guest Judge Application and pay the \$25 fee. (This application and fee must be completed and paid each time the Judge officiates as a Guest Judge.)
3. Must be current on SafeSport before officiating at a show.
4. Must complete the Guest Judge CE (Continuing Education that will be provided by the National Office after submission of the application).
5. May only officiate Bronze and Silver Shows.

Requirements for Provisional Judge Card Applicants to Guest Judge:

1. Applicants must have already met and completed all conditions within the Provisional Judge carding process and be eligible to Guest Judge per those requirements.
2. May only officiate at Bronze and Silver Shows.

NOTE: All applications are reviewed by the Licensed Officials Committee and are recommended for approval on a case-by-case basis. Additional requirements may be asked for at the discretion of the Licensed Officials Committee and/or Board of Directors.

Article 123.3 Provisional Judges

Requirements:

1. Must be an Annual or Life Member of the WPCSA and at least 21 years of age.
2. Complete The Provisional Judge Application and Pay the required, one time, \$50 filing Fee. (The Fee is waived if the applicant already paid the one-time fee with a Learner Judge Application or already judged 2 shows as a Guest Judge that required a \$25 fee for each.)
3. Have Completed a written exam and scored no less than 85% within the past 5 years.
4. Either have completed a Learner Judging with an Approved Judge or hold a Judge's card with another approved organization making the Applicant eligible to Guest Judge a WPCSA Bronze or Silver Show.

The Process (Once all the above requirements are met):

1. Must Guest Judge at two Bronze or Silver WPCSA Shows.

2. Must have one Judge Applicant Questionnaire submitted on their behalf by a show manager from a WPCSA show where the Applicant was a Guest Judge.

NOTE: All applications are reviewed by the Licensed Officials Committee and are recommended for approval on a case-by-case basis. Additional requirements may be asked for at the discretion of the Licensed Officials Committee and/or Board of Directors.

Maintaining a Provisional Judge Card (Once Obtained):

1. Must maintain Annual membership or be a Life member with the WPCSA.
2. A \$25 Judge License fee must be paid annually.
3. The Judge License Fee and Membership renewal is due by February 1 each year, otherwise the judge's name will become inactive.
4. If membership remains inactive and/or the Judge License Fee is unpaid by the following February 1, the judge's name will be removed from the roster and she or he will need to reapply.
5. SafeSport must be kept current to officiate over any WPCSA Show.
6. The judge must either officiate at a WPCSA sanctioned show or attend an approved clinic at least once every five (5) years and must pass a written open book examination every five (5) years and score not less than 85%.

Article 123.4 Approved Judges

Requirements:

1. Must be an Annual or Life Member of the WPCSA and at least 21 years of age.
2. Complete The Approved Judge Application and Pay the required, one time, \$50 filing Fee. (The Fee is waived if the applicant already paid the one-time fee with a prior application process.)
3. Hold a current and active Provisional Judge Card.
4. Have officiated over a minimum of two Silver or Bronze shows as a licensed Provisional Judge (Guest Cards do not apply to this requirement).

The Process (Once all the above requirements are met):

1. Must have two Judge Applicant Questionnaire submitted on their behalf, one of which must be submitted by a show manager from a WPCSA show where the Applicant was a Judge.
2. The applicant may request or Licensed Officials Committee may require an interview before a panel of no less than three members appointed by the Licensed Officials Committee that must include at least one Committee member.

NOTE: All applications are reviewed by the Licensed Officials Committee and are recommended for approval on a case-by-case basis. Additional requirements may be asked for at the discretion of the Licensed Officials Committee and/or Board of Directors.

Maintaining an Approved Judge Card (Once Obtained):

1. Must maintain Annual membership or be a Life member with the WPCSA.
2. A \$25 Judge License fee must be paid annually.
3. The Judge License Fee and Membership renewal is due by February 1 each year, otherwise the judge's name will become inactive.
4. If membership remains inactive and/or the Judge License Fee is unpaid by the following February 1, the judge's name will be removed from the roster and she or he will need to reapply.
5. SafeSport must be kept current to officiate over any WPCSA Show.
6. The judge must either officiate at a WPCSA sanctioned show or attend an approved clinic at least once every five (5) years and must pass a written open book examination every five (5) years and score not less than 85%.

Article 123.5 Special Category Halter Judges

Requirements:

Option 1:

1. Must be an Annual or Life Member of the WPCSA and at least 21 years of age.
2. Complete The Special Category Judge Application and Pay the required, one time, \$50 filing Fee. (The Fee is waived if the applicant already paid the one-time fee with a prior application process.)
3. Have bred Welsh Ponies and/or Cobs for over 10 years and have been a member of a recognized National Welsh Pony & Cob Society or Association for at least the same length of time.
4. Have registered 15 Ponies, Cobs, Half-Welsh, and/or Part-Breds.
5. Have shown Ponies or Cobs for at least five (5) of the last ten (10) years at a national level.

Option 2:

1. Must be an Annual or Life Member of the WPCSA and at least 21 years of age.
2. Any WPCSA Approved Judge that has a current license and wishes to transfer their card to a Special Category Halter Judge only. (No action is needed for the Process Section listed below for Judges that qualify under Option 2.)

The Process (Once all the above requirements are met):

1. Have one Judge Applicant Questionnaire submitted on their behalf by a show manager from any show in which the applicant has judged, if applicable.
2. The applicant may request or the Licensed Officials Committee may require, an interview before a panel of no less than three members appointed by the Licensed Officials Committee that must include at least one Committee member.
3. Complete a Learner Judging if deemed necessary by the Licensed Officials Committee or the Board of Directors.

