

Minutes for OHSET Rules Committee Meeting September 14, 2013

In Attendance: Bill Weir (Co-ops, By-Laws), Scott Chauncey (NW), Donna Espelien (NW), Dave Haring (NV), Teresa Hoffman (NV), Chris Dinsmore (NE), Wendy Bernards (W), Sonya Kunkle (W), Nick Meuret (TRV), Sue Lowe (SV), Leah Lowe (SV), Sherri Henry (SV), Marty Hopper (C), Pam Hopper (C), Peggy Smith (S), Karissa Dishon (Vice Chair), Karen Bragg (Rules Chair), Jan Harer (Secretary)

Vote Count – 8 voting members present

Rule Changes:

Page 17 Rule 3.3.? Submitted by State Chair

Add: Statement on registration deadline.

Reasoning: The latest thing I can find on Registration is from Oct. 2, 2010 minutes (see below). We should include it in the rule book.

Rule Book References: None

Additional Resource: *OHSET State Board Meeting Minutes, Oct 2, 2010: Candi suggested making the final deadline March 1, after everyone's first meet and before everyone's second meet. Chris said we could allow for late individuals and late teams. Late registrations would be charged \$25 which would stay in the districts. Districts could choose to waive the late fee if they feel circumstances warrant. Anne moved the above and it was seconded by Denise. Vote: In Favor - Unanimous.*

Rules Chair Comment: None

NOTES: (State Board Discussion)

- Everyone will be done with 1st meet by March 1st (at least for the upcoming season).
- Original registration deadline is January 15th for no late fee.
- Final deadline has been March 1st, but is not stated in the rule book.
- The late fee is to be paid to the district. Districts can choose to waive this fee.
- Might affect districts differently – depending on when they are done/starting their 1st/2nd meets.

State Board Recommendation: Yes

Page 23-24 Rule 4.4.2.2 (stitching); 4.4.3 (excessive adornment); 4.4.6 (no rips, tears, reference to examples of pants on website) Submitted by Judge

Delete: All of the above referenced rules.

Reasoning: We are responsible for the safety of the athletes. By requiring us to also be fashion police, we are required to inspect for ornamentation on the jeans that in no way effects the athlete's performance. I agree that the jeans should be clean and free of holes but ornamentation neither helps nor hurts an athlete's performance in cattle or timed events. I would much rather spend the limited time we have to verify that the tack is safe, legal and adjusted properly (including helmet adjustment). Having us also be responsible for glitter and stitching inspection is a distraction that takes away time which we could be using for important items.

Rule Book References: *USEF EQ 125 (Western Seat Equitation), "riders must wear trousers or pants."*

Additional Resource: None

Rules Chair Comment: None

NOTES: (State Board Discussion)

- Let the above rule stand at least one more year.
- Every District Chair needs to talk to their district for feedback.
- Take it away.
- Would like to still state that rips and tears not be allowed.
- Only one rule change turned in this year about the pants issue – as opposed to last year with lots.
- Not all judges judge this rule the same.
- Don't change it – every sport has a uniform. Is conservative, like the rule. One district does follow it. Makes sure to inform all advisors and coaches numerous times about this rule.
- Want it to disappear. Always have to remind athletes, coaches, advisors.
- Waste of time for judges and everyone.
- If can't wear a certain style of jeans at school – then you should not compete in them.
- Reminded about helmet covers and what could be allowed and what couldn't. All of the talk and changes that went with this.
- This is not as clear of a line as the helmet cover rule.
- It is for the uniform presence – that is why it was passed. For a uniform – has to be a clear line as to what a uniform is.
- Other sports are not allowed to "adorn" their uniforms.
- Some coaches say the team uniform – is plain pants only. And the teams abide by that.
- Thought to be fair for all – but hasn't always worked out that way. Some judges will DQ one and not another. No fair to the kids to have the judge determine what is right and what is wrong – with this rule.
- If the school has a dress code of no rips or tears, follow the school rules.
- Have the rule the same as the helmet cover – no added adornments or no aftermarket adornments.
- How many years has this rule been in effect? Completed two seasons with it.
- Some disciplines say "conservative" in USEF for pants.
- How did this rule come to be? Athletes came into classes not looking appropriate – rips, tears, mud, etc.

