



International Walking Horse Association (IWHA) HPA Enforcement Rules and Regulations

November, 2010 (revised)

As a USDA-APHIS certified Horse Industry Organization inspection program, IWHA has adopted and promulgated the following rules, "Rules", which shall apply to all events affiliated with IWHA, and to all persons and horses on the grounds at such events. These Rules are promulgated in order to ensure full compliance with the Horse Protection Act and associated Regulations, as amended, with a mind toward its purpose and intent, and to provide a fair and level playing field at IWHA-affiliated events. In all matters related to these Rules and their enforcement, the decision of IWHA shall be final.

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Section I - Affiliated Events ([Return to Index](#))

- A. Any event or organization desiring to affiliate their event with this IWHA will apply with a signed affiliation form and a registration fee at least 35 days prior to the event date.
- B. A fee of \$4 per entry is to be paid to IWHA and postmarked within seven (7) day following the event. This fee applies to all events. The fee may be adjusted for "non-payback" events or other circumstances at IWHA's discretion.
- C. Any payment postmarked after the 7 day deadline may be assessed a late charge as determined by IWHA.
- D. When 150 entries or more are/will be in any event, registered with IWHA, IWHA is required to designate a minimum of two DQPs for that event, as required by the Horse Protection Act and its regulations as amended.
- E. In signing a DQP Request Form, the event management agrees to abide by Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended, and the rules of IWHA, and to require all participants of the event to be bound same.
- F. IWHA show rules (which are separate from these rules) and judges must be used at all IWHA-affiliated events unless otherwise approved in advance by IWHA.
- G. For the purpose of these rules, the term "event" will be defined to mean any horse show, exhibition, sale or auction.
- H. For the purpose of these rules the term "sore" will be defined as in the HPA Regulations as follows:
Sore when used to describe a horse means:
 - (1) An irritating or blistering agent has been applied, internally or externally by a person to any limb of a horse,
 - (2) Any burn, cut, or laceration has been inflicted by a person on any limb of a horse,
 - (3) Any tack, nail, screw, or chemical agent has been injected by a person into or used by a person on any limb of a horse, or
 - (4) Any other substance or device has been used by a person on any limb of a horse or a person has engaged in a practice involving a horse, and, as a result of such application, infliction, injection, use, or practice, such horse

suffers, or can reasonably be expected to suffer, physical pain or distress, inflammation, or lameness when walking, trotting, or otherwise moving, except that such term does not include such an application, infliction, injection, use, or practice in connection with the therapeutic treatment of a horse by or under the supervision of a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the State in which such treatment was given.

- I. In addition to the term “sore”, as described in item H, the HP Regulations (Section 11.3) define any horse which is in violation of the Scar Rule as “sore”.

Section II - DQP & Inspections (Designated Qualified Person) [\(Return to Index\)](#)

- A. A DQP is assigned to an affiliated event to protect event management from penalties as a result of violations of the Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended, and to insure that all exhibitors compete under the same and equal conditions.
- B. General Rules for all DQP applications.
 1. Application for a DQP license must be made on the official form furnished by IWHA and accompanied by the required fee, which is not refundable.
 2. All new DQP applicants must complete a minimum 14 hour DQP training course. The 14 hour course will strictly adhere to the USDA requirements.
 3. All new applicants will be subject to a written examination, which must be answered and returned to IWHA for review.
 4. Each applicant whose examination paper receives a mark of 80% or better will be considered for licensing.
 5. All DQP applicants must apprentice a minimum of 2 events or any additional amount deemed necessary by IWHA.
 6. Following the minimum apprenticeships, and after review of the applicant’s performance in the field, the DQP apprentice may undergo an oral review to examine his qualifications and determine if the apprentice is qualified to be licensed, or needs more time in the field.
 7. After this review, a license may be issued, which will be valid for one year only.
 8. The issuing of all new DQP licenses will be at the discretion of IWHA.
 9. An apprentice DQP must be approved by IWHA in order to receive his or her license.
 10. All DQP licenses will be renewed on a yearly basis.
 11. Fees for a DQP license and its renewal will be set by IWHA.
 12. All DQPs must be eighteen (18) years of age or older.
 13. IWHA may, at its discretion, refuse to renew a DQPs license upon its expiration.
 14. All licensed DQPs must attend a USDA-approved continuing education program of not less than 4 hours of instruction per year in order to retain their license. The program shall be either conducted by IWHA, or shall be approved by IWHA if conducted by another party.
- C. IWHA and its inspectors will concern themselves only with the enforcement of the Horse Protection Act and its regulations and the rules established by IWHA. IWHA will not enforce horse event rules not promulgated by IWHA. The primary enforcement of IWHA Show Rules shall reside with show management.
- D. All DQPs will be members of IWHA's general membership and advisory board, but they will not have a vote.
- E. The fees and expenses associated with the employment of a DQP will be paid by the event management, fee as prescribed by IWHA, reviewed annually.
- F. It will be the obligation of the DQP to determine that all horses, which enter events affiliated with IWHA, are in compliance with these rules and the Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended.
- G. All DQPs licensed by IWHA will be responsible for knowing the rules of IWHA, the Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended, and current USDA field policies.
- H. All DQPs licensed by IWHA will be expected to abide by the following DQP Standards of Conduct:
 1. Inspect all horses thoroughly.
 2. Enforce the Horse Protection Act and its regulations and the rules of IWHA without compromise.
 3. Display consistency in inspections and in enforcement, without favoritism or prejudice.
 4. Treat all persons with courtesy.
 5. Cooperate with USDA personnel when they are present.
 6. Always strive to improve performance.

