

## USEF SUBCHAPTER SB-13 IN-HAND AND MODEL RULES

*(Please note TN Saddlebred Futurity has removed those portions of the rules, including classes, that do not apply to our Futurity)*

### SB172 In-Hand General.

These rules govern all classes where horses are shown In-Hand, including open and futurity classes.

### SB173 Appointments (see also SB104 on the back of this page)

1. Entries to be led in the ring and shown in bridle or halter without quarter boots, blinkers, blindfolds or other appliances. **PROHIBITED:** Curb bits and tail sets on weanlings and yearlings.
2. The use of artificial appliances or devices on weanlings and yearlings such as chains, shackles, rubber bands or blindfolds is **prohibited** on the grounds before or during a competition. Smooth, round leather straps will be allowed prior to entering the competition ring.
3. Blinker hoods with half cups mounted in the vertical position so as to allow forward vision are allowed on weanlings and yearlings prior to entering the competition ring.
4. Weanlings and yearlings must show with unset tails; tail sets and bustles worn on the competition grounds in preparation for the competition are **expressly forbidden** on weanlings. Bustles are permitted on yearlings.
5. **Any entry with prohibited equipment must be disqualified and shall forfeit all entry fees and winnings at that competition.**

### SB174 Attendants

Only two people per animal are permitted in the ring. Handlers and attendants must be neatly and appropriately dressed in clean and well-fitted clothes. Each may carry or use **a whip not exceeding 6' including lash**; the lash shall not have been altered in any way except **no more than two ribbon streamers attached that are eight inches or less in length**. It must be a standard whip of suitable style.

### SB175 Judging Procedures

1. Conformation and finish count 50% of the total score. All entries should be judged according to the standards for the ideal American Saddlebred/Half American Saddlebred type and conformation. Defects must be penalized. Way of going and natural action count 50% of the total score. Labored way of going to be severely penalized. All entries should be judged according to the standards for the walk and trot. Undesirable traits should be penalized.
2. All entries should enter the ring, one at a time, showing at the trot.
3. Entries are to be judged individually standing and at a walk and trot on the lead.
4. Horses should stand squarely on all four feet with the front legs perpendicular to the ground. Rear legs may be placed slightly back, but the handler may be asked to move hind legs under the animal for inspection.
5. If the judge elects to have a second workout, all horses chosen for the workout should perform at a walk and trot on the lead.

### SB176 Classes Offered

In-Hand classes may include open and amateur divisions for: Weanlings (Colts and/or Fillies); Yearlings (Colts & Geldings and/or Fillies); Two-Year-Olds (Colts & Geldings and/or Fillies); Three-Year-Olds (Three-Gaited or Five-Gaited/Fine Harness Stallions & Geldings and/or Mares)

### SB177 Model

1. Appointments and Attendants: Refer to SB104, SB173, SB174 and SB175.
2. Judging Criteria: Horses in Model classes are to be judged according to the standards for the ideal American Saddlebred type and conformation. Defects must be penalized. Entries in Model classes are to be judged on conformation and finish only and are not to be moved on the line; way of going is not to be considered. Refer to SB102 on the back of this page.
3. Judging Procedures: Weanling: Entries must have roached mane and are to be led into the ring wearing bridle or halter, without quarter boots. Yearling and Two-Yr-Old: Entries must have full mane and tail and are to be led into the ring wearing bridle or halter, without quarter boots.

