

FROM: Licensed Officials Committee
TO: AMHA Stewards & Show Managers
SUBJECT: 2025 RULEBOOK CHANGES

ATTENTION STEWARDS & SHOW MANAGERS!

Following are Rule Changes and Standing Rules that will be in effect in 2025 and affect the shows you work for. We are providing this update to you as the 2025 Rulebook will be reprinted in its entirety and we want to make sure you are aware of these changes if you happen to have a show before the new Rulebook is distributed.

PA-030-B Golden Halter Obstacle (for exhibitors 60 years & older) has been added as an approved AMHA class.

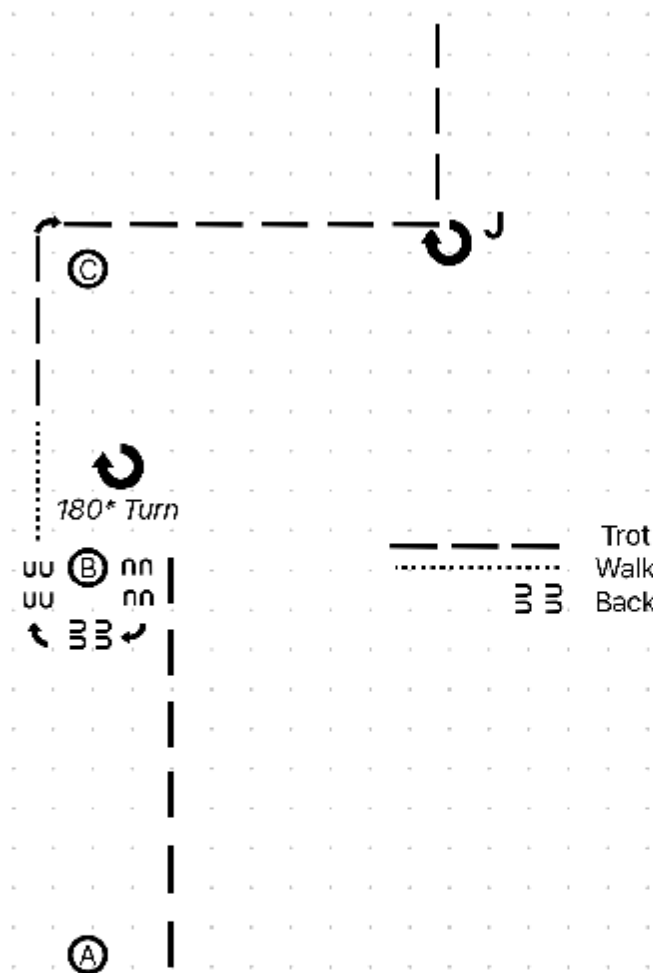
CL-015 Grand Champion & Reserve Open Stock-Type is now a pointed class. Eligible horses are: **first and second place winners from the Open Stock-Type Stallion, Open Stock-Type Mare & Open Stock-Type Gelding classes.**

CL-015 Grand Champion & Reserve Amateur Stock-Type is now a pointed class. Eligible horses are: **first and second place winners from the Amateur Stock-Type Stallion, AOTE Stock-Type Stallion, Amateur Stock-Type Mare, AOTE Stock-Type Mare, Amateur Stock-Type Gelding & AOTE Stock-Type Gelding classes.**

PA-020-D All first and second place winners of the Open Stock Stallions, Mares & Geldings classes must show in the Open Grand Stock-Type Championship (if offered) unless excused by the judge(s) or show manager. All first and second place winners of the Amateur/AOTE Stock-Type Stallions, Mares & Gelding classes must show in the Amateur Stock-Type Grand Championship (if offered). If an amateur has more than one horse in the Amateur Stock-Type Grand Championship class, the additional horse(s) must be exhibited by another amateur or be withdrawn with the permission of the judge(s) or show management.