7. There should be no difference in the inspection procedures, policies or standards whether USDA personnel are present or not.
 8. Will avoid conflicts of interest which might appear to cause undue prejudice.
- I. A DQP will disqualify any horse that he deems to be out of compliance with the Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended, the rules of IWHA and/or the policies of USDA/APHIS.
 - J. The method and manner of determining whether or not a horse is in compliance with the Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended, and the rules of IWHA and/or the policies of the USDA/APHIS will be as instructed at DQP clinics authorized by IWHA.
 - K. After a DQP has been issued a DQP license, and such DQP demonstrates a lack of competence, skill, integrity, cooperation, the desire to deport himself in a manner worthy of a DQP, or is found to be uncooperative with USDA personnel, the license of such DQP may be suspended or revoked by IWHA, as provided for in these rules, or at the request of the Administrator of USDA/APHIS.
 - L. DQPs holding a DQP license with IWHA will be available on an assignment basis only to any horse event, which makes a request for a DQP, by filling out a DQP Request Form from IWHA. IWHA may request an affiliation fee for these services and will be responsible for the DQP assignments.
 - M. It will be considered improper for any person to knowingly contact a DQP assigned to a future event. If such person contacts any DQP, it will be the DQPs duty to immediately report this act to IWHA.
 - N. Neither DQPs, nor members of his immediate family are permitted to show or bring a horse to inspection at an event; at which said DQP is officiating as a DQP, even if there are two or more DQPs. Immediate family is defined as spouse, brother, sister, mother, father, daughter or son, like step-relatives, or any other person who resides in the same residence with a DQP.
 - O. DQP Inspections:
 1. The only persons allowed in the DQP inspection areas are the horse handler, the assigned DQPs, DQP Apprentices which are apprenticing at that event, IWHA members/personnel assigned to supervise the DQPs at that event, USDA/APHIS personnel, any other persons with legal authority as set forth by APHIS and the Horse Protection Act and its regulations as amended or approved by the DQP or the USDA.
 2. The exhibitor/rider must be dismounted, during inspection of the horse.
 3. The DQP will inspect horses no more than three classes ahead of the time the inspected horses are to be shown, when the event has 150 entries or more.
 4. The DQP will inspect horses no more than two classes ahead of the time the inspected horses are to be shown, when the event has less than 150 entries.
 5. Inspected horses will be held in a designated area that is under the observation of the DQP or APHIS representative.
 6. Horses will not be permitted to leave the designated area after they have been inspected and before showing. Horses leaving the designated holding area after being inspected and prior to exhibition, showing, or sale will be subject to re-inspection.
 7. The only persons allowed in the designated holding area are those listed above in Section II, O, 1, of these rules, with the addition of one assistant on the ground.
 8. The DQP will observe and inspect all horses for compliance with the Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended, and the rules of IWHA.
 9. All action devices may be weighed; all pads may be measured to determine if they are in compliance with the Horse Protection Act and its regulations as amended.
 10. The DQP will instruct the custodian of the horse to hold the reins no less than 18 inches from the shank of the bit.
 11. The DQP will not be required to examine a horse, if it is presented in a manner that might cause the horse not to react to a DQPs examination, or is unruly and dangerous to the DQP and/or persons in the area.
 12. All incidents that are not in compliance with the Horse Protection Act, and its regulations and the rules of IWHA are to be reported to the event management and in writing to IWHA on a numbered ticket provided by IWHA.
 13. The DQP may carry out additional inspection procedures, as he/she deems necessary, to determine whether the horse is in compliance with the Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended, and the rules of IWHA.
 14. The DQP will not take an unreasonable amount of time to perform the inspection procedures.
 15. Once the class is over, the first place horse must return to the DQP area for post show inspection immediately upon leaving the event ring/arena.
 16. The DQP may request that any horse report to the inspection area for inspection, post show or event.

17. The DQP has the right to inspect all breeds of horses and any records pertaining to such horses that enter the event, for the purpose of enforcing the Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended, and the rules of IWHA.
18. All DQPs are responsible for maintaining of records in accordance with the Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended, and as set forth by the rules of IWHA.
19. The monitoring of horses may include any horse that is stabled, loaded on a trailer, in the process of being loaded or unloaded, being prepared for the event or exercised, or that is on the grounds of, or present at any horse event.
20. The DQP may monitor such areas at various times during the time he/she is on the grounds officiating.
21. The DQP will be discriminate in the allocation of his time and will not deter from his primary duty of examining each horse prior to entry into the event, nor in any manner, delay the event, solely for the purpose of monitoring the above areas/activities.
22. In the case of large or multi-day events, requiring or providing the stabling of horses, the DQP should arrive on the event grounds no less than one hour prior to the events scheduled starting time for the purpose of monitoring the unloading, preparation, warm-up and barn areas. The DQP should continue to monitor these areas throughout the length of the event.
23. The DQP will be observant for the use of prohibited substances and is empowered to inspect leg wrappings, shipping boots, tack boxes, equipment and stabling areas for prohibited substances.
24. To examine horses in the barn, or unloading areas, for compliance with the Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended, and the rules of IWHA, the DQP may require the custodian of the horse to lead the horse out of the barn to an inspection area and to remove any items the DQP deems necessary to remove to facilitate a thorough inspection and this may include the shoes. The expense for the removal and/or replacement of any items, required for proper inspection, will be assumed by the owner of the horse.
25. For the purpose of examining those horses showing signs of soreness, while in the preparation area, warm-up arenas, or other such areas, the DQP may require the custodian of the horse to bring the horse directly to the inspection area for the purpose of examining the horse for compliance with the Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended, and the rules of IWHA.
26. DQP has the authority to require the removal of all hoof coatings that may disguise the amount of acrylic used for hoof repair.

P. Examination of Horses: The examination of horses for purposes of determining compliance with the Act involves an evaluation of the horse's movement and appearance, and the physical examination described below. Each examination must include all three components:

1. **Movement.** During the inspection, the DQP shall direct the custodian of the horse to lead, walk, and turn the horse in a figure eight, allowing the DQP to observe for signs of soreness.
2. **Appearance.** At all times during the inspection, including during the physical examination, the DQP shall observe and evaluate the horse's appearance to determine whether the horse suffers, or can reasonably be expected to suffer physical pain or distress, inflammation, or lameness when walking, trotting or otherwise moving. The DQP shall look for evidence of prohibited substances, and prohibited or non-compliant paraphernalia or devices.
3. **Physical Examination.** The DQP shall digitally palpate the front limbs of the horse, from knee to hoof, with particular emphasis on the pasterns and fetlocks, as described in the applicable regulations and as instructed at the IWHA DQP Training Clinics and as described in the USDA/DQP Training Manual.

Q. Licensed DQPs who are also licensed veterinarians, may not conduct veterinary services while serving in the capacity of a DQP, with the following exceptions.

1. It must be an emergency situation.
2. The horse owner or trainer must make the request for the veterinary/DQPs services through the event/show management.
3. The horse owner or trainer requesting veterinary services must do so in writing by completing and signing the Request Form For DQP/Veterinary Emergency Services. Completion of this form constitutes acknowledgment that the treated horse must be withdrawn from participation from the event for the remainder of that day and night.
4. The event/show management must also sign this form, giving their approval.
5. The event/show management will keep a copy for their files, one copy will go to the horse owner or trainer, and the DQP will retain one copy and send the top copy to the IWHA office.
6. The event/show management must make the request for the veterinary services of the DQP and put the inspection process and the show on hold until the DQP is available to resume his/her DQP duties.
7. Upon this request, event/show management must call for the services of an outside veterinarian. Upon his/her arrival the DQP will resume his duties and position as the official DQP of the event.
8. IWHA will send one copy of the DQP/Vet. Request Form to the USDA, along with their DQP Reports.

