

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/31/2025	

Rule Change Intent

This rule change is necessary to align the PFHA rulebook and Federation PF chapter. PFHA has removed the section for International Fino, due to many Paso Fino competitions using the word "International" in their competition title to attract more international exhibitors from out of the country to attend the competition. With the current rule section of International Fino, competitions that use the word "international" in their competition name would be required to operate under the international fino rules and procedures and many of these competitions were not in favor of this. PFHA's Board of Directors discussed the feedback they were receiving from competition managers and made the decision to remove the international fino section of rules and requirements from the rulebook.

Proponent Details Contact Information

PFHA

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Linked Rules Comments



SUBCHAPTER PF-5 CLASSIC FINO DIVISION

PF130 Procedures

Exhibitors will enter the ring to the right on the rail and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until instructed to reverse or halt. Horses must work both directions, reverse, halt and proceed in gait and traverse the sounding board when available. Breaking gait on reverses, stops or starts shall be penalized. A figure eight may be requested to demonstrate flexibility, responsiveness, and steadiness of gait, but diminishing circles are not allowed. Only inanimate objects may be used as "posts" for the figure eight as long as they do not present a danger to horse or rider. Judges may call for horses to perform a serpentine at the classic fino as an optional test. Judges may call for horses to work parallel together at the classic fino as an optional test. A solid, ground level, hard surface sounding board 48' or longer shall be used in this class to clearly exhibit the rhythmic consistency of the horse's cadence and impact when available. The performance of the horse on the sounding board shall not be given preference over the horse's work on the rail. During competition, while being judged, exhibitors are not allowed to turn on the sounding board. Backing of horses may be requested. The judge is prohibited from requiring a horse to perform the Paso Largo on the sounding board.

International Fino

At International Competitions, the following procedures will be performed in all Fino Classes:

- ~~1. Exhibitors shall enter the ring to the right on the rail and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until instructed to reverse or halt. Horses must work both directions, reverse, halt and proceed in gait. The reverses must be performed towards the center of the ring. After completing the rail work, horses must traverse the sounding board in both directions then line up. Breaking gait on reverses, stops or starts shall be penalized. Only inanimate objects may be used as "posts" for the figure eight as long as they do not present a danger to horse or rider. The distance between the posts shall be 3 meters (9.9 feet). A solid, continuous surface allowing no more than one-half inch of space between the boards, ground level, hard surface sounding board forty-eight (48) feet or longer shall be used in this class to clearly exhibit the rhythmic consistency of the horse's cadence and impact when available. The performance of the horse on the sounding board shall not be given preference over the horse's work on the rail. During competition while being judged, exhibitors are not allowed to turn on the sounding board.~~
- ~~2. After line up inspection is complete all horses moving forward in competition will be required to perform individually 3 figure eights (2 in one direction, make a straight line then one additional eight in opposite direction); halt in the center between post; back 4 to 6 steps; traverse the sounding board in both directions.~~
- ~~3. Should additional work-offs be requested it must be requested in the following order: 1) Reverse of directions on the rail four times. 2) Traverse the sounding board in both directions. 3) A parallel comparison up and back. 4) Circle the entry 3 times in one direction then change direction to perform 3 additional circles in the opposite direction. These tests can't be combined and must be performed independently and in sequential order starting with #1 with two or more horses. After the first test is completed, if the judges are not ready to pin, they can request the next test in the order and so on.~~
- ~~4. Any show that uses in their title/description/rating using the word "International" will need to comply with Fino class descriptions that describe International Fino.~~

SUBCHAPTER PF-12 SHOW CONDUCT

PF154 Competitions

(...)

2. Classification. For the purpose of equalizing competition for High Point awards and Society of Merit awards, and to promote PFHA-Federation All Breed shows, PFHA approved shows shall fall into one of four classifications: All Breed

(*AB*), All Paso (*AP*), ~~All Paso International (*AP-I*)~~, and Local (*L*). These shows must be sponsored by a recognized Regional Group. These do not include the PFHA National Championship Show.

(...)