



AMERICAN TOBIANO OVERO
— ASSOCIATION —



2027
RULE BOOK

AMERICAN TOBIANO OVERO ASSOCIATION

Official Rule Book — Table of Contents

Version 2.0 — Revised September 2026 (includes the 2027 Rule Book Amendment, Sections 61 & 62)

Current fees: see the ATOA Fee Schedule at www.atoapaints.com or contact the ATOA office.

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PART I — MISSION STATEMENT & WELFARE CODE

Mission Statement & Welfare Code

True Mission Statement:

The Mission of the American Tobiano Overo Association (ATOA) is to preserve, promote, and advance the American Paint Horse by safeguarding the integrity of Tobiano and Overo genetics. ATOA is committed to maintaining accurate pedigree and performance records, encouraging responsible breeding practices, and supporting excellence in conformation, performance, and versatility across all disciplines. Through education, transparency, and inclusive opportunities for breeders, owners, and competitors, ATOA works to honor the heritage of the Paint Horse while fostering its future.

Welfare Code of Practice

No person shall treat any animal in an inhumane manner. This prohibition against inhumane treatment applies to all ATOA members and non-members. Inhumane treatment shall include but not be limited to the prohibited conduct specified below. Inhumane treatment to equines other than Paints and other animals used in competition is included in this prohibition as it indicates a general course of dealing with equines, which is unacceptable to ATOA.

- A. For purposes of this rule, a person responsible for the care of an equine is also responsible for and may be disciplined for the inhumane conduct of his/her trainer(s), agent(s), representatives(s) and employee(s). For violation of this rule, an individual may be disciplined, suspended, fined, denied ATOA privileges, disqualified, expelled from show grounds and/or expelled from ATOA.
- B. Inhumane treatment of any horse or any other animal on show grounds is strictly prohibited. Treatment of any equine will be considered inhumane if a person, educated or experienced in accepted equine training techniques, would perceive the conduct of an individual to be inhumane.
- C. For purposes of this rule, a fines and penalty system has been established based on the severity of the offense. All offenses below will be assigned a minimum level of offense (level 1=mild, level 2= moderate, level 3= severe).
- D. Warning or Show Ground Removal cards will be issued based on the frequency and level of offense.
- E. Inhumane treatment includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Placing an object in an equine's mouth so as to cause undue discomfort or distress (L2).
 - b. Leaving a bit in an equine's mouth for extended periods of time to cause undue discomfort or distress (L1)
 - c. Tying an equine up or around in a stall or anywhere at an ATOA event in the manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress (L2)
 - d. Longing or riding an equine in a manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress to the equine(L1)
 - e. Tying or fastening any foreign object onto an equine, halter, bridle and/or saddle to desensitize the equine (L2).

- f. Use of training techniques or methods such as poling or striking an equine's legs with objects. (L2)
- g. Excessive spurring or whipping (L1)
- h. Excessive jerking of reins (L1)
- i. Excessive fencing (L1)
- j. Excessive spinning (defined as no more than eight (8) consecutive turns in either direction) (L1)
- k. Schooling over ramped oxers in reverse order (i.e. from highest to lowest instead of lowest to highest) (L1)
- l. Schooling using rails higher than four (4) feet (L1)
- m. Use of prohibited equipment, including, but not limited to: saw tooth bits, hock hobbies, tack collars; or tack hackamores, whips used for showmanship; war bridles or like devices, riding in a curb bit without a curb strap; wire or solid metal curb straps no matter how padded, wire cavesson, wire or cable tie-downs; bumper bits, metal bosals (no matter how padded), twisted rawhide, or rope may not be used on an equine's head (3/8 inch rope may be used with a slip/gag bit), running martingales used with curb bits used without rein stops; draw reins attached between or around the front legs will not be allowed at ATOA-approved events (L2)
- n. Use of any item or appliance that restricts movement or circulation of the equine's tail (L3)
- o. Exhibiting an equine which appears to be sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired (L1)
- p. Intentional or negligent treatment which results in any bleeding- intentional (L3) negligent (L1)
- q. Applying excessive pressure on or excessively jerking of a halter lead shank or an allowed lip chain (L2)
- r. Any other treatment or conduct deemed by a show official to be inhumane or abusive (L1)

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT: Unsportsmanlike conduct, or any other form of misconduct that is irresponsible, illegal, indecent, profane, intimidating, threatening, or abusive, is prohibited. This provision applies to:

1. ATOA members, non-members, exhibitors, trainer, owners, owner representatives, spectators and all other persons on the show grounds of an ATOA approved event, and
2. ATOA members on the show grounds of an event held in conjunction with an ATOA-approved event; and
3. ATOA members on the show grounds of an event during which an ATOA-approved class is held, regardless of whether the conduct is associated with or occurs during an ATOA-approved class. Show management may immediately expel individuals exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct from show grounds and shall file a written report with ATOA concerning the conduct in question.
4. Further, unsportsmanlike conduct by ATOA members, non-members, exhibitors, trainers, owners, owner representatives, spectators, and all other persons at other ATOA events, including but not limited to the Annual ATOA Convention, sanctioned meetings, seminars, and other public forums such as social media, will be subject to the same rules and sanctions as described above.

EXTENT OF SANCTION: In regard to any violation of ATOA rules and regulations, the Board of Directors shall have jurisdiction to invoke a sanction, including revocation or denial of membership privileges, revocation of participation privileges in all ATOA-approved events for a definite or indefinite period, denial of privilege of access or presence on show grounds of an ATOA approved show, and in addition, assessment of fine not to exceed \$10,000.

OUR COMMITMENT: to be transparent about our activities to ensure the public, the media, federal, state and local officials and the various segments of the horse community understand what we do, why we do it, and support it. The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted animal husbandry standard and equine care, training and exhibition procedures would determine to be neither cruel, abusive nor inhumane.

Based on their principles, the association has developed and enforced strict rules to ensure ethical competition and humane treatment of "Paint" horses. The Association supports the development of procedures that ensure equity, fairness, safety, health, and welfare for all participants. Because the association is strongly opposed to animal abuse, any member convicted in a court of law of cruelty to animals may be suspended from the ATOA when certified evidence is presented to the Board or the Rules & Ethics Committee.

PART II — GENERAL RULES & ADMINISTRATION

6.0 General Rules & Membership (GR 6.01–6.09)

SPECIAL NOTICE: ALL ATOA APPLICANTS OR PARTICIPANTS IN ATOA-APPROVED SHOWS OR EVENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWLEDGE OF ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Application for membership must be made in writing (form) and sent to the members committee for approval.
 - The name/names appearing on the membership shall be the exact same name/names used for any registration or transfers.
 - Membership shall be in such form and on such conditions and shall contain such agreements as the Board of Directors may prescribe, and while in good standing, shall entitle the members(s) to all privileges and advantages of membership.
 - Membership within ATOA is a privilege. In order to utilize any service or program within ATOA, an individual or entity must be current member or pay a non-member fee if allowed.
- b. By applying for membership, the application(s) automatically agrees to be bound by and to abide by the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the Association.

2. TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

- a. Types of memberships offered:
 - Individual- Restricted to one person, this is a requirement to exhibit a Paint at any ATOA show or event, regardless of any other membership(s) held.
 - This membership will be held in the individual's legal name.
 - Individual memberships carry full privileges of ATOA regarding membership privileges.
 - This membership is for only 18 years or older people.
- b. Joint/Ranch/Trade Name/Corporate/Partnership offered:
 - a. Joint- a combination to a maximum of two person(s), (husband and wife).
 - b. Assumed or Trade name: A person or person or artificial legal entity, ranches, sole proprietorships, or any other designation not being the legal name of the person or artificial legal entity (i.e. John Doe dba Doe ranches).
 - c. Corporate- Corporations in good standing in the state or country of incorporation, the officers, representatives, shareholders and all beneficial owners.
 - d. Syndicate or Joint Venture- Syndicates or joint ventures in good standing in the state, or country of its organization, the representative and all beneficial owners.
 - e. Partnership- General or Limited Partnerships in good standing in the state or country of organization, the partners, limited partners, representatives, and all beneficial owners.

- c. Youth- Individual Youth 18 or younger. Required for all Youth exhibiting, including Lead line, Walk/Trot and Novice Youth Exhibitors.
 - d. Lifetime Joint, Assumed or Trade Name, Corporate Syndicate or Joint Venture.
3. **Each** type of membership shall be entitled to one vote on matters submitted to the membership by the Owner or Board. Youth members are entitled to vote only on Youth Program matters. Memberships are not transferable.

GR-6.01 Applicability and Responsibility

All ATOA members, exhibitors, owners, participants, and individuals involved in ATOA-approved shows, events, or programs are responsible for knowledge of and compliance with all ATOA Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, and Policies.

Situations not specifically addressed in the published Rule Book shall be governed by current ATOA policy as interpreted by the Board of Directors. Any amendments or changes to the Rules and Regulations adopted after publication shall be posted on the official ATOA website at www.ATOApaints.com and shall constitute official Rule Book changes.

GR-6.02 Membership Categories

Membership in the Association shall consist of the following categories: Individual Membership (Annual or Multi-Year); Youth Membership (AjTOA); Lifetime Membership; Joint, Ranch, Assumed/Trade Name, Corporate, and Partnership Memberships.

Membership shall not be limited to natural persons and may include corporations, partnerships, and other legal entities. Membership of cards and receipts shall be issued upon payment of applicable fees.

GR-6.03 Membership Records and Use

Applications for membership shall clearly indicate the name under which the membership is to be recorded. All registrations, transfers, or transactions utilizing a membership shall be recorded in the exact name appearing on the membership. Failure to comply shall result in the assessment of a non-member fee.

Membership names shall not exceed thirty (30) characters, including letters and spaces.

GR-6.04 Admission, Rejection, and Termination

Members shall be admitted upon submission of a completed application and payment of the current membership fee. Membership applications may be rejected, and memberships may be terminated, by the Board of Directors or State Directors for cause detrimental to the interests of the Association.

By applying for membership, an applicant agrees to be bound by and comply with all ATOA Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, and Policies.

Proceedings for termination or rejection shall be conducted in accordance with the Association's disciplinary procedures, including notice, opportunity for hearing, and provisions for temporary suspension. Disciplinary action may include denial of Association privileges.

Membership fees are non-refundable.

GR-6.05 Change of Member Name

A member's name may be changed in Association records upon submission of legal documentation evidencing the name change (e.g., marriage license, court decree). If corrections are requested on

registration certificates, original certificates must be submitted. A current membership in the new name is required.

GR-6.06 Member Privileges and Responsibilities

All members in good standing shall have equal rights, interests, and responsibilities with respect to the Association and its property. Members shall comply with all governing documents and decisions of the Board or State Directors.

Directors are appointed by the Owner as provided in the Bylaws; there are no member elections of directors. Members in good standing may vote on matters submitted to the membership by the Owner or Board, hold office, and serve on committees, except as otherwise restricted.

All exhibitors and owners must possess a current ATOA or AjTOA membership to participate in ATOA-approved classes.

GR-6.07 Annual and Multi-Year Memberships

Annual Memberships expire on December 21 of each year, regardless of the date of purchase. Multi-Year Memberships expire on December 21 of the final year of the membership term. Renewal notices shall be sent not less than thirty (30) days prior to expiration.

Expired memberships may be reinstated by payment of the current annual fee, with no penalty. Annual memberships may be prepaid in three- to five-year increments.

GR-6.08 Life Membership

Life Membership requires payment of a one-time fee and is not subject to annual dues. Life members are entitled to all member-rate services, including registration and transfer of horses.

Life Memberships are non-transferable but may be held jointly by spouses. In the event of death or divorce, the surviving or designated spouse shall retain exclusive life membership upon submission of appropriate documentation. Multi-generational life memberships are prohibited.

Legal entities purchasing a Life Membership must file a signature authorization form. Owners and authorized representatives may be subject to disciplinary action for violations of Association rules.

Where required, horse transfers associated with life membership amendments shall be eligible for a discounted transfer fee equal to one-half the current rate.

The President of the Association shall receive a Life Membership with full benefits.

GR-6.09 AjTOA (Junior) Membership

AjTOA membership is available to unmarried youths eighteen (18) years of age or younger. Proof of birth date is required at the time of application, and additional documentation may be requested.

Junior (AjTOA) memberships expire on December 21 of each year. AjTOA eligibility ends on December 21 of the year in which the member reaches age eighteen (18). AjTOA members do not possess voting rights except in matters specific to youth programs but may register horses in their own name at member rates during the term of membership.

Legal guardianship documentation must be submitted when applicable, and any changes require updated court-issued documentation.

7.0 General Operation Rules (GOR 7.01–7.14)

GOR-7.01 ATOA Authority Concerning Registration and Rules

The rules, regulations, and registration numbers of the Association shall take precedence over those of any other association. ATOA reserves the right to amend or modify its rules, regulations, standards, and requirements at any time when deemed to be in the best interests of the Association and the Paint Horse breed.

All ATOA-approved shows and all persons participating therein, including but not limited to exhibitors, owners, lessees, managers, agents, riders, drivers, handlers, judges, show representatives, officials, and employees, shall be subject to the Articles of Organization, Operating Agreement, Bylaws, and Rules of ATOA.

GOR-7.02 Rule Amendments and Publication

Any rule changes enacted between printings of the ATOA Rule Book or supplements shall be published in a manner determined by the Association and, at a minimum, posted on the official ATOA website and published in the ATOA official magazine. It shall be the responsibility of each member to remain informed of all such changes.

Amendments made by revision of official forms shall be implemented in accordance with the General Rules and Regulations, including special notice provisions.

GOR-7.03 Television, Media, and Publicity Rights

Attendance at any ATOA-approved event in any capacity shall constitute irrevocable authorization for ATOA, its agents, designees, or assigns to photograph, video, record, televise, or otherwise capture images or audio ("photographic material") of any person or Paint Horse on the premises.

Such authorization includes use of names, voices, biographies, pedigrees, and performance records ("related information") in conjunction with photographic material for promotional, educational, or archival purposes consistent with ATOA's mission. No photographic material or related information shall be used in connection with the endorsement of a commercial product without prior written authorization from ATOA.

GOR-7.04 Conduct Toward Association Representatives

All Association representatives performing official duties shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect. Abusive, threatening, or harassing conduct toward any Association representative is prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.

GOR-7.05 Accuracy of Information and Records

All information furnished to the Association in connection with registrations, transfers, show approvals, investigations, or any official action shall be true and correct.

ATOA warrants the accuracy of records issued by the Association, whether in hard copy or electronic form, only to the extent of using best efforts in compilation and solely for the benefit of the party purchasing such records. Reimbursement of the cost of the record shall be the exclusive remedy for material inaccuracies. Consequential damages are expressly excluded, and records are provided on an "as is" basis. Independent verification is recommended.

GOR-7.06 Burden of Proof and Final Authority

In all proceedings affecting registration, records, or disciplinary matters, the burden of proof regarding parentage, identification, color, type, or bloodline shall rest with the applicant, owner, lessee, or other involved party.

Decisions of the Board of Directors on such matters shall be final and binding. Failure to present evidence when requested or at a scheduled hearing shall constitute a waiver of the right to later present such evidence in judicial proceedings.

GOR-7.07 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Unsportsmanlike conduct shall not be tolerated and includes, but is not limited to, disrespectful, deceitful, fraudulent, abusive, or disruptive behavior directed toward judges, show management, Association officials, members, exhibitors, spectators, or the Association itself, whether in person or through any media platform, including social media.

Unsportsmanlike conduct occurring at ATOA events, meetings, conventions, seminars, or related forums shall be subject to disciplinary action, including fines, suspension, or denial of privileges.

GOR-7.08 Limitation of Liability

Except in cases of proven intentional wrongdoing, neither the Association nor its officers, directors, committee members, inspectors, representatives, or agents shall be liable for actions taken in good faith relating to registrations, transfers, cancellations, disciplinary proceedings, or other Association activities.

GOR-7.09 Release and Indemnification

The Association and any co-sponsoring organizations shall not be responsible for personal injury, property damage, or loss occurring at any ATOA activity.

Each owner, exhibitor, handler, or consignor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Association, its officers, directors, employees, and agents from all claims, demands, causes of action, and expenses, including attorney's fees, arising from acts or omissions of such persons or animals under their control. Submission of entry or consignment forms, or presence at an ATOA activity, constitutes acceptance of this provision.

GOR-7.10 ATOA Funds and Financial Obligations

All fees and monies collected on behalf of ATOA are the property of the Association and shall be remitted within thirty (30) days of collection. Officers or individuals responsible for such funds shall be personally liable for failure to remit and subject to disciplinary action.

All fees must be paid in United States funds.

Fee Schedule. All fees referenced in this Rule Book are set out in the current ATOA Fee Schedule, which is published on the ATOA website at www.atoapaints.com and is available from the ATOA office on request. ATOA may update the Fee Schedule at any time; the fees in effect on the date a transaction is received apply.

GOR-7.11 Cancellation of Work and Inactive Files

If a request to cancel work is received after processing has begun, all work shall cease; fees shall be forfeited, and documentation shall be retained by ATOA.

Failure to respond to Association for correspondence regarding applications or transactions shall result in the file being closed and fees forfeited. Files may be retained for up to one (1) year.

Reactivation of an inactive file requires payment of applicable current fees, current membership dues, and submission of all required documentation.

GOR-7.12 Violations for Nonpayment

Any member or non-member who fails to pay obligations when due, issues of non-negotiable payment, or fails to file required reports may be suspended or denied Association privileges following written notice. Names of suspended individuals may be published in official Association communication. Privileges shall be restored upon satisfaction of obligations.

Individuals may be placed on a cash-only basis for future transactions.

GOR-7.13 Disciplinary Authority

Any member or non-member who violates the governing documents of the Association, provides false information, engages in practices harmful to the welfare or reputation of the Association, or is convicted of animal cruelty may be censured, suspended, or expelled, and denied all Association privileges, including Registration and transfer of rights, as determined by the Board of Directors.

GOR-7.14 ATOA Zones

For purposes of zone awards, Jubilee/Color shows, zone-designated classes, and any other rule that refers to an ATOA Zone, the United States is divided into the following fourteen (14) zones:

Zone	States
1	Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska
2	California, Nevada, Arizona
3	Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota
4	Utah, Colorado, Nebraska
5	New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana
6	Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas
7	Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois
8	Michigan, Indiana, Ohio
9	New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island
10	Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts
11	West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware
12	Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina
13	Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida
14	Hawaii

Canada and all locations outside the United States are not part of the zone system. Members and horses residing outside the United States are not assigned to a zone.

A member's zone is determined by the state of residence on file with ATOA. A horse's zone is determined by the state of residence of its owner of record.



ATOA Zone Map

8.0 Code of Conduct (COC 8.01–8.09)

COC-8.01 Purpose and Applicability

This Code of Conduct applies to the American Tobiano Overo Association (ATOA), its divisions and Charter Clubs, and to all Directors, officers, committee chairs and members, employees, volunteers, and agents acting on behalf of the Association.

The purposes of this Code are to:

- Promote honest and ethical conduct, including fair dealing and proper handling of conflicts of interest;
- Promote full, fair, accurate, timely, and understandable disclosure;
- Promote compliance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations;
- Protect ATOA's legitimate business interests, opportunities, assets, and confidential information; and
- Deter wrongdoing and improper conduct.

All persons subject to this Code are expected to be familiar with and comply with its provisions.

The Association may waive certain provisions of this Code only by action of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may delegate authority under this Code to an officer responsible for internal controls, provided such delegation is expressly authorized by the Board of Directors.

COC-8.02 Compliance with Law

ATOA is committed to conducting its business in strict compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to those governing labor, employment, workplace safety, and nonprofit or association governance.

All Directors, officers, committee members, employees, and agents shall conduct Association business in compliance with applicable law, these Bylaws, and this Code of Conduct.

COC-8.03 Reporting, Interpretation, and Accountability

The Officers of the Association are responsible for applying and interpreting this Code. Any Director, officer, committee member, employee, or agent who becomes aware of an actual or potential violation of this Code shall promptly notify the ATOA office. Failure to report a known violation constitutes a violation of this Code.

Any individual uncertain whether conduct violates this Code is encouraged to seek guidance from an officer.

Each Director, officer, or committee member shall:

- Promptly notify the President of any actual or potential violation of this Code; and
- Refrain from retaliation against any person who reports a concern in good faith. Reports shall be handled confidentially to the extent permitted by law.

Reports involving employees shall be investigated by the Officers. Reports involving Directors, officers, or committee members shall be investigated by the Board of Directors. If a violation is found, appropriate disciplinary or corrective action shall be taken or the matter referred under established disciplinary procedures.

COC-8.04 Conflicts of Interest

All decisions and activities shall be made in the best interests of ATOA and shall not be influenced by personal considerations or relationships. Any actual or apparent conflict of interest must be avoided.

Directors, officers, committee members, employees, and agents shall disclose promptly to the Board of Directors any situation that may constitute or appear to constitute a conflict of interest, including relationships with suppliers, contractors, sponsors, or competitors.

COC-8.05 Dealings With Government Officials

It is strictly prohibited to directly or indirectly offer, promise, authorize, or give money or anything of value to any government official for the purpose of obtaining favorable treatment or improperly influencing any governmental decision.

All dealings with government officials shall comply with applicable laws and avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

COC-8.06 Confidential Information

ATOA shall protect its confidential and proprietary information and the confidential information entrusted to it by members, sponsors, partners, and vendors.

Directors, officers, committee members, employees, and agents shall maintain the confidentiality of such information and shall not disclose it except when authorized by the Officers or required by law. Confidential information shall be used solely for authorized Association purposes.

Confidential Information includes, but is not limited to:

- Personnel matter not publicly disclosed, including evaluations, compensation, or discipline;
- Disciplinary, grievance, and privilege-related matters;
- Ongoing or proposed negotiations with third parties;
- Membership lists and associated personal information; and
- Communications from legal counsel concerning pending or potential litigation.

COC-8.07 Association Assets

All persons acting on behalf of the Association have a duty to protect ATOA assets from loss, misuse, damage, or theft. Assets include tangible and intangible property, including the Association's name, logos, trademarks, copyrights, databases, records, and other intellectual property.

Association of assets may be used only for authorized purposes approved by the Board of Directors.

COC-8.08 Violations and Discipline

Any violation of this Code of Conduct shall constitute a violation of ATOA's rules and may subject the offender to disciplinary action under the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations.

If an officer or Director is found to be in violation, the matter shall be referred to the Board of Directors for consideration of disciplinary action, including removal from office by the Owner where authorized.

COC-8.09 Venue, Legal Actions, and Costs

All members and non-members agree that any legal action against ATOA shall be brought exclusively in the state or federal courts located in **Grand Traverse County, Michigan**, unless otherwise required by law.

In addition to any other sanction, any member or non-member found to have violated ATOA Bylaws, Rules, or Regulations and who is not the prevailing party in any disciplinary, arbitration, or legal proceeding shall reimburse ATOA, upon demand, for reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and related expenses incurred by the Association, including travel expenses for disciplinary committee members.

9.0 Paint Charter Clubs (PCC 9.01–9.08)

PCC-9.01 Authorization and Purpose

Paint Charter Clubs are authorized and supported by the American Tobiano Overo Association (ATOA) for the purpose of advancing and promoting the Paint Horse, encouraging good horsemanship and sportsmanship, and providing local activities and programs for ATOA members.

All Charter Clubs shall be approved by and operated under the supervision of ATOA through the Charter Club Committee and the Membership Committee.

PCC-9.02 Establishing New Charter Clubs

To establish a new Charter Club, the following requirements must be submitted to and approved by ATOA:

1. A list of Charter Club Directors, Officers, and Committee Chairpersons. All Directors and Officers must be ATOA members in good standing.
2. A membership roster of not fewer than twenty-five (5) ATOA members in good standing, including name, address, and ATOA membership number.

3. Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Charter Club.
 - (a) A Charter Club Guide, including model bylaws, is available from the ATOA Business Office.
 - (b) The Charter Club purpose statement must include the following language: “to cooperate with, and aid in every way possible, the programs and functions of the ATOA” and “to uphold the policies of the ATOA.
 - (c) Charter Club governing documents must comply with applicable state or national laws and be consistent with ATOA Articles, Operating Agreement, Bylaws, and Rules.
 - (d) Charter Clubs shall amend their bylaws and rules as necessary to remain consistent with ATOA governing documents and policies.
4. Submission of all Charter Club rules and regulations to ATOA.
5. Annual filing of a Charter renewal form by March 30 to maintain active status.
6. Only one Charter Club shall be permitted in any country outside North America.
7. International Charter Clubs with ten (10) to twenty-four (24) members may be granted a conditional charter for up to two (2) years, subject to reassessment.

PCC-9.03 Approval Process and Operational Restrictions

When an application is received for a Charter Club in a state or international area where a Charter Club already exists, ATOA shall notify existing Charter Clubs in that jurisdiction and may solicit input.

Once approved, a Charter Club shall not conduct business, enter agreements, or represent itself as acting on behalf of ATOA without prior written consent of the President or Vice President.

If consent is granted for an activity, ATOA shall be named as a co-insured on any applicable insurance policy covering such activity.

PCC-9.04 Charter Club Presidents Advisory Committee

Presidents of all Charter Clubs shall meet annually to form an advisory committee to the President of ATOA. This meeting shall be conducted by the ATOA President.

PCC-9.05 Annual Charter Club Requirements

To remain in good standing, each Charter Club shall:

- Maintain a minimum of ten (5) members, at least eight (8) of whom are ATOA members in good standing;
- Provide notice of newly elected officers and directors to ATOA no later than April 1 of each year;
- Submit current bylaws with the annual report and any amended versions adopted during the year; and
- Submit a Charter renewal application by April 1 annually.

PCC-9.06 Requests for Information and Corrections

Failure to respond to an ATOA request for information within sixty (60) days of written notice may result in denial of requests for future horse shows until compliance is achieved.

Failure to respond to a second written request within thirty (30) days may result in a recommendation to the Board of Director for revocation of Charter authorization.

PCC-9.07 Non-Compliance and Revocation

Charter Clubs that fail to comply with ATOA governing documents, engage in conduct detrimental to ATOA, or bring disrepute upon the Association may be subject to sanctions following notice and opportunity to be heard.

A grace period of one (1) year may be granted for reasonable cause. Failure to meet requirements for three (3) consecutive years may result in revocation of the Charter by the Board of Directors.

PCC-9.08 NSF Policy – Charter Assistance for Non- Negotiable Payments

Before requesting assistance from the ATOA Business Office for non-negotiable checks or declined credit cards, a Charter Club must:

1. Exhaust reasonable collection efforts, including phone, email, and written communication.
2. Send a certified or registered letter with return receipt requesting payment within fifteen (15) days.
3. Submit to ATOA copies of returned checks, payment breakdowns, correspondence, and collection logs.

Upon review, ATOA may contact the issuer to request payment. If payment is not received, the issuer may be suspended and deemed not in good standing until obligations are satisfied.

If payment is collected by ATOA, funds shall be reimbursed to the Charter Club. Questions regarding this procedure shall be directed to the ATOA Business Office.

10.0 Rule Change Procedure (RCP 10.01–10.07)

RCP-10.01 Rule Book Authority and Member Notice

Each member is charged with notice of all rules and regulations published in the current ATOA Rule Book. Upon request, ATOA shall furnish members with a current Rule Book.

In addition to notice provided by the Rule Book, each member has an affirmative duty to remain current with all ATOA rules, regulations, policies, and matters pertaining to ATOA programs and events.

Members are expected to regularly review official communications and the ATOA website at : www.atoapaints.com

RCP-10.02 Effective Dates of Rule Changes

Unless otherwise specified, rule changes shall become effective on January 1 of the year following approval after the Annual ATOA Convention. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Directors retains authority to adopt and implement rule changes at any time when deemed necessary in the best interests of the Association.

RCP-10.03 Member Rule Change Proposals

Members may submit rule change proposals using the official ATOA Rule Change Proposal Form, available on the ATOA website or from the ATOA Business Office.

Rule change proposals must:

- Adhere strictly to submission deadlines and instructions on the form;
- Be typed and formatted exactly as the language is intended to appear in the Rule Book; and
- Reference the specific rule lettering and numbering affected.

Only proposals submitted by ATOA members in good standing, and signed by ATOA members, shall be considered.

RCP-10.04 Review and Publication Process

All timely and compliant rule change proposals eligible for consideration at the Annual Convention shall be published on the ATOA website no later than December 15.

Standing Committees shall review proposals at the Annual Convention and may also be directed to review prior year tabled proposals or other matters as assigned by the Board of Directors.

RCP-10.05 Board Review and Ratification

Rule change proposals approved by the applicable Rule Committee shall be submitted to the full Board of Directors for review and ratification.

Proposals approved by the Rule Committee, Breed Council, and Board of Directors shall become effective on January 1 of the year following approval.

RCP-10.06 Reconsideration Limitations

Any rule change proposal that is defeated by a Rule Committee, the Breed Council, or the Board of Directors for two (2) consecutive years shall not be eligible for resubmission in the immediately following year.

RCP-10.07 Compliance Requirement

Rule change proposals shall be considered only if all criteria set forth in the Rule Book and on the Rule Change Proposal Form are satisfied. Failure to meet such criteria shall result in rejection without consideration.

PART III — REGISTRATION & REGISTRY

11.0 Registration (RG 11.01–11.02)

RG-11.01 General Registration Responsibility

The person or persons submitting any application for registration, certification, transfer, or related documentation to the American Tobiano Overo Association

(ATOA) shall be solely responsible for the accuracy, completeness, and truthfulness of all information submitted. All applications and supporting documents must be fully completed before processing.

No person shall refuse any reasonable request by the Association, its officers, committees, representatives, or agents to assist in locating, identifying, inspecting, or providing information regarding any animal, or ancestor thereof, owned or controlled by such person, which has been registered or for which application for registration or certification has been submitted

RG-11.02 Membership Requirements for Registration

A. Membership Requirement.

The owner or owner of a Paint Horse must hold a current ATOA membership prior to registering an animal with the Association.

B. Cooperation with Inquiries.

Owners shall promptly and truthfully respond to all reasonable inquiries by the Association relating to the identification, parentage, ownership, or inspection of any animal or its ancestors that have been registered or submitted for registration.

C. Proof of Ownership.

If the name of the owner or owner differs from that shown on the registration certificate of a recognized breed association, ATOA may require submission of satisfactory proof of ownership prior to processing registration.

D. Non-Member Registration Option.

In lieu of obtaining membership, an owner may elect to pay the applicable non-member registration fee as established in the current ATOA fee schedule.

12.0 Registry (RE 12.01–12.04)

RE-12.01 The ATOA Registry

All horses registered with the American Tobiano Overo Association (ATOA) shall be recorded in an official registry and assigned a permanent ATOA registration number.

The Association shall maintain multiple registry classifications to preserve pedigree accuracy, genetic integrity, and transparency

RE-12.02 Regular Registry

The Regular Registry shall include stallions, mares, and geldings that meet all ATOA eligibility requirements, including pedigree, color, and genetic standards as adopted by the Association.