R. Inspections and Compliance with the Scar Rule

1. **Definitions.** For purposes of the Scar Rule, the following definitions are used:

Anterior. The anterior area covers approximately the front 25 percent of the pastern. The anterior surface is bordered by two parallel lines that extend downward from the bony prominences on either side of the end of the cannon bone at the fetlock joint to the foot, as divided approximately into equal quarters.

Bilateral Granuloma. A tumor-like mass, nodule or swollen area of granulation tissue (proud flesh or focal lesions) that occur on both legs, usually as a result of chronic inflammation.

Bilateral Evidence Of Abuse Indicative Of Soring. Evidence of intentional injury inflicted to both front and/or both rear pasterns.

Edema: Collection of fluid within tissue. Localized edema is considered a violation. Localized edema is the collection of fluids within tissue causing swelling, pain, and/or loss of function in or near the areas where chemical or physical trauma has occurred. In contrast, generalized edema is not considered a violation. Generalized edema involves a greater portion of the extremity caused by such items as tight bandages or injuries above the pastern resulting in fluids gravitating to the pastern area.

Excessive Loss of Hair. Areas of significantly thinned hair and/or bare skin that are indicative of soring that may result from repetitive friction and/or pressure, with or without use of chemicals, and which may cause permanent injury to hair follicles.

Irritation. The early stage of inflammation resulting from a reaction of the skin to abnormal chemical or physical applications.

Lateral. The lateral area approximately covers 25 percent of the pastern. It is the outer surface located between the boundaries of the anterior and posterior surfaces as defined in this section.

Medial. The medial area approximately covers 25 percent of the pastern. It is the inner surface located between the boundaries of the anterior and posterior surfaces as defined in this section.

Moisture. This includes serum, pus or blood, and can be a direct flow and/or oozing of these fluids out through the skin.

Neurovascular Groove: The anatomical lines of demarcation between the medial or lateral and posterior surfaces of the pastern are those parallel lines extending downward in front of the flexor tendon bundle along the depression or groove occupied by the neurovascular bundle which intersects with the angles of the hoof wall and includes the bulbs of the hoof. This neurovascular groove or bundle is anatomically located totally within the medial and lateral surfaces.

Other bilateral pathological evidence of inflammation: Pain, heat, redness, swelling, serum or pus, or loss of function in both front pasterns are indications of inflammation. Inflammation results when, in response to an injury or destruction of tissue, the body attempts to dilute or wall off the injurious agent and the injured tissue. Inflammation can be acute or chronic and may result in permanent tissue damage (for example, scarring).

Other Evidence Of Inflammation. These may include without limitation pain, heat, redness, swelling, or loss of function.

Pastern: The part of the leg of a horse that lies between the fetlock joint and the hoof.

Posterior. The posterior area approximately covers the rear 25 percent of the pastern. The posterior surface is bordered by two parallel lines that extend downward along the palpable borders in front of the flexor tendon bundle to intersect with the angles of the hoof lateral and medial, for purposes of enforcing the HPA pursuant to this Plan, the posterior area is deemed to include the rear 35 percent of the pastern as designated in the Scar Rule Chart found below. This 35 percent area is not considered to be an approximation.

Proliferating Granuloma Tissue. Excessive growth of masses of tissue (proud flesh) that is usually the result of the body's unsuccessful attempts to repair tissues that are injured and/or infected. The proliferating granuloma can create wart-like growths and/or abnormal thickening where the skin is corrugated, ridged or thrown into clusters of exuberant growth (proud flesh).

Uniformly Thickened Epithelial Tissue. A uniform or even thickening of skin that retains its smoothness, such as in a callous or corn, and is free of all signs of inflammation.

2. Scar Rule Prohibitions

- a. **Anterior, Medial and Lateral Surfaces.** The anterior, medial and lateral surfaces of the pasterns of both front feet must be free of bilateral granulomas, other bilateral pathological evidence of inflammation, or bilateral evidence of abuse indicative of soring, including, but not limited to, excessive loss of hair.
- b. **Posterior Surfaces.** The posterior surfaces of the pasterns of the front feet, including the sulcus or "pocket" may show bilateral areas of uniformly thickened epithelial tissue if such areas are free of proliferating granuloma tissue, irritation, moisture, localized edema, or other evidence of inflammation such as pain, heat, redness, swelling, or loss of function.

3. Determining The Boundaries Of The Posterior Area.

There is no major anatomical landmark on the pastern that easily defines the demarcation of the posterior surfaces from the medial and lateral surfaces. This section explains how the USDA will determine the demarcation of the posterior surface for purposes of the HPA. The pastern is a three-dimensional anatomical structure. It is divided into four equal quarters: the front (anterior), the inside (medial) the outside (lateral), and the back (posterior). Each of these four surfaces comprises approximately one-quarter, or 25 percent, of the circumference. The VMO or DQP may use either the "Flattened Hand" or the "Neurovascular Groove" method (described below) to measure the posterior surface of the pastern. If, by using one or the other of these methods, the VMO and DQP are able to easily determine, and agree, whether the horse is or is not in compliance with the Scar Rule criteria, then they may proceed to document their findings. If, by using one or the other of these methods, the VMO and DQP are able to easily determine, and agree, whether the horse is or is not in compliance with the Scar Rule criteria, then they may proceed to document their findings. If, by using these screening methods, the VMO and the DQP cannot easily determine the boundaries of the posterior surface, or if a dispute arises as to whether the horse is in compliance with the Scar Rule, then the VMO (or the DQP if there is no VMO at the event) shall measure the circumference of the horse's pastern, and determine the location of the boundary between the posterior and the medial and the posterior and the lateral areas using the measurement chart. For purposes of this Plan, APHIS will consider the posterior area of the pastern to include 35 percent of the circumference of the pastern. This will allow for any margin of error.