NOTE: All applications are reviewed by the Licensed Officials Committee and are recommended for approval on a case-by-case basis. Additional requirements may be asked for at the discretion of the Licensed Officials Committee and/or Board of Directors.

Maintaining a Special Category Halter Judge Card (Once Obtained):

1. Must maintain Annual membership or be a Life member with the WPCSA.
2. A \$25 Judge License fee must be paid annually.
3. The Judge License Fee and Membership renewal is due by February 1 each year, otherwise the judge's name will become inactive.
4. If membership remains inactive and/or the Judge License Fee is unpaid by the following February 1, the judge's name will be removed from the roster and she or he will need to reapply.
5. SafeSport must be kept current to officiate over any WPCSA Show.

Article 123.6 Specialty Performance Judges

Requirements:

1. Hold a current Judge's card with another approved organization that specializes in a specific division, class, or set of classes.
2. Complete the Specialty Performance Judge application, pay the required \$10 fee for each show, and identify the classes the Judge is slated to officiate over. Each application will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

The Process (Once all the above requirements are met):

1. Specialty Performance Judges are allowed to judge at Bronze, Silver, and Gold shows only officiating over the specific performance classes they were approved to judge.
2. No Specialty Performance Judge may adjudicate for the same Show Management at the same show for two consecutive years or at two consecutive shows.
3. Specialty Performance Judges, when approved, may officiate at two shows within each region each year but these shows cannot be within 30 days of each other. The regions are NE, SE, NC, SC, NW, SW.

The intent of Specialty Performance Judges is to allow shows to hire judges that are specialists within their field to officiate over performance classes and divisions that fall within the scope of their other held specialty card(s).

Article 123.7 International Judges

1. Judges who are recognized Welsh judges in Great Britain are automatically WPCSA Approved Breed Judges.
2. All other international judges, including Canadian judges with Welsh judging credentials in their own countries may be approved as breed judges by the Licensed Officials Committee on an individual basis.
3. Canadian judges may be approved on an individual basis to judge performance.
4. Other international judges, excluding Canadians, may be approved to judge the Child's First Pony, Leading Rein, Junior Handler, and Ridden Welsh Classic on an individual basis. They may not judge any other WPCSA-rated performance classes under any circumstances.
5. Judges from other countries need not be members of the WPCSA.
6. If a judge listed on the WPCSA Judges List moves from the U.S. or Canada, they will be allowed to remain on the list providing they continue to meet all requirements of maintaining their Judge's card.

Article 123.8 Judge's Responsibility and Conduct

1. No judge may adjudicate for the same Show Management at the same show for two consecutive years or at two consecutive shows. Judges may officiate at two shows within each region each year but these shows cannot be within 30 days of each other. The regions are NE, SE, NC, SC, NW, SW (See map inside back cover).
2. Judges are expected to judge according to the breed description for each Welsh section.
3. Judges are expected to render fair and impartial decisions at each WPCSA sanctioned competition.
4. Judges are expected to follow the rules of the WPCSA when judging WPCSA sanctioned competitions.
5. Judges are expected to honor their contracts with shows. Any judge who, after accepting the invitation to judge in writing, does not fulfill their obligation without an acceptable excuse, will be removed from the WPCSA Judges List.
6. Judges are expected to take their judging assignments seriously. Exhibitors are entitled to their sincere and undivided attention. It is inappropriate for judges to make small talk, joke and be inattentive.
7. Judges are responsible for completion of the Evaluation of Learner Judges form and for forwarding it to the WPCSA Office.
8. Judges are responsible for completion of a Show Evaluation form and returning it to Show Management after completion of their judging duties.
9. Judges of double-judged breeding classes may not confer about their placings until after the Supreme Champions have been awarded.
10. Judges may not confer with Learner Judges until the card has been signed and turned in.
11. Judges who have not finished officiating may not fraternize with exhibitors or attend exhibitor parties.
12. Judges may not reside with any exhibitor, member of Show Committee/Show Management, or person whose immediate family is an exhibitor within one month preceding the show or during the show.
13. Judges may not have any business dealings with any exhibitor within a three-month period prior to the show being judged, with the exception of stallion service.
14. Judges shall not be an owner of any interest in an animal or be an exhibitor, rider, driver, showman on-the-line, steward or manager at a show in which he/she is officiating. Judges must not discuss Pony/Cob business with exhibitors.
15. No member of judge's family may exhibit in divisions over which he/she officiates; no judge's trainer or client of trainer may exhibit in divisions over which he/she officiates, unless relationship is ended one month before show.
16. No animals sold or leased by judge or his/her trainer within last three months may be shown before said judge.
17. No animal leased by judge or his/her trainer may be shown before that judge for the duration of the lease.
18. Business partners of said judge must not exhibit in divisions over which he/she officiates.
19. No member of Manager's family may serve as judge for that show. Judge is responsible for signing class cards.
20. No judge, exhibitor, trainer, handler, or driver may use a cell phone while in the ring. If carried into the ring, the cell phone MUST be turned off.
21. A judge's conduct as a member, exhibitor, breeder, owner, as well as his/her ability, must be exemplary.
22. Each judge's status is subject to continual review by the Licensed Officials Committee and is revocable with or without notice and formal hearing.
23. Judges must be on the grounds at least 20 minutes before their first class.