Option 1 – Leave the rule as it is. 4 districts

Option 2 – Remove "Stitching and excessive adornments, rhinestones, explanation about brand stitching". But keep "No rips, tears". 4 districts

- Please take back to your districts for feedback. Need specifics.

State Board Recommendations: Split

Page 24 Rule 4.4.5 Submitted by: Coach; Judge (2 submissions)

Add: and cattle events

Reasoning: It is being allowed and instead of one judge allowing it and other not. It leaves room for an athlete to be penalized from one person's opinion.

Rule Book References: None

Additional Resource: None

Rules Chair Comment: None

NOTES:

- Why not in performance? Is because of a certain tradition for performance events.
- Why do we allow it anyway?
- Most other organization it is not appropriate to tuck pants into boots.
- We are trying to enforce a uniformity with pants issue – why can we do this?
- We need to make sure that we help those kids who don't know – performance.
- This is what coaches are responsible for – to help the kids be presentable.
- Not logical with this rule and the pants rule (above) – bling.
- Changing the wording to **should** from **must**. Will not be an absolute in all events.
- We tend hold gaming kids and performance kids to different standards.

Add cattle events. 0 districts

Getting rid of the pants inside the boots for all events. 2 districts

Lesser penalty for those that have pants inside boots. 4 districts

Abstain. 2 districts

- Take back to districts for see what your districts say.

State Board Recommendation: Split

Page 36 Rule 13.10 Submitted by: District Chair

Add: Only registered OHSET athletes may ride or drive in an arena or warm up area at the state meet.

Reasoning: This used to be in the book and may have gotten lost in the shuffle when the book was re arranged.

Rule Book References: None

Additional Resource: None

Rules Chair Comment: None

NOTES: (State Board Discussion)

State Board Recommendation: Yes

Page 42 Rule 14.7.1 Submitted by: Coach

Add: 14.7.1.1 Roughing cattle is considered (*defined*) when a rider action causes or could potentially cause harm or injury to the cattle; will not be called if the cattle('s) aggressive or evasive action makes contact with the rider or when the rider cannot avoid aggressive or evasive action of the cattle.

Reasoning: During team penning one of our riders was charged by and ran into by a cow attempting to run back to the herd. Our rider was called for roughing the cattle and their team was disqualified.

Rule Book References: None

Additional Resource: None

Rules Chair Comment: None

NOTES: (State Board Discussion)

- Do we need to define what roughing cattle is? Lots of definitions. Extra training for judges to be on the same page with what is roughing.
- Take back to judges training – make sure all judges understand.

- Athletes need to be at the question and answer meetings to know what the judge's exceptions are.
- What appears – isn't the reality. Everyone else (parents, cow contractor, other athletes, etc.) may not see what actually happens in the arena.
- Go off judge's opinion – judge's decision is final.

State Board Recommendation: No

Page 42 Rule 15.2 Submitted by: Coach

Add: 15.2.1 Chute operator shall not handle cattle, cattle operator should be focused on rider's nod. No cattle handlers should use electronic shocking devices or other devices to cause pain to the cattle. Cattle handling should consist of keeping the cattle's head straight and level and pushing the cattle toward the front of the chute.

Reasoning: Cattle chute operator was noted also handling cattle and in doing so he frequently missed the rider, thus giving inconsistent releases of the cattle. Cattle operator was also noted using a hand held shocking device which also lead to inconsistent movement of the cattle. Shocking devices are also not allowed at any levels of rodeo events from high school to professional rodeos due to animal cruelty action groups.

Rule Book References: None

Additional Resource: None

Rules Chair Comment: Would also need to define the penalty or action to be taken if/when this rule were to be violated.

NOTES: From internet "Kent Sturman, general manager of the Denver-based National High School Association, Inc., said that *rodeo rules allow using prods* only when the gate is open and the animal is stalling."; PRCA rules govern the use of the prod during competition. The *prod may* only be used during competition to move livestock if it is stalled in the chute or if it is at risk of injury. The rules also state that the prod can be used only on the animal's hip or shoulder areas, where nerve endings are not as dense and the sensation is weaker".

http://www.prorodeo.com/community/pdfs/2011_ProRodeo_Livestock.pdf

State Board Discussion:

- Chute operator should be focused on cattle.
- Have to be consistent with all cattle.
- Most will not use it (electric prod) – they will get inside the chute to move cattle.