- a. **Flattened Hand Method.** Place the flattened hand on the posterior aspect of the pastern. The area covered by the hand is the posterior surface, and the area visible on the sides of the pastern will be considered the medial and lateral surfaces.
- b. **Neurovascular Groove (Bundle).** The neurovascular groove or bundle is anatomically located totally within the medial and lateral surfaces. Since the palpation of the neurovascular groove or bundle is difficult in practice, the area's proper anatomical limits shall be defined for purposes of determining the anterior edge of the posterior surface by using the palpable posterior of the two pastern bones (long and short) and the adjacent palpable border of the flexor tendon bundle. This is done by placing the tip of the finger against the pastern bone with the fingernail against the bone. The opposite side of the finger (non-finger nail side) in most horses will be in close proximity to the anterior edge of the flexor tendon bundle, i.e., line of demarcation for the posterior surface. Any scar tissue covered by the finger is in violation.
- c. **Measuring the Posterior.** The posterior surface is determined by measuring the circumference of the pastern where the affected area is located. Using the midline of the posterior surface, which is half the distance between the bulbs of the heel, the actual posterior surface extends 12.5 percent of the circumference on either side of this the midline. To allow for a margin of error, APHIS will use 17.5 percent from the midline. The circumference measurement is multiplied by .175 to obtain the distance from the posterior midline to the edge of the medial or lateral surfaces. The measurement chart can be used as a quick reference to determine this measurement.

- S. A DQP will disqualify any horse that he/she deems to be out of compliance with the Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended, the rules of IWHA, and/or the policies of USDA/APHIS.

Section III – Restrictions [\(Return to Index\)](#)

- A. Artificial extension of the toe length, whether accomplished with pads, acrylics or any other material or combinations thereof, that exceeds 50% of the natural hoof length, as measured from the coronet band, at the center of the front pastern along the front of the hoof wall, to the distal portion of the hoof wall at the tip of the toe. The artificial extension will be measured from the distal portion of the hoof wall at the tip of the toe at a 90 degree angle to the proximal (foot/hoof) surface of the shoe. Toe length will exceed the height of the heel by 1 inch or more. The length of the toe will be measured from the coronet band, at the center of the front pastern along the front of the hoof wall to the ground. The heel will be measured from the coronet band, at the most lateral portion of the rear pastern, at a 90 degree angle to the ground, not including normal caulks at the rear of a horseshoe, that do not exceed 3/4" inch in length. That portion of caulk at the rear of a horseshoe in excess of 3/4 of an inch will be added to the height of the heel in determining the heel/toe ratio.
- B. No electrical or mechanical shocking device may be used while on the event grounds. There will be no "stewarding" of horses.
- C. All action devices and lubricants on horses being brought to inspection shall be applied only in the inspection area, in the presence of, and under the direct supervision of, the DQP. If a horse has left already been inspected and is in the holding area, it must return to the vicinity of the DQP stand so that application of lubricants and/or action devices can be observed by the DQP.
- D. No action devices or other equipment shall be removed from the horse's legs or adjusted in any way, from the time applied in the inspection area until the horse is brought before the DQP for post show/event inspection, as required, and the DQP requests that the action devices be removed.
- E. No one may touch the lower limbs of the horse (from the knee to the hoof) after it has been inspected and prior to entering the event, unless under the direct supervision of the DQP. Anything requiring touching of the lower limb(s), including application of action devices, application of approved lubricant, adjustment of band, or any other similar activity, shall only be done in the direct presence and under the supervision of the DQP.
- F. Prohibited Practices. The Regulations prohibit shoeing, trimming or using any method or device on a horse's hoof in a manner that causes such horse to suffer, or can reasonably be expected to cause such horse to suffer pain, distress, inflammation or lameness when walking, trotting or otherwise moving. This includes inserting a tack, screw, nail or other device or substance, other than acceptable hoof packing, between the horse's hoof and its shoe or pad. If a DQP suspects that a horse's hoof has been subjected to any such practice, the DQP may require the horse's custodian to remove the shoes, pads, or both, to allow further examination.
- G. Whips and/or cigarettes in the inspection area are prohibited.
- H. Tack trunks/grooming boxes in the inspection area and/or holding area are prohibited, unless inspected and approved by the DQP. All other items brought into the inspection and/or holding area are subject to DQP inspection.
- I. Unnecessary physical abuse to a horse will result in a warning and a report to event management.
- J. Any horse which enters or is on the event grounds is subject to inspection at all times, whether or not that horse has been officially "entered" in the event, and any person involved with any horse on the event grounds is deemed to have given tentative agreement, by virtue of having said horse on the grounds, to be bound by these rules of IWHA, regardless of whether said horse has been "entered" in the event.
- K. Any person on suspension by the USDA or any USDA certified Horse Industry Organization, including IWHA, cannot enter, present a horse for inspection, show, warm up, groom or otherwise prepare, transport a horse, or participate in any manner other than being a spectator in the stand at any event. Any person on suspension may not be in the barn areas, will be restricted to the spectator area, only, and may not coach, by any manner of communication, any trainer, owner, or exhibitor at anytime during the show or exhibit. If found to be in violation of the above, then said individual will be ticketed.
- L. The use of acrylic will be restricted to hoof repair on flat shod horses (with regard to this rule, a flat shod horse is defined as a horse that is not wearing any pad between the hoof surface and the shoe).

- M. The use of plastic wrap on the legs of any horse arriving or while on the event grounds is prohibited, unless approved by the DQP.
- N. Unruly horses: DQPs shall excuse any horse that is unruly or exhibits an unwillingness to submit to examination. Said horse shall be ticketed.
- O. Stewarding: Custodians shall not act in any manner that may cause a false examination result, and shall not use any signal or device (including, but not limited to, whips or cigarette smoke), to distract or steward a horse during examination. If the DQP observes such behavior, the DQP shall immediately excuse the horse and shall report the incident to show management and to IWHA in writing. A ticket will be issued.
- P. Any person involved with a horse, or entering or exhibiting of a horse, shall provide a valid, government-issued photo ID upon request by IWHA personnel, show management, or the USDA, and in the event of a violation shall surrender such ID for purposes of information/evidence until the violation record/ticket is completed and signed.

