

Fines and Penalties

The AQHA Executive Committee approved the following recommendations from the AQHA Animal Welfare Commission Fines and Penalties Subcommittee.

Definition of Abuse: Any excessive and/or repetitive action to cause obvious distress or discomfort to a horse.

Structure for Fines and Penalties to Address Abuse and Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

AQHA Show Fines and Penalties Regarding Abuse and Unsportsmanlike Conduct Rule 441

	Level 1 Mild	Level 2 Moderate	Level 3 Severe
1st Offense	Warning - No Penalty Steward can give a yellow warning card if necessary Name placed in database	\$1,000 3-6 months probation	\$2,000 6-12 months probation
2nd Offense	\$1,000 3-6 months probation	\$2,000 6 months - 1-year probation	\$4,000 6 months-1 year suspend AQHA show privileges
3rd Offense	\$2,000 6 months-1 year probation	\$4,000 6 months - 1-year suspend AQHA show privileges	Fine & suspension commensurate with abuse as determined by grievance committee

**The color in the box is the card they will receive.*

AQHA Definition Regarding Fines and Penalties:

- Probation
 - o No privileges are denied, but any abuse during this period is considered at the next highest level, e.g. Level 1 considered at Level 2, 2nd offense considered as 3rd offense
- Suspend Competition Privileges
 - o All rights and privileges associated with AQHA competitions are denied during period of citation
 - o Presence on grounds of AQHA competitions is prohibited

AQHA Fines and Penalties will be based off of the following Chart of Rule 441 offenses:

Level of offense will be determined by the steward based on severity.

AQHA Chart of Offenses for Animal Welfare

Offense as Defined in Rule 441	Level 1 Mild	Level 2 Moderate	Level 3 Severe
Placing object in horse's mouth to cause undue discomfort or distress		X	X
Leaving bit in horse's mouth for extended period of time to cause undue discomfort or distress	X	X	X
Tying a horse high (known as "tying up") or around in a manner to cause undue discomfort or distress		X	X
Longeing or riding in a manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress	X	X	X
Tying or fastening any foreign object onto a horse, halter, bridle and/or saddle in order to de-sensitize the horse		X	X
Use of training technique or methods such as poling or striking a horse's legs with objects		X	X
Excessive spurring or whipping	X	X	X
Excessive jerking of reins	X	X	X
Excessive fencing	X	X	X
Excessive spinning (more than 8 consecutive turns in either direction)	X	X	X
Poling (altering an obstacle while the horse is negotiating the obstacle)	X	X	X
Schooling over ramped oxers in reverse order (highest to lowest)	X	X	X

Schooling using rails higher than 4 ft.	X		
Use of <u>prohibited equipment</u> (including but not limited to: saw tooth bits, hock hobbles, tack collars, or tack hackamores, whips used for showmanship, war bridles or like devices using wire or rope over a horse's head) will not be allowed at AQHA shows.		X	X
Use of any type of appliance that restricts movement or circulation of the tail.			X
Exhibiting a horse that appears to be sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired	X	X	X
Negligent treatment that results in bleeding	X	X	X
Intentional treatment that results in bleeding			X
Applying excessive pressure on or excessively jerking of a halter lead shank or an allowed lip chain		X	X
Any other treatment or conduct considered to be abusive by a show official (based on severity)	X	X	X

Beginning with the 2012 AQHA World Championship Show in November, certain training equipment, in addition to that listed in the AQHA rulebook, will not be allowed at any AQHA shows.

List of Training Tack and Permitted/Non-Permitted uses:

- **Curb Straps: Permitted Curb Strap1:**



Permitted Curb Strap 2



NOT PERMITTED Curb Straps



NOT PERMITTED without Curb Strap



• **Draw Reins Permitted Attachment**



NOT PERMITTED Attachment



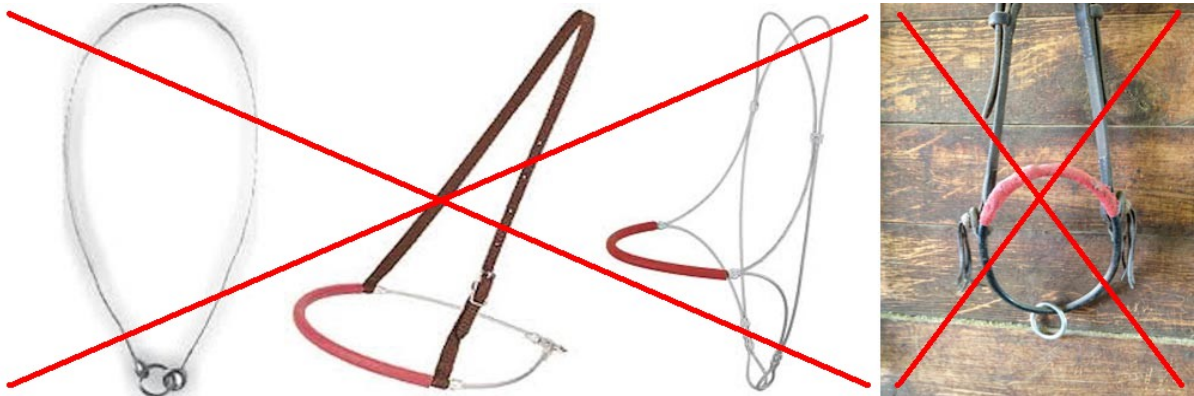
• **Bosals NOT PERMITTED Metal Bosals**



- Chambon **NOT PERMITTED**



- Metal Cavesson & Tie-Downs **NOT PERMITTED**



- Bumper Bits **NOT PERMITTED**



- Slip (Gag) Bits* Permitted Use *(must be used with a 3/8-inch diameter rope or leather over the poll)*



- German Martingale Permitted Use



- Curb Bit used with a Running Martingale (must have rein stops) **NOT PERMITTED**: without rein stops



- **Headstalls NOT PERMITTED**: Headstalls with metal (no matter how wrapped or padded) or twisted rawhide over the poll.



AQHA Fines and Penalties Process:

• Substantiating Offenses:

- o Preferably by photograph or video
- o Signed statement from second party who witnessed the incident is preferred

• Reporting

o All violations of Rule 441 must be reported by the steward or show management to AQHA's Breed Integrity Department within 12 hours of the incident.

- Report should include

- Exhibitor name and address
- Horses name and registration number
- Type and level of offense
- Type of card given (Warning, Notification of Infraction, or Removal Notification).

- Who is responsible for officially reporting?

- Stewards
- Judges
- Show Management
- Association of Professional Horsemen members

- Citation cards

- Stewards responsible for writing the card (all stewards at all times)
- 3 levels of cards
 - o Warning - White
 - o Notification of Infraction - Yellow
 - o Show Grounds Removal Notification – Red
- Name of offender
- Horse's name and number will be added to the citation cards

• Recording

o All warnings, notifications of infractions, or show grounds removal notifications will be entered in a database.

- Trainer, exhibitor and owner's name
- Horse's name and registration number

o Entries will be made the day of the report.

• Notification

o Letters will be generated and sent to all necessary parties by certified letter notifying them of the offense

• Database access

o Stewards and show officials will access the database daily before the show to know about recent warnings, notifications of infractions, or show grounds removal notifications.

• There will be an appeal process for exhibitors.