

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the relationship between Equine Sports Council and the Monarch Series?

Equine Sports Council is a horse show governing organization. In 2019, following Town Hall meetings all across the country where people expressed an interest in having “an alternative,” a group of volunteers got together and formed Equine Sports Council. We are a non-profit, non-member organization that works directly with individual horse shows to provide general rules, guidelines, class specifications, support, a dispute resolution process, debt collection, insurance benefits, marketing assistance and more. View our rules: <https://equinesportscouncil.org/rules/>

Monarch is a separate organization that is a series of shows that qualify for an event, the Monarch National Championship, October 1-4, 2020 in Springfield, IL. <https://www.monarchshowseries.com/>

What are the costs associated with Equine Sports Council and the Monarch Series?

Individual horse shows that choose to join the ESC Network pay a \$50 registration fee, then collect \$15 per Performance horse and \$5 per Academy rider (per back number, not per class). This fee constitutes a “contract” between the owner/exhibitor and Equine Sports Council wherein they are agreeing to abide by ESCs rules at that horse show. These rules protect the horse show as well as the exhibitor, and 25% of the fees collected at a show are given back to the show as a marketing grant.

It costs nothing for a show to join the Monarch Series, but the show must have fewer than 400 horses and agree to include as many classes as possible (including Single Bit classes) from a list of classes that will compete for the National Championship title in October. Shows in the Monarch Series may be Open shows (no governance), part of the ESC network, or USEF affiliated. The Monarch Series collects no fees, and does not require that a show be affiliated with any other organization in order to join their series of shows.

How do the ASHA and AMHA Star Programs fit into all this?

AMHA and ASHA each have the exclusive authority to qualify horses for their World’s and Grand National Championships. A show may register to be a STAR show with the respective breed association for a fee of \$50, follow those guidelines and reporting procedures, and the horses will qualify for the Morgan Grand National or the Kentucky State Fair World’s Championship. Shows that are STAR rated may affiliate with ESC, may affiliate with another governance organization (e.g. USEF), may be Open (no governance affiliation), and/or may be part of the Monarch Series.

Can horse shows have multiple affiliations? If there are duplicate rules, which rules supersede?

A horse show that chooses to have governance (General Rules for how the horse show should be run, horse and human welfare rules, definitions, administrative guidelines, officials' roles and responsibilities, judging standards/class specifications, etc..) would affiliate with either Equine Sports Council or another governance organization (e.g. USEF), but not both.

View ESC rules: <https://equinesportscouncil.org/rules/>

ASHA Star shows are allowed to use the USEF American Saddlebred breed rules (class specifications and judging standards, pages 1058-1099 of the 2020 USEF Rule Book - https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/MpyUsxb_lil/sb-american-saddlebred-horse-division) whether or not the show is USEF rated.

The USEF ASB breed rules may be used in lieu of the ESC Saddlebred rules, although the class specifications are the same. STAR shows must abide by all the rules and guidelines as set forth by ASHA, and ASHA rules supersede ESC rules. This includes the show management's requirement to enforce the US Center for Safe Sport Banned and Suspended list. Although ESC does not have the authority to enforce any other organization's ban/suspension list, it does not prohibit show management from refusing entries at an ESC show based on an exhibitor's presence on such a list.

The Monarch Series is not a governing organization; therefore, it has no rules. Shows in the series simply qualify a horse to compete in the Monarch National Championship. Equine Sports Council will govern the 2020 Monarch National Championship.