

level of offense.

VIO203. Warning or Show Ground Removal cards will be issued based on the frequency and level of offense.

VIO202. For purposes of this rule, a fines and penalty system has been established based on the severity of the offense. All offenses per VIO204 below will be assigned a minimum level of offense (level 1 = mild; level 2 = moderate; level 3 = severe). Depending on the facts of a situation, the level of offense may be increased.

VIO201. Inhumane treatment of any horse or any other animal on show grounds is strictly prohibited. Treatment of any horse will be considered inhumane if a person, educated or experienced in accepted equine training techniques, would perceive the conduct of an individual to be inhumane.

VIO200.1 For purposes of this rule, a person responsible for the care of a horse is also responsible for and may be disciplined for the inhumane conduct of their trainers, agents, representatives and employees. For violation of this rule, an individual may be disciplined, suspended, fined, denied AQHA privileges, disqualified, expelled from show grounds and/or expelled from AQHA.

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Please Read This Card to Familiarize Yourself with AQHA Rules VIO200 — 204, pages 37 and 38 in the AQHA Official Handbook & AQHA's Fines and Penalties



AQHA Show Fines and Penalties Regarding Abuse and Unsportsmanlike Conduct – VIO204 & 220			
White=First Warning Yellow=Warning Card Red=Show Grounds Removal Card Example: 1 offense on 3 horses = 3 offenses or 3 offenses on one horse = 3 offenses	Level 1 Mild	Level 2 Moderate	Level 3 Severe
1st Offense	Warning-no penalty Steward issues white warning card. Name placed in database	Fine \$500—\$7500	Fine up to \$15,000 Suspension up to 60 months Possible probation
2nd Offense	Suspension up to 36 months Possible probation Name placed in database		Name placed in database
3rd Offense			
More than 3 offenses in 120 days or more than 4 offenses in a 12 month period.	Fine up to \$15,000 Suspension up to 60 months Possible probation Name placed in database		

The AQHA Executive Committee has ultimate authority to impose less or more severe penalties as compared to this chart as it deems necessary. This chart may be modified at any time by AQHA's Executive Committee.

Habitual offenders are subject to the severest fines and penalties above.

VIO204. Inhumane treatment includes, but is not limited to:

VIO204.1 placing an object in a horse's mouth so as to cause undue discomfort or distress (minimum level 2);

VIO204.2 leaving a bit in a horse's mouth for extended periods of time so as to cause undue discomfort or distress (minimum level 1);

VIO204.3 tying a horse up or around in a stall or anywhere at an AQHA event in the manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress (minimum level 2);

VIO204.4 lounging or riding a horse in a manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress to the horse (minimum level 1);

VIO204.5 tying or fastening any foreign object onto a horse, halter, bridle and/or saddle in order to desensitize the horse (minimum level 2);

VIO204.6 use of training techniques or methods such as poling or striking a horse's legs with objects (minimum level 2);

VIO204.7 excessive spurring or whipping (minimum level 1);

VIO204.8 excessive jerking of reins (minimum level 1);

VIO204.9 excessive fencing (minimum level 1);

VIO204.10 excessive spinning (defined as no more than eight (8) consecutive turns in either direction) (minimum level 1);

VIO204.11 schooling over ramped oxers in reverse order (i.e., from highest to lowest instead of lowest to highest) (minimum level 1);

VIO204.12 schooling using rails higher than four (4) feet (minimum level 1);

VIO204.13 use of prohibited equipment, including, but not limited to: saw tooth bits; hock hobbles; tack collars; or tack hackamores; whips used for showmanship; war bridles or like devices; riding in a curb bit without a curb strap; wire or solid metal curb straps no matter how padded; wire cavesson; wire or cable tie-downs; bumper bits; metal bosals (no matter how padded); chambons; headstalls made of metal (no matter how wrapped or padded), twisted rawhide, or rope may not be used on a horse's head (3/8 inch rope may be used with a slip/gag bit); running martingales used with curb bits used without rein stops; draw reins attached between or around the front legs will not be allowed at AQHA-approved events (minimum level 2);

VIO204.14 use of any item or appliance that restricts movement or circulation of the horse's tail (minimum level 3);

VIO204.15 exhibiting a horse which appears to be sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired (minimum level 1);

VIO204.16 intentional or negligent treatment which results in any bleeding – intentional (minimum level 3); negligent (minimum level 1);

VIO204.17 applying excessive pressure on or excessively jerking of a halter lead shank or an allowed lip chain (minimum level 2);

VIO204.18 Any other treatment or conduct deemed by a show official to be inhumane or abusive (minimum level 1).