The Regular Registry shall include the following:

- A. All Paint stallions, mares, and geldings meet ATOA registration requirements.
- B. Any foal that does not otherwise meet the color requirements set forth in **MCR-17.02** (Color Registry Requirements), resulting from an ATOA-registered sire bred to an ATOA- registered dam, provided that:
 - At least one parent is recorded in the Regular Registry; and
 - The foal has a minimum of two (2) generations of documented Paint bloodlines on one side beginning with the foal's parents.

Such foals shall be recorded in the Regular Registry with the pattern of designation listed as **Solid**.

- C. Horses resulting from the breeding of:
 - Two Quarter Horses; or
 - A Quarter Horse and a Thoroughbred; or
 - Two Thoroughbreds; that otherwise meet ATOA Color Requirements must be parentage verified through DNA genetic testing and must submit DNA Coat Color Testing results from an ATOA-approved laboratory. Such results shall be noted in the remarks section of the registration certificate prior to acceptance into the Regular Registry.
- D. If a horse being registered is a descendant of the AQHA stallion Impressive, HYPP testing may be required prior to registration. HYPP testing shall not be required if the parent descending from Impressive has been genetically tested and verified as **HYPP N/N**.

Any horse testing **HYPP H/H** shall be ineligible for registration with ATOA.

RE-12.03 Solid Paint Registry

The Solid Paint Registry is established to record the pedigrees of stallions, mares, and geldings that do not meet the requirements of the Regular Registry.

The following horses shall be recorded as **Solid Paint-Bred** horses:

- A. Solid-colored foals resulting from the breeding of two registered Paint Horses that do not have at least one parent with a minimum of three (3) generations of documented Paint bloodlines on one side.
- B. Solid-colored foals resulting from Solid Paint-Bred to Solid Paint-Bred breeding's that do not otherwise qualify for the Regular Registry.

Horses recorded in the Solid Paint Registry shall be listed in the Association's Stud Book as **Solid Paint-Bred Horses**.

RE-12.04 Restrictions and Privileges

Horses registered in the Solid Paint Registry or Breeding Stock Registry shall be restricted from competition with horses registered in the Regular Registry and shall not possess the same privileges as Regular Registry for horses.

Competition eligibility, incentives, and participation for Solid Paint Registry horses shall be governed by the ATOA Show and Competition Rules.

13.0 Identification Status, Ineligibility & Fees (ID 13.01–13.05)

ID-13.01 Identification Status

Solid-colored geldings previously registered as stallions in the Breeding Stock Registry that do not have at least one (1) Paint parent may be accepted for **Identification Status** upon:

- Surrender of the original Breeding Stock Certificate of Registration; and
- Submission of written notice verifying the date of castration.

Upon approval, the horse shall be recorded in the Association records for identification purposes only and shall not be eligible for registration privileges reserved for Regular Registry horses unless otherwise approved under applicable rules.

ID-13.02 Horses Not Eligible for Registration

The following horses are not eligible for registration with ATOA:

- B. Horses exhibiting characteristics or distinguishing qualities of another breed, which may result in rejection of registration, removal from the registry, or denial or removal of enrollment or listing in the Association.

For purposes of these rules, cloning is defined as any method by which the genetic material of an unfertilized egg or embryo is removed, replaced, combined, or otherwise modified using genetic material from another organism for the purpose of producing a live foal.

ID-13.03 Fees and Payment Requirements

All fees due to the Association shall be paid in **United States funds only** and shall be based on the postmark date of submission.

Current registration rates, membership fees, and miscellaneous processing fees are published on the official ATOA rate schedule. Membership applications may be submitted concurrently with registration applications.

All membership fees are non-refundable.

ID-13.04 Processing Fees and Cancellations

When a registration application has been received, researched, and/or processed by the Registration Department, and a subsequent request is made to cancel, refund, or credit the registration fee, an office processing fee shall be withheld.

Office processing fees are **non-refundable**.

ID-13.05 Rush Services

Rush service is defined as any registration, transfer, or miscellaneous work requested to be processed in less than four (4) weeks.

Rush fees are non-refundable, including in cases where a certificate or requested service cannot be completed due to circumstances beyond the control of the Association.

Requests for rush service must be clearly marked **“RUSH”** on the exterior of the submission envelope and must include complete contact and mailing information, including a daytime telephone number.

Payment for rush services must be made by certified check, money order, or credit card.

Minimum processing times for rush services are as follows:

- Registration certificates: ten (10) working days
- Transfers: five (5) working days
- Miscellaneous work (duplicate certificates, color changes, status changes, etc.): ten (10) working days

Processing times are calculated from the date the submission is received by the ATOA office.

MEMBERSHIP, SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION, AND

14.0 Membership, Signature Authorization & Registration Authority (ME 14.01–14.02)

ME-14.01 Membership Name Requirements for Registration

The recorded owner of the dam at the time of foaling, when applying for registration of a horse, must hold a current ATOA membership in the **exact same individual, partnership, ranch, farm, or corporate name** as it is to appear on the registration application. Membership names shall not exceed thirty (30) characters, including letters and spaces.

Exception: If the horse is to be registered in a name other than that of the dam owner at the time of foaling, the completed registration application must be accompanied by:

- A properly executed transfer report;
- Payment of the applicable transfer fee; and
- Proof that the buyer/new owner holds a current ATOA membership in the exact name to appear on the registration certificate.

If ownership of a registered horse is transferred, the new owner must hold a current membership in the same exact name under which ownership is to be recorded.

ME-14.02 Signature Authorization

When an animal is owned by a company, ranch, farm, club, corporation, university, school, or partnership, a signature authorization form must be on file with ATOA identifying individuals authorized to sign documents on behalf of the entity.

REGISTRATION DECISIONS AND APPLICATION

15.0 Registration Decisions (RD 15.01–15.04)

RD-15.01 Registration Decisions and Burden of Proof

In all proceedings concerning or affecting the registration and records of the Association, and in all disciplinary actions related thereto, the burden of resolving any doubt as to the true parentage, identification, or eligibility of an animal shall rest with the applicant, owner, lessee, or other involved party.

The determination, decision, and action of the Board of Directors on all such matters shall be **final and binding** upon all parties.

RD-15.02 Verification Authority

In the event of any doubt regarding the true parentage or identification of an animal, the Association, in its sole discretion, shall determine the procedures, documentation, testing, or verification necessary to clarify the parentage or identification of the animal in question.

RD-15.03 DNA Testing and Record Corrections

When parentage or identification is in question, the Association may require the presence of an Association-designated observer at the time of blood or DNA samples to be obtained.

After consideration of the results of any genetic testing and other relevant information, the Board of Directors may authorize such corrections to the Association's records as it deems necessary or appropriate.

RD-15.04 Multiple Breed Registrations

In all cases where a horse holds both an ATOA registration number and a registration number issued by another breed of association, the **ATOA registration number shall govern and shall be used on all ATOA documents**. A breeder certificate may be required.

GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING REGISTRATION

16.0 General Procedures for Handling Registration Applications (GRA 16.01–16.03)

GRA-16.01 Review of Registration Applications

The ATOA office shall review all materials submitted for horse registration. Required materials shall include, at a minimum:

1. A completed and signed registration application and/or breeder's certificate;
2. Required photographs of the horse being registered, including close-up photographs when applicable; and
3. Payment of all associated fees.

GRA-16.02 Approval or Request for Additional Information

The Association shall approve a registration application when all requirements are met. If submitted materials are incomplete, unclear, or insufficient to make a registration determination, the Association may request additional documentation or information as necessary.

GRA-16.03 General Registration Responsibility

- A. The person or persons submitting any application for registration, certification, transfer, or other documentation to the Association shall be solely responsible for the accuracy, completeness, and truthfulness of all information submitted. All applications and documents must be completed in full.
- B. No person shall refuse any reasonable request by the Association, its officers, committees, representatives, or agents to assist in locating, identifying, inspecting, or providing information concerning any animal, or ancestor thereof, owned or controlled by such person, which has been registered or for which application for registration or certification has been submitted

PART IV — GENETICS & COLOR REQUIREMENTS

17.0 Membership & Color Registry Requirements (MCR 17.01–17.07)

MCR-17.01 Membership Requirements for Registration

1. The owner or owner of a Paint Horse must hold a **current ATOA membership** prior to registering an animal with the Association.
2. The owner or owner must hold membership in the **exact individual, partnership, corporation, ranch, or farm name** as it is to appear on the ATOA Registration Certificate.
3. If the owner's name differs from that recorded on a recognized breed of association registration certificate, ATOA may require the submission of satisfactory proof of ownership prior to processing registration.

MCR-17.02 Color Registry Requirements

A. General Requirement

To be eligible for registration in the Regular Registry, a horse meeting bloodline requirement must display a definite **natural Paint marking**, as defined herein.

Exception:

A foal resulting from an ATOA-registered sire and an ATOA-registered dam, where at least one parent is recorded in the Regular Registry and at least one parent possesses a minimum of three (3) generations of documented Paint bloodlines, may qualify under alternate criteria set forth in this Article.

MCR-17.03 Definition of Natural Paint Marking

1. A “natural Paint marking” shall mean a predominant hair coat color with at least one contrasting area of solid white hair of the required size, accompanied by **underlying unpigmented skin present at birth**.
2. The qualifying white area must be located in one or more of the following zones:
 - a. **Behind Reference Point 1:**

Reference Point 1 extends from the base of one ear horizontally to the base of the other ear, from the base of the ear to the outside corner of the eye, continuing to the corner of the mouth, then under the chin to the opposite corner of the mouth.

- b. **Above Reference Point 2:**

A horizontal line drawn around the leg at the center of the knee, determined using the bony protrusions on the back of the knee.

- c. **Above Reference Point 3:**

A horizontal line drawn around the leg at the point of the hock.

3. Natural Paint markings may be located anywhere on the body or legs of a horse with two registered parents.
4. A natural Paint marking **need not be visible from a standing position** to qualify.

MCR-17.04 Non-Qualifying Areas

The following locations shall **not** qualify as natural Paint markings:

- a. Eyeballs
- b. Lips of the vulva
- c. Shaft of the penis
- d. Inner sheath not visible without physical manipulation

MCR-17.05 Genetic Qualification in Absence of Visible Markings

If a horse with one or two ATOA-registered parents does not exhibit a visible natural Paint marking, or if eligibility cannot be determined based on photographs alone, Regular Registry status may be granted under the following conditions:

1. Two Paint Parents:

The horse must possess at least one Paint Horse trait, **and** DNA genetic testing conducted by an ATOA-approved laboratory must confirm the presence of at least one Paint pattern gene.

2. One Paint Parent:

The horse must possess at least two Paint Horse traits, **and** DNA genetic testing conducted by an ATOA-approved laboratory must confirm the presence of at least one Paint pattern gene.

Exceptions:

A. Tobiano Gene:

A horse confirmed through ATOA-approved DNA testing to carry the Tobiano gene must have at least one ATOA-registered parent and at least one Paint Horse trait.

B. Multiple Pattern Genes:

A horse confirmed through ATOA-approved DNA testing to carry two (2) or more Paint pattern genes must have at least one ATOA-registered parent and at least one Paint Horse trait.

MCR-17.06 Additional Trait Requirement

To qualify for the Regular Registry, a horse must possess **one additional Paint Horse trait**, which need not be visible from a standing position, in addition to the natural Paint marking.

Such additional marking may include:

1. An extension of a high stocking beyond Reference Point 2 or Reference Point 3 by more than two (2) inches, horizontally or vertically; or
2. An extension of a face marking beyond Reference Point 1 by more than two (2) inches, provided the marking is a single solid white area with underlying unpigmented skin.

MCR-17.07 Paint Horse Traits (Non-Qualifying Alone)

The following Paint Horse traits, **when present alone**, do not qualify a horse for Regular Registry status but may be considered in conjunction with other requirements:

- a. White leg markings
- b. Glass, blue, or watch eye(s)

- c. Apron face or bald face extending beyond a line from the inside corner of the eye to the inside corner of the nostril
- d. White on the jaw or lower lip
- e. Blue zone surrounding a natural Paint marking
- f. Two-colored mane or tail, one color being natural white
- g. Dark spots or freckles within white facial hair
- h. White areas in non-visible zones (excluding the head) surrounded by contrasting color
- i. Contrasting color areas in non-visible zones, including the head, on a predominantly white horse

18.0 Status Changes & Markings (SIM 18.01)

SIM-18.01 Status Change from Solid Paint Bred or Breeding Stock Registry

- A. If a horse is recorded in the Solid Paint Bred Registry or Breeding Stock Registry and a potential qualifying area is later discovered, or the horse otherwise becomes eligible for the Regular Registry under ATOA rules, the owner may apply for a status change by submitting the following:
 - 1. The original Solid Paint Bred or Breeding Stock Registration Certificate with the **“Registry Change”** box marked, or a completed **Corrected Certificate Form**.
 - 2. Clear color photographs that clearly depict the potential qualifying area(s), including:
 - a. A certificate-quality photograph;
 - 3. b. Close-up photographs of the potential qualifying area(s), clearly showing size, location, and underlying unpigmented skin;
 - c. Left and right side-view photographs of the horse.

Horses qualifying under genetic criteria shall also submit:

- a. Copies of applicable DNA or genetic test results from an ATOA- approved laboratory, **or**
- b. Reference to such test results already on file with ATOA, **or**
 - c. A completed DNA order form for pattern gene testing.
- 4. Payment of the applicable **status change fee**, as set forth in the current fee schedule.
 - a. If the horse does not qualify for the Regular Registry, the status change fee shall be refunded less than a non-refundable office processing fee.
 - b. If accepted, a new Regular Registry certificate shall be issued.
- 5. A photograph suitable for use on the new registration certificate. Photographs must be direct side views, include the area of interest, not exceed 4 x 6 inches, and must not be trimmed.

19.0 Inspection Procedures (IP 19.01–19.03)

IP-19.01 Inspection Authority

Whenever ATOA determines that a clear decision regarding a horse’s eligibility cannot be made based on submitted photographs— due to quality, size, appearance of contrasting color, or underlying skin—a **visual inspection** may be required prior to further action.

The owner shall submit the required inspection fee and shall be responsible for the mileage and expenses of the designated inspector.

IP-19.02 Appointment of Inspectors

The Board of Directors shall designate qualified individuals to serve as inspectors for the Association.

IP-19.03 Inspection Reports

Following inspection, the inspector shall complete a written report and submit it to ATOA for consideration.

Inspectors shall not discuss inspection findings with any person other than authorized ATOA staff or representatives. Violation of this provision may result in disciplinary action.

20.0 Unnatural Markings (UM 20.01–20.03)

UM-20.01 Definition and Prohibition

An **unnatural marking** is any marking that does not present at the time of birth. Unnatural markings shall not be considered as qualifying areas for registration purposes.

Brands and tattoos are considered additional identification only and shall not be considered unnatural markings.

No person shall place an unnatural marking on a horse.

UM-20.02 Registration Impact

Any unpigmented skin or white hair does not present at birth shall not be considered for registration eligibility and must be disclosed on the registration application.

If the Association has cause to believe a horse has or may have an unnatural marking, it may require:

- Visual inspection; and/or
- Hair and skin sampling conducted by a licensed veterinarian selected by ATOA and analyzed by an ATOA-approved laboratory.

All costs associated with inspection and testing shall be borne by the applicant. ATOA may require an appropriate deposit prior to arranging inspection or testing.

UM-20.03 Refusal and Enforcement

A horse's registration certificate may be canceled if an owner, trainer, or lessee refuses to make the horse available for inspection or testing.

A horse found to possess an unnatural marking shall be rejected for Regular Registry status, or if already registered, its Regular Registry certificate shall be canceled.

Any person involved in placing an unnatural marking on a horse or attempting to register a horse with an unnatural marking, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

The decision of the Board of Directors regarding unnatural markings shall be **final and binding**.

PART V — IDENTIFICATION & RECORDS

21.0 Naming a Horse (NH 21.01–21.03)

NH-21.01 Name Requirements

Each horse submitted for registration shall be assigned a name acceptable to ATOA, not to exceed **twenty-one (21) letters, numbers, and spaces**, and which does not duplicate or conflict with the name of any other ATOA-registered horse.

Special characters and punctuation marks, including apostrophes, are not permitted.

NH-21.02 Name Reservation

A horse name may be reserved for a period of **one (1) year** from the date the written request is received by ATOA. A name reservation fee must accompany the request.

If the name is not used within the reservation period, it shall be released without notice unless renewed prior to expiration with payment of the applicable fee, as set forth in the fee schedule.

NH-21.03 Name Change Regulation

A. General Rule

The registered name of a horse may be changed **only upon written request**, submission of the **original ATOA registration certificate**, and **payment of the applicable name-change fee**, provided the horse meets all eligibility requirements set forth below.

B. Name Change Restrictions

A horse's registered name **shall NOT be eligible for change** if any of the following conditions apply:

1. Show or Contest Record

The horse has competed in an **ATOA-approved show or contest** and:

- a. Has earned **one-half (½) point or more**.

2. Recognized Point-Earning Programs

The horse has compiled a performance record in **one-point earning programs recognized by ATOA**, including but not limited to **regional or alternative competitions**.

3. Registered Offspring

The horse has **registered offspring on file** with ATOA.

4. Breeding Documentation

The horse's name has appeared on **any breeding-related documents submitted to ATOA**, including but not limited to:

- a. Stallion Breeding Reports
- b. Enrollment or incentive program documentation
- c. Breeders Legacy or similar programs

C. Final Authority

All names change requests are subject to **review and final approval by ATOA**. ATOA reserves the right to deny any request to preserve the integrity, accuracy, and historical continuity of the registry.

22.0 Breeder & Breeder's Certificate (BC 22.01–22.03)

BC-22.01 Definition of Breeder

The breeder of a horse shall be the **recorded owner of the dam at the time of service**, except when the mare is held under a **valid lease at the time of breeding**, and written notification of such lease, signed by the lessor, is on file with ATOA at the time of registration.

In such cases, the **lessee shall be shown as the breeder** on the registration certificate.

BC-22.02 Breeder's Certificate Requirement

A **Breeder's Certificate**, signed by the **recorded owner(s) of the sire at the time of service**, must be submitted with the application for registration. The dates of service listed on the Breeder's Certificate must correspond with the **Stallion Breeding Report**. If discrepancies exist, **ATOA** may require a corrected Breeder's Certificate and/or Stallion Breeding Report.

BC-22.03 Exceptions

A Breeder's Certificate is **not required** when:

1. The applicant was the **recorded owner of both the sire and dam at the time of service**.
2. Registration is processed through the ATOA office and the breeding has been **released by the stallion owner**, either electronically through ATOA's approved system or by submission of a signed Breeder's Certificate.

23.0 Stallion Lease Agreements (SA 23.01)

SA-23.01 Stallion Lease Agreements

When a stallion is bred under a **valid lease agreement**, notice of which is filed with the ATOA office, ATOA shall accept **only the signature of the lessee or the lessee's authorized agent** on Breeder's Certificates and Stallion Breeding Reports for breeding's occurring during the effective term of the lease.

24.0 Termination of Stallion Lease (TL 24.01)

TL-24.01 Termination of Stallion Lease

Upon cancellation or termination of a stallion lease, the owner shall **immediately notify ATOA and the lessee in writing**.

After termination, the lessee's signature shall not be recognized except for breeding's that occurred **prior to the termination date**.

25.0 Authorized Signatures (AS 25.01)

AS-25.01 Authorized Signatures

When written authorization, on an ATOA-approved form, is filed with the ATOA office, the Association shall accept the signature of the authorized individual on Breeder's Certificates.

Such authorization must be signed by the **recorded owner(s)** of the horse specified.

26.0 Joint Ownership of Stallion (JO 26.01)

JO-26.01 Joint Ownership of Stallion

ATOA shall recognize the signature of **any one recorded owner** of a stallion listed on the current registration certificate.

If joint owners wish to restrict signature authority, a **written agreement**, signed by all joint owners, must be filed with the ATOA office.

27.0 Multiple Stallion Services (MS 27.01)

MS-27.01 Multiple Stallion Services

If a mare is served by **more than one stallion during the same breeding season**, ATOA may require Breeder's Certificates signed by each stallion owner, including accurate dates of service.

28.0 Alterations Prohibited (AP 28.01)

AP-28.01 Alterations Prohibited

No alterations may be made to a Breeder's Certificate. Any Breeder's Certificate on which information has been altered, erased, or modified shall be **invalid** and not accepted for registration.

29.0 Stallion Breeding Report Hold (SR 29.01)

SR-29.01 Stallion Breeding Report Hold ("Flag")

If a stallion owner has reason to withhold a Breeder's Certificate or breeding release, the stallion owner must notify ATOA **in writing**, stating a specific reason, including but not limited to **non-payment of breeding fees**.

1. To release the hold, the stallion owner must submit a **signed and notarized Breeder's Certificate** or a **signed and notarized release** directly to ATOA.
2. Disputes must be resolved through a **court of law**. Monetary judgments alone are insufficient unless the court specifically orders the signing of the Breeder's Certificate and a **certified copy** is submitted to ATOA.

30.0 Breeder's Certificate Indemnity (BCI 30.01–30.02)

BCI-30.01 Breeder's Certificate Indemnity Process

If a stallion owner cannot be located or fails to respond, and **no dispute exists**, ATOA may allow registration through the **Breeder's Certificate Indemnity Process**.

Required submissions include:

1. Breeding contract and proof of payment
2. DNA parentage verification for dam and foal (fees non-refundable)
3. Notarized Breeder's Certificate Indemnity Agreement
4. Copy of ATOA's written request to the stallion owner
5. Stallion Breeding Report, if available (may be waived at ATOA's discretion)
6. Completed registration application, fees, and photographs
7. Approval by ATOA
8. Written explanation if any required item cannot be provided
9. Failure to verify parentage may result in denial of registration.

BCI-30.02 Enforcement

If a horse is registered through the Breeder's Certificate Indemnity Process and parentage is verified, ATOA may require the stallion owner to file the appropriate Stallion Breeding Report.

Failure to comply may result in **disciplinary action** under ATOA Rules & Ethics provisions.

31.0 Stallion Listing Requirement (SLR 31.01)

SLR-31.01 Stallion Listing Requirement

A **one-time stallion listing fee** is required for all Paint stallions standing for breeding whose foals are to be registered with ATOA. All stallions **must be properly listed with ATOA prior to the registration of their foals**.

32.0 Stallion Listing Documentation (SLD 32.01)

SLD-32.01 Stallion Listing Documentation

To list a stallion, the following must be submitted:

1. A **completed and signed Stallion Listing Form**, executed by the **recorded owner** of the stallion;
2. A **copy of the stallion's current registration certificate** verifying ownership;
3. Payment of the applicable **stallion listing fee**, as set forth in the ATOA Fee Schedule.
- a. Stallions exhibiting characteristics or distinguishing qualities of any **ineligible breed** may be rejected or removed from listing at the discretion of ATOA.

33.0 Stallion Authorized Signatures (SAS 33.01)

SAS-33.01 Stallion Authorized Signatures

The recorded owner of a stallion may authorize individuals other than himself or herself on the Stallion Listing Form and may specify whether such individuals are authorized to sign:

- Stallion Breeding Reports, and/or
- Breeder's Certificates.

This authorization ensures ATOA recognizes the correct signatures and allows the stallion to be properly listed in the **ATOA Stud Book**.

34.0 Stallion Duration of Authorization (SDA 34.01)

SDA-34.01 Stallion Duration of Authorization

Authorizations listed on the Stallion Listing Form shall remain in effect until:

1. Canceled in writing by the stallion owner; or
2. The stallion is transferred to a new owner.

35.0 Transfer of Stallion Ownership (TSO 35.01)

TSO-35.01 Transfer of Stallion Ownership

Upon transfer of a stallion, a **new Stallion Listing Form**, signed by the new owner, along with a **copy of the registration certificate (front and back)** establishing ownership, must be submitted to the ATOA office.

No additional stallion listing fee shall be required upon transfer.

36.0 Failure to List Stallion – Enforcement (FSE 36.01)

FSE-36.01 Failure to List Stallion – Enforcement

If an application for registration is received accompanied by a properly completed and signed Breeder's Certificate, and the stallion owner or lessee has failed to:

- Properly list the stallion, and/or
- Pay the required stallion listing fee, and/or
- Execute the required Stallion Listing Form, the Association may suspend the stallion owner or lessee under **Chapter 66 (Disciplinary Procedures & Appeals)**, provided the stallion owner or lessee fails to comply after **due notice**.

37.0 Due Notice (DN 37.01)

DN-37.01 Due Notice

Due notice shall consist of **no fewer than two (2) official written notices** sent by ATOA to the last known address of record for the stallion owner or lessee as maintained in Association records.

38.0 Board Review Authority (BR 38.01)

BR-38.01 Board Review Authority

After final notice, if the stallion owner or lessee is suspended for failure to comply, the registration application may be presented to the **Board of Directors** for consideration of registration **without stallion listing documentation or compensation**, at the Board's sole discretion.

39.0 Final Authority (FA 39.01)

FA-39.01 Final Authority

ATOA reserves final authority over stallion listings, enforcement actions, and eligibility determinations to protect the integrity of the registry and breeding records.

PART VI — BREEDING & GENETICS

40.0 Breeding & Reproduction Rules (BBR 40.01–40.19)

BBR-40.01 Filing Requirement

Stallion Breeding Reports shall be accepted **only for stallions properly listed with ATOA** and for which the **one-time stallion listing fee** has been paid (see SLR-31.01, Stallion Listing Requirement).

The **owner or lessee** of every registered breeding stallion shall file an **ATOA Stallion Breeding Report**, either electronically or by mail, accompanied by all required fees.

BBR-40.02 Filing Deadlines

Stallion Breeding Reports must be **postmarked or submitted on or before** the applicable deadline:

1. **November 30** of the year in which mares are bred or exposed; or
2. **May 31** of the year in which mares are bred or exposed.

BBR-40.03 Required Content

The Stallion Breeding Report shall include **all mares bred or exposed** during the breeding year, including:

- Mares owned by the stallion owner or lessee
- Outside mares
- Mares whether or not conception occurs

Specific dates of breeding or exposure shall be reported **as accurately as possible**. Non-specific date ranges (e.g., “January 1 through December 31”) may result in overlapping exposure conflicts and registration delays.

BBR-40.04 Late Filing

Any stallion owner or lessee failing to submit a Stallion Breeding Report with required fees by the filing deadline shall be assessed a **late fee**. All fees, including late charges, must be paid before the report will be accepted.

BBR-40.05 Corrected Reports

A fee shall be assessed for **adding a mare** to a Stallion Breeding Report after it has been filed with ATOA.

BBR-40.06 Failure to File – Enforcement

If a registration application is received with a properly completed and signed Breeder’s Certificate, and the stallion owner or lessee fails to submit a compliant Stallion Breeding Report with required fees, ATOA may suspend the stallion owner or lessee under **Chapter 66 (Disciplinary Procedures & Appeals)**, following final notice.

If suspension occurs, the registration application may be submitted to the **Board of Directors** for possible approval **without stallion breeding report documentation or compensation**, at the Board’s discretion.

BBR-40.07 Genetic Testing Requirements

All breeding stallions must:

1. Have **DNA parentage testing** on file with ATOA; and
2. Have a **Genetic Health Panel** on file prior to registration of foals resulting from breedings occurring after **January 1, ____**.

The Genetic Health Panel shall include:

- HYPP
- PSSM1
- MH
- GBED
- HERDA
- OLWS

Results shall be obtained from an **ATOA-approved laboratory** and shall be made available to ATOA members.

Once filed, testing need not be repeated unless requested by ATOA.

BBR-40.08 Artificial Insemination, Cooled & Frozen Semen

BBR-40.09 Permitted Methods

Foals conceived by the following methods are eligible for registration, provided all ATOA rules are met:

- Artificial insemination (fresh semen used within 24 hours)
- Transported/cooled semen (used within 72 hours)
- Frozen semen

BBR-40.10 Reporting Requirements

The Stallion Breeding Report shall identify all mares exposed by method, including:

- Natural service (hand or pasture)
- Artificial insemination
- Cooled semen
- Frozen semen
- Embryo transfer
- Oocyte transfer
- Vitified embryo

All exposures must be reported **whether or not conception occurs**.

BBR-40.11 Ownership Change – Frozen Semen

Upon transfer of stallion ownership, use of frozen semen shall be limited to the **current recorded owner**.

Ownership and use of frozen semen collected prior to sale must be resolved **contractually between buyer and seller**.

BBR-40.12 Stallion Lease – Frozen Semen

When a stallion is leased, use of frozen semen by the lessee is restricted to the **effective dates of the lease only**.

BBR-40.13 Disputes

ATOA shall not become involved in disputes regarding semen ownership or use. All such matters are **contractual** and must be resolved privately between parties. ATOA shall not protect, defend, or enforce semen rights.

BBR-40.14 Embryo, Oocyte, Fertilized Egg & Vitrified Embryo Transfer

BBR-40.15 General Eligibility

Foals produced by embryo transfer, oocyte transfer, fertilized egg (ICSI or IVF), or vitrified embryo techniques are eligible for registration if all ATOA requirements are met.

BBR-40.16 Breeder Designation

For transferred embryos, the **owner of the donor mare at time of breeding** shall be recorded as the breeder.

Transfer status shall be noted in the **remarks** section of the registration certificate.

BBR-40.17 Vitrified Embryos

Vitrified embryos are eligible provided:

1. Number of embryos is reported to ATOA by **October 1** of the collection year
2. A Vitrified Embryo Transfer Permit and fee are filed
3. A new permit is filed in the year of implantation if not used in the collection year
4. A Breeder's Certificate is issued for each embryo
5. Ownership changes are reported with proper documentation and fees
6. Registration application is signed by the **recorded embryo owner at foaling**

BBR-40.18 Reporting Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the **mare owner** to notify the stallion owner of embryo or vitrified embryo use and to properly mark the breeding method on the registration application.

BBR-40.19 Cloning

Horses produced by **any cloning process** are **not eligible for registration** with ATOA.

41.0 Breeding, Genetics & Ownership (BGO 41.01–41.14)

BGO-41.01 DNA Testing Availability

DNA testing for **genetic typing, color/pattern identification, and genetic health conditions** is available through ATOA using **ATOA-approved testing laboratories**. Refer to the applicable section of the Rulebook or ATOA publications for a current list of approved laboratories.

BGO-41.02 Authority to Require Additional Testing

ATOA may require additional DNA testing at the **applicant's expense** when necessary to assist with registration decisions, investigations, or reviews.

BGO-41.03 Parentage Verification Requirement

All horses submitted for registration **must be parentage verified**.

If either the sire or dam is unavailable for testing, and parentage cannot be established through accepted derivations or mitochondrial DNA testing, the unknown parent(s) shall be recorded in the pedigree as **"Unknown."**

BGO-41.04 Color or Pattern Discrepancies

If a horse's color or pattern appears **inconsistent with its stated pedigree**, ATOA may require additional DNA testing at the applicant's expense to substantiate final determinations.

BGO-41.05 Transfers of Ownership

BGO-41.06 Transfer Responsibility

When ownership of a registered horse is transferred, the seller should provide the buyer with:

- The **original ATOA registration certificate**, and
- A **completed transfer report** signed by the recorded owner.

It is the **buyer's responsibility** to submit transfer documentation and fees to ATOA to officially record the ownership change.