GR-030-D-4-f A judge shall not appear on the show grounds prior to thirty (30) minutes before judging **unless accommodations have been arranged by the show manager for the judge to be on the show grounds with their own RV, rented RV or show facility's overnight rooms. Judges may not converse or socialize with any exhibitors in the RV/accommodations area.** A judge shall not visit the horse stall area, nor speak with owners, trainers, exhibitors, or owner's representatives nor inspect or discuss a horse entered in the show before the judging, nor shall he/she review the program until after the judging has been completed. **Violations of this rule will be subject to review by the LOC and may result in license suspension.**

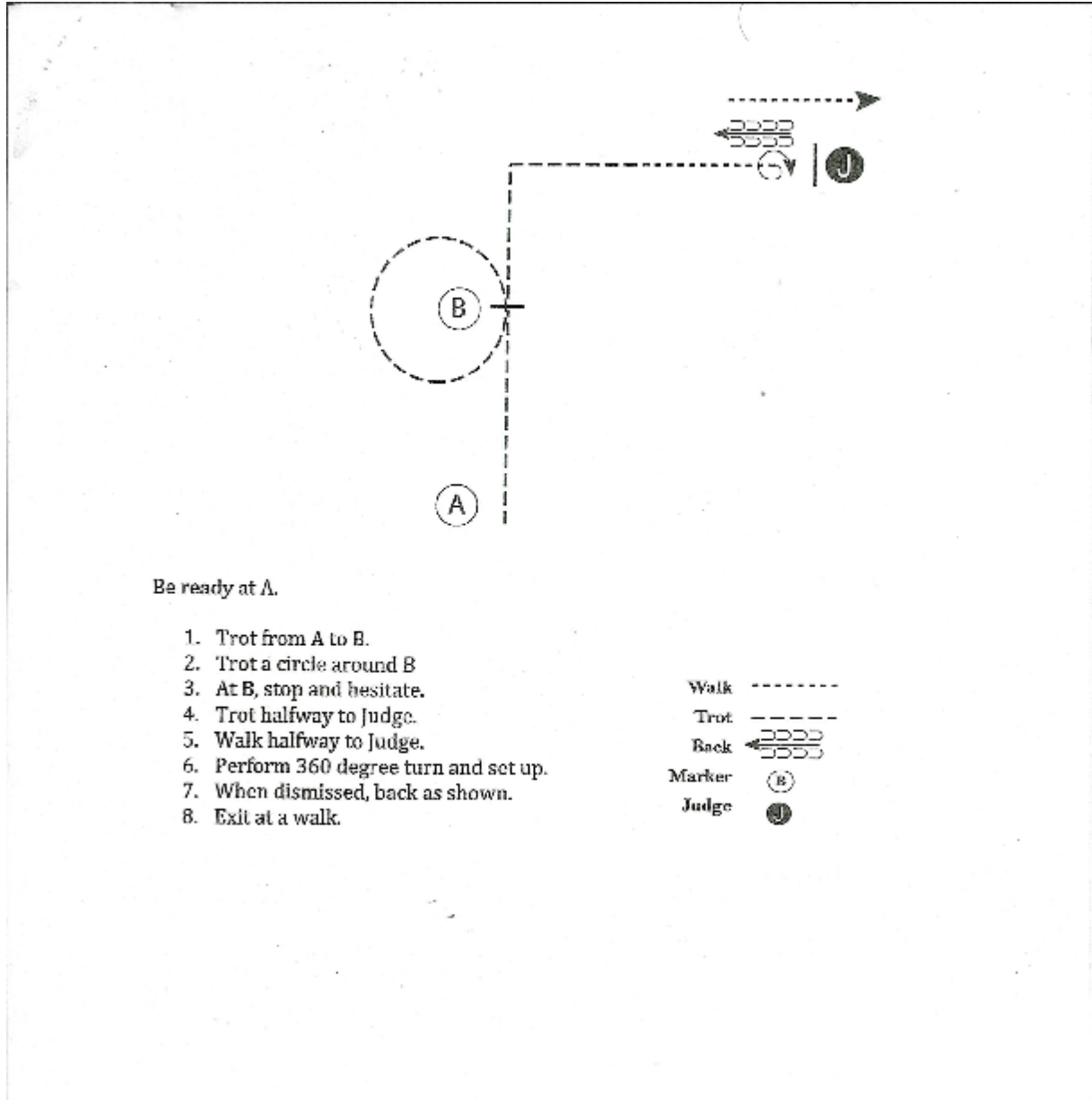
CL-080 AMHA has added **Showmanship Pattern #10** to the rulebook.



