

Pony Of the Americas Club, Inc.

3828 S. Emerson Ave. ~ Indianapolis, In. 46203 ~ 317-788-0107 ~ 317-788-8974 ~ www.poac.org

POAC Policy Recommendation Regarding Rule 101.B. Sex of Rider.

For several years, the Pony of the Americas Club strongly considered combing the boys and girls classes; in effect, removing the sex division for youth classes. As you may be aware this was a topic of consideration during the recent membership meeting. It is the POAC's intention to give strong consideration to consolidating its youth programs beginning in 2021. This will promote health, competition, and consistency across the organization. Subject to Board of Director approval, it is anticipated that this policy change with corresponding rule modification recommendations will be disseminated in July 2020, to go into effect in 2021.

However, in the interim, pursuant to Rule 101.B (and other Rules related to sex classification), the Pony of Americas Club divides youth classes based on sex, not gender. For example, gender-conforming costumes are required by national rule *only* for the Native American Costume category (Rule 127.G.9)—and this Rule will be recommended for modification in 2021.

The POAC is not in the business of determining the sex of their youth riders and does not anticipate that Rule 101.B should be used to discriminate against any of its youth riders. POAC also recognizes that additional guidance may be required for how Regional Clubs should interpret Rule 101.B. To that end, the POAC recommends the following policy be implemented on its local levels, pending future direction from the Board of Directors:

Policy on Interpretation of Rule 101.B

1. Riders are allowed to enter into classes only in one sex's category per show season. If a rider has entered into one sex's classes, then she or he is not permitted to change classes from year to year absent permission obtained under Section 3 of this Policy, below.
2. Riders are presumed to be of the sex indicated on their current birth certificate.
3. If riders desire to enter into a class inconsistent with a prior year's entry or with their birth certificate, then they must provide to Show Management or a POAC representative either:
 - a. reliable medical evidence of a sex change, or
 - b. a certified copy of a court order or official state paperwork noting a sex change
4. Accumulated Regional Points and National Points are not transferable between sexes.

As a reminder, **Rule 8.A.1** prohibits POAC members from acting or permitting any others to act in a manner deemed unethical or unsportsmanlike. *See also Rule 8.A.6.a* (penalizing abusive, intimidating, threatening, or unsportsmanlike conduct). The POAC CEO and Board of Directors believes this Rule to be at the heart of this organization and will continue to enforce its high standard of sportsmanlike conduct in its activities.

POA ~ The Pony For Everyone!