BGO-41.07 Transfer Process

To complete a transfer, the buyer must submit to ATOA:

1. The horse's original registration certificate;
2. A completed transfer report including:
 - a. Seller's signature
 - b. Date of sale
 - c. Buyer's full information;
3. Payment of all applicable fees.
4. Upon completion, a **new original registration certificate** will be issued to the new owner.
5. Incomplete submissions will be held by ATOA until all required materials are received.
6. Transfer reports may not be altered to remove intermediate owners; additional signed transfers or bills of sale must be submitted to document ownership succession.

7. If the original certificate is lost, the **Affidavit for Duplicate Certificate** procedure must be followed.

BGO-41.08 Membership Requirement

A current ATOA membership in the **exact legal name of the buyer** is required to complete a transfer. If the buyer is not a member, a **higher non-member transfer fee** shall apply.

BGO-41.09 Signatures

The signature of the **owner of record**, or a party authorized by ATOA to sign on their behalf, is required. For jointly owned or partnership horses, ATOA shall recognize the signature of **any one recorded owner or partner**, unless restrictions are on file.

BGO-41.10 Death of Owner

In the event of the owner of record's death, a survivor or executor may submit:

- An **Affidavit of Heirship**, and
- A copy of the death certificate and/or letters testamentary.

A horse may be transferred into the appointed party's name **without transfer fee**, upon request.

A transfer fee applies if the horse is transferred directly to a third party.

BGO-41.11 Divorce

If ownership is affected by divorce, a copy of the **court decree awarding ownership** must be submitted to ATOA in lieu of a signed transfer. Horse name(s) and registration number(s) must be included. Applicable transfer and membership fees apply.

BGO-41.12 Transfer by Indemnity

If the signature of the owner of record cannot be obtained, a buyer may request **Transfer by Indemnity** by submitting:

- Original certificate (or Duplicate Certificate Affidavit)
 - Current photographs for identification
 - Proof of purchase or ownership
 - A written statement explaining known ownership history
 - Applicable fees
1. ATOA will attempt to contact the owner of record.
 2. If no response is received, the transfer may be completed.
 3. If a dispute is identified, the matter shall be deemed a **civil dispute** and must be resolved before ATOA will act.

BGO-41.13 Stableman's Lien

Before recognizing a stableman's lien foreclosure, ATOA must receive:

1. ATOA Stableman's Lien Affidavit
2. Copy of applicable state statute

3. Proof statutory procedures were followed
4. ATOA Transfer Indemnity Form
5. Current horse photographs (DNA verification may be required)
6. Applicable fees

BGO-41.14 Auction or Horse Sale Transfers

If sold through auction or horse sale, the registration certificate and signed transfer report should be provided to the sale company and buyer. If unavailable, the buyer must follow the **Transfer by Indemnity** process. All applicable fees apply.

42.0 Leases (RBR 42.01–42.04)

RBR-42.01 Recognition of Lease

For a lease of a horse to be recognized by ATOA for **breeding purposes**, written notice of the lease must be filed with the Association on **ATOA-approved forms**, signed by both the **lessor and lessee**, accompanied by:

- Applicable fees
- A copy of the registration certificate (front and back). For leases related to **showing**, refer to **YP-73.04** (Show Lease Requirements).

The lease notice shall state the **effective date** and **termination date** of the lease.

RBR-42.02 Early Termination of Lease

If a lease is terminated prior to the stated termination date, written notice signed by both the lessor and lessee must be submitted to ATOA specifying the termination date.

No additional fee shall be charged for termination, whether automatic or by subsequent notice.

RBR-42.03 Authority of Lessee

For Association record purposes, recordation of a lease authorizes the lessee to execute **all documents related to recognized breeding activities**, regardless of limitations contained in the private lease agreement. Enforcement of any contractual limitations or lease terms is the **sole responsibility of the lessor**. ATOA shall not enforce private lease agreements.

RBR-42.04 Ownership Changes During Lease

During the effective term of a lease, ATOA shall not record a transfer of ownership unless the transfer names the **lessee as the purchaser**.

In such cases, the **date of sale shall be deemed the lease termination date**.

43.0 Duplicate & Corrected Certificates (DCD 43.01–43.04)

DCD-43.01 Duplicate Certificate Defined

A duplicate certificate is a new registration certificate issued when the original has been lost or destroyed.

The duplicate certificate shall be marked accordingly and becomes the **only valid certificate recognized by ATOA**.

DCD-43.02 Duplicate Certificate Procedure

The owner of record may apply for a duplicate certificate by submitting:

- An **Affidavit for Duplicate Certificate**
- Current photographs for positive identification
- Payment of applicable fees
- 1. If ownership is transferring simultaneously, the buyer may submit the affidavit, photographs, fees, and signed transfer report together.
- 2. If a duplicate certificate is issued based on false or inaccurate information, it may be recalled and disciplinary action may be taken.

DCD-43.03 Corrected Certificates

A corrected certificate may be issued to reflect the most accurate information about a horse.

(a) No-Charge Corrections

No fee shall be charged for corrections involving:

- Gelding status (date of castration required)
- Brands, tattoos, scars, or microchips
- Blue eyes
- Genetic testing results
- Color changes (new photos required)
- Clerical errors reported within **30 days** of certificate mailing All corrections require submission of the original certificate.

(b) Picture Replacement

ATOA may update certificate photographs at any time. Members may request photo replacement by submitting:

- Original certificate
- New full side-view photograph
- Applicable photo replacement fee

DCD-43.04 Certificate Validity

Upon issuance of a duplicate or corrected certificate, **all previously issued certificates are null and void**.

44.0 Re-Registration Certificates (RRC 44.01–44.08)

RRC-44.01 Definition

A re-registration certificate is required when there is a change to the **sire, dam, or foaling year**.

RRC-44.02 Requirements

Re-registration requires:

- A new application Notarized statement from the owner (or lessee/authorized agent) of the dam at foaling
- Explanation of incorrect original registration
- Certificate photograph
- Re-registration fee
- Parentage verification
- Submission of the original certificate

If the foaling year is corrected to an **earlier year**, the difference between the original fee paid and the correct fee must be remitted.

RRC-44.03 Board Authority

When correct parentage is confirmed by DNA testing (with an ATOA observer present), the **Board of Directors** may authorize re-registration without breeder's certificates or breeding documents if deemed unreasonable to require them, in the interest of fairness to an innocent party.

RRC-44.04 Surrender of Certificates

RRC-44.05 Notification Requirement

The owner of a registered horse that dies or is sold or disposed of without papers shall notify ATOA and surrender the registration certificate for proper notation.

If requested, the canceled certificate may be returned.

RRC-44.06 Correction or Cancellation

Registration certificates are subject to correction or cancellation under ATOA Rules and Bylaws.

ATOA shall not be liable for errors resulting from misrepresentation or incorrect applications and reserves the right to cancel certificates accordingly.

RRC-44.07 Ownership of Certificates

All registration certificates remain the **property of ATOA**. Failure to return a certificate upon request may constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

RRC-44.08 Replacement Certificates

Upon issuance of any duplicate, corrected, or replacement certificate, all prior certificates are **null and void**, and surrender of originals may be required.

45.0 Re-Activations & Inactive Applications (RC 45.01–45.02)

RC-45.01 Inactive Applications

If a registration application has been placed in inactive status, the following are required to reactivate the file: Payment of the registration fee based on the horse's current age **1**. Payment of the applicant's **current membership fee**

2. Submission of any missing documentation
3. A complete set of **current photographs** (front, rear, and both sides)

RC-45.02 Final Review

Reactivated applications are subject to review and approval by **ATOA**.

PART VII — SHOW RULES & OPERATIONS

46.0 Show Approval (SH 46.01–46.17)

SH-46.01 Requirement for Approval

Organizations, clubs, charters, or individuals wishing to sponsor shows or contests that will be recognized by ATOA **must obtain prior approval** from the Association.

SH-46.02 Application for Show Approval

(a) Submission Deadline

An **Application for Show Approval** must be properly completed and submitted to the ATOA office **no fewer than thirty (30) days** prior to the first day of the proposed show.

Applications may be downloaded from the ATOA website.

(b) Required Materials

A completed Show Approval Application shall include:

1. A **signed Show Approval Application** for the current year
2. A **premium list / show bill** listing all Paint classes offered, whether or not all classes are restricted to Paint-registered horses

3. Names of Judges

- a. Judges must be selected from the **current ATOA Approved Judges List**. Upon request, ATOA will provide a list of approved judges
4. A copy of the **entry form** to be used
 5. Payment of the **appropriate show approval fees** (see Fee

Schedule)**Compliance Responsibility**

All show applications and plans must conform to the **current ATOA Show Rules**. The **Show Committee** is solely responsible for the accuracy of the submitted class list.

ATOA is not responsible for errors or omissions in submitted materials.

SH-46.03 Back-to-Back Shows

Back-to-back shows (e.g., one full show on Saturday and one full show on Sunday) are considered **separate shows** and require **separate applications and fees**.

SH-46.04 Authorized Signatures

1. Directors may sign as authorized representatives for open or multi-breed shows offering ATOA classes
2. State or County Fair managers may sign for fair-sponsored shows

SH-46.05 Application Review & Approval

1. If satisfactory, ATOA will issue **written approval**
2. If deficiencies exist, ATOA will notify show officials of required corrections
3. If disapproved, ATOA will notify show officials of the reason(s)

4. **Show information may not be posted** until written approval is received **a.** Posting prior to approval may result in a **fine**

SH-46.06 Incomplete Applications

1. Failure to respond to ATOA correspondence will result in the application being **closed and deed-filed**, with **fees forfeited**

2. ATOA will issue:
 - a. First written notice
 - b. Second notice after 30 days
 - c. Final notice after an additional 30 days

If no response is received within 30 days after final notice, the file is closed

3. To reopen an inactive file:
 - a. Applicable fees must be paid
 - b. Missing documents must be submitted
- c. If the show date has passed, **no points will be awarded**

SH-46.07 Limitations & Authority

ATOA reserves the right to:

- Limit the number of shows per organization per calendar year
- Modify show approval requirements
- Require annual re-approval (approval does **not** carry forward year to year)

SH-46.08 Show Approval Fees

Fees are assessed based on show structure (see Fee Schedule):

1. Single-Judge Show
2. Multi-Judge Show (2–4 judges)
3. Jubilee Show
4. Futurity Show
5. Specialty Show or Event

SH-46.09 Show Application Deadlines & Priority

1. Applications must be postmarked:
 - a. **30 days prior** (U.S.)
 - b. **60 days prior** (outside continental U.S.)
2. Applications postmarked less than 60 days prior **will be denied**
3. ATOA numbers weekends annually; priority renewal may be granted to returning shows on the same numbered weekend

SH-46.10 Judges Requirement

All ATOA-approved shows **must use ATOA-approved judges**.

SH-46.11 Changes After Approval

(a) Show Bill / Premium List

- Amendments allowed up to **45 days prior** with written notice
- All changes are subject to re-evaluation

(b) Judges

- Judge substitutions must be reported immediately
- Emergency substitutions may be made with judges who officiated the previous year within reasonable travel distance

(c) Cancellation / Weather

- Cancellations must be reported immediately
- Weather-related postponements may request approved rain dates

SH-46.12 Approved Show Classes

1. All classes in the Rule Book are **ROM-pointed**, unless noted
2. Non-point classes must be clearly designated (e.g., Green Horse, Lead line, Costume, Novice)
3. Open performance classes may be divided by:
 - a. Paint type
 - b. Paint sex
 - c. Paint age
4. Grand / Reserve classes must be listed and judged as **separate classes**
5. See:
 - a. Section J – Halter specifications
 - b. Section W – Amateur specifications
 - c. Section Y – Youth specifications

SH-46.13 Exhibitor Entry & Fee Uniformity

1. Exhibitors must be **current ATOA members**
2. Paint owners must be members in good standing
3. Halter and performance entry **may not be mandatory** (except Performance Halter)
4. Entry fees must be **uniform**—no charter discounts
5. ROM-approved shows must be open to all ATOA members

SH-46.14 Balanced Class Offerings

Show committees should offer balanced class structures without discrimination based on age, type, or division.

SH-46.15 Division-Specific Shows

Shows may be limited to a single division (Youth, Amateur, etc.).

SH-46.16 Limitations

1. Minimum **four (4) point-earning classes** required
2. Conflicts with World, Congress, or Conference will not be approved
3. Post-World / Congress weekend approvals are discretionary
4. Use of "Regional," "National," "World," or "Congress" requires Board of Directors approval
5. Distance requirements:
 - a. Minimum **200 highway miles** between same-day shows
 - b. Exceptions allowed for fairs and major livestock shows

SH-46.17 Premium Lists

Premium lists must include:

1. Show Secretary
2. Judge(s)
3. Date, location, time
4. Fees
5. ATOA disclaimer
6. Non-ROM designation
7. Entry closing date
8. Management contact info

Restrictions not printed **may not be enforced**.

47.0 Shows & Contests – Entry Forms (SC 47.01–47.02)

SC-47.01 Optional Items

Entry forms **may** contain:

1. Logo of the charter/club/sponsoring organization
2. Names of the officiating judge(s)

SC-47.02 Required Items

Entry forms **must** contain:

1. Disclaimer: **"Incomplete entry forms may result in loss of ATOA points."**
 2. Clearly labeled areas for the following:
 - a. Back number
 - b. Name of show
 - c. Show date
 - d. ATOA registration number
 - e. Registered name of horse

- f. Owner or lessee ID / membership number
- g. Owner or lessee name
- h. Contact information for owner or lessee
- i. Circle/checkbox fields for:
 - a. Classification
 - b. Sex (Mare / Stallion / Gelding)
 - c. Pattern (Overo / Tobiano / Solid)
 - d. Type (Stock / Hunt / Pleasure / Saddle)

3. Statement: “Only one Paint, Youth, Amateur, or Open exhibitor per form.

Exhibitor Sections Required

Entry forms must provide space to identify the exhibitor by division and list classes entered:

(a) Youth Exhibitor

- 1. Youth name
- 2. ATOA membership number
- 3. Contact information
- 4. Birth date
- 5. Relationship to owner
- 6. Classes entered

(b) Amateur Exhibitor

- 1. Amateur name
- 2. ATOA membership number
- 3. Contact information
- 4. Birth date
- 5. Relationship to owner
- 6. Classes entered

(c) Open Exhibitor

- 1. Exhibitor name
- 2. ATOA membership number
- 3. Contact information
- 4. Classes entered

48.0 Classification of Shows (CS 48.01–48.29)

CS-48.01 Basis of Classification

Shows are classified according to the **actual total number of entries in all ATOA classes**, including qualifying halter (excluding Champion/Reserve Halter), Color, Amateur, Performance, and Youth classes.

CS-48.02 Group Class Counting

Each group in a group class shall be counted as **one (1) entry**.

CS-48.03 Classification Levels

1. **Class A:** 175 or more entries
2. **Class B:** 101-174 entries
3. **Class C:** 51-100 entries
4. **Class D:** 0-50 entries

CS-48.04 Single Judge and Multi-Judge Shows**CS-48.05 Definition**

A multi-judge show consists of separate single-judge shows conducted simultaneously in the same ring on one day or over multiple days. **Separate results packets** must be filed for each judge/show.

CS-48.06 Limitations

ATOA may limit the number of multi-judge or back-to-back multi-judge shows sponsored by the same organization in a calendar year if deemed in the best interest of the Association.

CS-48.07 Office Charges and Awards

Exhibitors in multi-judge shows are competing in multiple shows simultaneously and shall be charged multiple ATOA office charges (one per show/judge). If awards are offered, show management must provide **separate awards for each show/judge**, unless otherwise approved and published.

CS-48.08 No Combining of Classes or Awards

Show management shall not combine qualifying, championship, or complimentary classes from one judge/show with another to create one award. Each show/judge card is a separate entity.

CS-48.09 Show Representatives

A single show representative may cover all shows in a multi-judge event if separate reports are filed, or separate representatives may be used.

CS-48.10 Timed/Scored Events

Timed events scored on points (e.g., Jumpers) may be conducted once with each judge submitting independent scorecards, or separate goes may be required at management's discretion.

CS-48.11 Judge Distance Restriction

A judge shall not judge two (2) ATOA-approved shows within **150 miles** of each other within **30 days**.

CS-48.12 Majority Disqualification Rule

In a multi-judge show, the ring steward shall remove an entry from the arena if the **majority of judges disqualify** the horse.

CS-48.13 Judge Independence

Judges must work independently with no consultation during judging, except consultation may occur regarding whether a **disqualification**, **5-point penalty**, or **3-point penalty** occurred in a scored class, provided a scribe, show manager, ring steward, or designated official is present.

CS-48.14 Jubilee or Color Shows

The Jubilee/Color show provisions in CS-48.14 through CS-48.21 apply only when ATOA approves such shows.

CS-48.15 Hosting Requirement

At least two (2) charters from the same zone must participate together to host a Jubilee/Color Show. Each charter may participate in only one (1) Jubilee/Color show per calendar year.

If there is no Paint charter in a zone, one (1) Jubilee/Color show may be granted to a non-charter organization per zone.

CS-48.16 Judges

Jubilee/Color shows are **three-judge** shows. An ATOA judge may not officiate at more than one Jubilee/Color show annually unless show locations are separated by at least **500 miles**.

CS-48.17 Distance and Combination Limits

Only one Jubilee/Color show may be sanctioned per show date within **250 miles** of another Jubilee/Color show. Jubilee/Color shows may not be combined with other shows unless approved by the Board of Directors.

CS-48.18 Point-Earning Structure

1. Exhibitors shall receive standard ATOA ROM points for each judge's placing (per PARM-61.02, Point Scale). Judges shall place up to seven (7) entries as entries permit. Upon receipt of complete results, exhibitors shall receive one (1) additional set of points based on the **three-judge average card**, calculated by ATOA. Average results may be published.
2. No ROM points shall be awarded for classes with fewer than **three (3) entries**.
3. ROM points shall be awarded for each judge's Grand/Reserve placing and for the Average Card.
4. Average Grand/Reserve Halter Champions receive one additional set of points based on the three-judge average.
5. Grand/Reserve callback rules and point minimums shall be calculated and awarded after results verification by ATOA.
6. Individual and average placings count toward lifetime ROM requirements.

CS-48.19 Management Recommendation

For multi-charter Jubilee/Color shows, ATOA recommends a joint board with at least one representative per participating charter and shared funding arrangements.

CS-48.20 Scheduling and Approval

1. Hosting charters should coordinate with ATOA on judge selection.
2. Applications should be submitted by **December 31** of the year preceding the show.

3. Exceptions may be made for fairs or major events previously approved.
4. ATOA may host a Jubilee show in areas where none are offered.

CS-48.21 Fees

Jubilee fees are assessed per Paint and per entry (see Jubilee Fee Schedule). Fees are due with results submission or within fifteen (15) days of show completion.

CS-48.22 World Championship, Congress, Regional, National & Specialty Events

The provisions in CS-48.22 through CS-48.29 apply only if ATOA holds or approves World Championship, Congress, Regional, National, or specialty events.

CS-48.23 Regional / Congress / National

Regional, Congress, and National show sanctions and fees are handled on an individual basis. Contact ATOA for requirements and fee schedules.

CS-48.24 World Championship Show

1. ATOA shall sanction one (1) show annually as the World Championship Paint Show.
2. A standard class list shall be used, with limited non-point breed-promotion classes as approved.
3. Youth and Amateur divisions shall be offered with appropriate age groups.
4. A four-judge system shall be used. One set of points is awarded per judge, the low score may be dropped for average card purposes, and one set of points is awarded on the average card.
5. World shows may be held outside the United States as deemed appropriate.
6. No points shall be awarded for classes with fewer than three (3) entries. For classes with exactly three (3) entries, awards shall be limited to one (1) point per judge and one (1) point for the average card.

CS-48.25 Special Events & Specialty Shows

Approved on a case-by-case basis. Contact ATOA for requirements.

CS-48.26 Futurity Shows

CS-48.27 Separate Approval Required

Futurities require separate approval using a separate application and fee. Futurity classes held in conjunction with a show must be approved as a separate activity.

A copy of all futurity rules must accompany the application.

CS-48.28 General Rules

1. Futurity classes do not earn ROM points.
2. Money won may be tracked for Futurity awards as established by ATOA.
3. Futurity entries do not count toward the show's total entry classification.
4. Futurity rules may not be restrictive; futurities must be open to all eligible entries.
5. All ATOA rules apply unless specifically stated.

CS-48.29 Judging & Reporting

Futurities may be single or multi-judged. Results and fees must be reported separately from regular show results.

49.0 Show Management, Officials & Conduct (SMC 49.01–49.07)

SMC-49.01 Show Manager and Secretary

The show manager and show secretary must be current Individual (adult) ATOA members in good standing. The show manager is responsible for proper conduct and enforcement of ATOA rules from entries' arrival to departure. A current Rule Book must be available onsite.

SMC-49.02 Show Representative Duties

Show representative requirements and duties include timely reporting, evaluation of officials, and reporting violations or detrimental conduct.

SMC-49.03 Ring Steward

Ring stewards assist the judge without advising and must not confer with judges regarding placings. Ring stewards control ring activity and may request removal of unsafe entries at the judge's request. A person may not serve as ring steward if they or immediate family/animals are still competing at that show.

SMC-49.04 Judges – Eligibility, Conduct, and Responsibilities

Judge eligibility and renewal, conflicts of interest, conduct restrictions, duties (including lameness checks, disqualifications, judges' card integrity, and bit and equipment checks), and penalties and grounds for revocation are governed by Chapter 75 (Judges & Officials).

SMC-49.05 Ribbons and Awards

SMC-49.06 Minimum Placings

If ribbons are offered, they must be offered through at least six (6) placings. Any average-card awards in multi-judge shows must be published on the show bill.

SMC-49.07 Ribbon Colors (U.S.)

- Champion: Blue/Red/Yellow/White (or Pink)
- Reserve: Red/Yellow/White (or Pink)
- 1st Blue; 2nd Red; 3rd Yellow; 4th White; 5th Pink; 6th Green World shows may award additional placings.

50.0 Show Results (SR 50.01–50.03)

SR-50.01 Required Results Packet

Results must be completed on official ATOA forms and include:

1. Cover sheet
2. Entry forms

3. Results lists (up to 7 placings per class per judge)
4. Master list of all Paints entered with back numbers
5. Original judge's cards (no copies)
6. Class list
7. Judge evaluation forms

SR-50.02 Filing Deadline and Penalties

Results must be filed within **15 days** of show completion with all required fees. Late penalties: \$25 per judge after 15 days; \$100 per judge after 30 days. Delinquent shows may be published and future approvals may be denied.

SR-50.03 Corrections Window

Corrections may be requested from show date through **December 31** of the current show year only.

51.0 Show Operation Standards (SOS 51.01–51.17)

All ATOA-approved shows, special events, ranch/performance events, and affiliated programs must operate in strict compliance with the following standards to ensure fairness, integrity, safety, and professional administration.

SOS-51.01 General Compliance

- A. All ATOA-approved events must operate under current ATOA Rules & Regulations.
- B. Show management is responsible for ensuring compliance by exhibitors, officials, volunteers, and staff.
- C. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, loss of approval status, fines, or suspension.

SOS-51.02 Approval Requirements

- A. Written approval must be obtained from ATOA prior to advertising the event as ATOA-approved.
- B. Approval does not carry over year to year and must be obtained for each event.
- C. Event applications must include:
 1. Proposed date(s)
 2. Location
 3. Judges list
 4. Show secretary information
 5. Class list
 6. Proof of insurance (if required)

SOS-51.03 Show Management Responsibilities

Show Management shall:

- A. Hire only ATOA-approved judges unless otherwise authorized.
- B. Utilize a qualified show secretary trained in ATOA procedures.

- C. Maintain accurate entry records and class results.
- D. Submit official results and required fees to ATOA within **14 calendar days** of event completion.
- E. Ensure appropriate stabling, footing, and arena safety.
- F. Maintain order and professionalism at all times.

SOS-51.04 Judge Standards

- A. Judges must be current and in good standing with ATOA.
- B. Judges shall officiate without bias or conflict of interest.
- C. Judges may not judge:
 - 1. Immediate family members
 - 2. Horses owned, trained, or exhibited by themselves within 12 months
 - 3. Horses in which they hold financial interest
- D. Restricted judges may be hired for specific divisions if approved by ATOA.

SOS-51.05 Show Secretary Standards

- A. The Show Secretary is responsible for:
 - 1. Verifying membership status
 - 2. Confirming horse registration eligibility
 - 3. Accurate class tabulation
 - 4. Maintaining entry records
 - 5. Submitting official results
- B. All tabulation errors must be corrected prior to submission.
- C. Knowingly falsifying records constitutes grounds for disciplinary action.

SOS-51.06 Financial Accountability

- A. All ATOA fees collected must be itemized and submitted with the official show report.
- B. Financial transparency is required for incentive or payout programs.
- C. Any misrepresentation of funds may result in immediate suspension pending investigation.

SOS-51.07 Animal Welfare & Conduct

- A. All exhibitors must comply with ATOA Inhumane Treatment Rules (see applicable section).
- B. Abuse, unsportsmanlike conduct, or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
- C. Show management has authority to remove any individual posing a safety risk.

SOS-51.08 Drug & Medication Policy

- A. ATOA reserves the right to conduct random drug testing.
- B. Horses must comply with any declared medication guidelines.
- C. Refusal to submit to testing constitutes an automatic violation.

SOS-51.09 Facility & Safety Requirements

- A. Adequate arena footing must be maintained.
- B. Safe fencing, gates, and warm-up areas must be provided.
- C. Emergency contact procedures must be accessible onsite.
- D. Events must comply with local and state regulations.

SOS-51.10 Reporting & Records Retention

- A. Show records must be retained by show management for a minimum of **24 months**.
- B. ATOA reserves the right to audit show records at any time.
- C. Discrepancies may trigger a formal review by the Rules & Ethics Committee.

SOS-51.11 Disciplinary Authority

- A. The ATOA Board of Directors and/or Rules & Ethics Committee retains authority to:
 - 1. Issue warnings
 - 2. Assess fines
 - 3. Suspend approval status
 - 4. Revoke privileges
 - 5. Initiate formal investigation proceedings
- B. Appeals must be submitted in writing within 10 business days.

SOS-51.12 Branding & Representation

- A. The official ATOA logo must be displayed in show materials for approved events.
- B. Events may not misrepresent affiliation or endorsement beyond granted approval.
- C. Unauthorized use of ATOA branding is prohibited.

SOS-51.13 Insurance & Liability

- A. ATOA may require proof of liability insurance naming ATOA as additionally insured.
- B. ATOA assumes no responsibility for loss, injury, or damage at approved events.

SOS-51.14 Judge Assignment Distance Restriction

SOS-51.15 Distance / Timing Limitation

A judge shall not officiate at two (2) ATOA-approved shows located within **one hundred fifty (150) highway miles** of each other within **thirty (30) calendar days**, regardless of sponsor, charter, or show classification.

SOS-51.16 Measurement Standard

Distance shall be measured by the most direct reasonable highway route between show locations.

SOS-51.17 Exception Authority

ATOA may grant an exception only under **documented emergency circumstances** (e.g., illness or last-minute judge replacement), provided the substitution is reported to the ATOA office immediately and approved.

52.0 Judge Geographic Limitation (JGL 52.01–52.04)

JGL-52.01 Exclusive Geographic Restriction

A judge shall not officiate at two (2) ATOA-approved shows located within **one hundred fifty (150) highway miles** of each other within **thirty (30) calendar days**.

This provision shall constitute the **sole geographic limitation** on judging assignments for ATOA-approved shows.

JGL-52.02 Measurement Standard

Distance shall be measured using the most direct reasonable highway route between the physical locations of the shows.

JGL-52.03 Supersession Clause

This section **supersedes and replaces** any other rule, policy, or guideline that imposes geographic, state, provincial, regional, or mileage-based restrictions on judges, including but not limited to:

- Limits on the number of shows judged within a state, province, or country
- Restrictions based on prior-year judging history by location
- Any conflicting distance or location provisions elsewhere in the Rule Book

JGL-52.04 Emergency Exception

ATOA may grant an exception **only in documented emergency circumstances**, such as sudden illness, injury, or last-minute judge cancellation, provided:

1. The substitution is reported to the ATOA office immediately; and
2. Approval is granted by ATOA prior to or as soon as practicable after the show.

53.0 Entries (ERA 53.01–53.08)

ERA-53.01 Entries

ERA-53.02 Eligibility

1. Eligible Horses

Only **Paint horses properly registered with the American Tobiano Overo Association (ATOA)** may enter and compete in ATOA-approved shows and classes.

2. Proof of Registration

Exhibitors must be able to prove registration by presenting one of the following:

- a. (a) Original ATOA Registration Certificate;
- b. (b) Photocopy of both front and back of the Registration Certificate;

- c. (c) Official ATOA Field Representative Conditional Registration Certificate or copy thereof.

Show Committees **must request and verify proof of registration** at the time entries are accepted.

3. Unnamed or Pending Horses

No entry listing a Paint as “**unnamed**” or “**pending**” shall be accepted.

4. Correct Entry Identification

Every entry must be made under the horse's **full registered ATOA name and registration number**, exactly as shown on the Registration Certificate or Conditional Registration Certificate.

5. Fines – Show Committee / Charter

A fine **per animal** may be assessed against any Show Committee or Charter that allows a Paint to enter without proper registration documentation.

6. Fines – Owner / Exhibitor

A fine **per animal** may be assessed against any owner or exhibitor who allows a Paint to enter without proper registration documentation.

7. Fines – Membership Documentation

A fine **per membership** may be assessed against any Show Committee or Charter that allows an exhibitor or owner to enter without proper membership documentation.

8. Disqualification for Lack of Registration

Any Paint that is unregistered or for which proof of registration has not been furnished shall be **eliminated from the show results**, and placings shall be adjusted by the ATOA Office.

9. ATOA Authority

ATOA reserves the right to disqualify any “**unnamed**” or “**pending**” entry from competition.

ERA-53.03 Registration Certificate Inspection

1. Show management must inspect the Registration Certificate (or approved copy) for each Paint entered in an approved class.
2. Entries must be made in the name of the **recorded owner or lessee**.
3. A **Lease Certificate** must be inspected for all Paints entered under a lease.

ERA-53.04 Membership Card Inspection

1. Membership cards must be inspected for all recorded owners listed on the Registration Certificate.
2. All lessees must present **current ATOA memberships**.
3. Each exhibitor's membership must be verified.

ERA-53.05 Relationship to Owner

1. An exhibitor who is **not the recorded owner** of the Paint must:
 - a. Complete a **Family Relationship Notification Form**, and
 - b. Compete **only in Open Division classes**, unless a valid lease is filed with the ATOA office prior to the show and the exhibitor presents an official Lease Certificate.

ERA-53.06 Exhibitor Responsibility

1. Entry forms must be completed **legibly and accurately**, exactly as shown on the Registration Certificate.

Incomplete or inaccurate forms may result in **loss of ATOA points**.

2. All exhibitors associated with a Paint must be listed on the entry form(s).
3. Exhibitors are responsible for their own errors and those of their agents.
4. **Misrepresentation or Substitution**

Misrepresentation of a Paint's name, type, registration number, ownership, or substitution of a horse shall result in:

- a. Forfeiture of all ribbons, trophies, cash prizes, or awards; and
 - b. Potential additional disciplinary action.
5. Entries must be made under:
 - a. The Paint's complete registered ATOA name and number; and
 - b. The name of the owner or lessee of record.
 6. Submission of an entry constitutes agreement that the exhibitor, owner, lessee, and Paint are subject to:
 - a. The ATOA Bylaws and Rules; and
 - b. The local rules of the show.
 7. Paint owners of record who exhibit at ATOA-approved shows must be **current ATOA members** or purchase membership.