State Board Recommendation: No

Page 43 Rule 15.7 Submitted by: Judge

Change: Two (2) loops will be permitted. ~~Two loops are allowed only if the athlete is carrying a second loop. Rebuilding the loop is not allowed.~~ The athlete will have the option of carrying a second loop or rebuilding and throwing the same rope a second time.

Reasoning: If the athlete is capable of rebuilding, why should we eliminate the option? I have seen athletes fumble with the ropes trying to get rid of the first rope to get to the second. Some riders are capable of rebuilding just as quickly and safely, if not more so.

Rule Book References: None

Additional Resource: None

Rules Chair Comment: None

NOTES: (State Board Discussion)

Allow to rebuild (change rule). 7 districts

Leave alone (don't change rule). 1 district

- Check what high school rodeo does.

State Board Recommendation: Split

Page 44 Rule 15.12.2.1 Submitted by: Judge

Change: Re runs ~~must be with the same cow~~ *will be with the next cow drawn.*

Reasoning: Requiring that the same cow is used for the re ride causes a major disruption to the cattle handling procedures and unnecessarily delays the event. This may be a policy for professional events, but many of the arenas where we hold the meets are not set up in any way that allows this to be done efficiently. By taking the "luck of the draw" next cow, things will run much smoother and quicker.

Rule Book References: None

Additional Resource: None

Rules Chair Comment: None

NOTES: (State Board Discussion)

Allow next cow (Change rule). 7 districts

Abstain 1 district

State Board Recommendation: Split

Page 44 Rule 15.12.2 Submitted by: Coach

Change: Wording

Reasoning: How is a cow leaving the arena the athlete's fault? Unless it is from unnecessary roughness. At that point the athlete does not deserve a re ride. If the cow leaves the arena or enters the roping boxes simply because it is a cow, why are we penalizing the athlete? Can this rule be cleaned up or explained a little better?

Rule Book References: None

Additional Resource: None

Rules Chair Comment: None

NOTES: (State Board Discussion)

- Re rides will be at the judge's discretion.

State Board Recommendation: No

Page 53 Rule 18 Submitted by: Judge, Rules Chair (2 submissions)

Change: Use USDF Rider Tests (New in 2013) and change all appropriate rules effected by this change. See below in red.

25.1. **USDF Rider Tests will be used for OHSET competition**

25.1.1. **Riders Tests confirm that the rider:**

25.1.1.1. **Sits in the correct posture and alignment**

25.1.1.2. **Shows correct mechanics in walk, rising trot and canter**

25.1.1.3. **Seat is sufficiently independent for the rider to maintain a steady, elastic rein contact and engage the horse to stretch into that contact.**

25.1.1.4. **Horse to be ridden actively forward showing impulsion and balance required for level ridden**

- 25.1.1.5. Horse to bend equally to the left and right sides on turns and circles
- 25.1.1.6. Horse makes smooth and willing transitions
- 25.2. Judging shall be consistent with USDF rules and will be judged on
 - 25.2.1.1. Rider's position
 - 25.2.1.2. Rider's correct and effective use of aids
 - 25.2.1.3. Horse's response and performance
 - 25.2.1.4. Accuracy of the exercises
 - 25.2.1.5. Harmony between rider and horse
- 25.3. Exception to USDF rules: OHSET judges will be placed at "C" and either "B" or "E"
- 25.4. Use of a reader is allowed at district meets, but is prohibited at the State Championships.
- 25.5. Fall of horse or rider **shall be** an elimination.
- 25.6. Use of voice in anyway whatsoever, or clicking the tongue once or repeatedly is a serious fault resulting in the deduction of at least two points from what would otherwise have been awarded.
- 25.7. Errors
 - 25.7.1. Wrong turns
 - 25.7.2. Omitting a movement
 - 25.7.3. Movement incorrectly ridden
 - 25.7.3.1. Posting instead of sitting or visa versa
 - 25.7.4. Wrong gait
- 25.8. Judging Errors
 - 25.8.1. Shall be deducted from the total score received
 - 25.8.1.1. First error, score shall be reduced by.5 points
 - 25.8.1.2. Second error, the score shall be reduced by 1.0 points
 - 25.8.1.3. After the third error, the athlete will be eliminated

Reasoning: OHSET emphasizes equitation in all performance events. The new USDF Rider's tests do just that. With the focus on rider's position, use of aids, accuracy of exercises and harmonious communication with the horse, it reduces the weight given to a more talented dressage type horse over one less so.

