



January 25, 2024

Mr. James L. Nichols  
American Road Horse & Pony Association  
2755 Bunten Road  
Duluth, GA 30096-4003  
Sent via email: [jlrichols12@yahoo.com](mailto:jlrichols12@yahoo.com); [roadhorses1966@gmail.com](mailto:roadhorses1966@gmail.com)

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thank you for submitting your request for a Presidential Modification to the application of RD105, RD107.1.b, RD110.5-.6, RD112.3, and RD114.2 on behalf of the American Road Horse & Pony Association. A Presidential Modification is granted in cases of extraordinary, special circumstances. When measured against that criterion, it has been determined that your request meets the standard for a Presidential Modification and therefore is approved.

As a result, the rule will be modified as in the attached document for the remainder of the 2024 competition year. As a condition of this approval, communication to the entire community of equestrians, organizers and officials that would be impacted by this modification must be done immediately and competitions must post the modification in the show office and other conspicuous areas while this modification is in effect.

Please feel free to contact the Federation office if you need further assistance.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. X. O'Mara  
President

cc: William J. Moroney, USEF CEO  
Terri Dolan, Director of National Breeds & Non-FEI Disciplines Sport  
Emily McSweeney, Assistant Director of National Breeds & Disciplines Sport

Attachment



## RD105 General

1. Roadsters must enter the ring clockwise at a jog-trot then show at the Road Gait; turn counter clockwise at the jog-trot, show at the Road Gait and then trot at speed. Judges must emphasize that Roadsters are to be shown at three distinct speeds.
2. In Roadster horse and pony performance classes when the judge calls for the line up, exhibitors must continue in a counter-clockwise direction to bring their entries to the line up. Judge(s) shall penalize entries that do not comply.
3. It is very important to emphasize that Roadster horses/**ponies** must trot solidly down the straight away as well as around the turns. Horses/**ponies** must be shown on the rail at all times except when passing and should go to the far end of every corner without side reining; should be light mouthed, capable of being taken up at any time, and stand well when being judged in the center of the ring. Any horse/**pony** not in compliance, that is determined by the judge (s) to be a safety risk must be excused.
4. Any driver, rider, horse or pony in the Roadster division exhibiting inappropriate or dangerous behavior or whose actions would in any way threaten the safety of any other exhibitor, their entries, or the safety of class officials must be immediately eliminated from the class by the judge. When eliminating a driver, rider, horse, or pony due to inappropriate or dangerous behavior, the judge must call the class to a stop and excuse the relevant driver, rider, horse, or pony from the ring. Once the eliminated driver, rider, horse, or pony has exited the ring, the judge may resume the class. When showing a Roadster to Bike or Wagon, the driver must sit on the inside of the seat and hold the bight end of the reins in hand. When showing to the bike, both feet must remain in the stirrups while showing, except for while standing in the lineup. Any driver who fails to comply with the above will be considered to be exhibiting dangerous behavior as described above and must immediately be eliminated from the class by the judge. It is the judge's responsibility to ensure that safety requirements are followed at all times.
5. **In Roadster horse and pony classes, performance at all three gaits must be judged.** In the event of a workout, it will be judged as a separate class and horses/**ponies** must be tied for placings being considered in that workout. Workouts may be called for by the judge(s) for any or all placings. All horses/**ponies** chosen for a workout must be worked both ways of the ring at all gaits listed in the class specifications. An exhibitor choosing to not complete the workout for any reason, including broken tack, a horse/**pony** becomes uncheck, loss of shoe, or concern for the welfare of the horse/**pony**, has the option of lining up and receiving the last ribbon awarded in the workout. If two or more horses/**ponies** retire from a workout, these entries will be placed in reverse order of retirement. In the event of a simultaneous withdrawal of a workout, the placings will go to the fall of the cards. An exhibitor is entitled to request only one five-minute time out per class, including workout. (See GR833).
6. When horses ~~**Roadsters**~~ are lined up, no attendant is permitted and driver shall not leave their vehicle except for necessary adjustments. The driver may, however, uncheck and stand at horse's head when left in the center of the ring while a part of the class is on the rail for a workout. ~~During the line up, headers are permitted in Amateur, Ladies Amateur, and Juvenile Road Horse classes.~~ **In Amateur and Youth Road Horse classes, attendants are permitted in the lineup. The horse must remain checked, and the check must not be adjusted. Attendants are permitted to hold the horse, except when the judge(s) walks to the horse in the lineup.** ~~The header must not touch the entry except for safety reasons. During a workout the **attendant** header may uncheck and hold the entry. However, When the workout is over the horse must be rechecked. and the attendant must move away from the horse. The attendant must take no action that would affect the performance of any animal.~~
7. [...]