ERA-53.07 Cancellation and Withdrawal of Entries

Approved shows may adopt their own refund policies for cancellations or withdrawals, provided such policies are clearly stated in the premium list or show bill.

ERA-53.08 Official Entries ("Shown and Judged")

To be counted as an official entry in a class, a Paint must:

- Be in the arena when the gate is closed; and
- Remain in the ring until excused by the judge.

54.0 Reasonable Accommodation for Challenged Exhibitors (RACE 54.01–54.04)

RACE-54.01 Policy Statement

The American Tobiano Overo Association (ATOA) respects all members and encourages participation.

A member whose participation is impaired by a physical or mental disability may petition for **reasonable accommodation**, provided:

- The accommodation does **not create an unfair competitive advantage**; and
- The safety of all participants is maintained.

RACE-54.02 Petition Process

1. The member or legal guardian must submit a written **Application for Reasonable Accommodation Certificate**, including:
 - a. (a) Identification of the activity for which accommodation is requested;
 - b. (b) Reason accommodation is needed;
 - c. (c) Medical validation of the disability by a healthcare provider;
 - d. (d) Description of the accommodation sought.
2. The applicable filing fee must accompany the application (see Fee Schedule).
3. Any changes to an approved Certificate must be requested in writing.
4. Certificates may be **revoked at any time for cause**.

RACE-54.03 Application and Certificate Schedule

1. Applications must be submitted **no later than August 31** for the following show year.
2. Certificates are valid from **January 1 through December 31** of the approved year.
3. Applications must be submitted **annually**.

RACE-54.04 Approval and Use

- a. Upon approval, a Certificate shall be issued. A copy must accompany the exhibitor's entries; and
 - b. A copy must be provided to the judge(s) at each ATOA-sanctioned event.
2. The Certificate shall list all approved **adaptive equipment and compensatory aids** permitted during competition.

55.0 Show Operations, Conduct & Enforcement (SOCE 55.01–55.08)

SOCE-55.01 ATOA Office Charges

SOCE-55.02 Office Charges

1. Every ATOA-approved show shall collect from exhibitors, or pay from show proceeds, a **per-head, per-judge (per show) office fee**, as established in the Fee Schedule.
 - a. Back-to-back shows and multi-judge shows shall incur **multiple fees** based on the number of judges and/or shows.
 - b. Multi-judge back-to-back shows require a fee **for each show**.
 - c. ATOA-sanctioned futurity shows require **separate office fees**.
2. All office charges must be **submitted with the show results**.
3. **No show results shall be processed or tabulated** until all required office charges are paid in full.

SOCE-55.03 General Conduct: Exhibitors & Officials

1. Any person acting, inciting, or permitting conduct that is unsportsmanlike, unethical, dishonest, abusive, improper, or prejudicial to the best interests of ATOA shall be reported and may be subject to disciplinary action.

2. An exhibitor may request, through the Ring Steward or Show Official, to speak with a judge regarding a decision.
 - a. Such discussion must occur **in the presence of a show official**.
 - b. **Fraternization between judges and exhibitors is strictly prohibited** during the show.
3. During a multi-day show, fraternization between judges and exhibitors is prohibited **both on and off the show grounds**, including public venues.

SOCE-55.04 Stallions

1. Persons **eighteen (18) years of age and under** are prohibited from showing **colts or stallions of any age** in any class.
2. For show purposes:
 - a. A **colt** is an unaltered male under four (4) years of age.
 - b. An **altered male** is a gelding, regardless of age.

SOCE-55.05 Combination of Types and Seats

1. All classes are open to all Paint types, subject only to **equipment restrictions** outlined in class specifications.
2. **Type** refers to conformation; **Seat** refers to equipment used. Examples:

Class Name	Required Seat
Hunter Under Saddle	Hunter Seat
English Pleasure	Hunter or Saddle Seat
English Pleasure – Hunter	Hunter Seat
English Pleasure – Saddle	Saddle Seat
Western Pleasure	Stock Seat

3. No discrimination shall occur based on riding style when classes are combined.

SOCE-55.06 Exhibitor, Groom, Header & Tailer Appearance

SOCE-55.07 Attire

1. Proper attire is required for all exhibitors and attendants.
 - a. Protective headgear is **mandatory** in all jumping classes, except Trail, Jumping In-Hand, Hunter In-Hand, and Coon Jump.
 - b. Protective headgear is **recommended** in all applicable classes.
 - c. English classes prohibit western attire of any kind. d Grooms/attendants/headers must wear collared shirts, long pants, and closed- toe shoes; no casual wear.
 - e. Tailers must wear suitable English or dress attire.
2. Show Committees may bar entries for improper attire. Judges may penalize improper attire; **ASTM/SEI protective headgear is permitted in all classes without penalty**.

SOCE-55.08 Entry Numbers

1. Numbers are assigned to **horses**, not exhibitors.
 - a. Halter: front hip or exhibitor's back
 - b. Showmanship / Saddle Seat / Bareback: exhibitor's back
 - c. Driving: both sides of vehicle shafts
 - d. Western & English (except Saddle Seat): two numbers, one on each side of saddle or pad

PART VIII — EQUIPMENT & COMPLIANCE

56.0 Shoeing Regulations (SHOE 56.01–56.04)

SHOE-56.01 General

1. Horses may be shown barefoot or shod.
2. Owners or lessees are responsible for compliance.
3. Horses must conform to shoeing rules for their type.
4. Hoof length disputes may be protested per SADDLE-57.06 (Protests & Controversies); violations result in disqualification and forfeiture of awards.

SHOE-56.02 Stock Type

- Toe length ≤ 4.5 inches including shoe/pad
- Shoe weight ≤ 12 ounces
- Wedge pads permitted

SHOE-56.03 Hunter Type

- Same as Stock Type

SHOE-56.04 Pleasure Type

- Machine-made or handmade shoes permitted
- Maximum hoof length: **5 inches**
- Foreign materials prohibited

57.0 Saddle Type & Equipment (SADDLE 57.01–57.06)

SADDLE-57.01 Saddle Type

- No limitations on toe length, shoe weight, pads, or bands

SADDLE-57.02 Equipment Breakage

1. Western classes: equipment failure is eliminated unless entry continues uninterrupted.
2. English/Driving classes: up to **7 minutes total** may be granted for repairs.
3. Timing and enforcement rest with Ringmaster or Judge.

SADDLE-57.03 Gate Holds

1. Exhibitors requiring tack changes must notify Ring Steward in advance.
2. Once a class is called, all entries must enter within **two (2) minutes**.

SADDLE-57.04 Falls

1. A rider has fallen when separation requires remounting.
2. A horse has fallen when shoulder and haunch touch ground.

3. Falls result in **disqualification**, unless otherwise stated.

SADDLE-57.05 Inhumane Treatment

1. Inhumane treatment anywhere on show grounds is prohibited.
2. Show officials must report violations immediately to ATOA.

SADDLE-57.06 Protests & Controversies

1. Protesters must be ATOA members in good standing.
2. Written protests must be filed within **12 hours**.
3. Show Committee hearings occur within **12 hours**.
4. Appeals must be filed within **30 days**.
5. Board of Directors decisions are final.

58.0 Drugs & Medications (DRUGS 58.01–58.05)

DRUGS-58.01 Purpose

To ensure natural performance and protect horse welfare.

DRUGS-58.02 Forbidden Substances

Includes:

- ARCI Class 1 & 2 substances
- Stimulants, depressants, tranquilizers
- Anabolic steroids
- Unauthorized NSAIDs
- Metabolites or masking agents

DRUGS-58.03 Conditionally Permitted Therapeutics

Permitted only with:

- Filed medication report
- 24-hour withdrawal
- Veterinarian validation

DRUGS-58.04 Permitted Therapeutics

Includes:

Phenylbutazone, Flunixin, Ketoprofen, Dexamethasone, Lasix, Omeprazole, etc.

DRUGS-58.05 Responsibility & Enforcement

1. Owners, trainers, and exhibitors are **responsible parties**.
2. Involved parties aiding administration are subject to discipline.
3. Laboratory integrity is presumed valid.

4. Refusal to submit specimens is grounds for disqualification and suspension.
5. Penalties may include suspension, fines, forfeiture of awards, and certificate seizure.

59.0 Surgical Alteration (SURG)

1. Prohibited if affecting performance or appearance.
2. Judges may penalize artificial tail alteration.

60.0 Disqualifications (DIS 60.01)

DIS-60.01 Disqualifications

Entries shall be disqualified for:

- Off-pattern or off-course
- No-time or no-score
- Obstacle refusal or knockdown

Disqualified entries **count as official entries**.

PART IX — POINTS & AWARDS

61.0 Points, Awards & Records of Merit (PARM 61.01–61.08)

Chapters 61 and 62 incorporate the 2027 Rule Book Amendment – Sections 61 & 62 (Points, Awards, Register of Merit and Lifetime Achievement Awards). The existing ATOA point scale and Youth award structure are retained.

PARM-61.01 Point System

A uniform point system shall be maintained by the American Tobiano Overo Association (ATOA) for eligible Paint Horses competing for ATOA points, awards and lifetime achievement recognition.

PARM-61.02 Point Scale

Points shall be awarded only to qualifying Paints entered in approved point-earning classes and events, except where otherwise provided by the ATOA Rule Book.

Official Entries	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
8 or more	6	5	4	3	2	1
7	5	4	3	2	1	0
6	4	3	2	1	0	0
5	3	2	1	0	0	0
4	2	1	0	0	0	0
3	1	0	0	0	0	0
2 or fewer	0	0	0	0	0	0

No class with fewer than three (3) official entries shall receive ATOA ROM points, although the class may be held and judged.

PARM-61.03 Champion and Reserve Champion Halter Points

- A. Champion at Halter of each eligible sex and type division shall receive four (4) points when the minimum-entry requirements of the ATOA Rule Book are satisfied.
- B. Reserve Champion at Halter shall receive three (3) points under the same qualifying conditions.

PARM-61.04 Point-Earning Events

Only points earned in ATOA-approved and otherwise qualifying classes or events shall be credited toward ROMs, Superior awards, Championships, Legion of Merit awards or Supreme Champion awards. Existing class eligibility and non-point-earning restrictions (PARM-61.07 and PARM-61.08) remain in force unless separately amended.

PARM-61.05 Division and Registry Separation

Open, Amateur and Youth award records shall be maintained separately. Regular Registry and Solid Registry achievement tracks shall also remain separate. Points earned in one registry division shall not

be combined with points earned in another registry division for championship or lifetime achievement calculations.

PARM-61.06 Official Records and Verification

ATOA shall maintain the official point and award record. All awards are subject to verification, audit and correction by ATOA. Clerical error, ineligible participation, rule violation or disciplinary action may result in correction, withholding or revocation of points or awards.

PARM-61.07 Eligible Events

1. Performance classes titled Championship or Stake receive regular ROM points.
2. Trail classes shown under English equipment or mixed equipment receive ROM points provided no seat restriction is imposed unless both seats are offered.
3. ROM points will not be awarded to restricted English rail classes unless both Hunter Seat and Saddle Seat divisions are offered.
4. All ROM-point-earning shows must be open to all ATOA members in good standing.

PARM-61.08 Non-Point-Earning Events

The following do not receive ROM points:

1. Maiden, Novice, Limited, or restricted win classes.
2. Combined classes (except Drive & Ride).
3. Classes altered from official ATOA specifications.
4. Gender-restricted riding classes, except Ladies Side Saddle.
5. Youth or Amateur Owner classes not conforming to division rules.
6. Costume and Youth Lead Line classes.

62.0 Registers of Merit (ROM 62.01–62.09)

ROM-62.01 Register of Merit (ROM)

The Register of Merit recognizes achievement in an individual approved event. A Paint shall earn an ATOA ROM upon accumulating a minimum of ten (10) qualifying points in one approved event. Existing event eligibility requirements remain applicable.

ROM-62.02 Superior Event Award

A Paint shall earn an ATOA Superior Event Award upon accumulating fifty (50) qualifying points in one approved event. A Superior Event Award recognizes advanced and sustained achievement within that individual event.

ROM-62.03 ATOA Champion – Open and Amateur

To earn the ATOA Champion title in either the Open or Amateur division, a horse must satisfy all of the following requirements:

1. Earn a minimum of fifty (50) total qualifying points.
2. Earn at least fifteen (15) Halter points.

3. Earn at least twenty-five (25) Performance points.
4. Earn qualifying Performance points in at least two (2) performance categories.
5. Compete at a minimum of five (5) ATOA-approved shows under at least five (5) judges.

ROM-62.04 Legion of Merit – Open and Amateur

To earn the ATOA Legion of Merit, a horse must satisfy all of the following requirements:

1. Earn a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) total qualifying points.
2. Earn at least twenty-five (25) Halter points.
3. Earn at least one hundred (100) Performance points.
4. Earn at least three (3) Registers of Merit (ROMs).
5. Earn at least one (1) Superior Event Award.
6. Earn qualifying Performance points in at least three (3) performance categories.

ROM-62.05 ATOA Supreme Champion – Open and Amateur

The ATOA Supreme Champion shall represent the highest lifetime achievement level established under this chapter. To earn the title, a horse must satisfy all of the following requirements:

1. Earn a minimum of three hundred (300) total qualifying points.
2. Earn at least forty (40) Halter points.
3. Earn at least two hundred twenty-five (225) Performance points.
4. Earn at least five (5) Registers of Merit (ROMs).
5. Earn at least two (2) Superior Event Awards.
6. Earn qualifying Performance points in at least four (4) performance categories.

ROM-62.06 Separate Award Records

- A. Open and Amateur achievement records shall be calculated and maintained separately.
- B. Regular Registry and Solid Registry achievement records shall be calculated and maintained separately.
- C. Points shall not be transferred or combined between divisions or registry tracks for purposes of satisfying an award requirement.
- D. A horse may earn the same title independently in an eligible separate division when all requirements for that division are satisfied.

ROM-62.07 Youth Awards

Existing ATOA Youth title and award requirements shall remain unchanged by this amendment. Youth ROM, Superior Event, Youth Champion, Superior Youth Champion and other Youth award requirements shall continue to be governed by the applicable Youth Program rules (Chapter 73 (Youth Program)) unless separately amended.

ROM-62.08 Final Authority

All point tabulations, award determinations, eligibility decisions and interpretations under Chapters 61 and 62 rest with ATOA. The Association may audit official records and correct errors consistent with the ATOA Rule Book and duly adopted amendments.

ROM-62.09 Performance Categories

For purposes of the ATOA Champion, Legion of Merit and Supreme Champion requirements, approved performance categories include, but are not limited to:

- **Category I:** Halter
- **Category II:** Speed Events (Barrels, Poles, Stakes, Ranch Sorting, Team Penning)
- **Category III:** Ranch & Utility (Trail, Ranch Riding, Reining, Driving)
- **Category IV:** Hunter & Jumping
- **Category V:** Cow Horse & Roping
- **Category VI:** Pleasure (Western, Ranch, Hunter Under Saddle)
- **Category VII:** Longe Line & In-Hand Trail
- **Category VIII:** Working Ranch Horse
- **Category IX:** Mounted Shooting
- **Category X:** Dressage
- **Category XI:** Competitive Trail Horse
- **Category XII:** Specialty Classes

PART X — SPECIAL PROGRAMS & DISCIPLINE

63.0 Ranch & Performance Special Events (RPSE 63.01–63.06)

RPSE-63.01 Approval Required

Organizations, clubs, or individuals wishing to stage or sponsor ATOA Ranch and/or Performance Special Events (including but not limited to team penning cutting, reining, team roping, mounted shooting, dressage, speed events, and similar competitions) must obtain prior approval from ATOA if the results of such events are to be recognized and points awarded.

Approval does **not** carry over from year to year and must be obtained for **each individual event**. Unless otherwise specified herein, all applicable ATOA Show Rules, regulations, and fees apply to ATOA-approved Ranch and Performance Events.

RPSE-63.02 Event Structure

- A. A Ranch/Performance Special Event may be held on one (1) or more consecutive days.
- B. A maximum of **two (2) judges** may be in the arena at any given time.
- C. Restricted or specialty judges may be utilized for specific classes when approved by ATOA.
- D. Geographic and scheduling limitations for Ranch/Performance Events shall be governed **exclusively** by the ATOA **150-mile / 30-day rule**, which shall be the sole geographic restriction applicable to these events.

RPSE-63.03 Maximum Event Categories

A Ranch/Performance Event may include classes from **no more than three (3) event categories** listed below, unless an exception is granted.

Exception: Upon written request, the ATOA Show Office may approve individual classes for ATOA points. Approved classes must use ATOA-approved judges and comply fully with the ATOA Rule Book

RPSE-63.04 Approved Event Categories

Category I – Halter & In-Hand

Halter, Ranch Horse Conformation, Color Class, Longe Line (Yearling & 2YO), Longe Line (3YO & Older)

Category II – Speed Events

Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Stake Race, Goat Tying

Category III – Ranch & Performance

Reining, Ranch Reining, Western Riding, Ranch Riding, Trail, Ranch Trail, In-Hand Trail (Yearling & 2YO), In-Hand Trail (3YO & Older), Utility Driving

Category IV – English Over Fences

Hunter Hack, Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences, Jumping, Preliminary Working Hunter, Working Hunter

Category V – Cattle & Roping Events

Breakaway Roping, Tie-Down Roping, Steer Stopping, Team Roping (Heading & Heeling), Timed Team Roping, Ranch Sorting, Team Penning, Cutting, Ranch Cutting, Working Cow Horse, Limited Ranch Cow Work

Category VI – Rail & Pleasure

Hunter Under Saddle, Pleasure Driving, Western Pleasure, Ranch Pleasure, Ranch Rail Pleasure

Category VII – Horsemanship & Showmanship

Showmanship, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Horsemanship

Category VIII – Ranch Horse Division

Ranch Horse Conformation, Ranch Pleasure, Ranch Trail, Ranch Reining, Limited Ranch Cow Work, Ranch Riding, Ranch Boxing, Ranch Rail Pleasure

Category IX – Mounted Shooting**Category X – Dressage****RPSE-63.05 Divisions Offered**

Classes may be offered in any approved division, including but not limited to: Open, Solid Paint-Bred, Amateur, Youth, Green, Novice Amateur, Novice Youth, Amateur Walk/Trot, and Youth Walk/Trot.

RPSE-63.06 Governing Rules

All other applicable provisions of the General Show Rules and Article 24 (Points & Awards) shall apply to Ranch and Performance Events unless specifically modified herein.

64.0 Single-Judge Shows (SJS 64.01–64.02)

SJS-64.01 Definition

A Single-Judge Show is limited to **one (1) judge** officiating in the arena at any given time and may be held on one or more consecutive days.

SJS-64.02 Clinics

A Single-Judge Show may offer a clinic in conjunction with the show, provided the clinic is not held in conjunction with an ATOA-approved point-earning event. Clinicians must be approved by the ATOA Show Office.

65.0 Multiple-Judge Shows (MJS 65.01–65.05)

MJS-65.01 Definition

A Multiple-Judge Show is a show in which **two (2) judges** officiate, either simultaneously or independently, as approved by ATOA.

MJS-65.02 Sponsorship & Approval

- A. Multiple-Judge Shows must be sponsored and operated by an official ATOA Regional Club unless no such club exists in the region.
- B. Only show applications deviating from standard ATOA rules require review by the ATOA Board of Directors.

MJS-65.03 Judging Procedures

- A. Judges must work independently with no consultation during judging, except to confirm disqualifications or penalty assessments in scored classes, and only in the presence of a designated official.
- B. Each entry in a Multiple-Judge Show shall be considered an entry under **each judge**, and all applicable office and show fees shall apply accordingly.
- C. Grand and Reserve Champion results shall not be announced until all judges have completed judging for that division.
- D. Individual runs for each judge may be required in timed events at the discretion of show management.
- E. Halter and rail performance classes may be judged by one primary judge, with ancillary judges permitted for individual-work classes, provided such assignments are published prior to the show.

MJS-65.04 Clinics with Multiple-Judge Shows

Multiple-Judge Shows may offer clinics in conjunction with the show, with one or both judges serving as clinicians. Such shows are not required to meet minimum class requirements when combined with an approved clinic.

MJS-65.05 Geographic Limitation

The **150-mile / 30-day rule** shall be the sole geographic and scheduling limitation applicable to Multiple-Judge Shows.

66.0 Disciplinary Procedures & Appeals (DPA 66.01–66.13)

DPA-66.01 Authority & Scope

- A. The American Tobiano Overo Association (ATOA) has the authority to investigate, hear, and discipline any member, exhibitor, owner, lessee, trainer, judge, show official, charter, or affiliated party for violations of the ATOA Articles, Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, or Codes of Conduct.
- B. Disciplinary authority applies to actions occurring:
 - 1. At any ATOA-approved or ATOA-sponsored show, event, or activity;
 - 2. At any event held in conjunction with an ATOA-approved show;
 - 3. On show grounds, including barns, warm-up areas, parking areas, and facilities;
 - 4. In connection with ATOA business, governance, communications, records, or programs.
- C. The Association retains jurisdiction regardless of whether the accused party is a current member at the time disciplinary action is initiated.

DPA-66.02 Grounds for Disciplinary Action

Disciplinary action may be taken for, but is not limited to, the following:

- A. Violation of any ATOA rule, regulation, or policy;

- B. Unsportsmanlike conduct, including abusive, unethical, dishonest, threatening, or disruptive behavior;
- C. Inhumane or abusive treatment of any equine;
- D. Drug, medication, or prohibited substance violations'. Falsification or misrepresentation of registration, ownership, breeding, show entry, or results documentation;
- F. Failure to comply with show management, ATOA officials, veterinarians, judges, or representatives;
- G. Refusal to submit to inspection, examination, testing, or investigation as required;
- H. Nonpayment of fees, fines, penalties, or financial obligations owed to ATOA;
- I. Conduct detrimental to the best interests, reputation, or integrity of ATOA;
- J. Violation of any suspension, probation, or disciplinary condition previously imposed;
- K. Conduct resulting in disciplinary action by another recognized equine association for cruelty, fraud, or ethical violations (reciprocal discipline).

DPA-66.03 Complaints & Initiation of Proceedings

- A. Complaints may be initiated by:
 - 1. Show management or officials;
 - 2. Judges, stewards, veterinarians, or ATOA representatives;
 - 3. Members in good standing;
 - 4. The ATOA Board of Directors on its own motion.
- B. Complaints must be submitted in writing and should include:
 - 1. Name(s) of the accused party;
 - 2. Date, time, and location of the alleged violation;
 - 3. Description of the alleged conduct or rule violation;
 - 4. Supporting documentation, if available.
- C. Anonymous complaints may be reviewed at the discretion of ATOA but are not guaranteed action.

DPA-66.04 Investigation

- A. Upon receipt of a complaint, ATOA may conduct a preliminary investigation to determine whether sufficient grounds exist to proceed.
- B. ATOA may request statements, documents, veterinary reports, laboratory results, photographs, videos, or other evidence.
- C. Failure to cooperate with an investigation may itself constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

DPA-66.05 Temporary Measures

- A. Pending investigation or hearing, the Owner or Board of Directors may impose temporary measures, including but not limited to:
 - 1. Temporary suspension of membership privileges;
 - 2. Temporary suspension of show participation;

3. Temporary withholding of points, awards, or registrations;
 4. Temporary suspension of judges' cards or official credentials.
- B. Temporary measures are precautionary and do not constitute a final determination of guilt.

DPA-66.06 Notice of Charges

- A. If formal charges are pursued, written notice shall be provided to the accused party, which shall include:
1. The specific rule(s) alleged to have been violated;
 2. A summary of the factual basis for the charges;
 3. The potential range of penalties;
 4. Information regarding hearing rights and procedures.
- B. Notice shall be sent to the last known address or email on file with ATOA.

DPA-66.07 Hearings

- A. Hearings shall be conducted by:
1. The Board of Directors; or
 2. A duly appointed Disciplinary or Hearing Committee.
- B. The accused party shall have the right to:
1. Appear personally or by written submission;
 2. Present evidence and witnesses;
 3. Respond to the allegations.
- C. Hearings may be conducted in person, by electronic means, or by written record, at the discretion of ATOA.
- D. Formal rules of evidence do not apply; the committee shall consider all relevant and credible information.

DPA-66.08 Decisions

- A. Decisions shall be made by majority vote of the hearing body.
- B. Written findings shall include:
1. Determination of whether a violation occurred;
 2. Rule(s) violated;
 3. Penalty imposed, if any.
- C. Decisions shall be final unless appealed pursuant to DPA-66.10.

DPA-66.09 Penalties

Penalties may include one or more of the following:

- A. Warning or reprimand;
- B. Fines or monetary penalties;
- C. Probation with conditions;

- D. Suspension of membership, privileges, points, awards, or credentials;
- E. Revocation of membership, judges' card, or charter status;
- F. Disqualification of horses, forfeiture of awards, points, monies, or titles;
- G. Ineligibility to participate in ATOA events for a specified period;
- H. Any other sanction deemed appropriate by ATOA.

DPA-66.10 Appeals

- A. A party disciplined under this Article may appeal a final decision by submitting a written appeal to the ATOA office within **thirty (30) days** of the decision date.
- B. The appeal must state the specific grounds for appeal, which may include:
 - 1. Procedural error;
 - 2. New evidence not reasonably available at the time of the hearing;
 - 3. Excessive or inappropriate penalty.
- C. Appeals shall be reviewed by the ATOA Board of Directors or a designated Appeals Committee.
- D. The decision on appeal shall be final and binding.

DPA-66.11 Reciprocal Discipline

ATOA may recognize and enforce disciplinary actions imposed by other recognized equine associations for violations involving cruelty, fraud, drug violations, or unethical conduct.

DPA-66.12 Confidentiality

Disciplinary proceedings, investigations, and records shall be confidential to the extent permitted by law and Association policy.

DPA-66.13 No Waiver

Failure of ATOA to enforce any provision of this Article in a particular instance shall not constitute a waiver of the right to enforce such provision in the future.

PART XI — DIVISIONS & COMPETITION

67.0 Amateur & Novice Amateur Divisions (GAD 67.01–67.05)

General Amateur Division

GAD-67.01 Purpose

The Amateur Division is established to provide fair competition for non-professional exhibitors meeting eligibility requirements as defined herein.

GAD-67.02 Recognized Amateur Divisions

The following divisions are recognized:

1. Amateur (19–44)
2. Masters Amateur (45 & Over)
3. Novice Amateur
4. Amateur Walk-Trot (19–44)
5. Masters Walk-Trot (45 & Over)

Age is determined as of January 1 of the current show year.

GAD-67.03 Eligibility Requirements

All Amateur exhibitors must:

- A. Hold a current Amateur status card.
- B. Meet Amateur eligibility criteria (see GAD-67.04).
- C. Meet ownership requirements when points or awards are sought.
- D. Be a member in good standing.

Amateur Eligibility & Ownership

GAD-67.04 General Eligibility

Amateur eligibility shall conform to remuneration and professional status restrictions established by the Association.

GAD-67.05 Ownership Requirements (Points & Awards Eligibility)

For points, titles, or year-end awards:

The horse must be owned by:

- The exhibitor; or
- Immediate family; or
- Solely owned/family-owned corporation, ranch, or farm.

Failure to meet ownership requirements results in:

- Loss of points only
- Placings remain unchanged

- Entry counts unaffected

Leased horses permitted per Association lease rules.

68.0 General Show Rules (GSR 68.01–68.14)

A. Eligibility to Show

1. ATOA-approved shows must be open to all ATOA members in good standing.
2. All exhibitors and recorded owners must possess a current ATOA membership to compete in ATOA-approved classes.
3. No exhibitor may be required to be a member of any organization other than ATOA to compete in approved classes.
4. Show management must inspect:
 - a. Current membership card (physical or digital)
 - b. Temporary membership confirmation
 - c. Horse registration certificate (original or legible copy)

1. Age of Exhibitor

- Minimum age to exhibit is five (5) years, except for Leadline.
- Exhibitor age is determined as of **January 1** and remains unchanged throughout the calendar year.

2. Stallion Exhibition

- Youth exhibitors must be at least sixteen (16) years of age to exhibit a stallion in Open classes.

GSR-68.01 Amateur Division Cross-References

1. Amateur exhibitors must meet ATOA Amateur eligibility requirements as defined in GAD-67.04.
2. Ownership requirements for Amateur exhibitors must comply with GAD-67.05.
3. Immediate family ownership restrictions affecting Amateur eligibility are governed by:

a. GAD-67.05 (Ownership Requirements)

b. JUDGE-75.11 (Immediate Family Definition)

4. Violations of Amateur status may result in:
 - a. Disqualification of points
 - b. Reclassification
 - c. Referral to Rules & Ethics Committee

GSR-68.02 Youth Division Cross-References

1. Youth exhibitors must comply with Youth eligibility standards under YP-73.02.
2. Youth ownership and lease eligibility are governed by YP-73.03 and YP-73.04.
3. Youth may not exhibit stallions except as allowed under Chapter 68 (General Show Rules), Section A.2 (Stallion Exhibition).

4. Youth exhibitors may not cross-enter in Amateur classes unless specifically allowed by Youth Rules.
5. Youth conduct standards fall under:

a. ERA-53.06 (Exhibitor Responsibility)

- b. The ATOA Code of Conduct (Chapter 8 (Code of Conduct))
- c. Rules & Ethics Committee jurisdiction

GSR-68.03 Immediate Family & Eligibility Impact

For Amateur and Youth eligibility purposes:

- The Immediate Family definition found in JUDGE-75.11 applies.
- Ownership through a family corporation, ranch, farm, or partnership must be properly recorded with ATOA.
- Failure to properly document ownership may result in forfeiture of points.

GSR-68.04 Special Accommodations (Youth & Amateur)

Requests for accommodation must follow:

Chapter 54 (Reasonable Accommodation for Challenged Exhibitors)

- Youth or Amateur Division Rules where applicable.

Board approval required annually.

GSR-68.05 Registration Requirements for Halter & Performance

General Requirement to Compete

1. All horses competing in ATOA-approved halter or performance classes must be registered with ATOA in an eligible registry category.
2. Registration status must be verifiable at the time of entry (original certificate, digital copy, or ATOA database confirmation).
3. Ownership must be properly recorded with ATOA prior to competition unless otherwise allowed under lease provisions

Registry Categories

ATOA recognizes separate registry categories, including but not limited to:

Regular Registry (Patterned / Color Division)

Solid Registry (Solid Division)

Horses compete within their registered division as recorded with ATOA.

Division Separation – No Mixed Registry Competition

1. Solids may not compete against patterned/color horses in any class.
2. All point-earning halter and performance classes must be conducted separately by registry division when both divisions are entered.
 3. Regular Registry horses compete only against Regular Registry horses.
4. Solid Registry horses compete only against Solid Registry horses.

5. If only one registry division is entered in a class, the class may proceed and remain point-eligible for that division.
6. Show management may not combine Regular and Solid registry entries in a point-earning class under any circumstance.