## SB102 Type and Conformation

1. The American Saddlebred is the epitome of the show horse. It carries itself with an attitude that is elusive of description—some call it “class”, presence, quality, style, or charm. This superior air distinguishes its every movement.
2. The ideal American Saddlebred is well-proportioned and presents a beautiful overall picture. The animal should be in good flesh, with good muscle tone and a smooth, glossy coat. Masculinity in stallions and femininity in mares are important and should be taken into consideration. The average height is 15 to 16 hands and the weight 1,000-1,200 pounds. Any color is acceptable; the most prominent are chestnut, bay, brown and black with some gray, roan, Palomino and Pinto. HEAD—well-shaped with large, wide-set expressive eyes, gracefully shaped ears set close together on top of the head and carried alertly; a straight face line with a relatively fine muzzle and large nostrils and a clean and smooth jaw line. NECK—long, arched and well-flexed at the poll with a fine, clean throatlatch. WITHERS - well defined and prominent. SHOULDERS—deep and sloping. BACK—strong and level with well sprung ribs. CROUP—level with a well carried tail coming out high. TAIL - carried proudly, coming out high from the croup. LEGS—The front leg should set well forward under the shoulder. The line of the hind leg, in a natural stance, should be vertical from the point of the buttock to the back edge of the cannon bone. The forearms and hindquarters are well muscled to the knees and hocks. Legs are straight with broad flat bones, sharply defined tendons and sloping pasterns. HOOVES—good and sound, open at the heel, neither toed in or toed out. TO BE PENALIZED: lack of American Saddlebred type, coarse or plain head, roman nose, round jaws, lop ears, wide ears, small eyes (pig eyes), short neck, straight neck, ewe neck, thick throatlatch, flat withers, sway-back, roached back, crooked tail, hollow chest, straight shoulders, crooked legs, calved knees, over at the knee, bow legs, rough joints, round bones, straight pasterns, splay feet or pigeon toes, contracted heels, base stance too wide or too narrow, sickle hocks, cow hocks, dished feet, lack of muscle tone, thinness, obesity, rough coat or overall lack of conditioning. These and any other defects attributable to heredity must be penalized. With the natural variations of type within the breed, some horses do not conform to the ideal but are perfectly suitable for various kinds of competition. If they meet all other requirements for a particular event, they should not be penalized too severely, except in stripped classes, Harness classes and In-Hand classes where extremely low backed horses must be severely penalized.

## SB104 Appointments

1. Horses shall be shown in traditional tack based on the type of class. Any entries shown in non-traditional tack and/or in anything that alters the intended use of the appointments as provided for in the description of a given class are ineligible for placement in that class. a. The following are considered non-traditional for all sections: Hackamore bits and/or tie-down. b. The following is considered non-traditional for all sections except for driving classes and two year olds in Snaffle Bridle Classes: Martingale. d. The following is considered non-traditional tack for all sections except Driving classes, Hunter and Western and two year olds in Snaffle Bridle Classes: A single snaffle.
2. Entries must be penalized for incomplete appointments, but not necessarily disqualified.
3. Horses shall not be shown in/with artificial appliances. Exception: Artificial appliances listed within the SB chapter as acceptable.
4. Tail sets, high crupper which attaches to the saddle, or other training devices are **prohibited** in the competition ring.
5. The use of leather straps without appendages of any kind are permitted as action devices in warm up areas on the competition grounds during or before a competition. Rubber or elastic exercising devices attached with a fixed ring on a plain leather strap are permitted. Wool/fleece protective cover allowed. The use of chains or rollers as action devices is **prohibited** at all times.
6. Inconspicuously applied hair in mane or tail, a tail brace and mouth controls are permitted.
7. In the event a horse has lost the sight in one eye, it must appear to have vision and may be shown with an artificial eye or contact lens. Use of contact lenses or eye prosthesis for any other use than stated is **prohibited**. For loss of sight in both eyes see SB103.2
8. Quarter boots and bell boots are permitted in Five-Gaited, Fine Harness and Roadster Classes.
9. In case of inclement weather, the use of polo boots or bandages may be permitted provided competition management publicly announces it before a class. Extremes of temperature of climatic conditions may modify dress requirements at the judge’s discretion.
10. Any artificial change of color or markings (other than mane or tail) is **prohibited**.
11. Electronic communication devices used for purposes of coaching, etc., between competitors and individuals outside the ring shall be **prohibited** in all classes in the American Saddlebred Division. (see USEF rulebook for exceptions)
12. A competitor may carry or use a whip not exceeding 6’ including lash; the lash shall not have been altered in any way. It must be a standard whip of suitable style. Failure to comply will result in disqualification from further competition. (Exception: In-Hand. Refer to SB174 on the front of this page.)
13. Whips longer than 6’, including snapper or lash, are not allowed in the warm-up area.