

# BEST LITTLE HORSE SHOW

## RULES ON EQUINE WELFARE & INHUMANE TREATMENT

**RULE:** No person shall treat any horse in a cruel or inhumane manner, including, but not limited to, the prohibited conduct specified in this rule. Cruelty to horses included in this prohibition, as it indicates a general course of dealing with horses that is unacceptable for BLHS HORSE SHOWS event participation and/or membership qualification. For violation of this rule, an BLHS HORSE SHOWS exhibitor and non-exhibitors may be disciplined, suspended and/or expelled from BLHS HORSE SHOWS. This prohibition against cruelty may include BLHS HORSE SHOWS exhibitors and/or owners of horses, their agents, representatives and employees, the actions for which an exhibitor or owner are also responsible.

**A)** Every horse at an BLHS HORSE SHOWS sponsored/managed event shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion. Abuse is defined as an action, or failure to act, which a reasonable, prudent person, informed and experienced in the customs, accepted training techniques and exhibition procedures, or veterinary standards would determine to be cruel, abusive, inhumane or detrimental to the horses' health. Individuals will be disciplined if it is determined that there was willful abuse of the horse under any of the following circumstances:

**1)** The individual physically participates in the abuse of the animal or shows or rides the horse in a condition considered to be abusive.

**2)** No persons shall exhibit any horse, which appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired.

**3)** No person on show grounds, including but not limited to, barns, stalls, practice area and show arena, may treat a horse in an inhumane manner, which includes, but is not limited to,

**a)** Placing an object in a horse's mouth so as to cause undue discomfort or distress; In halter, the use of lip chains for all horses is prohibited.

**b)** Tying a horse in a manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress in a stall, trailer or when lunging or riding;

**c)** Use of inhumane training techniques or methods; draw reins must be connected above the elbow.

**d)** Use of inhumane equipment, including, but not limited to, saw tooth bits, hock hobbles, metal cavesons, metal headstalls/halters and tack collars or tack hackamores'

**e)** Any item or appliance that restricts movement or circulation of the tail;

**f)** Intentional inhumane treatment which results in bleeding.

**g)** **Prohibited equipment in western classes include: jerklines, tie-downs with bare metal in contact with the horse's head, and tack collars. Prohibited equipment in English classes includes draw reins and roweled spurs. Standing or running martingales are also prohibited except in working hunter, jumping and equitation over fences.**

**h)** **Prohibited training equipment at all shows includes riding in a curb bit without a curb strap, wire, curbstrap with tacks/rivets or solid metal curb straps no matter how padded, wire cavesons, wire or cable tie-downs, bumper bits, metal bosals no matter how padded, metal lounging hackamore, chambons, headstalls made of metal (even if encased in a protective material), twisted rawhide, or rope (3/8 inch rope may be used with a slip (gag) or a bonet), running martingale used with curb bits used without rein stops, side reins (direct rein from bit to cinch or surcingle), draw reins attached between or around the front legs.**

**B)** Penalties for a violation of the abuse rules will be dealt severely by BLHS HORSE SHOWS. The following penalties for individuals who are found to violate the rules regarding the inhumane treatment of the horse at BLHS HORSE SHOWS events: **Dismissal/Expulsion from organized event & no return of event fees.**