Points Eligibility – Solid Registry

1. Solid Registry horses are eligible to earn ATOA points in:
 - a. Open Performance classes
 - b. Open Halter classes (if offered for the Solid division)
 - c. Amateur classes (subject to GAD-67.04 and GAD-67.05)
 - d. Youth classes (subject to YP-73.02 and YP-73.03)
2. Points earned by Solid Registry horses apply only within the Solid Registry division for titles, year-end awards, and recognition programs unless otherwise designated by ATOA Awards policy.
3. Solid Registry horses do not compete for Grand/Reserve titles against Regular Registry horses.

E. Default Rule if Show Bill Is Silent

If the show bill does not specify division separation:

- Classes shall automatically be run separately by registry division.
- Points shall be calculated independently by division.

F. Youth & Amateur Cross-Reference

Eligibility for Youth and Amateur participation is governed by:

- GAD-67.04 (Amateur Eligibility)
- GAD-67.05 (Amateur Ownership)
- YP-73.02 (Youth Eligibility)
- YP-73.03 (Youth Ownership) and YP-73.04 (Show Leases)

Division separation under this section applies equally to Open, Amateur, and Youth classes.

Conduct & Disciplinary Action

Violations affecting Youth or Amateur standing may include:

- Point forfeiture
- Loss of division eligibility
- Suspension of membership
- Formal investigation under Rules & Ethics procedures

Division Supremacy Clause

In the event of conflict between General Show Rules and Division Rules (Youth or Amateur), the Division Rule shall prevail for that division.

This prevents procedural ambiguity.

GSR-68.06 Halter Class General Rules

A. Withdrawing

Any contestant withdrawing after entering shall forfeit entry fee and any go- round/day money accruing at the time of withdrawal; **except** in the case of incapacitating sickness or injury to exhibitor or horse, or serious illness or death in the exhibitor's immediate family, all prize monies won to that point shall be paid.

B. Prompt Entry Into the Arena

All horses entered in a class must be assembled at the arena entrance in ample time for judging to begin promptly and continue without delay. Horses shall remain available, except while competing, until dismissed by the judge unless otherwise directed. A tardy contestant may be denied competition.

C. Unregistered Weanlings

1. **Only weanlings** may be exhibited without a registration certificate, provided a completed ATOA **Weanling Entry Identification Form** is submitted at entry.
2. No points, awards, or titles will be permanently applied to the horse's record under an unnamed/unregistered weanling entry.
3. If the weanling is later registered with ATOA, show management records may be used to support verification, but the conversion of unnamed results to the permanent record is **not guaranteed** and is subject to ATOA policy.

D. Show in Only One Point-Earning Halter Class

A horse may show in only one (1) point-earning Open halter age-group class **within its registry division** per show.

This does not prohibit the same horse from also being shown in:

- Youth Halter (within its registry division); and/or
- Amateur Halter (within its registry division).

E. Splitting and Combining Classes

1. Show management may combine or split age groups as justified by entries **with unanimous consent** of all affected exhibitors.
2. If one sex division does not have a one-point earning class, show management may combine age groups within that sex division **without unanimous consent** to create a point-earning class for that sex division.
3. **Performance Halter** classes cannot be combined with any other halter class.

1. Cannot Combine Non-Point and Point Earning Age Horses

Halter classes may be combined using point-earning-age horses of the same sex. No halter class may be combined using a non-point-earning-age horse with point- earning-age horses.

F. Sex Divisions

No halter class may be combined if it mixes sex divisions.

1. Exception: Group halter classes.
2. Exception: Weanling stallions and geldings may be combined.

G. Judging Sex Divisions Prior to Grand and Reserve

All Open halter classes within a **registry division and sex division** must be judged prior to selecting Grand and Reserve for that registry division and sex division.

Grand and Reserve Champion titles are awarded separately for:

- Regular Registry – Stallions
- Regular Registry – Mares
- Regular Registry – Geldings
- Solid Registry – Stallions
- Solid Registry – Mares
- Solid Registry – Geldings

No Grand or Reserve Champion selection shall combine Regular and Solid Registry horses.

H. Western Attire

Suitable western attire must be worn as defined in ATOA attire standards.

Exception: Spurs, chinks, or chaps must not be worn in halter classes unless specifically permitted by a posted class exception.

I. Halter and Artificial Tails

Horses shall be exhibited in a halter. Artificial tails consisting of fabric and hair are permissible unless otherwise prohibited by posted show rules.

J. Bandages

In any halter class, an open leg wound may be covered by a bandage not to exceed **1½ wraps** of vet wrap (or similar) and not over **4 inches** in width.

K. Ideal Standard for ATOA Registry Horses

1. The ideal ATOA halter horse is stock-type, balanced, structurally correct, attractive, high quality, and well-muscled; symmetrical from head to tail with eye appeal resulting from a blending of: attractive head; refined throatlatch; well-proportioned neck; long sloping shoulder; deep heart girth; high wither; short strong back; long hip and croup; straight, correct legs and feet free of major deviation; and athletic, uniformly developed muscling.
2. Head, neck, shoulder, topline, and limb standards shall be evaluated consistent with the detailed criteria in this section.
3. Deviations in structural correctness and way-of-going shall be penalized as described under **Faults and Disqualifications**.
4. **Head and Neck.** The head should be short and refined, with a broad forehead, large kind eyes, small alert ears, and a well-defined jaw. The throatlatch should be clean and trim, and the neck should be of moderate length, tie in high on a long sloping shoulder, and blend smoothly into the withers.
5. **Shoulder, Body, and Hindquarter.** The shoulder should be long and sloping, with a well-defined wither equal to or slightly higher than the point of the hip. The back should be short and strong, the heart girth deep, the underline long, and the hip and croup long and well-muscled, with muscling that carries down into the stifle, gaskin, and forearm.
6. **Legs and Feet.** Legs should be straight and correct when viewed from the front, side, and rear, with clean flat bone, well-defined joints, short cannons, and pasterns of moderate length whose

slope matches the angle of the shoulder. Feet should be sound, well-shaped, and of adequate size for the horse's frame, with a deep, open heel.

L. Judging in the Arena

1. Individual Examination

The judge shall examine each horse for conformation defects, soundness, and way of travel at the walk and jog-trot. Each horse must complete the prescribed pattern:

- a. Horses walk to the judge one at a time; then trot straight to a cone placed approximately 50 feet away; continue trotting, turn left at cone, and continue trotting. Judge may request additional examination as needed, including inspection of teeth and testicles where applicable.
- b. Horses line up head-to-tail for individual inspection from both sides, front, and rear.
- c. Horse must move straight and true. Walk is a natural four-beat gait; jog-trot is a smooth, ground-covering two-beat gait.
- d. Stallions and mares will be inspected for parrot/monkey mouth.
- e. Stallions two (2) years and older will be inspected for cryptorchidism.

2. Balance as Primary Trait

Balance is the most important trait. Judges compare entries based on the highest combination of balance, structural correctness, appropriate quality/gender/breed type, and muscling. Horses are not judged on height or weight alone, and not on a single trait.

- a. **Balance** is the proportional relationship of the horse's skeletal and muscle structure. The topline, underline, shoulder, and hip should be proportional, and the front and rear halves of the horse should be of similar depth, length, and strength.
- b. **Structural correctness** is evaluated on inspection and at the walk and trot, with emphasis on straight, correct legs and a free-moving, athletic way of travel.
- c. **Quality, sex characteristics, and muscling** are evaluated next. Stallions and geldings should appear masculine and mares feminine, and muscling should be long, smooth, and evenly distributed through the forearm, gaskin, stifle, and hip.

3. Disqualifications

- a. **Lameness** as defined (consistently observable at trot; marked nodding/hitching; minimal weight bearing/inability to move).
- b. **Parrot/Monkey Mouth**: no occlusal contact between upper and lower central incisors.
- c. **Cryptorchid**: stallion age 2+ with evidence of only one testicle present.
- d. **Incorrect Pattern**: failure to continuously trot around cone and remain trotting minimum two horse lengths past cone; maximum three attempts, then disqualification.

Youth/Amateur Exception (Pattern):

In Youth and Amateur divisions, an entry that does not complete the pattern correctly shall **not be placed over** any entry that completes the pattern correctly, but will **not** be disqualified.

- e. **Set Up / Inspection Failure**: entries unable to set up and stand still long enough for proper inspection.

Youth/Amateur Exception (Set-Up):

In Youth and Amateur divisions, an entry that fails to set up adequately shall not be placed over an entry that completes setup/inspection correctly, but will not be disqualified.

- f. **Loose Horse:** any horse detached from handler and no longer under control is disqualified; if one horse causes others to lose control, only initiating horse may be disqualified; judge's decision final.
- g. **Disruptive/Dangerous Horse:** may be disqualified at judge's discretion.
- h. **Neurological Track Concerns:** horses that pace/rack while tracking or show consistent lack of limb control (commonly associated with neurological disorders) may be disqualified for safety and soundness concerns.

4. Faults

Faults shall be weighed according to their severity. A horse showing a fault shall be placed below horses of comparable overall quality that do not show that fault. Faults include:

- a. Lack of balance, or poor proportion between the forehand and hindquarters.
- b. Coarse or unrefined head, thick throatlatch, or short, heavy neck.
- c. Short or upright shoulder, or low, poorly defined withers.
- d. Long, weak, or sway back; short hip; or steep croup.
- e. Light, shallow, or poorly defined muscling.
- f. Base-narrow, base-wide, toed-in, or toed-out conformation.
- g. Calf knees, bench knees, buck knees, or tied-in knees.
- h. Sickie hocks, cow hocks, post legs, or camped-out hind legs.
- i. Short, upright pasterns, or excessively long, sloping pasterns.
- j. Small, contracted, or poorly shaped feet, or feet out of proportion to the horse's size.
- k. Unsoundness or blemishes that affect function but are not severe enough for disqualification.
- l. Poor condition, excessive fat, or presentation that prevents a fair evaluation of the horse.

M. Halter Classes Recommended

The following halter classes for mares, stallions, and geldings are recommended:

- 1. Weanlings (foaled in calendar year)
- 2. Yearlings
- 3. Two-year-old
- 4. Three-year-old
- 5. Four-year-old and older
- 6. Or combined:
 - a. 2 & Under
 - b. 3 & Over

7. Performance Halter

For horses aged one (1) year and older, eligible only if the horse completes at least one (1) performance class (other than showmanship) at the same show.

- Junior: 1–2 years
- Senior: 3 years and over

8. Broodmares

Mares shown in Broodmare class are not eligible for other age halter classes at the same show. Eligible mares must have conceived and carried a full-term foal in current or previous year. If the foal is not registered, show management may require a signed **Broodmare Eligibility Declaration** at entry (ATOA form).

Grand and Reserve Champion

- a. Grand Champion shall be selected from the first-place winners within each registry division and sex division.
- b. Reserve Champion shall be selected from the remaining eligible horses within that same registry and sex division.
- c. Under no circumstance shall Regular Registry and Solid Registry horses compete together for Grand or Reserve titles.

Mandatory Grand/Reserve Selection

Approved shows must select Grand and Reserve Champion separately for each registry division and sex division when at least three (3) horses aged one (1) year and older are exhibited in that division.

If only one registry division is represented, awards shall be given only within that division.

GSR-68.07 Group Halter Classes

A. Additional Classes (Non-Point)

The following group halter classes are optional and may be offered if interest/entries justify them. **No points will be awarded** in group classes.

Horses shown in a group class must be **eligible for and entered in** their applicable individual halter class at that show and must be **ATOA-registered** in an eligible registry category (per **GSR-68.05**).

Cross-Reference: See **GSR-68.05** (Registration Eligibility), **GAD-67.04/GAD-67.05** (Amateur Eligibility/Ownership), **YP-73.02/YP-73.03** (Youth Eligibility/Ownership).

1. Produce of Dam

- Two (2) produce, either sex, may show.
- At least one (1) horse shown must be eligible for the ATOA primary registry category designated by ATOA for point-earning halter (if ATOA maintains multiple registry categories).
- Dam must be identified in ATOA records (dam need not be shown; produce need not be owned by owner of the dam).

2. Get of Sire

- Three (3) get, either sex, may show.
- At least two (2) horses shown must be eligible for the ATOA primary registry category designated by ATOA for point-earning halter (if applicable).
- Sire must be identified in ATOA records (sire need not be shown; get need not be owned by owner of sire).

GSR-68.08 Performance Class General Rules

A. Withdrawing After Entering

Any contestant withdrawing after entering shall forfeit entry fee and any go-round/day money accruing at the time of withdrawal; except in case of incapacitating sickness/injury to exhibitor or horse, or serious illness/death in immediate family, all prize monies won to that point shall be paid.

B. Bandages

In any performance class, an open leg wound may be covered by a bandage not to exceed **1½ wraps** of vet wrap (or similar) and not over **4 inches** in width.

C. Prompt Entry Into the Arena

Entries must assemble at the arena entrance in ample time for judging to begin promptly and continue without delay. A tardy contestant may be denied competition.

D. Competing in More Than One Specific Event

No horse may compete in more than one ATOA-approved class in any one specific type of event at a show (example: two tie-down roping classes or two reining classes), **except** that a horse may be exhibited in:

- an Open class; and
- the same event in Youth or Amateur, where permitted.

E. Age Divisions

Performance classes may be divided into a maximum of two sections by horse age unless the event rule specifies otherwise:

1. Junior horses: five (5) years and under
2. Senior horses: six (6) years and over
3. All ages combined

4. Class Age Requirements

a. Yearlings

1. Yearling In-Hand Trail may be offered prior to **May 15**.
2. Yearling Longe Line may be offered after **May 15**.

b. Two-Year-Olds

1. Showmanship, Two-Year-Old Longe Line, Two-Year-Old In-Hand Trail may be offered prior to **May 15**.
2. All other performance classes may be offered after **May 15**.

c. Three-Year-Olds

1. Horses must be three (3) or older for English Versatility Pattern, Western Versatility Pattern, and Ranch classes.

F. Same Contestant Exhibiting Multiple Horses (Individual Working Events)

An exhibitor may exhibit a maximum of five (5) horses total in individual working events listed by ATOA for that division, with each horse having only one exhibitor/driver per class.

1. In Longe Line and In-Hand Trail, an exhibitor may show a maximum of two (2) horses.

G. Splitting and Combining Classes

Show management may combine or split age groups as justified by entries with unanimous consent of affected exhibitors; however, if one division does not have a point-earning class, management may combine age groups **without unanimous consent** to create a point-earning division.

H. Posting Patterns / Courses / Special Instructions

All patterns/courses/special instructions must be posted at least **one (1) hour** before scheduled class time.

1. Judges must submit score sheets for all scored classes to show management for posting (electronically or photocopy) after each class to allow exhibitor review.

I. Order of Competition (Individual Patterns)

Working order may be established by draw and may be adjusted by show management as necessary. Multi-judge/arena shows may make classes available in random order/position when permitted by event format.

J. Go-Rounds / Eliminations

Management determines whether elimination is necessary, number of go-rounds, and number of horses shown each performance.

1. If elimination is held, the same rider must ride the same horse in elimination and finals.
2. Final placing determined by finals score plus elimination/go-round score(s).

K. Reruns

No reruns for equipment failure. Reruns allowed in speed events for timer failure; roping events if barrier malfunctions.

L. Faults / Penalties

In performance classes, horses are judged on performance only. "Faults" or "penalties" are not automatically disqualifications.

1. Artificial tails and braids permissible; not penalized.
2. Tail carriage not penalized unless excessive or unnatural.

M. Disqualification

1. **Fall of horse or rider** = disqualification.
2. **Hitting/spurring forward of the cinch** = disqualification unless event rule provides exception.
3. **Prohibited assistance** = disqualification (safety exception allowed; assisted contestant disqualified).
4. **Dangerous equipment failure** (headstall off, reins detached/touch ground, cinch/girth detached, etc.) = disqualification; minor failures not endangering others are not DQ.
5. **Lameness** as defined = disqualification; ring steward must remove at judge's discretion; majority rules in multi-judge.

N. Ties

No contest is complete until ties to seventh (7th) place are broken by judge/work-off/coin flip.

O. Holding Saddle

Holding saddle may be disqualified at judge's discretion unless class rule covers it; holding horn for safety is penalized at judge's discretion, not automatically disqualified.

P. Judging Window

Judging begins immediately upon entering the arena and ends when judges' cards are turned in, unless event rule specifies otherwise.

GSR-68.09 Performance Events

Performance events offered for approval must comply with ATOA registration eligibility requirements in **GSR-68.05** and the class age requirements in **GSR-68.08**, Section E (Age Divisions).

A. Class Age Requirements

Performance classes must follow the age requirements in GSR-68.08, Section E (Age Divisions), together with the yearling, two-year-old, and three-year-old eligibility rules in GSR-68.10, GSR-68.11, and GSR-68.12.

B. Approved Event List

The following events may be offered as **ATOA-approved performance events**, subject to the availability of qualified judges, the posted show bill, and ATOA division rules:

- Hunter Under Saddle and Green Hunter Under Saddle
- Hunter Hack, Working Hunter, Green Working Hunter, and Jumping
- Pleasure Driving and Utility Driving
- Western Pleasure and Green Western Pleasure
- Trail and Green Trail
- Western Riding and Green Western Riding
- Reining and Green Reining
- Working Cow Horse
- Team Penning, Ranch Sorting, and Cutting
- Tie-Down Roping, Breakaway Roping, Team Roping, and Steer Stopping
- Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, and Stake Race
- Ranch Riding, Ranch Rail Pleasure, Ranch Pleasure, Ranch Trail, Ranch Boxing, Ranch Reining, Ranch Cutting, Ranch Conformation, and Green Ranch classes
- Mounted Shooting
- Dressage
- Yearling Longe Line and In-Hand Trail classes
- Any additional performance event approved by ATOA

Registry Division Separation in Performance Classes

1. All point-earning performance classes must be conducted separately by registry division when both Regular and Solid Registry horses are entered.
2. Regular Registry horses compete only against Regular Registry horses.
3. Solid Registry horses compete only against Solid Registry horses.
4. If only one registry division is entered in a class, the class may proceed and remain point-eligible for that division.

5. Performance Championships, High-Point awards, and year-end titles are calculated separately by registry division.

Cross-Reference: GSR-68.05.

GSR-68.10 Yearling Longe Line (ATOA)

Eligibility, Approval Window, and Awards

- **Eligibility.** This class is limited to **yearlings** as defined by ATOA age rules.
- **Approval Window.** Yearling Longe Line shall not be approved prior to **May 15** of the approval year.
 - **Exception:** At single-judge and two-judge shows, show management may offer a combined **Yearling/Two-Year-Old Longe Line** when stated in the show bill.
- **Points and Titles.** Points earned in this class apply toward ATOA-recognized performance records and year-end recognition as designated by the association.
 - Points from this class do **not** apply toward any lifetime halter-based championship title unless ATOA specifically designates otherwise in its Awards section.
- **Registry Division Separation.** If the class is point-earning, it must be offered separately by registry division per GSR-68.05:
 - **Regular Registry (Patterned Division)** entries compete only against Regular Registry entries.
 - **Solid Registry (Solid Division)** entries compete only against Solid Registry entries.

Number and Type of Classes Offered

- A show may offer up to **two (2)** Yearling Longe Line classes.
- If one (1) class is offered, it is open to both **Western-type** and **Hunter-type** prospects.
- If two (2) classes are offered, they shall be designated and conducted as:
 - a. **Hunter Yearling Longe Line;** and
 - b. **Western Yearling Longe Line,** with horses and exhibitors presented accordingly.
- If two classes are offered, show management may combine the classes **only** when one is not point-earning under ATOA point minimums and the combined class remains compliant with GSR-68.05 (no mixing registry divisions in a point-earning class).

Equipment

- **Halter Required.** Horses must be shown in a halter. Either a regular halter or show-type halter is acceptable.
- **Longe Line Attachment.** During the longeing demonstration, the **only** attachment permitted is a longe line:
 - Maximum length: **30 feet**
 - Snap attached to halter
 - Must hang free and must not touch any part of the horse
- **Whip.** A longe whip is permitted. **Disqualification** shall occur if an exhibitor blatantly strikes the horse with the whip to cause forward or lateral movement during the demonstration.
- **Prohibited Lines.** Mechanical or retractable longe lines are prohibited.

- **Conformation Segment Change-Out.** For conformation inspection, a lead shank commonly used in halter/showmanship may be exchanged for the long line prior to the demonstration.
- **No Equipment Bias.** Exhibitors are not penalized for plain equipment nor rewarded for show equipment. Placement is based on movement, manners/expression/way of going, and conformation only, provided equipment is compliant.

Attire

- **Western attire** is required.
- If the prospect is presented as Hunter type, mane braiding is permitted and English attire is acceptable, including flat caps and fedoras.
- Attire is not a placing factor if it meets ATOA requirements.

Gaits Standard

- Gaits are judged using ATOA gait standards for:
- Western Pleasure-type movement; and
- Hunter Under Saddle-type movement, as defined in the ATOA performance standards section.

Conformation Inspection and Trot-Off

- The conformation inspection occurs as the horse is walked into the arena prior to the longeing demonstration. Judges evaluate conformation suitable for future under-saddle performance.
- Judges must not discriminate for or against bulk/muscle type; evaluation is based on the total picture emphasizing **balance, structural correctness, and athletic capability**.
- Each entry is presented individually:
 - a. Walk to the judge and pause for evaluation;
 - b. Trot off straight and around a cone; and
 - c. Take a position on the rail.
- Horses showing evidence of lameness during the trot-off shall be excused at that time.

Demonstration Time and Warm-Up Controls

- Judges stand outside the longeing circle. Exhibitor enters the longeing area and awaits the audible start signal.
- On the start signal, the exhibitor has **90 seconds** to present the horse. A second signal indicates the end of the demonstration. A halfway signal may be used at management discretion.
- Once the class begins, horses warming up prior to their go may warm up **at the walk only**.

Required Work Both Directions

- The horse is scored at the walk, jog/long trot, and lope/canter **in both directions**.
- Any horse failing to demonstrate these gaits in each direction shall be disqualified.
- The judge shall immediately excuse any horse showing obvious lameness at any time.
- Exhibitors may begin in either direction.

Exit and Holding Area

- At the end of the 90-second demonstration, the exhibitor shall retire from the longeing area as directed and stand on the rail/holding area while other exhibitors are judged.

Judging Priorities

- Horses are evaluated on:
- Movement (using ATOA gait standards),
- Manners/Expression/Attitude,
- Conformation suitable to purpose, and
- Use of circle.

Judges must not discriminate for or against bulk but evaluate balance and athletic capability.

Conduct on the Line

- Playing on the line is not automatically penalized.
- Judges shall penalize excessive bucking, running off, stumbling, or attitudes inconsistent with a pleasure/hunter prospect.
- Falling down is disqualification.
- Credit is given to the horse that, under light control without intimidation, moves softly and quietly with comfort, confidence, willingness, fluid stride, and smooth transitions.

Circle Size Guidance

- Exhibitors are encouraged to use a longeing circle with a **25-foot radius (7.5m)**.

Limits and Additional Handlers

- An exhibitor may show a maximum of **two (2)** horses in each longe line class.
- The same exhibitor must show both segments.
- An additional handler may hold the non-working horse while the working horse is presented. A maximum of **two (2)** handlers may be used.
- In Amateur classes, additional handlers must meet ATOA Amateur eligibility requirements.

Scoring System

- Base score is **70**. Each evaluated element is scored and added/subtracted from 70; penalties are then subtracted.
- Scoring ranges:
 - **Conformation, Jog/Trot, Lope/Canter, Manners/Attitude:** +3 Excellent, +2 Very Good, +1 Good, 0 Correct, -1 Poor, -2 Very Poor, -3 Extremely Poor
 - **Walk and Use of Circle:** +1½ Excellent, +1 Very Good, +½ Good, 0 Correct, -½ Poor, -1 Very Poor, -1½ Extremely Poor

Movement Requirements

- a. **Walk:** scored each direction (+1½ to -1½). Horse must be walked long enough to allow evaluation.
- b. **Jog/Trot:** scored each direction (+3 to -3). Using a 25' radius, horse should jog/trot a minimum of **½ circle** each direction.
- c. **Lope/Canter:** scored each direction (+3 to -3). Using a 25' radius, horse should lope/canter a minimum of **one full circle** each direction.

Manners/Expression/Attitude

- Scored each direction (+3 to -3). Penalize signs of sourness/overwork and dangerous behavior, including excessive bucking, cutting into the circle, running off, or pulling exhibitor out of position. Incidental whip touching, cross-cantering, balking, backing, and excessive urging may be penalized as appropriate.

Conformation

- Scored once (+3 to -3). Judges evaluate conformation suitable for future Western Pleasure or Hunter Under Saddle performance, emphasizing balance, structural correctness, and athletic capability.

Use of Circle

- An overall score (+1½ to -1½) may be recorded. Judges incorporate circle quality into gait scoring as appropriate:
- **Good to Excellent (+½ to +1½):** stays on perimeter with slight looseness; turns on perimeter
- **Average (0):** minor inconsistency
- **Poor to Unacceptable (-½ to -1½):** circle smaller than 25' radius; slack line creating hazard; pulls exhibitor

Performance Attributes Rewarded

- Higher scores reflect above-average to exceptional: manners, expression, responsiveness, smooth transitions, cadence, and consistency.

Penalties and Disqualifications

Five-Point Penalties (per direction)

- Failure to walk a minimum of **two horse lengths**.
- Failure to jog/trot a minimum of **¼ circle**.
- Failure to demonstrate the correct lead for a minimum of **¼ circle**.

Disqualification

- Disqualification occurs for any of the following:
- Evidence of lameness (judge immediately excuses horse).
- Blatant striking with whip to cause forward/lateral movement.
- Horse falls (on side with all four legs extended in same direction).
- Horse steps over or becomes entangled in the longe line.
- Failure to show all three gaits in both directions.
- Horse becomes detached from exhibitor and is no longer under control.
- Exhibitor displays disrespectful conduct toward judge(s).
- Failure to correctly complete trot-off portion after three (3) attempts.
- Horse performs more than a walk during warm-up once the class has started.

GSR-68.11 Yearling In-hand Trail (ATOA)

Eligibility and Awards

1. **Eligibility.** This class is limited to **yearlings** as defined by ATOA age rules.

- a. **Exception (Combined Class):** At single-judge and two-judge shows, two-year-olds may be shown in a combined **Yearling/Two-Year-Old In-Hand Trail** class when stated in the show bill.
2. **Points and Recognition.** Points earned apply toward ATOA year-end recognition and any in-hand trail achievement programs as designated by ATOA.
3. **Registry Division Separation.** If the class is point-earning, it must be offered separately by registry division per **GSR-68.05**:
 - a. **Regular Registry (Patterned Division)** entries compete only against
4. **Regular Registry entries.**
 - b. **Solid Registry (Solid Division)** entries compete only against Solid Registry entries.

General Class Rules

1. **Attire and Equipment.** Western attire and appropriate in-hand equipment are required per ATOA attire/tack rules.
2. **Entry Limit.** One exhibitor may show a maximum of **two (2)** horses in Yearling In-Hand Trail.

Judging Guidelines

1. **Overall presentation matters.** Judges should consider:
 - a. Horse's overall appearance, conditioning, grooming; and
 - b. Equipment condition/fit (dirty, ill-fitting, unsafe, or ragged equipment should be reflected in scoring).
2. **Correctness in-hand.** Judges must evaluate correctness while being led, including:
 - a. Drifting off line, crooked leading/stopping,
 - b. Failure to maintain a pivot foot where required,
 - c. Sluggish turns or lack of responsiveness.
3. **Handler conduct.** Excessive verbal cues and exaggerated or unnatural handler motions are discouraged and should be reflected in scoring when they disrupt the quality of the run.
4. **Safety penalties.** For safety, judges should penalize:
 - a. Continuously holding the chain tight throughout the course,
 - b. Tightly coiling lead shank around the hand,
 - c. Dragging the lead shank.
5. **Fault assignment.** Faults are assessed to the **horse**, not the exhibitor, **except** where the rule specifically assigns fault to exhibitor conduct (e.g., wrong side leading, excessive touching, loss of horse).

Scoring System

1. **Base score.** Scoring is on a **0-infinity** scale with **70** denoting an average performance.
2. **Obstacle scoring.** Each obstacle receives a maneuver score added/subtracted from 70, and penalties are subtracted separately.

3. Maneuver score range. Each obstacle is scored:

+1½ excellent, +1 very good, +½ good, 0 correct, -½ poor, -1 very poor, -1½ extremely poor.

4. **Credits.** Credit is given for horses negotiating obstacles cleanly, smoothly, and alertly with style and prompt response to cues.

Penalties (per occurrence) ½ Point

- Each tick of a log, pole, cone, plant, or obstacle component.

1 Point

- Each hit, bite, or stepping on a log, pole, cone, plant, or obstacle component.
- Incorrect/break of gait at walk or jog for **two strides or less**.
- Both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot/space.
- Skipping over or failing to step into required space.
- Failure to meet correct strides on **trot-over** log obstacles.

3 Points

Incorrect/break of gait at walk or jog for **more than two strides**.

- Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant, or obstacle; or severely disturbing an obstacle (unless caused by tail).
- Stepping outside the confines of, falling/jumping off/out of an obstacle with **one foot** once the foot has entered; including missing one element of an obstacle line with one foot.

5 Points

- Dropping slicker or required carried object.
- First or second refusal/balk/evasion (shy/back away) over the course.
- Letting go of gate or dropping rope gate.
- Use of either hand to instill fear or praise (**Exception:** slight one-hand touch/tap to cue horse **only** during side pass is allowed).
- Stepping outside confines/falling/jumping off/out with **more than one foot** once entered; including missing an element with more than one foot.
- Blatant disobedience (biting, kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking, or continuously circling the handler).

Zero Score for the Course (Disqualification)

A run receives a **0 total score** for any of the following:

- Performing obstacles out of order.
- No attempt at an obstacle.
- Equipment failure that delays completion of the pattern.
- Excessively or repeatedly touching the horse (except as allowed in side pass).
- Working an obstacle other than as described (including overturns greater than ¼ turn when not permitted).
- Failure to follow correct line of travel between obstacles.
- Working outside designated boundary marker of arena/course.
- Third cumulative refusal/balk/evasion.
- Failure to demonstrate required gait between obstacles.

- Horse gets loose from exhibitor/handler.
- Leading or backing on the wrong side of the horse (leading and backing must be from the **left** side).
- Fall of horse or exhibitor/handler.
- Excessive schooling, pulling, turning, or backing anywhere on course.
- Failure to complete an obstacle (e.g., dropping the rope gate and not retrieving it to complete).

Course Requirements

1. **Safety first.** Obstacles must be set to avoid hazards to horse or handler.
2. **Flow.** Course design should allow efficient flow from one obstacle to the next.
3. **No elevated trot-overs.** Trot-over elements cannot be elevated.
4. **Change of procedure notice.** If local conditions require modifications (e.g., procedure or permitted hand change on lead), all competitors must be notified **before** the class begins.