Section IV - DQP Reports [\(Return to Index\)](#)

- A. When a DQP assigned to the affiliated event finds that a trainer, owner, exhibitor and/or horse is not in compliance with these rules or the Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended, he will immediately notify the event management and the responsible persons of said findings.
- B. The DQP will write a report (ticket) stating why and how the trainer, owner of record, exhibitor and/or horse are in violation of the Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended, and/or the rules of IWHA.
- C. The report will include a statement informing the responsible persons of the violations found, according to the schedule of violations, as set forth in the rules of IWHA.
- D. The trainer, owner (See Section V), and custodian and/or exhibitor will be requested to sign the ticket in the designated area and may receive a copy of the ticket.
- E. The DQP will inform the trainer, owner, and exhibitor that they have a right to appeal the findings of the DQP and may request a hearing before IWHA. The DQP will ask them to read Section VII, Notification and Hearings of the rules, pertaining to the process for a request for an appeal.
- F. IWHA will send a copy of the ticket, along with an explanation of the assessed penalties and/or fine, by certified mail and by regular mail, to the trainer, owner and exhibitor.
- G. The trainer, owner of record, exhibitor may waive the appeal by paying the fine and/or agreeing to serve whatever suspension may apply.
- H. Reports.
 1. The report of the DQP will be submitted to the IWHA office within 72 hours after the completion of the event.
 2. The completed report will include the following information, when applicable:
 - a. The name and address of the trainer
 - b. The name and address of the owner
 - c. The name and address of the exhibitor
 - d. The horse's name, age, sex, color, markings and ID number and breed
 - e. The offense or violation committed by said person and any other facts which IWHA or the DQP deems advisable to submit
 - f. If any questions should arise as to the correctness of any information contained in any DQP report, IWHA will resolve the matter and its decision will be final and binding on all parties
- F. The DQP may request a copy of the entry form to verify all information given to him by the trainer, owner and/or exhibitor, before leaving the event grounds.

Section V - Violations [\(Return to Index\)](#)

- A. Schedule of Violations:

IWHA shall impose and enforce penalties for violations of the HPA as set forth herein, and which shall meet or exceed the minimum standards set forth by the USDA. Persons, who transport, enter, and/or exhibit horses in violation of the HPA, or who otherwise violate the HPA, Regulations, as amended, and/or these Rules shall be personally liable for monetary penalties and disqualification or suspension.

The following is the schedule of violations to be ticketed by the DQP and the penalties, suspensions and/or fines to be assessed as a result of said violations. IWHA reserves the right to increase penalties in situations which it deems are particularly harmful or egregious.

In reference to the violations which follow, any person shall be found in violation who presents a horse for inspection, which horse is found in violation. However, an exhibitor other than the trainer or owner is ticketed only in the event of a post-show violation **except** in the case where an exhibitor leads a horse through inspection, which horse is deemed in violation, or the exhibitor violates the Act (provides false information, stewards the horse, etc.) in some other fashion. **This exception applies to all references which follow regarding exhibitors being ticketed only on post-show violations.**

1. **Group A Violations** - Trainer, owner of record, custodian presenting horse, and/or exhibitor (exhibitor for post-show only, if not presenting horse) will receive penalties as follows (Ticket shall be issued, noting HPA or non-HPA violation).

*All HPA Violations = Ticket and Disqualified from class; Non-HPA rule violations (noted as such) = Ticket noted as non-HPA violation and Disqualified from class. **Except for unruly/fractious horse**, any HPA ticket = **Horse** disqualified from **show**.*

- a. Illegal heel/toe measurement.
- b. Improper action device, including low chain(s), pre-show/event.
- c. Improper band(s), pre-show/event.
- d. Touching the lower limbs of the horse (from the knee to the hoof) after it has been inspected and prior to exhibiting in the event and prior to exhibiting in the event (this is a non-HPA violation).
- e. Applying action devices and/or lubricants on a horse which has been inspected and prior to its class, other than at the DQP stand and under the direct observation of the DQP.
- f. Fractious/unruly horse. A horse that cannot be thoroughly inspected by the DQP will not be permitted to show.

2. **Group B Violations** - Trainer, owner of record, custodian presenting horse, and/or exhibitor (exhibitor for post-show only, if not presenting horse) will receive penalties as follows (Ticket shall be issued, noting HPA or non-HPA violation).

*All HPA Violations = Ticket, Disqualified from class, 2-week suspension, and \$50.00 fine; Non-HPA violations = Ticket noted as non-HPA violation, Disqualified from class, and \$50.00 fine; Any HPA ticket for the following violations = **Horse** disqualified from **show and for the duration of suspension of other parties**.*

- a. Evidence on the pastern of the horse of peeling and/or scurfing of the skin, being tissue that is loose, in or on the hair.
- b. Illegal or foreign substance on pastern or hooves, pre-show and post-show (Includes odors as well as visible signs of a foreign substance).
- c. Failure to have horse inspected pre-show/event.
- d. Failure to report back to DQP immediately after winning class/event.
- e. Improper action device(s), including low action device(s), post-show/event.
- f. Plastic wrap on the legs of any horse arriving or while on the event grounds, unless approved by the DQP (this is a non-HPA violation).
- g. Improper band(s), post-show/event.

3. **Group C Violations** - Trainer, owner of record, custodian presenting horse, and/or exhibitor (exhibitor for post-show only, if not presenting horse) will receive penalties as follows (Ticket shall be issued).

All Violations = HPA Ticket, Suspension according the schedule below, Disqualified from class, \$50.00 fine, and Horse disqualified from show and for the duration of suspension of other parties.

- a. Scar Rule violation.
 - 1st Offense – 2 Weeks
 - 2nd Offense – 60 Days
 - 3rd and Subsequent Offenses – 1 Year

4. **Group D Violations** - Trainer, owner of record, custodian presenting horse, and/or exhibitor (exhibitor for post-show only, if not presenting horse) will receive penalties as follows (Ticket shall be issued).

All Violations = HPA Ticket, Suspension according to the schedule below, Disqualified from class, \$50.00 fine, and Horse disqualified from show and for the duration of suspension of other parties.

- a. Sore, sensitive, unsound and/or showing a pain response in one foot of the horse.
- b. Skin cracked open, one foot (open lesions indicative of soring).

- 1st Offense – 60 Days
- 2nd Offense – 120 Days
- 3rd and Subsequent Offenses – 1 Year

5. **Group E Violations** - Trainer, owner of record, custodian presenting horse, and/or exhibitor (exhibitor for post-show only, if not presenting horse) will receive penalties as follows (Ticket shall be issued).

All Violations = HPA Ticket, Suspension according to the schedule below, Disqualified from class, \$50.00 fine, and Horse disqualified from show and for the duration of suspension of other parties.

- a. Sore, sensitive, unsound and/or showing a repeated pain response in two feet of the horse.
- b. Skin cracked open lesions in two feet (open lesions indicative of soring).
- c. Sore, sensitive, unsound and/or showing a repeated pain response (two feet) of the horse, after showing (post show).
- d. Refusal to provide the necessary information to the DQP.
- e. Refusal to have horse inspected after notification by event management, DQP or USDA.
- f. Refusal to allow the DQP to carry out any inspections to determine compliance with the Horse Protection Act and its regulations and/or the rules of IWHA.
- g. Verbal abuse to anyone representing event management, including but not limited to DQPs, DQP IWHA members, USDA employees, while functioning in any official capacity at, or pertaining to any horse event (individual cannot show for remainder of event).
- h. Presenting a horse in any manner or the custodian doing anything that might cause the horse to not react to the DQPs examination (to include "stewarding").

