



International Mounted Games Association Rules Committee

Rule Change Request Document

Name:	Nikki Carter
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Country:	Chairman
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Summary of Change Requested:

There has been much referee discussion about riders being "in contact" with their pony. This rule changes aims to clarify this.

Current Rule Book Wording:

Contact

- . CR10.1. A rider must be in contact with his/her pony at all times unless the pony is being held by a fellow team member who is active in the race.
- . CR10.2. If a rider loses contact with his/her pony, then he/she must return to the place where contact was lost before continuing the race.
- . CR10.3. When a pony is being led or held by any person in the arena it must not be held by the bit.

Suggested New Rule Book Wording:

Contact

- . CR10.1. A rider must be in contact with his/her pony at all times unless the pony is being held by a fellow team member who is active in the race.
- . CR10.2. A rider is deemed to be in contact with his/her pony, if he/she is travelling in the same direction as the pony and remains within the length of the pony for at most two strides. .
- . CR10.3. If a rider loses contact with his/her pony, then he/she must return to the place where contact was lost before continuing the race.
- . CR10.4. When a pony is being led or held by any person in the arena it must not be held by the bit.

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Reason for Change Request:

+There is a common myth that it is impossible to complete individual Hula Hoop without losing contact with your pony.

Does “in contact” mean that some part of the rider’s body is in touch with some part of the pony’s body. Or is it had to rein? In the past French and Belgian referees have enforced this rule.

Following much discussion at the EReferee Meeting of 18 March: The rules currently state that whilst un-mounted the rider must maintain contact with the pony. The following scenario was described whereby a rider, in agility races, steps off the stones and does not actually have contact with the pony but remounts with a spectacular vault. Provided the rider remains within the length of the pony (2 strides), and they are both moving in the same direction, the skill of the rider should be recognised and there should be no elimination. However, they must regain contact before progressing.

For Internal Use Only:

Reference:	2019-04
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Submission Date:	14/02/2019
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Decision Date:	14/06/2019
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Votes	
Jens Martin	In Favour
Davy Quinn	In Favour
Iain Hopkins	In Favour
Brian Kennedy	In Favour
Margaret Welsby	In Favour
Alun Whitney	In Favour
Total In Favour:	6
Total Not In Favour:	0

Result:	Change Accepted
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Actual Adopted New Rule Book Wording:

CR10.1. During a race a rider must be in contact with his/her pony at all times unless the pony is being held by a fellow member as specified in the rules of the race (except for Pony Express where the 5th pony must be held by the trainer or removed from the arena after notifying the referee).

CR10.2. A rider is deemed to be in contact with his/her pony, if he/she remains within touching distance of any part of the pony.

CR10.3. If a rider loses contact with his/her pony, then he/she must return to the place where contact was lost before continuing the race.

CR10.4. When a pony is being led or held by any person in the arena it must not be held by the bit.

Reason for Decision:

Much discussion on this one but in the end it was deemed that this would be the simplest way to move forward to address an issue which has long been controversial.

Implementation Date:	1 st January 2020
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