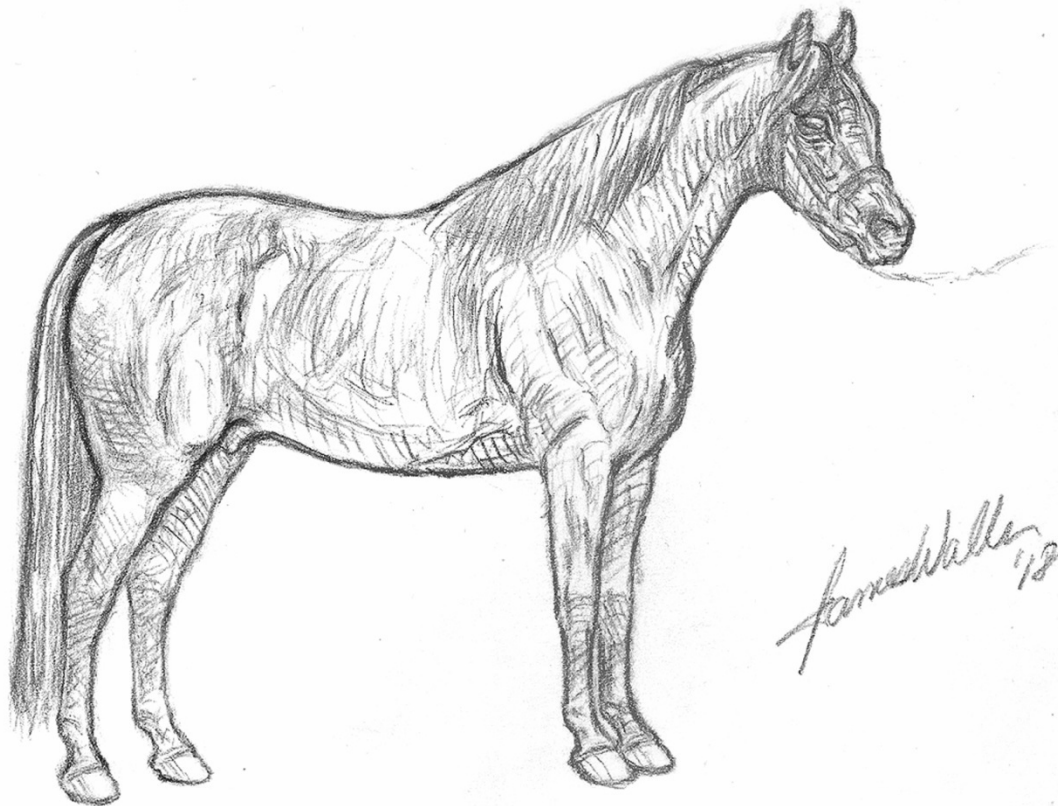
Be ready at A

1. Trot to B
2. Stop at B with horses' shoulder even with B
3. Back at U around B until horses' shoulder is again even with B
4. Perform 180-degree turn
5. Walk ½ way to C then pick up trot going around C to judge
6. Stop. Set up for inspection.
7. When dismissed, perform 270-degree turn and trot out

CL-080 AMHA has added **Showmanship Pattern #11** to the rulebook.



CL-016 AMHA has adopted a new drawing for our **Stock Horse Judging Criteria**.