## RD107 Appointments

1. Harness.
  - a. Blinkers of square pattern, snaffle bit and attached overcheck-rein (check bit optional); breast collar with straight-flaps, with traces made round with flat ends; (for pairs, collars of the English pattern are used); martingale are required. Breechings must be used in all Wagon classes. Protective boots on front feet are allowed.
  - b. In Roadster Horse/**Pony** to Bike and Roadster Horse/**Pony** to Wagon classes ~~(not Roadster Pony classes)~~ the overcheck must remain attached to the water hook until class is tied. In the event that the check breaks or comes off, the entry must use a timeout in accordance with GR833 to reattach the check. If the check breaks or comes off a second time the horse/**pony** must not be allowed to continue performing unchecked and must be excused from the ring by the judge(s). If a horse/**pony** is excused under these circumstances they will be qualified for the championship in accordance with GR809.3.

## RD110 Roadster Horse to Bike

1. [...]
5. YOUTH AMATEUR. Manners for the horse will be emphasized as a major requirement to ensure safety. Judges must immediately excuse any horse that acts as if it may be more horse than the driver can handle. Protective headgear is required. See GR801.4, .7 and .8. Age of the exhibitor will be 15-21. Classes containing more than 10 entries will be split. ~~Headers~~ **Attendants** will be allowed for these classes. To be shown first at a jog-trot and road gait, then reversed and shown at a jog-trot, road gait, and then at speed. To be judged on manners, performance, quality, and speed.
6. YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP. To be eligible horses must have been entered shown and judged in a qualifying Youth class. Manners for the horse will be emphasized as a major requirement to ensure safety. Judges must immediately excuse any horse that acts as if it may be more horse than the driver can handle. Protective headgear is required. See GR801.4, .7 and .8. Age of the exhibitor will be 15-21. Classes containing more than 10 entries will be split. ~~Headers~~ **Attendants** will be allowed for these classes. To be shown first at a jog-trot and road gait, then reversed and shown at a jog-trot, road gait, and then at speed. To be judged on manners, performance, quality, and speed.
7. [...]

## RD112 Roadster Horse Under Saddle

1. [...]
3. YOUTH AND YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP. Riders to be 15-21 years of age. To be shown first at a jog-trot and road gait, then reversed and shown at a jog-trot, road gait, and then at speed. ~~Headers~~ **Attendants** will be allowed for these classes. To be judged on manners, performance, quality, and speed. Manners for the horse will be emphasized as a major requirement to ensure safety. Judges must immediately excuse any horse that acts if it may be more horse than the rider can handle. Protective headgear is required. See GR801.4, .7 and .8.
4. [...]

## RD114 Roadster Ponies

1. Classes for Roadster ponies to Bike are restricted to ponies 13 hands (52" and under). If entries warrant two sections may be offered: a) Roadster Ponies to Bike 50" and under; b) Roadster Ponies to Bike over 50" but not to exceed 52". If two sections are offered, competition management may offer a championship/stake for each section. In Under Saddle classes and Roadster Pony to Wagon classes entries may not exceed 54". Ponies may not be shown in a performance class unless the owner possesses a current Measurement Card or valid Measurement Form issued by the Federation (see GR502).
2. During the line up in classes restricted to Junior Exhibitors and Amateurs, one attendant is permitted to head the pony. ~~The attendant must not touch the entry except for safety reasons. During a workout the attendant may uncheck and hold the entry.~~ **The ponies must remain**

**checked, and the check must not be adjusted. Attendants are permitted to hold the pony, except when the judge(s) walks to the pony in the lineup. If an additional workout is called, ponies not in the workout may be unchecked.** However, ~~When the workout is over the pony must be rechecked. and the attendant must move away from the pony.~~ The attendant must take no action that would affect the performance of any animal.

3. [...]