

PFHAS - Regulations Ring Steward



Content

1	Proof of change	1
2	Preamble.....	2
3	Approval and training.....	2
4	Duties of the ring steward	2
5	Conduct of the ring steward	3
6	Dress code of the ring steward	3
7	Instructions to participants	3
8	Final provisions	4

1 Proof of change

Version	Date	Change	Chapter
1.0	January 2025		

New or amended text passages are highlighted in blue.

2 Preamble

The ring steward assumes a central and responsible role in the organization and execution of PFHAS horse shows. Their main task is to ensure compliance with the show rules, to support the course of events and to act as a professional interface between participants, officials and the show management. These regulations define the duties, responsibilities and standards of behavior and dress for ring stewards to ensure the smooth running of the show and compliance with PFHAS rules and regulations. Compliance with the Animal Welfare Act is of paramount importance. Ring stewards are obliged to know and apply the Swiss Animal Welfare Act and to ensure its implementation. **The animal welfare guidelines must always take precedence over sporting or commercial concerns and the Animal Welfare Act must be complied with.**

3 Approval and training

3.1 The ring steward must be fully familiar with the PFHAS rules and regulations and be able to apply them safely.

3.2 To exercise this function, explicit approval and recognition by the PFHAS Board of Directors is required.

3.3 The prerequisite for approval is the successful completion of a specific training course organized and conducted by PFHAS. The training includes:

- **Theory:** a detailed introduction to the PFHAS rules and regulations, relevant show regulations and the Swiss Animal Welfare Act.
- **Practice:** Training on the inspection of riders, horses and their equipment as well as other aspects of horse care and tournament organization.
- **Communication training:** Strategies for professional, respectful interaction with participants, officials and the show management, including the ability to explain and clarify violations objectively.

4 Duties of the ring steward

The ring steward plays an indispensable role in ensuring that the show runs smoothly and supports the judges in several areas. The focus is on protecting the welfare of the horses and complying with animal welfare principles. The tasks include:

4.1. supervision of the warm-up arena/area

- Controlling and monitoring the operation of the warm-up arena/area to ensure fair conditions for all participants.
- Ensuring that the use of the warm-up arena/area complies with the show regulations and that there is no danger to horse or rider.

4.2 Checking the starting field

- Comparison of the registered participants with the persons present on the basis of the starter lists.
- Documentation of deviations and forwarding to the show management.

4.3 Entry and exit control

- Organization and control of access to the riding arena where the tournament is being held to ensure that only authorized persons have access.
- Ensuring the orderly entry and exit of participants.

4.4 Equipment control

- Careful inspection of participants' equipment (rider and horse) to ensure that it complies with PFHAS regulations.
- Check for animal welfare violations, such as unsuitable bits.

4.5 Shoeing and barehoof inspection

- Checking the horses' hooves to ensure that the shoeing or bare hoof complies with the competition specifications.
- Carrying out the pincer test to check the sensitivity of the hoof.
- Informing the participants in case of ambiguities or need for changes to shoeing or hoof care.

4.6 Checking the dress code

- Checking whether the participants comply with the prescribed dress code and reporting any deviations.
- Ensuring that clothing and equipment do not pose a risk of injury to the horse or rider.
- Informing participants in the event of ambiguities or the need for changes to clothing.

4.7 Responsibility for animal welfare

- Ensuring that all participants' actions comply with the Animal Welfare Act.
- Intervening in the event of behavior that is contrary to animal welfare or potentially endangering the horses and immediately reporting such incidents to the show management.

5 Conduct of the ring steward

5.1 The ring steward represents the PFHAS and always acts professionally, objectively and impartially.

5.2 When dealing with participants, judges and officials, a polite, respectful and helpful tone must be maintained. Conflicts are to be resolved objectively, calmly and competently.

5.3 The ring steward provides clarification in the event of rule violations or errors by explaining them to the participants in a factual and understandable manner and, if necessary, making suggestions for improvement.

5.4 The ring steward ensures equal conditions for all participants and maintains absolute neutrality.

5.5 During the tournament, the ring steward is attentive and implements the instructions of the tournament management efficiently. Any discrepancies must be reported to the tournament management.

6 Dress code of the ring steward

6.1 The ring steward must always wear neat and functional clothing that makes him clearly recognizable as an official.

6.2 The clothing includes

- Black or white/beige long pants
- Clothing suitable for the weather (e.g. rain jacket, sun protection, warm clothing in cool weather).
- Sturdy, closed shoes that provide secure footing on different surfaces.

6.3 An official identification badge (ring steward jacket and polo shirt) and a clearly visible name badge with the inscription "ring steward" is mandatory and must be worn for the entire duration of the tournament.

7 Instructions to participants

7.1 Participants are obliged to report to the ring steward in the warm-up arena at least 10 minutes before the start of their respective test.

7.2 The ring steward is responsible for drawing the competitors' attention to any breaches of the rules or mistakes and asking them to correct them (e.g. adjusting the horse's equipment or adjusting the rider's clothing).

7.3 The ring steward informs the participants about the necessity of rule changes and gives practical advice on how to avoid infringements.

7.4 In the event of repeated or serious infringements, the ring steward will immediately inform the show management, who may take further measures.

8 Final provisions

8.1 These regulations enter into force upon their adoption by the PFHAS Board of Directors and are binding for all approved ring stewards.

8.2 It is expected that all ring stewards regularly inform themselves about changes to the PFHAS regulations and the Animal Welfare Act and implement these in their work.