CL-025-J Score sheets are available on the AMHA website for use in judging **Showmanship, Halter Obstacle, Obstacle Driving, Hunter, Jumper, Versatility and Liberty**. These score sheets outline scoring rules, penalties, faults, pluses, etc. that **must** be used for scoring AMHA classes in addition to what is outlined in the AMHA Rulebook. **Use of the official AMHA score sheets is mandatory and must be turned in to show management.**

AM-010, clarifications, h-1 Violations at Local/Championship/World Shows: the declared AOTE horse will be disqualified from all **AOTE** classes in the calendar year where the violation occurred. The AOTE horse will forfeit its AOTE status for the remainder of the calendar year it was declared for. The Amateur will be subject to the AMHA Disciplinary Committee.

YD-010-D-h-2, After h-2 add Clarifications

1. "Grooming" includes bathing, clipping, razoring and all other allowable enhancements needed to prepare the horse for showing.
2. "Conditioning" includes, but is not limited to, exercising and neck or body wrapping.
3. If you co-own your horse with a non-related individual, only one owner (household/family) can show the horse **YOTE**, and the other owner will not be allowed to show the horse that

calendar year. Dental, medical and farrier care do NOT have to be done by the YOTE exhibitor.

Must be harnessed by YOTE handler/owner or non-professional family member.

Headers - Only non-professional can head YOTE horses.

4. Must be measured at all shows by the YOTE handler/owner or non-professional family member.

a. Exhibitor exceptions: Another Youth may show YOTE horses Championship classes only when the YOTE exhibitor has more than one horse qualified. Another Youth may assist in any class requiring multiple handlers.

b. Horse Handling exemptions: A YOTE horse may be held or petted by anyone. The petting of a horse with your bare hand is not considered grooming the horse. Anyone may assist a YOTE horse in an emergency.

c. Transportation: YOTE horses maybe transported to and from shows by anyone, including trainers. This includes loaded, unloading, feeding and watering during transport.

YD-010 C Ownership Add 3.

The owner or lessee of record must be so recorded on the registration certificate (not postmarked) by January 1st of each year in which the YOTE horse is to be shown. If a horse is acquired or recorded on the registration certificate in the AMHA Office after January 1, the youth owner/lessee must wait until the following year to enter the YOTE classes.

c. Foals: Current year foals, whose dams met the ownership or lease requirements on January 1 (lease must be dated on or before January 1), may be shown by a YOTE exhibitor who would be eligible to show the dam.

d. YOTE Declaration: A horse will be declared a YOTE horse when it enters its first YOTE class of the calendar year. Prior to being declared, the YOTE horse must abide by the YOTE rules starting on January 1st. The YOTE horse must be shown under the YOTE guidelines for one calendar year starting on January 1st regardless of the class entered (including open division classes).

e. Opt-Out: A declared YOTE horse may be removed from the YOTE program by submitting the YOTE Opt-Out Declaration form to the AMHA Office. The YOTE Opt-Out Form must be on file with the Office prior to the YOTE horse being trained, conditioned, groomed or shown by a professional trainer. The Opt-Out Declaration will not be accepted during the course of any show. Fees - See Fee Schedule.

f. Sale Of A YOTE Horse: Should a declared YOTE horse be sold during the calendar year it was designated for, a YOTE Opt-Out Declaration Form must be submitted to the Office prior to, or with the Transfer of Ownership or Lease. Once a horse has been sold, it must wait until the following calendar year to enter YOTE classes.

g. YOTE Showing In Other Divisions: The YOTE horse and handler may show in their appropriate youth classes or open division classes.

h. Rule Violations: Failure to abide by the YOTE rules once the YOTE horse has begun showing within a given calendar year will result in the following penalties:

1. Violations at Local/Championship/World Shows: the declared YOTE horse will be disqualified from all classes at the show where the violation occurred. The YOTE horse will forfeit its YOTE status for the remainder of the calendar year it was declared for. The youth will be subject to the AMHA Disciplinary Committee.

2. All alleged violations must be substantiated by official records, show management observation, or other recorded visual evidence.

Also, attached please find a copy of the Protest Procedure packet. If you have a height protest occur at one of your events, please be sure to follow the steps outlined in this packet.