Exhibitor Requirements

1. **Lead hand and side.** Exhibitor must:
 - a. Lead on the **left** side of the horse; and
 - b. Use only the **right hand** at the lead where the chain begins.
2. Chain/cord use.
 - a. A chain or cord (minimum **5/16 in** diameter) may be used **under the chin or hanging from the halter only**.
 - b. Any other use is disqualification.
 - c. Chain/cord over the nose is prohibited.
3. A lead without chain may snap directly under the chin. Excess **lead**. Excess lead must be carried in the **left** hand, looped loosely, except when:
4.
 - a. Carrying an object,
 - b. Dragging an object,
5.
 - c. Opening/closing a **left-hand gate** (right hand may carry excess lead),
 - d. Side passing (lead at chain and excess lead may be held in the hand at the horse's head).
6. **Sportsmanship.** Exhibitors must remain poised, confident, courteous, and continue showing until placed or excused.
7. **Stops, backing, turning.** Stops must be straight and smooth. Backing/turning performed from the left side; exhibitor faces the horse when backing **except** when negotiating a gate.
8. **Touching.** Exhibitor may not touch the horse except during side pass as expressly allowed.

Obstacle Requirements

1. **Obstacle count.** Course must include **minimum 4** and **maximum 8** obstacles.
2. **Division requirement.** Course must include at least **one** obstacle from each division (A–D) below.
3. **Progression.** Complexity may increase through the season, but the class is designed to introduce young horses—not to require a finished trail horse.

Division A — Logs/Poles

- Lead over at least four logs/poles (straight, curved, zigzag, or raised).
- All elevated elements must be secured in cups/notches so they cannot roll.
- **Walk-over spacing:** 20–24 in (50–60 cm), may be elevated to 12 in (30 cm). Elevated walk-overs set at least 22 in (55 cm) apart.
- **Trot-over spacing:** 3' to 3'3" (90–100 cm).

Trot-overs cannot be elevated.

Division B — Lateral/Control

1. Side pass (safe object; if raised, max 2 ft/60.96 cm). Horse must not cross/straddle it. Touching a horse during side pass is permitted.
2. Lime circle: turn on forehand or turn on haunches.
3. Square: minimum 8' sides; enter square, all four feet confined, execute up to 360° turn, exit; exhibitor may be inside/outside square.
4. Gate: min 4' long and 4' high; must be operable from exhibitor's left side; excess lead may be carried in right hand; loss of control penalized.

Division C — Backing/Bridge/Water

1. Back-through poles (30 in min spacing), or barrels/cones (36 in min spacing), or triangle (36 in min entry; 40 in min sides). Guardrails allowed 3–4 ft offside.
2. Bridge: wooden floor, max 12 in high; rails optional; rails, min 48 in apart.
3. Water hazard/box: must require all four feet to step in hazard; hazard/box remains dry in all divisions; simulated water permitted; no items placed in hazard.
4. Simulated water: solid painted wood only.

Division D — Carry/Drag/Mailbox/Patterns

1. Carrying objects (no animals/fowl).
2. Drag/pull (no animals/fowl); item must be on the exhibitor's left; excess lead may be carried in right hand.
3. Mailbox: remove/replace items; side pass optional. If work occurs on horse's right, exhibitor may hold horse/excess lead in left hand.
4. Serpentine: 4 pylons; guardrails optional; walk pylons min 4' apart; jog pylons min 7' apart; guardrails min 4' from base.
5. Jog-around: square of 4 poles (min 12' long) with center pylon; enter over designated pole, jog around pylon min 90°, exit over designated pole.
6. Jog-through poles in L/double L/V/U; poles 3–4' spacing; exhibitor may be inside or outside.

GSR-68.12 Two-year-old In-hand Trail (ATOA)

Eligibility and Under-Saddle Restriction

1. **Eligibility.** Class is limited to **two-year-olds** as defined by ATOA age rules.
2. **Under-saddle restrictions.** A two-year-old shown **under saddle** at any show where ATOA-approved classes are held is no longer eligible to show in Two-Year-Old In-Hand Trail for the remainder of that calendar year.

3. **Points and Recognition.** Points apply toward ATOA year-end recognition and in-hand trail achievement programs as designated by ATOA.
4. **Registry Division Separation.** If point-earning, the class must be offered separately by the registry division per

Rules, Scoring, Course, Exhibitor and Obstacles

Unless otherwise specified in this section, the Two-Year-Old In-Hand Trail class follows the same standards as **GSR-68.11** (Yearling In-Hand Trail), including:

- Entry limits,
- Judging guidelines,
- Scoring/penalties/zero score,
- Course requirements,
- Exhibitor requirements,
- Obstacle divisions A-D and spacing.

GSR-68.13 3-Year-Old & Older In-Hand Trail (ATOA)

Eligibility and Scope

1. This class is limited to horses aged three (3) years and older as defined by ATOA age rules.
2. This class may be offered only in designated ATOA Zones as approved by the Association.
3. Points earned in this class apply toward:
 - a. ATOA Register of Merit (ROM), where applicable
 - b. Year-End High Point titles
 - c. Other ATOA-recognized in-hand achievement programs
4. Points earned in this class do not apply toward halter-based championships or lifetime awards unless specifically designated by ATOA Awards policy.

Registry Division Separation

1. If point-earning, this class must be conducted separately by registry division per GSR-68.05.
 - a. Regular Registry horses compete only against Regular Registry horses.
 - b. Solid Registry horses compete only against Solid Registry horses.
2. Points are calculated separately by registry division.

Cross-Reference: GSR-68.05; Chapter 69 (Registry-Based Championship Structure).

Cross-Entry Restriction

1. A horse entered in 3-Year-Old & Older In-Hand Trail may not cross-enter into any ridden Trail class at the same show.
2. Exception: Youth entries may cross-enter if specifically permitted under Youth Division rules.

Cross-Reference: Chapter 73 (Youth Program); GSR-68.05 (Division Supremacy Clause).

Divisions Offered

This class may be offered in:

- Open

- Amateur (subject to GAD-67.04 and GAD-67.05)
- Youth (subject to YP-73.02 and YP-73.03)

Registry separation applies equally to Open, Amateur, and Youth divisions.

General Class Rules

1. **Attire and Tack.** Western attire and appropriate in-hand equipment must comply with ATOA attire and equipment standards (see SOCE-55.07).
2. **Exhibitor Limit.** An exhibitor may show a maximum of two (2) horses in this class.
3. **Horse/Handler Requirement.** The same exhibitor must handle the horse throughout the class unless otherwise permitted under division rules.

Judging Guidelines

This class follows the same standards, scoring system, obstacle requirements, penalties, and disqualification provisions as outlined in GSR-68.11 (Yearling In-Hand Trail), including:

(Yearling In-Hand Trail - ATOA) including:

- Base score of 70
- Obstacle maneuver scoring (+1½ to -1½)
- ½, 1-, 3-, and 5-point penalties
- Zero score/disqualification criteria
- Course design requirements (minimum 4, maximum 8 obstacles)
- Obstacle divisions A-D
- Exhibitors conduct and lead requirements

Judges shall evaluate:

- Correctness in-hand
- Responsiveness and manners
- Accuracy through obstacles
- Safety and control

Overall presentation and conditioning

Disqualification and Safety

Disqualification occurs for:

- Fall of horse or exhibitor
- Horse becoming loose from handler
- Excessive schooling or abuse
- Failure to complete an obstacle after three attempts
- Lameness as defined under GSR-68.08

Safety remains the primary consideration.

GSR-68.14 3-Year-Old & Older Longe Line (ATOA)

Eligibility and Scope

1. This class is limited to horses aged three (3) years and older as defined by ATOA age rules.
2. This class may be offered only in designated ATOA Zones as approved by the Association.
3. Points earned in this class apply toward:
 - a. ATOA Register of Merit (ROM), where applicable
 - b. Year-End High Point titles
 - c. Other ATOA-recognized performance achievement programs
4. Points earned in this class do not apply toward halter-based championships or any lifetime awards unless specifically designated by ATOA Awards policy.

Registry Division Separation

1. If point-earning, this class must be conducted separately by registry division per GSR-68.05.
 - a. Regular Registry horses compete only against Regular Registry horses.
 - b. Solid Registry horses compete only against Solid Registry horses.
2. Points are calculated separately by registry division.

Divisions Offered

This class may be offered in:

- Open
- Amateur (subject to GAD-67.04 and GAD-67.05)
- Youth (subject to YP-73.02 and YP-73.03)

Division separation by registry applies equally to Open, Amateur, and Youth classes.

General Class Rules

1. **Attire and Tack.** Western attire and equipment must comply with ATOA attire and equipment standards (see SOCE-55.07).
2. **Exhibitor Limit.** An exhibitor may show a maximum of two (2) horses in this class.
3. **Horse/Handler Requirement.** The same exhibitor must handle both segments of the class unless otherwise allowed under division rules.

Judging Guidelines

This class shall follow the same standards, equipment rules, demonstration time, scoring system, penalties, and disqualification provisions as outlined in GSR-68.10 (Yearling Longe Line), including:

(Yearling Longe Line – ATOA) including:

- Conformation inspection and trot-off
- 90-second demonstration time
- Required work at walk, jog/trot, and lope/canter both directions
- Base score of 70
- Maneuver scoring ranges

- Five-point penalties
- Disqualification standards

Judges shall evaluate:

- Movement appropriate to intended discipline (Western or Hunter type, if split)
- Manners, expression, and responsiveness
- Conformation suitable for under-saddle performance
- Use of circle and control

Disqualification and Safety

Disqualification occurs for:

- Evidence of lameness
- Failure to demonstrate required gaits both directions
- Horse falling
- Horse becoming detached from handler
- Blatant striking with whip to cause forward or lateral movement
- Disrespectful conduct toward judge(s)

Safety remains the primary consideration.

69.0 Registry-Based Championship Structure (RBCS 69.01–69.03)

ATOA recognizes separate championship tracks for each registry division.

Titles, awards, ROMs, and year-end recognitions are awarded independently within:

- Regular Registry Division
- Solid Registry Division

No points are combined across registry divisions for championship calculation.

RBCS-69.01 Halter Championships

Halter titles are awarded separately within each registry division and sex division.

Example:

- Regular Stallion Grand Champion
- Solid Stallion Grand Champion

These titles are not interchangeable and are not combined.

RBCS-69.02 Performance Championships

Performance titles, ROMs, and year-end High Point awards are calculated separately by registry division.

Example:

- Regular Registry Open Western Pleasure High Point
- Solid Registry Open Western Pleasure High Point

If only one division participates in a given class or year, awards are issued only within that division.

RBCS-69.03 No Cross-Division Supremacy Titles

ATOA does not recognize overall combined champions between Regular and Solid registry divisions.

70.0 Show Manager Quick Guide (QG 70.01)

QG-70.01 Running Split Registry Divisions

STEP 1 — Check Entries

Are both Regular and Solid horses entered in a point class?

- YES → Run separate classes
- NO → Run single-division class

STEP 2 — Halter Classes

Run separately by:

Registry Division

AND

Sex Division

Example if entries exist:

- Regular Mares
- Solid Mares
- Regular Geldings
- Solid Geldings

Grand/Reserve awarded separately per division.

STEP 3 — Performance Classes

If both divisions entered:

Example:

Open Western Pleasure – Regular

Open Western Pleasure – Solid

Points calculated separately.

STEP 4 — Amateur & Youth

Apply same separation rule.

- Amateur Western Pleasure – Regular
- Amateur Western Pleasure – Solid
- Youth Western Pleasure – Regular
- Youth Western Pleasure – Solid

STEP 5 — Awards Calculation

- Points never combine across registry divisions
- Year-End awards calculated separately

- No overall combined champion

STEP 6 — If Show Bill Forgot to State It

Default Rule:

Point Classes = Split by registry

Non-Point Classes = Management discretion (Reference: GSR-68.05)

71.0 Amateur Show Rules (ASR 71.01–71.53)

Show Approval Requirements

To offer Amateur classes:

A show must offer:

- Minimum three (3) halter classes
- Minimum three (3) performance classes (Exception: State fairs & livestock shows)

Age Division Structure

If one class offered → 19 & Over.

If two classes offered →

- Amateur (19–44)
- Masters (45+)

Combining permitted per entry minimum rules.

Same Horse / Multiple Exhibitors

A horse may not be shown by more than one exhibitor in the same Amateur event at the same show, regardless of age split.

Exceptions apply only where divisions cannot legally combine.

Multiple Horse Limits

Group Classes (Showmanship, Western Pleasure, Horsemanship, HUS, etc.)

- Masters exhibitor may show two horses if one in Amateur and one in Masters
- If combined → exhibitor selects one horse

Working Events:

- Maximum three (3) horses per exhibitor
- Same horse may not be shown in both Amateur and Masters in same event

Equipment

Snaffle/Hackamore permitted where referenced.

See Show & Contest equipment rules.

ASR-71.01 English Performance Division

Scope

The English Performance Division includes the following ATOA-approved classes:

- Hunter Under Saddle

- Green Hunter Under Saddle
- English Versatility Pattern
- Any additional English classes approved by ATOA

All English Performance classes are subject to:

- GSR-68.05 (Registry Division Separation & Division Supremacy)
- GSR-68.05 (Registration & Division Requirements)
- GSR-68.08 (Performance Class General Rules)
- Chapter 69 (Registry-Based Championship Structure)
- English Attire & Tack standards in ASR-71.05

Registry Division Separation (Universal English Rule)

All point-earning English Performance classes must be conducted and pinned separately by registry division in accordance with GSR-68.05.

1. Regular Registry (Patterned Division) entries compete only against Regular Registry entries.
2. Solid Registry (Solid Division) entries compete only against Solid Registry entries.
3. Solids shall not compete against Regular Registry horses in point-earning classes.
4. Points, ROMs, Championships, and Year-End Awards are calculated separately by registry division.

No English class may combine registry divisions for point-earning purposes.

ASR-71.02 Amateur Halter

Required Classes

Minimum three:

- Stallions (All Ages)
- Mares (All Ages)
- Geldings (All Ages)

Optional age splits:

- Junior (2 & Under)
- Senior (3 & Over)

Performance Halter permitted with eligibility restrictions.

ASR-71.03 English Performance Gaits (ATOA)

These gait standards apply to all English Performance classes.

The Walk

Poor Walk: Uneven cadence, loss of four-beat rhythm, mechanical or tense movement, lack of forward flow, dull or resistant expression.

Average/Correct Walk: Clear four-beat gait with balanced topline, relaxed demeanor, steady rhythm, and straight travel.

Good Walk: Ground-covering four-beat gait with rhythm, cadence, attentiveness, light contact, and soft, consistent footfall.

The Trot

A true two-beat diagonal gait is required to be scored “average” or higher.

Extremely Poor: Not a true two-beat gait; unbalanced, uncomfortable, unwilling. **Very Poor:** Uneven cadence, heavy on forehand, tense or sloppy. **Poor:** Average motion with negative attributes (expression, resistance, inconsistency).

Correct/Average: Balanced, level topline, rhythmic, obedient, forward.

Good: Correct motion with positive expression and manners. **Very Good:** Cadenced, balanced, impulsive, relaxed with light contact.

Excellent: Effortless, elastic, strong hind engagement, long ground-covering stride, consistent topline, soft through poll and jaw.

Extended Trot

Poor: Faster without lengthening stride.

Average: Some lengthening while maintaining smoothness. **Good:** Obvious stride extension with maintained balance and cadence.

The Canter

A true three-beat gait is required to be scored “average” or higher.

Extremely Poor: Not three-beat; lacks balance and cadence. **Very Poor:** Weak behind, heavy on forehand, inconsistent rhythm. **Poor:** Average motion with negative traits.

Correct/Average: Balanced three-beat, relaxed, responsive. **Good:** Correct motion with expression and consistency. **Very Good:** Strong impulsion, smooth, cadenced, balanced. **Excellent:** Engaged topline, deep hind drive, elastic suspension, forward reach, light contact, strong self-carriage.

The Back

Horses must back quietly, straight, and willingly.

Poor: Resistant, crooked, gaping mouth.

Average: Straight, smooth, one horse length minimum. **Good:** Balanced, soft, fluid, willing, and straight.

ASR-71.04 Hunter Under Saddle (ATOA)

Attire and Tack

English attire and tack must comply with the English Attire & Tack standards in ASR-71.05.

Approved Class Structure

A show may offer up to four (4) approved Hunter Under Saddle classes.

If four are offered:

1. Senior Hunter Under Saddle (6 years & older) Junior Hunter Under Saddle (5 years & younger)
2. Three-Year-Old Hunter Under Saddle
3. Two-Year-Old Hunter Under Saddle
4. If three are offered:
 - Senior (6+)

- Junior (5-)
- Either 3-Year-Old OR 2-Year-Old

If two are offered:

- Senior
- Junior

If one is offered:

- All Ages Hunter Under Saddle

Cross-Entry Restrictions

A horse shown in Two-Year-Old HUS may not enter any other Open HUS at the same show.

1. A horse shown in Three-Year-Old HUS may not enter any other Open HUS at the same show.
2. Green Hunter Under Saddle is exempt from this restriction if offered (see ASR-71.05).

Equipment Restrictions (2 & 3 Year Old Classes Only)

Regulation hunt snaffle required

- No leverage/shanked bits
- Minimum 5/16" twisted wire (if used)
- No curb chains associated with leverage
- No square stock steel

Movement to Purpose

Hunter Under Saddle horses must:

- Move in a long, level frame
- Cover ground with ease and smoothness
- Maintain cadence and rhythm
- Show responsiveness with light rein contact
- Exhibit pleasant expression and attentiveness
- Perform smooth transitions

Poll should be level with or slightly above withers. Nose slightly in front of or on vertical.

Class Procedure

- Shown at walk, trot, canter both directions
- May be asked to extend walk or trot
- May be asked to hand gallop (maximum 12 at a time)
- Reverse at walk or trot only
- May be asked to back
- Judging begins when horse enters arena

Faults (Scored by Severity)

- Quick, short, vertical strides
- Wrong lead/diagonal

- Breaking gait
- Excessive speed or slowness
- Head too high or too low
- Nose behind vertical
- excessive nosing out
- Loss of forward momentum
- Stumbling
- Dull or overly fatigued appearance

Disqualification

- Persistent head below withers
- Persistent nose behind vertical
- Fall of horse or rider
- Lameness
- Willful abuse
- Illegal equipment

ASR-71.05 Green Hunter Under Saddle (ATOA)

Purpose

Designed for horses with limited Hunter Under Saddle experience. Judged under same standards as ASR-71.04.

Eligibility horse is eligible if, as of January 1 of the current show year:

1. It is in its first calendar year of showing in ATOA Hunter Under Saddle; OR
2. It has not earned more than twenty-five (25) lifetime ATOA Hunter Under Saddle points.

Eligibility responsibility lies with owner/exhibitor. Subject to verification.

Year-long eligibility applies once qualified.

Cross-Entry

Green HUS entries may also enter their respective age-based Hunter Under Saddle class at the same show.

Awards Points apply toward ATOA ROM and year-end awards as defined in Chapter 69 (Registry-Based Championship Structure).

English Attire & Tack

English attire shall be conservative and traditional.

Permitted:

- Hunt coats (except where waived by show management)
- Breeches/jodhpurs
- Field boots or paddock boots

- ASTM/SEI-approved helmets are recommended for all exhibitors and are **required for all Youth exhibitors**. Tack must be hunt-seat appropriate.

Artificial appliances, abusive equipment, or mechanical devices intended to alter natural movement are prohibited.

ASR-71.06 Over Fences – Arena Equipment (ATOA)

General Equipment Standards

1. All poles must be:
 - a. Minimum 10 feet in length
 - b. Minimum 3 inches and maximum 4 inches in diameter
2. No square or PVC poles shall be used as jump rails.
 - a. Round or hexagonal poles are acceptable for jumping classes.
 - b. Round poles only are acceptable for hunter classes.
3. Courses must be constructed to avoid hazards to horse or rider.
4. Jump standards with 3-inch (7.62 cm) height increments and approved jump cups are recommended.
5. PVC standards must be properly anchored or secured.
6. A ground line on the approach side of each fence is mandatory in hunter-type classes.

Safety of horse and rider shall always take precedence over course design.

ASR-71.07 Hunter Hack (ATOA)

Attire & Tack

Must comply with the English Attire & Tack standards in ASR-71.05.

Class Procedure

1. Horses shall be shown at walk, trot, and canter both directions.
2. Horses shall jump a minimum of two (2) fences.
3. Fence height:
 - a. Minimum: 2'0" (60.96 cm)
 - b. Maximum: 3'0" (90 cm)
4. Jumps must be spaced on multiples of twelve (12) feet.
 - a. Minimum distance: 36 feet (10.97 m)
5. Obstacles shall simulate those found in a hunt field.

Judging

The class shall be judged:

- 70% performance over fences 30% rail work

Judged on:

- Even hunting pace
- Manners

- Way of going
- Jumping style

Horses eliminated in the over-fences phase are disqualified.

ASR-71.08 Green Working Hunter (ATOA)

Purpose

Designed for horses in early stages of Working Hunter competition.

Eligibility

A horse is eligible if, as of January 1 of the current show year:

1. It is in its first year of showing in ATOA Green Working Hunter; OR
2. It has not earned more than twenty-five (25) lifetime ATOA Working Hunter points.

Eligibility responsibility rests with owner and exhibitor.

Year-long eligibility applies once qualified.

Fence Heights

Minimum: 2'3" (68.5 cm)

Maximum: 3'0" (91 cm)

Cross-Entry

Horses may also enter Junior, Senior, or All-Ages Working Hunter at the same show.

Awards

Points apply toward ATOA ROM and year-end awards per Chapter 69 (Registry-Based Championship Structure).

ASR-71.09 Working Hunter (ATOA)

Attire & Tack

Must comply with the English Attire & Tack standards in ASR-71.05.

Running or standing martingales are permitted.

Class Divisions

- Junior Working Hunter
- Senior Working Hunter
- All Ages (if offered)
- Youth & Amateur divisions (if offered)

Course Requirements

1. Minimum four (4) obstacles.
2. Minimum eight (8) fences jumped.
3. One change of direction required.

Acceptable Obstacles

- Natural-looking post and rail
- Brush

- Wall
- Coop
- Ascending oxers

Triple bars and hogsbacks prohibited.

Fence Heights

Novice Amateur / Novice Youth:

- 2'3" minimum – 2'9" maximum

Junior / Amateur / Youth:

- 2'6" minimum – 3'0" maximum

Senior:

- 2'9" minimum – 3'3" maximum

Height may be reduced up to 3 inches if footing/weather requires.

Judging

Judged on:

- Manners
- Way of going
- Style of jumping
- Even hunting pace

Scored on 0–100 system.

70 = average.

Major Fault Scale (Summary)

Minor faults: ticks, light rubs, minor lead issues Major faults: refusal, trot on course, knockdown

Severe faults: dangerous jumping style

Elimination

Elimination for:

- Three cumulative disobediences
- Off course
- Fall of horse or rider
- Jumping obstacle before reset
- Deliberate addressing
- Bolting

Soundness must be evaluated at trot following course.

ASR-71.10 Jumping (ATOA)

Attire & Tack

Must comply with the English Attire & Tack standards in ASR-71.05.

Permitted:

- Running or standing martingales
- Figure-8 nosebands
- Leg boots/wraps
- Mechanical hackamores
- Gag or elevator bits

Judge may prohibit severe equipment.

Arena Requirements

1. Minimum four obstacles.
2. Minimum eight jumps.
3. At least one spread fence required.
4. Starting and finish lines must be marked.
5. Obstacles minimum 48 feet apart where possible.

Fence heights:

- Youth/Amateur: 3'0" – 3'6"
- Open: 2'3" – 4'0" first round

Timing

Time begins when chest crosses start line.

Time ends when chest crosses finish line.

Time stops during obstacle reset.

Scoring

Jumpers are scored mathematically on faults.

Faults

- Knockdown = 4 faults
- First refusal = 4 faults
- Second cumulative refusal = additional 4 faults

Elimination

- Third refusal
- Fall
- Off course
- Leaving arena
- Jumping before signal

ASR-71.11 Driving Performance Division (ATOA)

Registry Division Separation and Points

1. **Division Separation Required (Open/Performance).** In any ATOA point-earning Driving class, **Solid Registry entries shall not compete against Regular Registry (Patterned) entries.** Driving classes must be split and placed separately by registry division when points are awarded.

2.Points Availability. Solid Registry horses **may earn points** in ATOA- approved Open/Performance classes, including Driving, **within their own** registry division.

3. **Awards and Records.** Points earned apply toward ATOA year-end recognition, ROMs, and Driving awards as established in the Awards section.

ASR-71.12 Pleasure Driving (ATOA)

Attire

1. Exhibitor shall be neatly attired and wear long sleeves.
2. A coat and tie of choice may be worn.
3. All exhibitors shall wear a hat of choice.
4. Rainwear/inclement weather apparel is permitted when conditions require.
5. If a female exhibitor is attired in a short dress, a lap robe is required.

Cart and Occupancy

1. Horse shall compete safely harnessed to a cart.
2. The exhibitor/driver shall be the only person permitted in the cart while the horse is being exhibited.
3. No pets are allowed in the cart during exhibition. Cart specifications:
 - a. Pleasure-type, two-wheeled, single-horse cart
 - b. Seats for one or two persons
 - c. Must be **basket type equipped**

d. No stirrup-type carts or sulkies permitted

- e. Dash and basket cover optional

Equipment

1. Required equipment includes:
 - a. Whip suitable to the cart
 - b. Overcheck or check reins
 - c. Light horse breast collar harness including:
 - i. Surcingle with shaft tie-downs or quick hitch
 - ii. Crupper
 - d. Standard bridle
2. Optional equipment:
 - a. Blinders
 - b. Breeching or thimbles
 - c. Running martingales
 - d. Cavesson nosebands
3. Bits:
 - a. Must comply with ATOA English bit standards where applicable.
 - b. Additionally permitted for Pleasure Driving:

- i. Half cheek snaffle
- ii. Liverpool
- iii. Elbow driving bit
- iv. Bradoon overcheck
- c. All mouthpieces must be minimum **5/16 inch (7.9 mm)** in diameter measured one inch from the cheek.

Hooves and Shoes

Horses must be shown with natural hooves and standard shoes. Prohibited:

- Extended hooves
- Heavy shoes
- Toe weights

Class Procedure

1. Entry:
 - a. Horses enter the ring at a walk, direction as announced by steward/announcer.
2. Required gaits:
 - a. Walk
 - b. Park Gait (normal trot)
 - c. Road Gait (faster/extended trot)
3. Recommended order:
 - a. Walk → Park Gait → Road Gait → Park Gait → Walk
4. Ring direction and reverses:
 - a. Each gait must be demonstrated both directions.
 - b. Change of direction must be accomplished by crossing the ring at:
 - i. Walk, or
 - ii. Park gait only
5. Horses must also demonstrate:
 - a. Ability to back readily
 - b. Stand quietly
6. Excessive animation or speed shall be penalized.

Headers (Optional Management Control)

After all entries have completed rail work and are lined up awaiting the back:

1. Headers may quietly enter and position:
 - a. Two (2) to three (3) feet in front of and
 - b. To the left of the horse's head
2. Headers shall:
 - a. Stand still with hands behind back

- b. Be neatly dressed in Western or English attire
3. If restraint becomes necessary before completion of judging, the judge shall penalize that entry.
4. Any header who disturbs or distracts any horse shall cause penalties to the affected entry.

Placings

Placings shall be determined by evaluating:

1. The horse's ability to provide a pleasurable drive using required skills.
2. Prompt and correct execution of the class procedure requirements above, including gaits, reverses, back, and stand.

ASR-71.13 Utility Driving (ATOA)

Attire and Equipment

Attire, cart, harness, hooves/shoes, and bits must comply.

Judging Procedure

1. Tasks and Scoring.
 - a. The class is judged on the horse's performance through the tasks.
 - b. The judge assigns a point value to each task.
 - c. Points may be added to or subtracted from the task score based on:
 - i. Attitude
 - ii. Manners
 - iii. Style
 - iv. Way of going

2. **Negotiating Tasks.**

Credit is given to horses that negotiate tasks in continuous motion:

- a. Cleanly
 - b. Smoothly
 - c. Alertly
 - d. In prompt response to driver cues

Excessive hesitation is penalized.

3. Faults and Placings.

- a. A horse with major faults (knockdowns, refusals) shall not be placed over a horse that worked cleanly.
 - b. Touches and unnecessary delay are penalized.

4. **Off-Course (Disqualification).**

Off-course is disqualification and includes:

- a. Taking a task in the wrong direction
 - b. Negotiating a task from the wrong side
 - c. Skipping a task unless directed by the judge

- d. Performing tasks in wrong sequence
- 5. Backing (Optional Judge Call).
 - a. Judge may require a back after course completion.
 - b. If any exhibitor is asked to back, **all exhibitors must be asked.**

Course Requirements

- 1. Number of Tasks.
 - a. Minimum six (6) tasks
 - b. Maximum eight (8) tasks
- 2. Safe Setup and Spacing.
 - a. Tasks must be built to avoid hazards.
 - b. Tasks not combined shall be at least **15 feet (4.57 m)** apart.
- 3. **Gait Demonstration Requirement.**

The course must be designed to require demonstration of:

- a. Walk
- b. Park gait
- c. Road gait somewhere between tasks, with adequate space for judge evaluation.

If the gait between tasks is not specified on the course sheet, gait choice is optional.

Approved Tasks

The course must be built from the following tasks:

- 1. **Back through:** two barrels/poles/pylons, minimum 10 feet (3 m) apart.
- 2. **Box:** three-rail box; rails minimum 15 feet long; drive in, stop/settle, side pass out either direction. Chalk lines may substitute. Elevated center height max 10 inches (25.4 cm).
- 3. **Bridge:** simulated bridge of two rails with or without floor; minimum 10 feet (3 m) apart.
- 4. **Figure 8(s):** around two obstacles; spacing:
 - a. Walk: minimum 10 feet (3 m) apart
 - b. Park/road: minimum 15 feet (4.57 m) apart
- 5. **L-Obstacle(s):** poles in L-shape at walk; center height max 10 inches if elevated; sides not less than 20 feet (6.09 m); rails minimum 15 feet apart.
- 6. **Mailbox:** mailbox on stand minimum 4 feet (1.21 m); open, place card, close.
- 7. **Road Sign:** drive between two road-type signs minimum 10 feet (3 m) apart.
- 8. **Serpentine:** minimum 3 pylons; spacing:
 - a. Walk pylons: minimum 15 feet (4.57 m) base to base
 - b. Park/road pylons: minimum 20 feet (6.09 m) base to base
- 9. **Simulated Water:** solid painted wood only.
- 10. **Slicker:** driver must return slicker to designated location; reins must remain held.

11. **Straight and Narrow:** two parallel lines 1 foot (30.48 cm) apart; length 25–50 feet (7.62–15.24 m); hose/rope (min 1/2 inch) or chalk; one wheel must remain between lines entire length.
12. **Tack and Harness Check:** driver dismounts, walks around horse/cart maintaining control, then remounts while horse stands still.
13. **Twist:** 6–8 pylons; walk; minimum 10 feet (3 m) between any two pylons.
14. **U-Turn:** three-rail box, rails minimum 20 feet (6.09 m) long, pylon centered at opening; enter, drive around pylon, exit other side.
15. **Vehicles:** drive between two vehicles minimum 15 feet (4.57 m) apart.

Course Posting

Course sheet must be posted per GSR-68.08, Section H (Posting Patterns/Courses/Special Instructions), including any specified gaits between tasks.