- 1st Offense - 1 year
- 2nd Offense – 2 years
- 3rd and Subsequent Offenses – 4 years

6. **Group F Violations** - Trainer, owner of record, custodian presenting a horse, and/or exhibitor (exhibitor for post-show only, if not presenting the horse) will receive penalties as follows (Ticket shall be issued).

All Violations = HPA Ticket, Disqualified from class, \$750.00 fine, and Horse disqualified from show.

- a. The following will constitute a Bad Image Horse: Exhibition of repeated or persistent reluctance to move, and/or excessive shifting of weight to the hind end, and/or apparent pain on movement. In working a horse, a horse which is significantly unlevel, balks, hops, or skips. Horse otherwise showing signs of distress determined to be due to soring abuse.

- b. Horses must lead freely at all times while on the grounds of the respective event. In working a horse, it must not be hopping or skipping.

7. Group G Violations - Trainer, owner of record, and/or exhibitor (exhibitor for post-show only) will receive penalties as follows (Ticket shall be issued).

All Violations = HPA Ticket, Disqualified from class, Suspension/Fine according to the schedule below, and Horse disqualified from show and for the duration of suspension of the owner.

- a. Any horse found to be pressure shod.

1st Offense – Trainer: Lifetime suspension; Owner and other: 1 Year and \$2,000

2nd Offense (other than trainer) – Lifetime suspension

8. Group H Violations - (Ticket shall be issued).

All Violations = HPA Ticket, Suspension according to the schedule below, Disqualified from class, \$1,000.00 fine, and Horse disqualified from show and for the duration of suspension of other parties.

- a. Giving false information to any official of the event, including, but not limited to the DQP.

1st Offense - 1 year

2nd Offense – 2 years

3rd and Subsequent Offenses – 4 years

9. Group I Violations - (Ticket shall be issued).

All Violations = HPA Ticket, 6-month suspension, each occurrence

- a. Any person on suspension by the USDA or any USDA certified Horse Industry Organization, including IWHA, presenting a horse for inspection, showing, warming-up, grooming, transporting a horse to the event, found to be in the barn areas and/or participating in any manner other than being a spectator in the stands at any event.

B. References to “foot” herein, including in the foregoing schedule of violations, may refer to the foot, or more generally the limb, depending on the specific violation.

C. References to “Owner” or “Owner of Record” herein, including in the foregoing schedule of violations, will usually refer to the person who is the owner of record shown in the records of the breed registry. However, other evidence may be used to determine who is(are) the actual owner(s), or who has represented themselves as the owner(s), of a horse, including but not limited to, past and current show records. In the event that conflicting information exists, IWHA will determine to whom a violation most appropriately applies, or may apply it to both or more parties, and may make final determinations during a hearing, including a hearing called for that purpose if IWHA deems necessary.

D. Per the 2010 USDA Points of Emphasis (which apply to all shows in 2010 and thereafter), any violation of the HPA will result in the subject horse being immediately suspended for the balance of the show at which the violation occurs; the sole exception is for a fractious/unruly horse, which is disqualified only for the class, but may continue to show in remaining classes pending successful inspection.

E. Upon receipt of a report from a judge indicating a violation of the Horse Protection Act and its regulations as amended and/or the rules of IWHA, the DQP will inspect the horse, and if said horse is found to be in violation, a ticket will be written by the officiating DQP.

F. Any post-show violation of the Horse Protection Act and its regulations as amended and/or the rules of IWHA will result in the disqualification of the entry and the forfeiture of all prizes, trophies and category point awards. The class will be retied

and the new winner announced, after the period for appeal has expired without appeal or after the appeal process has been exhausted and a violation is upheld. Show management shall be responsible for updating their show records/results to reflect the re-tied class, and shall ensure that all other programs and publications tracking show records/results and points are notified and their records updated. Once a post-show violation is finally adjudicated and a violation is upheld, then in addition to any penalty assessed for the violation, those found in violation shall surrender directly to the IWHA office all prizes and trophies for the class/classes related to the violation. IWHA will then forward said prizes and trophies to show management. Those found in violation shall be suspended until said prizes and trophies are so surrendered.

- G. Notice. If IWHA has reason to believe that a person has violated the Act, then pursuant to Section VII (Notice and Hearings) below, IWHA shall notify the person of the alleged violation by certified mail, mailed within 10 days of the alleged violation. The notice shall describe the violation, the suspension and/or fine, and the procedures for requesting an appeal hearing.
- H. Opportunity for Hearing. Before IWHA imposes a fine and/or suspension, it shall give the alleged violator the opportunity to present a defense, including documentary and testimonial evidence at a hearing before the HIO's Hearing Committee (See Section VII – Notice and Hearings, below). Anyone receiving a ticket for an alleged violation will have 24 days from the **date of the violation** during which to appeal. If a person fails to request a hearing within that time, then that person shall have waived the right to a hearing, and the fine and/or suspension shall automatically begin on the twenty-fifth day (25th day) after the date of the violation.

Section VI - Suspensions ([Return to Index](#))

- A. All persons found to be in violation of the HPA and/or its regulations and/or the rules of IWHA will be suspended, as applicable, per Section V, above, and subject to Section VII (Notice and Hearings), below, of these Rules and will remain on suspension until all suspensions are served.
- B. Per the 2010 USDA Points of Emphasis (which apply to all shows in 2010 and thereafter), any violation of the HPA will result in the subject horse being immediately suspended for the balance of the show at which the violation occurs; the sole exception is for a fractious/unruly horse, which is disqualified only for the class, but may continue to show in remaining classes pending successful subsequent inspections.
- C. All suspensions in this section shall automatically begin on the twenty-fifth day after the date of the violation unless the person requests a hearing in accordance with the procedures in Section VII below or pays any fine imposed (for violations which do not carry a suspension).
- D. All suspensions imposed for HPA violations shall be served consecutively, and not concurrently with any other suspension (including a suspension imposed by another HIO). All suspensions imposed for violations of any suspension order shall also be served consecutively, not concurrently with any other suspension.
- E. Any person owing a fine will be suspended until the fine is paid in full. Regarding any fine against an owner, the respective horse (horse involved in violation) will be suspended until the fine assessed against owner is paid in full.
- F. IWHA defines a show season as a specified time period when most horse shows occur March 1 through November 30 of each year. Any suspensions assessed of less than one year shall be served during this described period. All other suspensions of one year or more shall be served during the complete calendar year, the starting date pursuant to these rules.
- G. Any suspension, fine or penalty assessed against a person or horse will continue for the prescribed period of time, regardless of the location of said person or horse. If said horse is sold, leased, traded or otherwise disposed of, the accumulated violation, and/or penalty, and/or suspensions will remain with said horse.
- H. For any horse owned by a corporation, all penalties and/or fines assessed and appeals will apply to the owner (or owners), officers, and directors of the said corporation.
- I. All HPA suspensions and penalties assessed by all other USDA certified Horse Industry Organizations shall be honored by IWHA, including suspensions for non-payment of fines for HPA violations. Any exceptions shall be approved by the USDA.