Rule Book References: *USEF DR (all of the red type above is directly taken from this rule).*

Additional Resource: See Rider's Test Score Sheet

Rules Chair Comment: Note – the numbering is incorrect with what is in the book. Will be corrected in the new rule book.

NOTES: (State Board Discussion)

- Only training level and level one are available for tests.
- These tests focus more on the rider than the horse. OHSET is about equitation in performance events.
- Currently is judged on the horse (that is how the dressage tests are written and how they are judged).
- Focus is on harmony between the horse and rider for new rider test.
- Riders test can use .1 - .9 in the scoring (which is not done on regular dressage tests).
- Judges will be giving comments not scores to scribe during test. After test was done – then judge would score elements.
- These are fairly new tests – only about 1 year old.
- Seems to be unfair to riders with old tests
- Love the idea.
- Similar or different to what we do now – skill level?
- Can we use the current tests and judge the rider? No, the dressage society didn't want it.
- Gaining popular with dressage society
- Compatible with last year's tests.
- Need to explain to our districts. Be sure to explain why we would like to change.

State Board Recommendation: Yes

Page 53 Rule 18.2.4 Submitted by: Coach**Change:** Braiding of mane and mane & tail ~~in hunt style~~**Reasoning:** This is actually not correct in dressage and should be left at braiding of any style. It is confusing to some athletes who think they may have to re braid in another style.**Rule Book References:** USEF Dressage rules DR make no reference at all to braiding**Additional Resource:** None**Rules Chair Comment:** None**NOTES: (State Board Discussion)****State Board Recommendation: Yes****Page 65 Rule 20 Submitted by: Rules Chair****Change:** Driving Reference from "USEF Chapter DP" to the American Driving Society**Reasoning:** There is no chapter "DP" in USEF - probably a typo for "CP" which stands for Carriage Driving". Most of that rule has little that relates to us. Pleasure Driving and reinsmanship are not stand alone chapters in USEF. Each breed has their own rules regarding bits and harness and that has always made it difficult for OHSET to be consistent and yet accommodating to all drivers. The rules on reinsmanship are very bare bones in all sources other than ADS, and provide little guidance for judges or athletes. ADS is very comprehensive and covers all aspects of driving, and while they cover a lot of things that do not apply to us, their rules on bits, carrying a whip, vehicle inspections, harness adjustment etc are very much in line with our current rules and would give us a rule back up and educational resource. This may be particularly important to have one place to go when questions come up for either athletes or judges rather than trying to hunt through several different, and often breed specific, resources. The ADS rule book gives detailed descriptions of how a driver should sit in the cart, how to handle a whip, how equipment should be adjusted and fit to the horse, and a detailed description of gaits - this is important since breeds often differ between what they call a "collected trot", "slow trot", "jog", etc. If we no longer rely on breed, but go by the ADS definitions, there will be no further conflict or confusion. The ADA rule book, page 33 - 38, gives a very good discussion on reinsmanship, including example patterns.**Rule Book References:** Example sections:*The Driver - Article 1 (page 13) The driver should be seated comfortably on the box so as to be relaxed and effective. Either the one or two handed method of driving is acceptable. Common to both methods, the elbows and arms should be close to the body with an allowing but steady hand enabling a consistent feel of the horse's mouth." Article 25 (page 25) Excessive use of the voice, shouting or whistling to the horse may be penalized at the judge's discretion. The driver should strive to control the horse's movements with discreet use of vocal aids. It is preferred that the driver sit on the right hand side of the vehicle unless construction of the vehicle prevents this."**"A whip should be carried in hand at all times while driving. The thong of the whip should be long enough to reach the shoulder."**Description of gaits, including rein back are found on page 29.***Additional Resource:** None**Rules Chair Comment:** None**NOTES: (State Board Discussion)**

- Refer to American Driving Society for all our driving rules. Nothing in ADS is counter to what we are doing. These are more detailed.