ASR-71.14 Western Performance Division (ATOA)

This division governs all Western Performance, Ranch, Pattern, Speed and Cow Horse classes conducted at ATOA approved events.

All classes within this division are subject to:

- GSR-68.05 Registration Requirements
- GSR-68.08 Performance Class General Rules
- Chapter 69 (Registry-Based Championship Structure)
- GSR-68.05 Registry Division Separation

ASR-71.15 Amateur Performance & Equitation

Recognized Equitation Classes

- Hunt-Seat Equitation
- Western Horsemanship
- Hunt-Seat Equitation Over Fences

Recognized Performance Events

- Barrel Racing
- Breakaway Roping
- Cutting
- Dressage
- English Versatility Pattern
- Goat Tying
- Hunter Hack
- Hunter Under Saddle
- Jumping
- Pleasure Driving
- Pole Bending

- Ranch Cutting
- Ranch Pleasure
- Ranch Rail Pleasure
- Ranch Reining
- Ranch Riding
- Ranch Sorting
- Ranch Trail
- Reining
- Showmanship
- Stake Race
- Team Penning
- Team Roping (Heading & Heeling)
- Timed Team Roping
- Trail
- Utility Driving
- Western Pleasure
- Western Riding
- Working Cow Horse
- Working Hunter
- Yearling & Longe Line (as applicable)
- Mounted Shooting

Calas & Colas (Refer to Open rules for class specifications unless otherwise modified.)

WESTERN ATTIRE (ALL WESTERN CLASSES)

Required Attire

In all Western classes, appropriate Western attire is required and shall include:

1. Pants (jeans, slacks or trousers), ankle length or longer
2. Long-sleeved shirt, blouse or show jacket with collar
3. Western hat or approved safety helmet (Youth exhibitors must wear an approved safety helmet; see Youth Helmet Requirement in Chapter 73)
4. Cowboy boots

The hat or helmet must be on the exhibitor's head when entering the arena.

Failure to meet attire standards may result in disqualification.

Acceptable Variations

1. Vest over long-sleeved collared shirt is permitted.
2. Halter and in-hand Western classes may allow conservative Western attire without collar.
3. Weather adjustments may be authorized by the judge.

Optional Equipment

- Spurs
- Chaps or chinks
- Belt
- Protective helmet

Logos

Logos are permitted on attire and equipment:

- Maximum 2" x 3" per logo
- Manufacturer logos not exceeding 1" x 2"
- No offensive or disruptive branding

Violation may result in disqualification.

WESTERN TACK & EQUIPMENT

Applies to all Western classes unless class-specific exceptions are stated.

Saddle

Western stock saddle required (leather or synthetic). Must include horn, cantle, skirts and fenders.

Excessive silver shall not count over a functional working outfit.

Bridles

Permitted:

- Browband
- Shaped ear
- Split ear
- Plain or silver mounted

Reins

Split reins or romal reins required when using a curb bit (except speed events where optional).

Closed reins not permitted with snaffle except in Ranch or Cow Horse divisions where specifically allowed.

Romal Rules

1. Minimum 16" between rein hand and romal hand.
2. No fingers between reins.
3. Free hand may not signal or cue.
4. Romal may not be used forward of cinch.
5. Two hands on romal = zero score in pattern classes.

Hackamore / Bosal

- Flexible braided rawhide, leather or rope
- Maximum 3/4" diameter at cheek
- No rigid material under jaw
- Must use full mecate rein

- Minimum one finger space between bosal and nose

Horsehair bosals prohibited.

Mechanical hackamores prohibited unless specifically allowed in speed events.

Snaffle Bit

- O-ring, D-ring or egg-butt
- 2"-4" ring diameter
- Smooth, round bars minimum 5/16" diameter
- No twisted wire

Junior horses may be shown one or two handed in snaffle.

Curb Bit

- Maximum 8 1/2" shank
- Smooth bar 5/16"-3/4" diameter
- Port maximum 3 1/2"
- No slip or gag bits

Curb strap or chain required (minimum 1/2" width).

Prohibited Equipment (Unless Class Allows)

- Tie-downs
- Mechanical hackamores (except speed events)
- Martingales
- Nosebands
- Jerklines
- Bicycle chains
- Extended hooves or heavy shoes

Judge retains authority to disallow severe equipment.

ASR-71.16 Western Performance Gaits

Applies to all Western rail and pattern classes.

Gaits are evaluated in priority order:

1. Correctness
2. Quality
3. Degree of Difficulty

Walk

Natural four-beat gait. Cadenced, relaxed, forward.

Jog

Two-beat diagonal gait. Balanced and level.

Extended Jog

Lengthened stride, not merely faster.

Lope

Three-beat gait. Correct lead required. Smooth and balanced.

Back

Straight, soft, minimum one horse length.

ASR-71.17 Western Pleasure**Class Structure**

Show management may offer:

- Senior (6 & over)
- Junior (5 & under)
- 3-Year-Old
- 2-Year-Old
- All Ages

Horses 6 & over must show in curb bit.

Horses 5 & under may show in snaffle, hackamore, or curb.

Judging Priority

1. Cadence and Rhythm
2. Topline and Expression
3. Consistency
4. Length of Stride

Slowness that sacrifices correctness is penalized.

Ring Procedure

Required gaits:

- Walk
- Jog
- Lope
- Back

Moderate extension of jog required unless class is Walk-Trot division.

Reverses to inside. No reverse at lope.

Faults

Scored by severity:

- Wrong lead
- Breaking gait
- Excessive speed
- Over-flexing
- Head behind vertical
- Excessively slow artificial movement

- Spur forward of cinch
- Touching saddle
- Refusal to back
- Loss of cadence

ASR-71.18 Green Western Pleasure

Entry-level division for inexperienced horses.

Eligibility:

- First year showing in ATOA Western Pleasure

OR

- Fewer than 25 lifetime ATOA points

Year-long eligibility if qualified January 1.

May cross-enter regular Western Pleasure.

Points count toward ATOA ROM and year-end awards.

ASR-71.19 Western Versatility Pattern

Individual pattern class demonstrating versatility.

Required maneuvers:

- Walk, jog, lope both directions
- Extended jog
- Stop
- Back
- Turn up to 360°
- Lead change
- Pole work

Scoring:

0–100 scale, 70 average.

Penalties:

½, 1, 3, 5 point and Disqualification scale identical to Trail.

ASR-71.20 Trail

Judged on obstacle performance and quality of movement between obstacles.

Minimum 6 / Maximum 12 obstacles.

Must include obstacles from each division:

- Poles / logs
- Lateral work
- Back-through

- Gate
- Bridge / simulated water

Scoring:

0–100 with 70 average.

Penalty structure retained but simplified.

Unacceptable obstacles:

- Tires
- Animals
- Fire effects
- Rolling elevated poles

ASR-71.21 Green Trail

Entry-level Trail division.

Same rules as Trail except eligibility restrictions.

ASR-71.22 Western Riding

Judged on:

- Quality of gaits
- Flying lead changes
- Cadence
- Smoothness

Scoring:

0–100 with maneuver scale (–1½ to +1½)

Lead change penalties:

½, 1, 3, 5, Disqualification.

Patterns selected from approved ATOA Western Riding patterns.

ASR-71.23 Green Western Riding

Entry-level Western Riding.

Eligibility:

- First year showing

OR

- Fewer than 25 ATOA points

May cross-enter regular class.

ASR-71.24 Reining

Judged on:

- Smoothness

- Authority
- Control
- Difficulty with control

Scoring:

0–100, 70 average.

Maneuvers:

- Circles
- Spins
- Rollbacks
- Sliding stops
- Back

Zero score:

- Off pattern
- Illegal equipment
- Two hands (curb)
- Fall 5-point penalties:
- Spurring forward of cinch
- Blatant disobedience

ASR-71.25 Green Reining

Entry-level Reining division.

Same structure as Reining with simplified patterns.

ASR-71.26 Working Cow Horse

Two scored components:

1. Reined Work
2. Cow Work

Both required.

Scored 60–80 scale.

Tie-breaker: highest cow work score.

Cow work penalties clearly structured:

- 1 point
- 2 point
- 3 point
- 5 point
- Zero score

Failure to attempt cow work = not eligible for placing.

REGISTRY SEPARATION (APPLIES TO ALL WESTERN PERFORMANCE)

Solid Registry horses shall not compete against Regular Registry horses in any point-earning Western Performance class.

Separate placings required.

Points awarded within registry division only

ASR-71.27 Ranch & Roping Division

All Ranch, Cow Horse and Roping events are governed by:

- GSR-68.05 Registration Requirements
- GSR-68.08 Performance Class General Rules
- Chapter 69 (Registry-Based Championship Structure)
- GSR-68.05 Registry Division Separation
- Western Attire (ASR-71.15)
- Western Tack & Equipment (ASR-71.15)

Solid Registry horses shall not compete against Regular Registry horses in any point-earning Ranch or Roping class.

ASR-71.28 Working Cow Horse — Rein Work Patterns

The following approved ATOA Working Cow Horse Rein Work patterns may be used at any ATOA approved event.

Show management shall post pattern prior to class.

Patterns may be designated as:

- Standard entry
- Lope-in

General Pattern Requirements

All patterns must include:

- Circles (large fast and small slow)
- Flying lead changes
- Rundowns with sliding stops
- Spins
- Back maneuver
- Final hesitation

Spin direction and number of spins must be completed exactly as designated.

Failure to complete pattern = zero score.

Scoring

Rein work scored:

- 0–100 scale
- 70 = average

- Maneuver scale: $-1\frac{1}{2}$ to $+1\frac{1}{2}$

Penalties follow ATOA Reining penalty structure.

Rein work must be completed prior to cow work phase.

Approved Patterns

Patterns 1–12 are approved as published and may be used without alteration.

(You may keep the numbered patterns exactly as written — they are structurally clean and do not require rewriting.)

ASR-71.29 Team Penning

Timed event.

Three-person teams.

Objective: pen three head of designated cattle within time limit.

Divisions

1. Open
2. Amateur
3. Youth

Eligibility subject to:

- GAD-67.04 (Amateur Eligibility)
- YP-73.02 (Youth Eligibility)
- GAD-67.05 (Amateur Ownership)
- YP-73.03 (Youth Ownership)

Horse may enter once per division.

Time Limit

90 seconds unless otherwise posted.

30-second warning required.

Fastest time wins.

Three head place above two head, etc., regardless of time.

Arena & Cattle Requirements

- Minimum 15 head per go
- 3 head per team in arena
- Same number of cattle per herd
- Numbers minimum 6" on both sides

More than four head crossing starting line = no time.

Disqualifications

- Undesignated cattle on pen side at time call
- Roughness to cattle
- Contact with cattle using hands, hats, ropes, romal

- Dismounted exhibitor working cattle
- Unsportsmanlike conduct

Judge may award rerun when justified.

Points

Points awarded per individual horse based on number of teams entered under ATOA point structure.

ASR-71.30 Ranch Sorting

Timed two-person team event.

Objective: sort cattle in designated numerical sequence.

Divisions

1. Open
2. Amateur
3. Youth

Horse may enter once per division.

Time Limit

60, 75, or 90 seconds (must be posted).

Lap timer used only to break ties.

No-Time Situations

- Incorrect sorting order
- Unnumbered cow crossing foul line before tenth head
- Sorted cow re-crossing foul line
- Delay crossing foul line

Clean Sort Advancement

In multiple go-rounds:

Teams sorting clean in more rounds place above teams failing to sort clean.

Arena Specs

- 50–60 foot diameter pens
- 12–16 foot gate opening
- No 90° corners

Back numbers required. Neck bands not permitted.

ASR-71.31 Tie-down Roping

Scored event (not timed).

Score: 0–100

70 = average

Horse is judged — not speed of tie.

Divisions

- Open
- Amateur
- Youth

Judged Maneuvers

1. Box and barrier
2. Running and rating
3. Stop
4. Working rope
5. Manners during remount

Major Penalties

1-Point:

- Dragging calf (per 3 feet up to 12 feet) 2-Point:
- Freeze in box
- Jumping barrier
- Failure to back 5-Point:
- Refusing box
- Breaking barrier
- Running into calf
- Blatant disobedience

Disqualification

- Calf fails to stay tied
- Excessive schooling
- Whipping horse with rope
- Dragging calf over 12 feet
- Bringing calf over backwards

Judge may award new cattle when appropriate.

ASR-71.32 Breakaway Roping

Timed event.

One-minute time limit.

Divisions

- Open
- Amateur
- Youth

Open may be split Junior/Senior.

Barrier

Breaking barrier = 10-second penalty.

Legal Catch

Loop must pass completely over head and secure on neck.

Bell collar catch required.

No-Time

- Breaking rope from horn by hand
- Touching rope after catch
- Dallying rope
- Attempting to rope before barrier release

ASR-71.33 Team Roping (Timed)

Timed event.

Two-person team: header & heeler.

Divisions

- Open
- Amateur
- Youth

Legal Catches

Header:

- Both horns
- Half head
- Around neck

Heeler:

- Both heels (clean)
- One heel = 5-second penalty

Barrier

10-second penalty for breaking barrier.

Header starts behind barrier.

No-Time

- Illegal head catch
- Illegal heel catch
- Header ropes leg
- Crossfire
- Rough handling of steer
- Tie-on violation

Disqualification

- Dragging steer excessively
 - Unsportsmanlike conduct
 - Horse fails to enter box within 30 seconds

Judge may award new cattle when appropriate.

ASR-71.34 Ranch Horse Division

The Ranch Horse Division is designed to showcase the versatility, functionality, soundness, and attitude of the all-around working ranch horse.

All classes in this division are governed by:

- GSR-68.05 Registration Requirements
- GSR-68.08 Performance Class General Rules
- Chapter 69 (Registry-Based Championship Structure)
- Western Attire (ASR-71.15)
- Western Tack & Equipment (ASR-71.15)
- GSR-68.05 Registry Division Separation

Solid Registry horses shall not compete against Regular Registry horses in any point-earning Ranch class.

ASR-71.35 Ranch Division General Rules

Eligibility

1. Horses must be three (3) years of age or older.
2. Classes may be offered in:
 - a. Open
 - b. Amateur
 - c. Youth
 - d. Novice Amateur
 - e. Novice Youth
 - f. Youth Walk-Trot (where specified)

Environment

Ranch classes should simulate practical ranch work.

- Outdoor arenas recommended when possible
- Natural obstacles encouraged
- Practical ranch realism prioritized

Rider Position

- Sitting trot and lope recommended
- Posting extended trot permitted
- Standing in stirrups at extended gaits acceptable

- Holding saddle horn permitted without penalty

Awards

Each Ranch class earns ATOA points toward:

- Register of Merit
- Year-End Awards
- Division Championships

Year-End Ranch All-Around eligibility requires participation in designated ranch classes as determined by ATOA.

RANCH GAITS

The ranch horse must demonstrate natural, ground-covering movement suitable for long days of work.

Ordinary Walk

Straight, square, relaxed, no anticipation.

Extended Walk

Increased length of stride, forward and purposeful.

Trot

Two-beat diagonal gait, steady and comfortable.

Extended Trot

Lengthened stride with maintained cadence.

Lope

Three-beat gait, relaxed and ground-covering.

Extended Lope

Increased stride length with maintained control.

Back

Minimum one horse length; straight, quiet, willing.

Resistance, gapping mouth, or head tossing penalized.

ASR-71.36 Ranch Riding

Purpose

To evaluate the horse's ability to serve as a practical ranch riding mount moving between tasks.

The horse must appear:

- Soft
- Responsive
- Forward-moving
- Relaxed
- Functional

The horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins.

Light contact or loose rein acceptable.

Class Requirements

Each horse works individually.

Required maneuvers:

- Walk
- Trot
- Lope both directions
- Extended trot
- Extended lope (at least one direction)
- Stop
- Back

Three or more optional maneuvers must be included:

- Side pass
- 360° or greater turn
- Lead change (simple or flying)
- Pole work
- Reasonable ranch maneuver

No time limit.

Pattern must be posted at least one hour prior to class.

Scoring

Scored 0–100.

70 = average.

Maneuver scores:

- -1½ extremely poor
- -1 very poor
- -½ poor
- 0 correct
- +½ good
- +1 very good
- +1½ excellent

Maneuver and penalties evaluated independently.

Penalties 1-Point

- Too slow per gait
- Over-bridled
- Out of frame
- Break of gait (≤ 2 strides)
- Wrong lead (≤ 2 strides)

3-Point

- Break of gait (> 2 strides)
- Wrong lead (> 2 strides)
- Draped reins
- Severe obstacle disturbance
- Incorrect lead change
- Trotting > 3 strides during departure

5-Point

- Refusal
- Blatant disobedience

Off Pattern (Placed Below All Complete Patterns)

- Omitted maneuver
- Added maneuver
- Incomplete maneuver
- Breaking pattern
- Use of two hands (except snaffle or hackamore)

Disqualification

- Lameness
- Abuse
- Illegal equipment
- Braided/banded manes
- Tail extensions
- Fall of horse or rider
- Leaving working area
- Dangerous conduct
- Excessive schooling

Disqualified entries count as entries but earn no points.

RANCH RIDING APPROVED PATTERNS

Patterns #1–#15 are approved ATOA Ranch Riding patterns.

Show management must post selected pattern prior to class.

Optional cattle components may be included where designated.

Pattern geometry, pole spacing and obstacle layout must follow published specifications.

No alteration of maneuver sequence permitted.

ASR-71.37 Steer Stopping**Purpose**

To evaluate box work, rate, stop, and control of steer.

Scoring

0–100 scale

70 = average

Each maneuver scored –3 to +3 in ½ point increments.

Barrier

Breaking barrier = 5-point penalty.

Legal Catch

- Both horns
- Half head
- Around neck

Exhibitor may re-throw within one-minute time limit.

Disqualification (0 Score)

- Loss of rope
- No legal catch
- Fall of horse or rider
- Excessive schooling
- Abuse
- Failure to stop forward motion

ASR-71.38 Cutting

Cutting may be offered in:

- Open
- Amateur
- Youth
- Novice divisions

Scoring

60–80 scale

70 = average

Penalties

½, 1, 3, 5 point penalties applied per occurrence.

60 score if horse turns tail.

Disqualification:

- Illegal equipment
- Leaving working area
- Fall

ASR-71.39 Barrel Racing

Timed event.

Pattern

Standard cloverleaf pattern.

Recommended measurements:

- 60 ft to barrels 1 & 2
- 105 ft between barrels
- 36 ft barrel 3 to fence

Adjustable for arena size.

Timing

- Electric timer preferred
- Two backup watches required
- 5-second penalty per knocked barrel

Disqualification

- Pattern deviation
- Wrong direction
- Fall
- Failure to lope $\frac{3}{4}$ pattern
- Excessive use of whip

ASR-71.40 Pole Bending

Timed event.

Six poles:

- 21 ft apart
- First pole 21 ft from start line 5-second penalty per knocked pole.

Disqualification:

- Pattern deviation
- Fall
- Failure to lope $\frac{3}{4}$ pattern

ASR-71.41 Stake Race

Timed event.

Two stakes:

- 80 ft apart
- First stake 21 ft from start line

No-time:

- Knocked pole

- Incomplete figure eight

ASR-71.42 Ranch Performance & Specialty Events

All Ranch Performance classes are governed by:

- GSR-68.05 Registry Division Separation
- GSR-68.08 Performance Class General Rules
- Western Attire (ASR-71.15)
- Western Tack & Equipment (ASR-71.15)
- Chapter 69 (Registry-Based Championship Structure)

Regular Registry and Solid Registry horses compete in separate divisions in all point-earning Ranch classes unless specifically designated as All-Registry.

ASR-71.43 Ranch Rail Pleasure

Eligibility

Open (Junior/Senior), Amateur, Youth, Novice Amateur, Novice Youth.

No horse may cross-enter into:

- Western Pleasure
- Hunter Under Saddle Exception: Ranch Pleasure.

Purpose

To evaluate the horse as a practical ranch conveyance between tasks.

The ideal ranch rail pleasure horse:

- Is relaxed and responsive
- Travels forward at working speed
- Carries a natural head carriage
- Is shown on light contact
- Is not shown on a full drape of reins

Extended gaits must be shown at least one direction.

Required Gaits

- Walk
- Extended Walk
- Trot
- Extended Trot
- Lope
- Extended Lope
- Back

Horses reverse to the inside at walk or trot only.

Transition Evaluation

Smooth transitions are heavily weighted.

- Extended lope → seated trot required
- Must complete downward transition within three strides
- Stopping before trot is penalized

Penalties 1 Point

- Too slow per gait
- Over-bridled
- Out of frame
- Break of gait ≤ 2 strides

3 Point

- Break of gait > 2 strides
- Wrong lead > 2 strides
- Draped reins
- Trotting > 3 strides in departure

5 Point

- Spurring in front of cinch
- Blatant disobedience
- Use of hand to instill fear

Disqualification

- Lameness
- Abuse
- Illegal equipment
- Braided/banded manes
- Tail extensions
- Fall
- Dangerous conduct
- Reversing into rail

ASR-71.44 Ranch Pleasure (Pattern)

Purpose: Individual pattern class evaluating ranch horse versatility.

Scoring:

0–100 scale

70 = average

Penalties standardized to:

- 1
- 3

- 5
- Off Pattern
- Disqualification

Approved patterns 1–5 remain unchanged and are incorporated as official ATOA Ranch Pleasure patterns.

ASR-71.45 Ranch Trail

Course Requirements

6–9 obstacles

Mandatory: walk, trot (35 ft), lope (50 ft lead-specific) Time limit: 4 minutes or less.

Prohibited Obstacles

- Tarps
- Slick-bottom water
- PVC jumps
- Tires
- Rolling bridges

Mandatory Obstacles

- Log/pole series
- Gate
- Bridge
- Back-through
- Side pass
- Rope drag (Open/Amateur only)

Optional obstacles preserved as listed.

Scoring

0–100

70 base score

Penalties standardized:

1 / 3 / 5 / Off Pattern / DQ

ASR-71.46 Ranch Boxing

Novice Amateur and Novice Youth only.

Time: 50 seconds.

Scoring: 0–100 (70 base)

New Cow procedure preserved.

Mechanical cow permitted (75 seconds).

Penalties standardized to ATOA structure.

RANCH BOX DRIVE

Open, Amateur, Youth.

Time: 1:45

Four-part work:

1. Box
2. Drive
3. Box
4. Drive past marker

Scoring: 0–100 (70 base)

Credits:

- Position
- Control
- Degree of difficulty
- Eye appeal

Penalties preserved but reformatted.

RANCH COW WORK (BOX–FENCE–ROPE/CIRCLE)

Time: 3 minutes.

Open must rope.

Amateur/Youth may rope or circle.

Roping:

- Two throws permitted
- Legal catch defined
- No catch still may earn partial credit

Circling:

- 360° both directions
- No fence interference
- Balanced and controlled

Penalties standardized.

ASR-71.47 Ranch Reining

May use:

- ATOA approved Ranch Reining patterns
- Any ATOA published reining pattern

Scoring:

0–100

70 base ½, 1, 2, 5 point penalty structure retained.

Patterns #1, #2, #4 adopted as official ATOA Ranch Reining Patterns.

ASR-71.48 Ranch Cutting

Time: 2 minutes.

Two cows required.

Turn-back riders permitted.

Scoring:

0-100

70 base

Penalties standardized.

ASR-71.49 Ranch Conformation

Eligibility:

Horse must compete in at least one Ranch performance class at same show.

All sexes shown together.

Not eligible for Grand/Reserve.

Judged on:

- Structural correctness
- Balance
- Movement
- Working horse type

ASR-71.50 Green Ranch Classes

Purpose: Entry-level competition.

Eligibility:

- First-year showing OR
- Fewer than 25 lifetime points in class OR
- Less than \$2,500 lifetime verified earnings

Year-long eligibility if qualified January 1.

Green points:

- Count toward ATOA ROM
- Do NOT count toward All-Around

ASR-71.51 Mounted Shooting

ATOA Special Event.

Recognized organizations may host events under ATOA approval.

Points:

Eligible for:

- ROM
- Superior
- Honor Roll

All ATOA equipment rules apply.

ASR-71.52 Dressage

Recognized Levels:

Training–FEI.

Percentage converted to ATOA points using standardized chart.

No outside registry dependency required.

ASR-71.53 International Specialty Events

Calas & Colas recognized as ATOA Special Events.

Eligible for:

- ROM
- Superior
- Honor Roll

Zone-only language removed unless you specifically want ATOA Zones retained.

72.0 Year-End Amateur Awards (YEA 72.01–72.03)

Amateur Top 20 Awards

Divisions:

1. Amateur (19–44)
2. Masters (45 & Over)
3. Novice Amateur
4. Amateur Walk-Trot (19–44)
5. Masters Walk-Trot (45 & Over)

Requirements:

- Points earned January 1 – December 31
- Maximum 20 approved shows counted
- World Show points excluded
- Minimum eight (8) points required

Tie Breaker:

1. One alternate show
2. Greatest number of performance points
3. Fewest shows used

YEA-72.01 Amateur Honor Roll Awards

Top ten (10) Amateur/horse combinations per event per division.

Eligibility:

- Minimum ten (10) points
- World Show points excluded

Awards:

- First place: Designated year-end award
- Second through tenth: Certificate of recognition

YEA-72.02 Amateur Zone Awards

Recognizes the top five (5) Amateur/horse combinations in each zone.

Requirements:

- Minimum eight (8) points earned within zone
- World Show points excluded

Tie Breaker:

1. Greatest number of performance points
2. Most points earned in the fewest number of shows

Awards:

- First place: Designated award
- First through fifth: Certificates

YEA-72.03 Amateur Rookie of the Year

Eligibility:

- No prior equine association points, earnings, or World/Reserve titles in any division
- Current Amateur card required
- One horse/one Amateur basis

Requirements:

- Minimum eight (8) points
- World Show points excluded

Tie Breaker: Greatest number of different events entered

1. Greatest number of wins

Award:

- Designated annual award

73.0 Youth Program (YP 73.01–73.13)

Effective Date

These Youth Program Rules and Regulations become effective January 1 of the current year. All prior Youth Program rules are repealed.

Youth Helmet Requirement

All Youth exhibitors must wear a properly fitted ASTM/SEI-approved safety helmet, with the harness secured, at all times while mounted at an ATOA-approved show or event, including in Western classes.

YP-73.01 Membership

A. Eligibility & Privileges

1. AjTOA membership required.
2. Must be in good standing (free of disciplinary restriction).
3. Membership issued to one individual only.

B. Membership Terms

1. Annual (expires December 21 of each year)
2. Three-Year (expires December 21 of the third year)
3. Term Membership (expires December 21 of the year the youth turns 18)

C. Automatic Expiration

Youth memberships expire December 21 of the year the member turns 18 (age as of January 1).

D. Birth Date Verification

Birth date must be on file prior to award issuance. ATOA may require documentation.

E. Show Requirement

Current AjTOA membership required to exhibit in ATOA-approved Youth classes. Exception: Leadline.

YP-73.02 Youth Eligibility

A. Age

- Minimum: 5 years old (except Leadline)
- Maximum: 18 years old
- Age determined as of January 1

B. Marriage

Married individuals or those in legally recognized domestic partnerships are ineligible.

C. Remuneration Restriction

Receiving compensation for training or instruction may affect:

- Novice Youth status
- Future Amateur eligibility

YP-73.03 Ownership & Exhibitor Status

Youth Ownership Requirements

A. General Eligibility

Horse does not have to be owned by youth to compete. Ownership required for:

- ATOA points
- Titles
- Awards
- World Show eligibility

B. Recognized Ownership

Horse must be owned by:

- Youth
- Immediate family (as defined)
- Family-owned farm/ranch/corporation

Exception:

- Leadline
- Novice Youth

YP-73.04 Show Lease Requirements

1. Individual lease only
2. Official ATOA Show Lease Form required
3. Expires December 31 annually
4. Only one active lease per horse
5. Lessee responsible for expenses
6. Lease certificate must be presented at show

YP-73.05 Youth Titles & Awards

General Award Rules

- One horse / one youth basis
- Points tabulated per Rule SC-060
- Unlimited time unless otherwise specified

YP-73.06 ATOA Youth Champion

Requirements:

- 40 total points
- 16 Halter points
- 16 Performance points
- Minimum 5 shows under 5 judges

- Performance points from at least two categories

YP-73.07 ATOA Superior Youth Champion

Requirements:

- 270 total points
- 30 Halter (max 15 as yearling)
- 240 Performance
- 4 Superior categories
- 4 ROM categories (different events)

YP-73.08 Youth Register of Merit (ROM)

- 10 points in one event

YP-73.09 Youth Superior Event

- 50 points in one event

YP-73.10 Youth Performance Versatility Award

- Five ROMs
- One Superior
- One must be Showmanship

YEAR-END AWARDS

Youth Top 20

Divisions:

- 13 & Under
- 14–18

Requirements:

- January 1 – December 31
- Max 20 shows
- Min 6 points
- World Show excluded

YP-73.11 Youth Honor Roll

- Top 10 per event
- Minimum 10 points
- World Show excluded

YP-73.12 Youth Zone Awards

- Top 5 per zone
- Minimum 6 zone points

- Tie breakers:
 - Most performance points
 - Fewest shows

YP-73.13 Class Structure & Age Divisions

Age Divisions

If One Division Offered:

- 18 & Under
- Minimum 3 separate 13 & Under classes

If Two Divisions Offered:

- 13 & Under
- 14–18

Splitting / Combining:

Allowed under entry conditions per SC-185

74.0 Youth Walk-Trot Divisions (YWT 74.01–74.04)

YWT-74.01 Walk-Trot 5–10

- May not enter other riding classes
- Points count only toward Walk-Trot awards

YWT-74.02 Walk-Trot 11–18

- Youth Walk-Trot card required
- Cannot show in lope classes
- Reclassification allowed once per year

YWT-74.03 Novice Youth Division

YP-701. Eligibility

- Category-based qualification
- 75 revalued point cap
- \$2,500 earnings cap
- No prior World/Reserve title in category

Novice Youth Awards

- ROM (10 points)
- Superior (50 points)
- Zone Awards
- Honor Roll
- Top 20

- Rookie of the Year

YWT-74.04 Performance & Equitation Events

Approved Performance Events

Includes:

- Western Pleasure
- Hunter Under Saddle
- Ranch Riding
- Trail
- Reining
- Working Cow Horse
- Speed Events
- Cutting
- Roping Events
- Ranch Events
- Mounted Shooting
- Dressage (Full enumerated list maintained as appendix for clarity.)

Each class:

- Attire
- Tack
- Class Procedure
- Pattern Requirements
- Scoring System
- Penalties
- Disqualifications

75.0 Judges & Officials (JUDGE 75.01–75.15)

JUDGE-75.01 ATOA Judge Program

Approval Requirements

- Active ATOA membership
- Completion of ATOA Judges School
- Ethics agreement
- Conflict of interest disclosure

Designation is a privilege, not a right.

Restricted Judges

ATOA may recognize judges credentialed in:

- Reining
- Cow Horse
- Cutting
- Speed Events
- Ranch
- Mounted Shooting
- Dressage
- Halter

Must:

- Hold ATOA membership
- Provide proof of credentialing
- Be approved 60 days prior to show

Show Restrictions

- No judging two shows within 150 miles inside 30 days
- No judging consecutive years at same show
- No judging shows where judge is in management

Conflict of Interest

3-month rule applies for:

- Ownership
- Training
- Financial interest

Immediate family defined.

