

UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION
PROPOSED RULE CHANGE TO STOP EQUINE TAIL ALTERATION
SUBMITTED 6.1.17
PROPONENT: Julie Lynn Andrew

PROPOSED RULE PROHIBITING EQUINE TAIL ALTERATION:

1. Commencing December 1, 2019, no horse or pony may compete at any USEF-sanctioned show with tail alteration of any kind. Any horse or pony foaled after January 1, 2018, may not have a tail which has been cut, stretched, docked, altered in any way, or has been kept in a tail set or bustle. All horses and ponies must be exhibited with a natural tail carriage, and any device or substance used to alter the natural tail carriage shall be illegal.

2. Horses or ponies with tails which have been surgically altered, or altered by any other means, prior to December 1, 2017, may compete without prejudice at USEF-sanctioned events. This rule is not meant to preclude or prevent the use of artificial tail hair, or a “switch” being applied to the horse or pony’s tail, provided that it does not alter the natural carriage of the tail.

3. No horse or pony may compete in a class in any division with tail carriage that has been altered in any manner, or by any means. This includes, but is not limited to surgical procedures undertaken to “release the tail”, tail cutting, injections of any substance into the tail to modify or inhibit an equine’s ability to use its tail naturally, tail braces, and/or any substance introduced into the rectum or vagina. Violations of this rule are considered serious infractions, because such alterations constitute a major infraction of the General Rules of USEF.

4. Competitors, trainers, owners and exhibitors in USEF-sanctioned events are specifically prohibited from using or bring to any show grounds the following pieces of equipment, included without limitation: tail sets, bustles, high tail cruppers, tail braces, and any other artificial appliance or chemical, such as ginger, capsaicin, etc. or a shoe lace, used to tie, or alter the tail carriage from its natural posture in any way.

Any equine present on the show grounds at any show or competition, which is found to have any of the foregoing used on it, will have the owners/trainers/exhibitors subject to section 5.f of this rule.

5. Ginger, Capsaicin and Other Irritants.

a. No equine may compete in a class/division/competition with any chemical or other irritant of any kind present in its anus, vulva, rectal area or vaginal area, regardless of the origin of the irritant and whether it was applied or its presence resulted from the dietary, environmental, or unknown origins, and whether the equine's tail carriage was affected by its presence.

b. The Trainer (see GR147 Trainer Definition and GR404 Responsibility and Accountability of Trainers), Owner or Exhibitor or their agents, of an equine entered to compete in a class in any division are the insurers of the horse's condition and compliance with this Rule, and accordingly they are responsible and accountable for safeguarding the horse and controlling its diet and environment prior to, during, and following the class, and at the time of the sampling provided for below, so as to prevent exposure to a chemical or other irritant of any kind, regardless of its origin, whether exposure was intention, and whether the horse's tail carriage was affected by its presence. These individuals/entities are subject to charges of rule violation should the sampling and testing provided for below be positive for the presence of a chemical or irritant of any kind.

c. Any trainer, owner, agent or other person who administers, or attempts to administer, instructs, aids, conspires with another to administer a chemical or other irritant of any kind onto the anus, vulva, rectal area, or vaginal area of a horse entered to compete in any division shall be subject to penalties as provided in f. below.

d. The Federation may cause the collection of swab samples and have tested substances present on the anus, vulva, rectal area or vaginal area of horses following their exit from the ring, in connection with a class or division as follows: The Federation shall choose all horses in such a class to be sampled, or may select one or more placings from the class for sampling, or may select some of those horses from such a s class for sampling. In making such selections, the Federation will act on the advice of the Federation Drugs & Medications Administrator and may act on the request of competition management and/or a judge of the class, but is not required to do so; After notification by the Federation that swab sampling will occur, competition management shall appoint only a licensed Veterinarian or Veterinarians to supervise the sampling, who may utilize technicians working under direct supervision of the Veterinarian(s): That this Veterinarian/Veterinarian(s) work under the Federation Drugs and Mediations Administrator's direction for these duties; Competition management shall ensure that the appointed Veterinarian coordinates with the Federation Drugs & Medication Administrator to implement the chain of custody required by the laboratory for identifying each horse/pony from which each sample was taken; Competition Management shall ensure that the appointed Veterinarian follows the instructions of the Federation Drugs and Medical Administrator by forwarding the samples for testing to the Iowa State University Laboratory or another comparable

laboratory acceptable to the Federation, and shall implement the chain of custody by the laboratory for transporting the samples to and from the laboratory and while at the laboratory. All results will be reported to the Federation Drugs & Medication Administrator only.

e. The trainer, owner, and their agents of a horse competing in a class in any division must submit to the above sample collections performed by representatives of competition management, and they must do so without any unnecessary delays. They must cooperate with the sample collection personnel as defined above by exhibiting polite attitude toward them and actions toward them and must assist them by helping to restrain the horse/pony properly during the sample collections.

f. In the event the Hearing Committee determines that a violation has occurred, the trainer, owner, and/or their agents each shall be subject to any and all penalties imposed by the Hearing Committee at its discretion pursuant to chapters 6 & 8, including suspensions, fines, and the revocation and redistribution of winnings, notice or notices of which shall be published on the Federations website. The suggested minimum penalty for a first offense is the revocation of all of the horse's winnings in connection with the entire competition in question, and a suspension of 60 days with a fine of \$2500. Subsequent violations of this rule by any of the above individuals/ entities shall be subject to greater penalties as determined at the discretion of the Hearing Committee.