J. Limited Exemption from Liability. Section 1824(2)(D) of the Act contains a limited exemption from liability for a horse owner who demonstrates that he or she did not “allow” the horse to be entered or exhibited in a show while sore. This exemption applies only to those owners who themselves did not participate in the entry, exhibition, sale, or auction of a sore horse. An owner, to avoid liability for “allowing” his or her horse to be shown or exhibited, entered, sold, auctioned, or offered for sale while sore, must first present credible evidence that he or she did not participate in the entry, transportation, preparation for showing, exhibiting, sale, or auction. Second, the owner must show that he or she took affirmative steps as follows:

1. To select a trainer, based on careful research, who the owner would not reasonably expect would sore the horse.
2. To ensure that the trainer understands the definition of a “sore” horse, as defined in the HPA and Regulations (including the Scar Rule), what soring is as defined in the HPA and regulations, and understands that the owner does not want the trainer to sore the horse, and understands the consequences of soring the horse.
3. To periodically check the condition of the horse without prior notice to the trainer.

Affirmative action by an owner will include without limitation the following:

- a. Written Instructions and Acknowledgment. The owner has previously given the trainer written instructions not to sore the horse or to engage in practices or use devices that could be expected to result in soring, i.e., chains over the permitted weight, prohibited boots, collars, and rollers, caustic chemicals, overuse of permissible devices; and has informed the trainer in writing that failure to comply with the owner’s instructions will result in the trainer’s immediate termination. The owner has obtained the trainer’s written acknowledgment that he or she understands and agrees to comply with such terms, and has read, understands and agrees to comply with the HPA and its Regulations. All written communications between the trainer and owner are to be sent by U.S. certified mail, with proof of receipt. Also acceptable are copies with the appropriate notarized signatures.
- b. Consideration of Trainer’s History. The owner determines whether or not the trainer has previously violated the HPA. For example, if an owner hires a trainer who has been found in violation of the HPA and/or its regulations by the USDA and/or a USDA-certified HIO, hiring would raise a presumption that the owner is aware that the trainer has previously exhibited, shown, entered, sold or transported a sore horse in violation of the HPA, and has accepted the risk that such trainer may do so again. Such an owner would have to present compelling evidence to show that he or she acted reasonably in knowingly hiring that trainer.
- c. Unannounced Visits. The owner or the owner’s agent makes unannounced visits to the trainer’s facility. The owner arranges for periodic unannounced inspections of the horse by a knowledgeable, independent veterinarian (a veterinarian who is not employed by the trainer or who has other similar conflicts of interest, and who is competent to determine whether a horse is sore under the HPA), and which veterinarian has not been found in violation of the HPA and its regulations by the USDA and/or a USDA certified HIO.
- d. Exhibitors. Any exhibitor, other than a minor, showing a horse in any show, exhibition, sale or auction, in violation of the HPA, shall be subject to all penalties.

Section VII - Hearings and Reporting [\(Return to Index\)](#)

- A. Notice. If IWHA has reason to believe that a person has violated the Act and Regulations, as amended, or these Rules then it shall notify the person of the alleged violation by certified mail, mailed within 10 days of the alleged violation. The notice shall describe the violation and the fine and/or suspension pursuant to Section V of these Rules, and the procedures for requesting an appeal hearing, as described in this Section. All suspensions under this section shall automatically begin on the twenty-fifth day after the date of the violation unless the person requests a hearing in accordance with the procedures in this Section or pays any fine imposed (for violations which do not carry a suspension). If the person refuses or fails to claim the certified mail notice, and has not paid any fine imposed or requested a hearing, then any applicable suspension shall begin automatically on the 25th day after the date of the violation and remain in effect for its term, and thereafter until any and all fines are paid.
- B. Opportunity For Hearing. Before IWHA can impose a fine and/or suspension, it must allow the alleged violator the opportunity to present a defense, including documentary and testimonial evidence at a hearing before IWHA’s Hearing Committee.

1. A person may obtain a hearing by filing a written request with IWHA within 24 days of the date of the violation.
2. The request for a hearing will be deemed to be filed on the date it is received by IWHA.
3. Any individual wishing to appeal a ticket must make the request in writing directly to IWHA. No one may request an appeal hearing for another individual.
4. Any person making an appeal hearing request shall send to IWHA, along with the request, a sum equal to the imposed fine, but to be no less than \$300.00. Any request not accompanied by the specified amount shall not be deemed a valid request. If the person requesting the appeal hearing and paying the specified amount prevails in the hearing, then the deposit will be refunded to them.
5. If a person fails to request a hearing within 24 days after a ticket was written for a violation, then that person shall have waived the right to a hearing, and the fine and/or suspension shall automatically begin on the twenty-fifth day after the date of the violation.
6. Each request for a hearing should state the grounds therefore.
7. The IWHA Hearing Committee shall review each request for a hearing, and shall use best efforts to set every case for hearing at approximately 52 days of the date of the alleged violation.
8. The IWHA Hearing Committee shall use best efforts to, within 7 days of the date of filing of the appeal request, notify the alleged violator of the date, time, and location of the hearing.
9. The presiding officer of the Hearing Committee shall insure that all proceedings are conducted in accordance with these procedures, and with any additional procedures adopted by IWHA that are not in conflict with this section.
10. The alleged violator shall have the opportunity to present evidence in the form of documents, recordings, and testimony, and shall have the opportunity to cross-examine IWHA's witnesses.
11. Formal rules of evidence shall not apply except that the hearing committee shall weigh whether appropriate to allow the presentation of evidence obtained by unethical or illegal means.
12. The alleged violator has the right to retain and be represented by legal counsel, but such representation is not required. However, direct presence/participation of the alleged violator is required in appeal hearings.
13. Upon request, the affiliating association or event management shall forward the event records pertaining to the matter being addressed in the hearing, to IWHA's office.
14. IWHA has the sole jurisdiction and authority to conduct the hearing and report its findings and decisions to the USDA.
15. The Hearing Committee shall be selected by IWHA.
16. The decision of the Hearing Committee shall be rendered by no later than the day after the hearing ends, and its decision shall be final. The Hearing Committee shall notify the alleged violator of its decision followed by notification in written form via next-day mail with proof of receipt.
17. Any decision by the Hearing Committee which results in a suspension or fine shall have a start date which shall be no more than 2 days after the hearing, but in any case shall be within at least 60 days of the date of the violation, per mandate of the USDA.
18. Any exception to an appeal hearing not being completed and any applicable suspension imposed, all within sixty (60) days of the original violation, must be approved in writing by the USDA Horse Protection Coordinator or Administrator.
19. IWHA will maintain a written record of all finally determined decisions for a period of not less than three years.
20. If IWHA should determine that any request for a hearing is frivolous and/or filed for the purpose of keeping said person or horse eligible to show during the waiting period, then IWHA may levy additional penalties against the horse, and/or person filing said request for the appeal.