- Please go on the website before presenting to your district.
- Move forward with this
- **State Board Recommendation: Yes**

Page 79 Rule 22.7.3 Submitted By: Coach

Change: The rule to read:

Knock down any part of obstacle -4

First disobedience -4

Second disobedience -8

Third disobedience - elimination

Reasoning: These rules are listed in the USEF rulebook under Eventing, Hunter, and Jumper. Any disobedience or fault on course should incur a penalty.

Rule Book References: *USEF Equitation rule EQ111 "In the event that a rail comes down, first score the knockdown within the context of the round. Unless the knock down is caused by a MAJOR (emphasis in USEF) rider error, it should not be considered a MAJOR (emphasis in USEF) rider fault."*

USEF Hunter rule HU135 "The following are considered major faults: <list>a. Knock down b. Refusal c. <list continues>" No penalties are suggested or recommended for faults

USEF Jumper rule JU142 - table of faults (penalties) similar to what is suggested.

USEF Eventing rule EV153 - List of penalties, similar to what is suggested.

Additional Resource: *USEF Hunter Seat Equitation Manual, 2010, page 10, paragraph 10 "Sloppiness or laziness on the part of a horse that is correctly ridden (i.e. in the proper style) should not be penalized. If on the other hand the rider has obviously gotten ahead or behind the horse's motion and thereby causes the knockdown, then the penalty is deserved. If a judge's preference is to differentiate between well ridden clean rides and well ridden trips with a rail down, then he/she should make this known by the consistency of his scores."*

Rules Chair Comment: OHSET currently references the USEF Equitation and Hunter sections.

NOTES: (State Board Discussion)

- We do Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences – not hunter, eventing, or jumping.

State Board Recommendation: No

Page 84 Rule 23 Submitted By: Rules Chair

Change: In Hand Obstacle Relay to In Hand Team Trail

Reasoning: The acronym, IHOR, has made people uncomfortable over the years. Calling the event a "relay" infers a race where the emphasis is truly on efficiently moving through an in hand trail course as a team.

Rule Book References: None

Additional Resource: None

Rules Chair Comment: None

NOTES: (State Board Discussion)

State Board Recommendation: No

Page 91 Rule 24.9.1 Submitted By: Coach

Add: Equine used in In Hand Trail may not be entered in Trail under saddle.

Reasoning: We talk about moving toward industry standards, allowing everyone in "In Hand Trail" is far from industry standard. In Hand is fine for non ride able horses. We as OHSET need to consider the safe zone we have taken from our novice non riding athletes.

Rule Book References: USEF - no In Hand trail rules

OHA, In Hand Trail, page 52 (1/1/2013 rule book) This event is open to all equines. . .

Additional Resource: None

Rules Chair Comment: Not clear if the request is to limit cross entry (wording indicates that) or return to old rule of non ride able horses only in In Hand Trail (reasoning indicates that)

NOTES: (State Board Discussion)

State Board Recommendation: No

Page 114 Rule 28.8 – 28.8.5 Submitted By: Coach

Add: To all timed events (including cattle and IHOR). If the timer(s) fail and a re ride is given and penalties were incurred in the first ride, the penalties will not carry over to the re ride.

Reasoning: Our athletes should not be penalized for human and/or mechanical mishaps

Rule Book References: None

Additional Resource: None

Rules Chair Comment: None

NOTES: (State Board Discussion)

State Board Recommendation: Yes

Page Rule 15.3.1.1 Submitted By: Southern District

Add: If horns are in excess of _____ inches (to be determined), then horn or half catches are acceptable.

Reasoning: Southern District uses cattle with horns for all their cattle events. The horns on the cattle are in excess of 2-3". Would apply to breakaway roping in the Southern District only. There is an understanding that this will not be allowed at the state meet.

Rule Book References: None

Additional Resource: None

Rule Chair Comment: None

NOTES: (State Board Discussion)

State Board Recommendation: Yes