Multi-judge conflict protocol established.

Judge Conduct

- Professional attire required
- No fraternization
- No barn visits
- No electronic device use in arena

Authority of Judge

Judge's decision final.

Clerical corrections must be initialed.

Complaints

Written complaint within 60 days.

Board review process established.

JUDGE-75.02 ATOA Judges – Rules & Regulations

These Rules and Regulations shall become effective January 1 of the current year. All prior judge rules are hereby repealed and superseded.

JUDGE-75.03 Designation of ATOA Approved Judges

Designation as an ATOA Approved Judge is a privilege granted by the American Tobiano Overo Association (ATOA), not a right. Approval may be granted, suspended, or revoked by the ATOA Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Judges Committee.

All judges agree, as a condition of approval, to abide by the ATOA Bylaws, Rulebook, Code of Ethics, and decisions of the Board of Directors.

JUDGE-75.04 Judge Approval Requirements

Membership

1. A judge must maintain an active individual ATOA membership in good standing.
2. Business, ranch, or family memberships do not satisfy judge eligibility.
3. Membership lapse automatically suspends judge approval until reinstated.

Qualifications

Judges must demonstrate:

- Proven equine expertise
- Breed knowledge
- Sound character and professionalism
- Knowledge of ATOA rules
- Ability to evaluate conformation, movement, and performance The Judges Committee may require testing, apprenticeship, references, or interviews.

Continuing Education

1. Judges must attend an ATOA-approved Judges Seminar at least once every three (3) years.
2. Failure to comply requires reapplication under new applicant standards.

Approval & Review

1. Judge approval remains valid unless revoked.
2. Status is subject to continual review by the Judges Committee.
3. The Board of Directors retains final authority on approval or removal.

JUDGE-75.05 Selection of Judges for ATOA Shows

1. Show management must select judges from the current ATOA Approved Judges List.
2. Judge assignments must be submitted to ATOA within required show approval deadlines.
3. Restricted judges (see JUDGE-75.06) must be approved in advance.

JUDGE-75.06 Restricted Judges

ATOA may recognize judges credentialed through nationally recognized discipline organizations in the following divisions:

- Reining
- Working Cow Horse
- Cutting
- Ranch Horse
- Speed Events
- Mounted Shooting
- Dressage
- Halter
- Judged Roping
- Ranch Sorting

Requirements:

1. Current ATOA membership.
2. Proof of credentialing in the applicable discipline.
3. Approval by ATOA Judges Committee prior to officiating.
4. Halter restricted judges may require additional ATOA approval.

JUDGE-75.07 Show Requirements & Restrictions

Mileage Rule

No judge may officiate two ATOA-approved shows within 150 miles of each other within 30 days, unless approved by the Board for special circumstances.

Number of Shows

1. A judge may officiate no more than two (2) approved ATOA shows within the same state or province in a calendar year, unless otherwise authorized.
2. Judges must officiate at least one ATOA show annually to maintain active status.

Consecutive Shows

A judge may not officiate the same show two consecutive years unless specifically authorized by the Board.

Judges in Show Management

A judge involved in show management, sponsorship, or financial oversight may not officiate at that show.

JUDGE-75.08 Judging Commitment

Fulfillment of Assignment

After accepting a judging assignment, the judge must make reasonable effort to fulfill the commitment.

If unable:

- Judge must immediately notify show management.
- Written explanation must be submitted to ATOA.

Failure to Appear

Failure to appear without reasonable cause may result in suspension for up to one year.

JUDGE-75.09 Attire

Judges must wear professional western attire including:

- Collared long-sleeve shirt or blouse
- Western hat
- Western boots
- Professional pants
- Tie (recommended for men)

Weather-related adjustments permitted at judge discretion.

JUDGE-75.10 Conduct & Ethics

An ATOA judge is a representative of the Association at all times and must conduct themselves in a professional, impartial, and sportsmanlike manner.

Pre-Show Restrictions

Judges shall not:

- Attend exhibitor parties prior to the show
- Visit barns
- Inspect entered horses
- Discuss entries

Exception: Approved clinics or multi-breed events.

Arena Conduct

Judges are prohibited from:

- Using tobacco or alcohol in the arena
- Using personal electronic devices
- Fraternizing with exhibitors during competition

JUDGE-75.11 Conflict of Interest

Judges must avoid both actual and perceived conflicts of interest.

Immediate Family

Immediate family includes:

Spouse, parents, children, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, step-relations, in-laws, legal wards, half-siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and solely owned business entities.

Immediate family may not exhibit at a show where the judge is officiating.

Three-Month Rule

A judge may not judge a horse if within the previous three (3) months they or their immediate family have:

- Owned
- Trained
- Exhibited
- Received compensation related to the horse

Exception: Routine breeding-related expenses.

Multi-Judge Shows

If a conflict exists:

- Judge shall abstain from judging that entry.
- Entry counts toward class total.
- Judge must mark conflict on card.

Violation may result in suspension.

JUDGE-75.12 Horses Owned by Judge

No horse owned by the judge or immediate family may compete at a show where that judge officiates.

JUDGE-75.13 Authority of the Judge

1. Judge decisions on placings are final.
2. Classes may not be rejudged.
3. Clerical corrections must be initialed.
4. Judges must list placements through seventh place, including disqualifications.

Entry Tally

Judges must independently verify entry counts and retain records for one year.

Eligibility

Judges do not determine registration eligibility in the arena.

Removal for Misconduct

A judge may excuse a horse or exhibitor for unsafe or inappropriate conduct.

Patterns

Judges are responsible for correctness of patterns used in approved classes.

JUDGE-75.14 Complaints Against Judges

1. Complaints must be submitted in writing within sixty (60) days of the show.
2. Complaint must include:
 - Rule allegedly violated
 - Date and location
 - Supporting details

3. Disciplinary procedures follow ATOA General Rulebook enforcement process.

JUDGE-75.15 Removal & Reinstatement

Removal

Judge approval may be revoked for:

- Rule violations
- Ethical misconduct
- Suspension from ATOA membership
- Failure to meet continuing education requirements

Removal is not automatically reversible.

Reinstatement

After one (1) year, a former judge may apply for reinstatement by:

1. Submitting written explanation
2. Providing references from three recent shows judged (if applicable)
3. Completing required education
4. Receiving Board approval

Reinstatement is discretionary.

76.0 Virtual Horse Show Program (VIT 76.01–76.03)

VIT-76.01 ATOA Virtual Horse Shows

Purpose

The ATOA Virtual Horse Show Program allows members to participate in association competitions through online video submission when attendance at a physical event is not possible.

Virtual shows expand access to competition opportunities while maintaining the judging standards of the association.

Eligibility

Horses competing in ATOA Virtual Horse Shows must:

- be registered or eligible for registration with ATOA
- be owned or exhibited by an active ATOA member
- meet the eligibility requirements of the class entered.

Video Submission Requirements

All virtual show entries must be submitted as **continuous video recordings** without editing. Pivo recording is allowed

Videos must clearly display:

- the horse and rider or handler
- the entire performance of the class

- the required pattern or maneuver.

Videos that appear edited or altered may be rejected.

Recording Standards

Videos submitted for virtual competition must meet the following standards:

- clear video quality
- adequate lighting
- full view of the horse and exhibitor.

The camera must remain steady and positioned so that judges can clearly evaluate the performance.

Class Execution

Competitors must perform class maneuvers according to official ATOA class rules.

For pattern classes, the pattern must be completed exactly as posted for the virtual show.

Failure to complete the required pattern may result in penalties or disqualification.

Arena Requirements

Virtual show entries may be recorded in any safe riding environment.

Acceptable locations include:

- indoor arenas
- outdoor arenas
- fenced riding areas.

The surface must be safe for horse and rider.

Time Limits

Video entries must be recorded and submitted within the time frame specified for the virtual show.

Late submissions may not be accepted.

Judging

Virtual show entries shall be judged by **ATOA approved judges**. Or otherwise approved by the Show Secretary.

Judges will evaluate entries using the same standards applied in traditional ATOA shows.

Judging decisions are final.

Video Identification

Each video submission must clearly identify:

- horse name
- exhibitor name
- class entered.

This information may be announced verbally or displayed on screen.

Points and Awards

Placings in ATOA Virtual Horse Shows may be eligible for:

- ATOA points
- virtual show awards
- participation recognition.

Points may count toward year-end awards when designated by the association.

Prohibited Practices

The following practices are prohibited in virtual competitions:

- edited or altered videos
- combining multiple recordings into a single submission
- misrepresentation of the horse or exhibitor.

Violations may result in disqualification.

Sportsmanship

Participants in virtual shows must demonstrate professionalism and sportsmanship.

Fraudulent entries or misconduct may result in disciplinary action.

VIT-76.02 Virtual Show Management

Virtual Show Approval

Virtual shows awarding ATOA points must receive approval from the association prior to the event.

Entry Fees

Entry fees for virtual shows shall be determined by the show's management and announced prior to the event.

Results Publication

Results from virtual competitions must be published following completion of judging.

Results may be announced through:

- the ATOA website
- social media
- official association communications.

Record Keeping

Show management must maintain records of:

- entries
- judging results
- awards.

These records must be submitted to ATOA when points are awarded.

VIT-76.03 Virtual Horse Show Point System

Points shall be awarded only to qualifying Paints entered in approved ROM classes and events at ATOA-approved virtual horse shows, except where otherwise noted in the class rules, as follows:

Official Entries	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
10 or more	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
9	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	0
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0
6	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
5	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
4	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

This point system applies only to ATOA Virtual Horse Shows. Points for in-person ATOA-approved shows are awarded under PARM-61.02 (Point Scale).

PART XII — OPEN SHOW AWARDS PROGRAM

77.0 Open Show Awards Program (OSAP 77.01–77.18)

OSAP-77.01 Program Overview

- A. ATOA recognizes that Professional, Amateur, and Youth exhibitors competing in specialty events may not have the opportunity to earn national points and awards. The Open Show Awards Program (OSAP) offers recognition for the achievements of these Paints in activities outside of ATOA shows.
- B. Professional, Amateur, and Youth exhibitors residing in areas where there are ATOA-approved shows may also participate in OSAP.
- C. Points earned through this program are recorded in the ATOA OSAP permanent show record and make the horse eligible for OSAP awards. OSAP points do not appear on the horse's ATOA National Show record.
- D. OSAP is open to all ATOA members and ATOA-registered horses in good standing that have enrolled in the program. Enrollment must be renewed annually.

OSAP-77.02 Paint, Owner, and Exhibitor Eligibility

- A. Paints participating in OSAP must have a permanent ATOA registration number.
- B. Owner(s) of record must be current members of ATOA.
- C. Lessee(s), if applicable, must be current members of ATOA.
- D. The lease must be on file with the ATOA office.
- E. Exhibitor(s) must hold a current ATOA membership in the appropriate category (for example, Youth or Individual).

OSAP-77.03 Recognized Associations

- A. Recognized associations and events for OSAP include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. ADS – American Driving Society
 - 2. AERC – American Endurance Ride Conference
 - 3. ACHA – American Cutting Horse Association
 - 4. CCHA – Canadian Cutting Horse Association
 - 5. EC – Equestrian Canada
 - 6. FEI – Fédération Équestre Internationale
 - 7. IPRA – International Professional Rodeo Association
 - 8. 4-H – National 4-H Council
 - 9. MSA – Mounted Shooters of America
 - 10. NATRC – North American Trail Ride Conference
 - 11. NBHA – National Barrel Horse Association
 - 12. NCHA – National Cutting Horse Association

13. NRCHA – National Reined Cow Horse Association
14. NRHA – National Reining Horse Association
15. NSBA – National Snaffle Bit Association
16. PRCA – Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association
17. SASS – Single Action Shooting Society
18. USCRA – United States Calf Roping Association
19. USDF – United States Dressage Federation
20. USEA – United States Eventing Association
21. USEF – United States Equestrian Federation
22. USPC – United States Pony Club
23. USTPA – United States Team Penning Association
24. USTRC – United States Team Roping Championships
25. WPRA – Women's Professional Rodeo Association

B. ATOA has final approval of any association or event submitted for OSAP credit.

OSAP-77.04 OSAP Season

- A. The OSAP show season begins January 1 and ends December 31 of the same year.
- B. Results postmarked after December 31 will count toward the following year.

OSAP-77.05 Results Reporting

- A. Completed OSAP reporting forms must be submitted to the ATOA office within thirty (30) days after the show date.
- B. The OSAP Reporting Form must be signed by a show official.
- C. Late results will be denied and no points will accrue, unless arrangements are made with the ATOA office in advance.

OSAP-77.06 Point Scale

- A. The ATOA point scale (PARM-61.02) is used for OSAP points.
- B. Special scoring events under ATOA rules will use that scoring when appropriate.
- C. In contests where more than one (1) go-round is held, points are awarded from the average or overall standings.
- D. Points earned through OSAP are included in the ATOA permanent OSAP show record. They are not added to the ATOA National Show record.
- E. OSAP points count toward the OSAP Year-End Awards and the Open Certificate of Merit (OCOM) awards program.

OSAP-77.07 Open Certificate of Merit (OCOM)

Professional, Amateur, and Youth Division exhibitors are advanced to Open Certificate of Merit (OCOM) when they have earned thirty-five (35) OCOM points in a category.

OSAP-77.08 Open Certificate of Ability

Professional, Amateur, and Youth Division exhibitors are advanced to Open Certificate of Ability when they have earned one hundred forty (140) OCOM points in a category.

OSAP-77.09 Open Certificate of Excellence

Professional, Amateur, and Youth Division exhibitors are advanced to Open Certificate of Excellence when they have earned one hundred seventy-five (175) OCOM points in a category.

OSAP-77.10 Open Certificate of Champions

Professional, Amateur, and Youth Division exhibitors are advanced to Open Certificate of Champions when they have earned four hundred (400) OCOM points in a category.

OSAP-77.11 Open Certificate of Superior Ability

Professional, Amateur, and Youth Division exhibitors are advanced to Open Certificate of Superior Ability when they have earned seven hundred (700) OCOM points in a category.

OSAP-77.12 Open Certificate of Superior Achievement

Professional, Amateur, and Youth Division exhibitors are advanced to Open Certificate of Superior Achievement when they have earned one thousand fifty (1,050) OCOM points in a category.

OSAP-77.13 Open Certificate of Versatility

Professional, Amateur, and Youth Division exhibitors are advanced to Open Certificate of Versatility when they have earned the following:

A. Professional Division:

1. Open Certificate of Ability in Halter;
2. Open Certificate of Excellence; and
3. Open Certificates of Merit in at least four (4) performance events, two (2) under English tack and two (2) under Western tack.

B. Youth Division:

1. Youth Open Certificate of Ability in Halter;
2. Youth Open Certificate of Excellence;
3. Youth Open Certificates of Merit in at least four (4) performance events, at least one (1) of which must be under English tack; and
4. Youth Open Certificates of Merit in Western Horsemanship and in either Hunt Seat or Saddle Seat Equitation.

C. Amateur Division:

1. Amateur Open Certificate of Ability in Halter;
2. Amateur Open Certificate of Excellence;
3. Amateur Open Certificates of Merit in at least four (4) performance events, at least one (1) of which must be under English tack; and
4. Amateur Open Certificates of Merit in Western Horsemanship and in either Hunt Seat or Saddle Seat Equitation.

OSAP-77.14 Open Certificate of Superior Performance

Professional, Amateur, and Youth Division exhibitors are advanced to Open Certificate of Superior Performance when they have earned one thousand four hundred (1,400) OCOM points in a category.

OSAP-77.15 Open Certificate of Grand Champion

Professional, Amateur, and Youth Division exhibitors are advanced to Open Certificate of Grand Champion when they have earned one thousand nine hundred seventy-five (1,975) OCOM points in a category.

OSAP-77.16 Open Certificate of Supreme Champion

Professional, Amateur, and Youth Division exhibitors are advanced to Open Certificate of Supreme Champion when they have earned five thousand two hundred eighty-five (5,285) OCOM points in a category.

OSAP-77.17 Points Approval

- A. ATOA reserves the right to accept or deny OSAP points submitted and to investigate the conditions under which the points were earned.
- B. ATOA has final approval of any or all associations and events.
- C. No refunds will be issued.

OSAP-77.18 OSAP Paint of the Year and High Point Awards**A. General Rules and Regulations**

- 1. ATOA will make annual awards based on the number of points earned by a Professional, Amateur, or Youth Division exhibitor during the year of competition in each approved event in which points are awarded at OSAP shows.
- 2. Points are computed on a yearly basis from January 1 to December 31. Professional, Amateur, and Youth High Point standings close December 31 of each year. Results postmarked after December 31 will not be included in that year's standings.
- 3. To be eligible for any award in this program, the owner(s) of record or lessee(s), and the exhibitor, must be current members of ATOA.
- 4. All Paints eligible to participate in the ATOA Professional Division OSAP awards program are eligible for OSAP Paint of the Year awards.
- 5. All Youth exhibitors eligible to participate in the ATOA Youth Division OSAP program are eligible for Youth High Point awards.
- 6. All Amateur exhibitors eligible to participate in the ATOA Amateur Division OSAP program are eligible for Amateur High Point awards.
- 7. Tentative OSAP Paint of the Year, Amateur High Point, and Youth High Point standings are posted on the ATOA website throughout the season:
 - a. It is the responsibility of all persons interested in these awards to check the tentative results.
 - b. Once the annual standings have been published on the website, they are considered official.
 - c. ATOA reserves the right to correct verifiable errors.

B. Youth Division

1. Youth Division annual High Point age groups:
 - a. Walk-Trot 10 & Under
 - b. Walk-Trot 11–18
 - c. 13 & Under
 - d. 14–18
2. The ten (10) units in each of the four (4) Youth age groups earning the highest number of points overall are the OSAP Youth Overall High Point winners. An appropriate certificate is prepared and presented to each winner.
3. The ten (10) units earning the highest number of points in each individual Youth point-earning event during the year are recognized as the OSAP Youth High Point winners for that event. An appropriate certificate is prepared and presented to each winner, and the winners are published on the ATOA website.

C. Professional Division

1. The Paint earning more Professional Division points in a given event during the year than any other Paint is named OSAP Paint of the Year in that event. An appropriate certificate is prepared and presented to the owner, and the names of the Paint and owner are published on the ATOA website.
2. The next nine (9) highest point-earning Paints for that year in each event are designated OSAP Honorable Mention and published on the ATOA website.

D. Amateur Division

1. Amateur Division annual High Point age groups:
 - a. Amateur: 19–44 years of age
 - b. Masters Amateur: 45 years of age and older
 - c. Amateur Walk-Trot: 19–44 years of age
 - d. Masters Walk-Trot: 45 years of age and older
2. The ten (10) units in each of the four (4) Amateur age groups earning the highest number of points overall are the OSAP Amateur Overall High Point winners. An appropriate certificate is prepared and presented to each winner.
3. The ten (10) units earning the highest number of points in each individual Amateur point-earning event during the year are recognized as the OSAP Amateur High Point winners for that event. An appropriate certificate is prepared and presented to each winner, and the winners are published on the ATOA website.

APPENDIX — GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

The following governing documents of the American Tobiano Overo Association, LLC are included for reference. They establish the organization's legal structure and governance and are maintained separately from the show, registry, and program rules above.

Appendix A — Articles of Organization

This Certificate is executed for the purpose of forming a limited liability company pursuant to the provisions of the Michigan Limited Liability Company Act, Act 23 of the Public Acts of 1993, as amended.

Article I

The name of the Limited Liability Company is: American Tobiano Overo Association LLC

Article II

Purpose:

The purpose for which the limited liability company is formed is:

1. To improve the American Paint Horse with respect to conformation, genetics, and color patterns;
2. To promote the preservation and advancement of Paint Horses with Tobiano and Overo genetics; and
3. To maintain a registry documenting pedigrees and performance records, thereby ensuring the integrity, accuracy, and legacy of these bloodlines.

Article III

Registered Office and Registered Agent

The address of the principal office of the Company is:

- 789 W M-113
- Kingsley, Mi 49649
- Grand Traverse County

The registered agent at this address is:

Beth A Nickerson

Article IV

Principal Office

The location of the principal office of the Company is:

- 789 W M-113
- Kingsley, Mi 49649
- Grand Traverse County

Article V

Management

The Company shall be member-managed unless otherwise provided in the Operating Agreement.

Article VI — Sole Member / Owner

The Company shall have one member.

The sole member and owner of the Company is:

Beth A. Nickerson

As sole member, Beth A. Nickerson shall possess full authority over:

- corporate management
- financial decisions
- program development
- appointments of officers and committees
- rule book approval and amendments

Unless otherwise stated in the Operating Agreement.

Article VII — Limitation of Liability

No member, officer, or agent of the Company shall be personally liable for the debts, obligations, or liabilities of the Company solely by reason of being a member, officer, or agent.

Article VIII — Operating Agreement

The Company may adopt an **Operating Agreement** to establish internal governance procedures, management responsibilities, and operational rules.

The Operating Agreement may be amended from time to time by the sole member.

Article IX — Indemnification

The Company may indemnify its officers, directors, employees, committee members, and agents to the fullest extent permitted under Michigan law for actions taken in good faith on behalf of the Company.

Article X — Dissolution

The Company may be dissolved upon the decision of the sole member or as otherwise provided by law.

Upon dissolution, assets of the Company shall be distributed in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Article XI — Effective Date

These Articles of Organization shall become effective upon filing with the appropriate state authority unless otherwise specified.

Organizer

The undersigned organizer certifies that the information contained in these Articles of Organization is accurate to the best of their knowledge.

Organizer

- Beth A. Nickerson
- American Tobiano Overo Association, LLC
- Signature: _____
- Date: _____

Appendix B — Operating Agreement

American Tobiano Overo Association, LLC

Sole Member Operating Agreement

Article 1 — Formation

This Operating Agreement governs the operation of:

American Tobiano Overo Association, LLC (ATOA)

The Company was formed under the laws of the **State of Michigan** as a limited liability company.

The Company shall operate in accordance with:

- Michigan Limited Liability Company Act
- The Articles of Organization
- This Operating Agreement

Article 2 — Sole Member

The Company has one member:

Beth A. Nickerson

Beth A. Nickerson is the **sole owner and controlling member** of the Company.

The sole member possesses full authority over the management and operations of the Company unless otherwise delegated in writing.

Article 3 — Purpose

The purpose of ATOA is to:

- operate a horse registry for Paint horses
- promote Tobiano, Overo, and Tovero genetics
- host sanctioned horse shows and events
- provide youth education and programs
- develop breeder recognition programs
- promote the Paint horse industry

Article 4 — Management Authority

ATOA shall operate as a **member-managed LLC**.

The sole member retains authority over:

- corporate decisions
- financial management
- program development
- rule book approval
- appointments of officers and committees
- legal and contractual obligations

The sole member may appoint individuals to assist in management.

These individuals may include:

- Executive Officers
- Board Members
- Committee Chairs

Such appointments do not grant ownership of interest in the Company.

Article 5 — Officers

The Company may appoint officers to assist with daily operations.

Possible officer positions may include:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Officers serve at the discretion of the sole member.

The sole member may appoint or remove officers at any time.

Article 6 — Board of Directors

ATOA may establish a **Board of Directors** to assist with strategic planning and program development.

The Board functions in an **advisory capacity** unless specific authority is granted by the sole member.

Responsibilities of the Board may include:

- advising on rule book development
- assisting with show programs
- promoting membership growth
- assisting with fundraising and sponsorships

Final decision-making authority remains with the sole member.

Article 7 — Committees

The Company may establish committees to assist with operations.

Committees may include:

- Rules & Ethics Committee
- Membership Committee
- Breeders Legacy Committee
- Judges Committee
- Marketing Committee
- Youth & Future Champions Committee
- Cowboy Committee

- Awards Committee
- Events Committee
- Journal Committee

Committees operate under the direction of the Board and sole member.

Article 8 — Finances

All funds of the Company shall be maintained in official Company accounts.

The sole member retains authority over:

- financial accounts
- expenditures
- contracts
- financial policy

The Treasurer may assist in financial reporting.

Article 9 — Liability Protection

The sole member, officers, directors, and committee members shall not be personally liable for the debts or obligations of the Company unless required by law.

Article 10 — Amendments

This Operating Agreement may be amended at any time by the **sole member**.

Article 11 — Dissolution

The Company may be dissolved upon the decision of the sole member or as required by law.

Upon dissolution, the assets of the Company shall be distributed according to applicable legal requirements.

Certification

The undersigned confirms adoption of this Operating Agreement.

- Beth A. Nickerson
- Sole Member / Owner
- American Tobiano Overo Association, LLC
- Signature: _____
- Date: _____

Appendix C — Corporate Governance Structure

This document defines how the association operates while **Beth A. Nickerson remains the sole owner.**

Ownership

Owner / Sole Member

Beth A. Nickerson

Authority includes:

- corporate control
- financial control
- program approval
- rule book approval
- officer appointments

Executive Officers

Officers assist in operating the association.

Possible officer positions include:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Responsibilities may include:

- daily operations
- meeting coordination
- financial reports
- membership administration

Officers serve at the discretion of the owner

Board of Directors

ATOA may maintain a Board of Directors.

The Board functions primarily as a **strategic advisory body.**

Board responsibilities may include:

- program development
- event planning
- rule recommendations
- membership growth initiatives

Board decisions require approval of the owner when necessary.

Committees

Committees perform operational work within the organization.

Current committee structure includes:

- Rules & Ethics
- Membership
- Breeders Legacy
- Judges
- Marketing
- Youth & Future Champions
- Cowboy
- Awards
- Events
- Journal

Committee responsibilities include:

- program development
- event planning
- rule recommendations
- member engagement

Decision Authority

Final authority for major decisions remains with:

Beth A. Nickerson

Owner / Sole Member

This includes:

- rule book approval
- financial decisions
- contracts
- major organizational policies

Organizational Structure Chart



Appendix D — Founder's Clause

Article — Founder Recognition

The American Tobiano Overo Association (ATOA) was founded by:

Beth A. Nickerson

Beth A. Nickerson established the association with the purpose of promoting and preserving Tobiano, Overo, and Tovero Paint horses and creating a registry and program structure to support breeders, exhibitors, and enthusiasts.

The association recognizes Beth A. Nickerson as the **Founder of the American Tobiano Overo Association**.

Article — Founder Authority

The American Tobiano Overo Association operates under the legal entity:

American Tobiano Overo Association, LLC

Ownership of the association resides with:

Beth A. Nickerson

Owner / Sole Member

As Founder and Owner, Beth A. Nickerson retains final authority over the association including but not limited to:

- corporate governance
- registry policies and rule book approval
- financial management
- contracts and agreements
- appointment or removal of officers, board members, and committee members
- organizational policies and strategic direction

Article — Governance Relationship

The Board of Directors, officers, and committees serve in a **supportive and advisory role** to assist with the operations and development of the association.

Such positions do not confer ownership interest or governing authority over the association unless specifically delegated by the Owner.

Article — Protection of Founder Authority

Nothing within the ATOA rule book, bylaws, or governance documents shall be interpreted to remove or diminish the authority of the Founder and Owner.

No officer, board member, or committee member may claim ownership or controlling authority over the American Tobiano Overo Association.

Article — Legacy Recognition

The American Tobiano Overo Association recognizes Beth A. Nickerson as the founding individual responsible for the creation and development of the association.

This recognition shall remain part of the official history and governance structure of the organization.

Article — Amendments

This Founder's Clause may only be amended by the Founder and Owner.

Certification

This clause is adopted as part of the official governance framework of the American Tobiano Overo Association.

Beth A. Nickerson

- Founder / Owner
- American Tobiano Overo Association, LLC
- Signature: _____
- Date: _____

Appendix E — Bylaws

Article I — Name

The name of this organization shall be:

American Tobiano Overo Association (ATOA)

The association operates under the legal entity:

American Tobiano Overo Association, LLC

Article II — Purpose

The purpose of the American Tobiano Overo Association is to:

- promote and preserve Tobiano, Overo, and Tovero Paint horses
- maintain an official horse registry
- promote responsible breeding practices
- host sanctioned horse shows and competitions
- support youth education and leadership programs
- recognize breeders and exhibitors
- advance the Paint horse industry

Article III — Ownership

The American Tobiano Overo Association operates under the ownership of:

Beth A. Nickerson

Owner / Sole Member

The Owner retains ultimate authority over the organization including:

- corporate governance
- financial management
- rule book approval
- officer appointments
- contracts and agreements
- organizational policies

Nothing within these bylaws shall be interpreted to grant ownership interest in the association to any officer, board member, or committee member.

Article IV — Membership

The association may offer several categories of membership.

Membership categories may include:

- Individual Membership (Annual or Multi-Year)
- Youth Membership (AjTOA)
- Lifetime Membership

- Joint, Ranch, Assumed/Trade Name, Corporate, and Partnership Memberships

Membership requirements and benefits shall be established by the association.

Membership does not grant ownership rights in the association.

Article V — Officers

The association may appoint officers to assist with daily operations.

Officer positions may include:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Officers are appointed by the Owner.

Officers serve at the discretion of the Owner and may be removed or replaced at any time.

Article VI — Duties of Officers

President

The President assists in overseeing the general operations of the association and may preside over meetings.

Vice President

The Vice President assists the President and may assume duties in the President's absence.

Secretary

The Secretary maintains official records, meeting minutes, and organizational documents.

Treasurer

The Treasurer assists in maintaining financial records and reporting financial information to the Owner.

Article VII — Board of Directors

The association may establish a Board of Directors to assist with planning and development.

The Board functions primarily as an **advisory body**.

Responsibilities may include:

- advising on programs and policies
- assisting with event planning
- supporting membership growth
- assisting with fundraising and sponsorship

Board members are appointed by the Owner.

Board membership does not confer ownership or governing authority over the association.

Article VIII — Committees

The association may establish committees to assist with specific areas of operation.

Committees may include:

Rules & Ethics Committee

Membership Committee

Breeders Legacy Committee

Judges Committee

Marketing Committee

Youth & Future Champions Committee

Cowboy Committee

Awards Committee

Events Committee

Journal Committee

Committee members may be appointed by the Owner or Board.

Committees serve in an advisory and operational support role.

Article IX — Meetings

Meetings of officers, board members, or committees may be held as needed.

Meetings may occur:

- in person
- by telephone
- by electronic communication

Meeting procedures may be established by the association.

Article X — Finances

All funds of the association shall be maintained in official association accounts.

The Owner retains authority over:

- financial management
- expenditures
- contracts
- financial policies

Financial records may be maintained by the Treasurer or designated officer.

Article XI — Ethics and Conduct

All officers, board members, and committee members shall conduct themselves with professionalism and integrity.

Members must avoid conflicts of interest and act in the best interest of the association.

The association may adopt additional policies governing conduct.

Article XII — Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by the Owner as necessary to reflect changes in the organization.

Article XIII — Dissolution

In the event the association is dissolved, the assets of the organization shall be distributed in accordance with applicable law.

Certification

These bylaws are adopted for the governance of the American Tobiano Overo Association.

Beth A. Nickerson

- Owner / Sole Member
- American Tobiano Overo Association, LLC
- Signature: _____
- Date: _____