21. Costs of a hearing may be assessed against any person requesting a hearing in which that person does not prevail.

Section VIII - Protest/Charges Against DQP [\(Return to Index\)](#)

- A. Upon receipt of a protest or charge against an officiating DQP, the DQP's license may be temporarily suspended by IWHA until a hearing is held.
- B. All protests or charges will be processed as any hearing, through a Hearing Committee as described in Section VII of these rules and the USDA will be notified of the hearing at least 7 days prior to said hearing so an APHIS representative may be present.
- C. The Hearing Committee will be selected by IWHA and will consist of three members of IWHA.
- D. Notice of any suspension of a DQP's license will be reported to the USDA immediately.
- E. In the event that the Hearing Committee finds the accused guilty, he/she may appeal the decision by following the same appeals process as described in these rules.
- F. If the DQP is found guilty, he/she may be censured and their license revoked.
- G. A written warning will be issued to any licensed DQP who violates the Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended, the rules, by-laws or DQP standards of conduct promulgated by IWHA, or who carries out their duties and responsibilities in a less than satisfactory manner, as determined by IWHA. A second violation shall result in revocation of the DQP's license, subject to appeal before the Hearing Committee, whose decision shall be final.

Section IX - Requirements of Event Management [\(Return to Index\)](#)

- A. In signing a DQP Request Form, the event management agrees to abide by Horse Protection Act and its regulations, as amended, and the rules of IWHA, and to require all participants of the event to be bound by the same.
- B. Event management agrees to support and abide by the decisions of the DQP and not interfere in the inspection process or the DQP's decisions.
- C. Event management agrees to generate and maintain all records required in the Act, Regulations, these Rules and USDA field policy, and to provide any and all information pertaining to the event which may be requested by the DQP or the USDA. Such information shall include accurately obtaining and verifying (including by requesting a government-issued photo ID, if necessary) the full name and address of the owner, trainer, and exhibitor for each entry and the registered name and registration number for said entry, and recording all of that information for each entry in each class, on both entry sheets and class sheets.
- D. Event management agrees to cooperate with any USDA personnel present at the event.
- E. Event management agrees to facilitate the DQP's carrying out of his/her duties by providing following:
 - 1. A well lighted inspection area.
 - 2. An appropriate designated holding area adjacent to the inspection area, in which horses and persons can be held/monitored after inspected and prior to a class.
 - 3. Means to control crowds or onlookers.
 - 4. Tables and chairs as deemed necessary.
 - 5. Shelter from the elements.
 - 6. Breaks for meals (lunch and/or dinner).
 - 7. Nearby access to electricity, if at all possible.
- F. Event management agrees to not disclose the identity of the officiating DQP prior to the start of the event.

- G. Event management will inform all entries that the event is affiliated with IWHA, and that they will be required to abide by all of its rules and regulations, and will be bound by same by signing the entry form. Event management will make the Horse Protection Act and its regulations along with the IWHA rulebook available to the participants in the event office, throughout the duration of the event.
- H. Event management agrees to ensure that each horse is assigned a unique back number (or butt number in the case of a sale). Each number must be unique from every other number at that event, as necessary for USDA reporting requirements.
- I. Payment of fees:
 - 1. Event management agrees to pay to IWHA all fees assessed to the individuals entering the events, as indicated on the Show Managers Report.
 - 2. Event management will fill out a Show Managers Report and mail along with a copy of the class sheets and a check for the assessed fees, to the IWHA office within the time frame as indicated on the Show Managers Report form.
 - 3. The DQP is employed and to be paid by the event management. Event management agrees to pay the DQP directly, for his/her services.
 - 4. Event management agrees to provide room and pay mileage or air fare for the DQP as suggested in these rules.
- J. Event management will report in writing any violation by the DQP, of the Horse Protection Act and its regulations and/or the rules of IWHA to the IWHA office immediately following the event.

Section X - Other Horse Industry Organizations (HIOs) [\(Return to Index\)](#)

- A. All finally determined HPA-related suspensions forwarded to the IWHA office by other organizations with USDA-certified DQP programs, will be enforced by IWHA against the subject person and/or horse, including suspensions for unpaid fines related to HPA violations. Exceptions shall be only with the approval of the USDA.
- B. IWHA will cooperate with other USDA certified DQP programs in providing them with any finally determined HPA violations and/or suspensions enacted against an individual or horse by IWHA.

Section XI – Indemnification and Release From Liability [\(Return to Index\)](#)

- A. To the full extent allowed by law, all parties who participate in any way at IWHA affiliated events shall agree to hold IWHA, its officers, and its agents harmless and protect it/them against all costs, charges, losses and liabilities reasonably incurred in connection with any claim (as defined below) if, in the course of performing its functions under these Rules IWHA is made a party to or is threatened to be made a party to a claim based on performance of said functions. For purposes of this section, “claim” means any threatened or pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, or any investigation that IWHA believes in good faith might lead to any action, suit or proceeding. Further, all parties agree to indemnify IWHA against all similar and/or related claims by any third party.
- B. Transporting a horse to an IWHA-affiliated event and/or arriving on the grounds, being on the grounds as a spectator or for any other reason, or having one’s agents or horses on the grounds, even when such horses are in the custody and care of another, shall constitute summary agreement to these Rules, including this Section XI, whether or not a horse is “entered”.
- C. IWHA reserves the right to change these rules at any time without notice, subject to USDA approval of any such changes which are not strictly editorial, but are substantive in nature.