Key Changes to USPA Arena Rules approved by the USPA Board of Governors on September 20, 2025 to become effective October 1, 2025	
	Change and Effective Date
Arena Rule 3.b – Player Eligibility	**Effective October 1, 2025**, Arena Rule 3.b clarifies that no player may participate in any Event unless the player's USPA registration fee has been paid in full, a current handicap has been issued, and **the player is not under suspension by the USPA**. A beginner player may play in up to three (3) Club Events below the 2-goal level or for sixty (60) days below the 2-goal level, whichever comes first, before joining the USPA.
Arena Rule 3.f – Rostered Player Handicap Changes	**Effective October 1, 2025,** this rule is revised to mirror the Outdoor Rules regarding rostered player handicap changes, confirming that when a rostered player's handicap changes after the draw and causes the team to fall outside the event's handicap limits, the team remains eligible but must play at the new handicap for the remainder of the Event, League, or Series of Events. The rule also formally distinguishes rostered players from substitutes and clarifies that substitute handicap changes that push a team outside the event limits are not permitted.
Arena Rule 2.b – Vision & Protective Eyewear	**Effective January 1, 2026** a mount with no vision in one or both eyes may not be played in any Event. Any mount played in goggles or protective eyewear, or which exhibits signs of possible impaired vision, must have a Vision Report Form completed by a licensed equine veterinarian and filed with the USPA at least twenty-four (24) hours before the Event. Umpires may require confirmation of the Vision Report Form and may remove any mount if verification cannot be provided. **Failure to file a Vision Report within seventy-two (72) hours results in a Red Card. Repeat violations result in a Conduct Violation Complaint.**

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Arena Rule 6.a and 6.f – Scoring Adjustments Arena Rule 8e. – Fair Play Procedure	**Effective October 1, 2025,** these rules implement what were previously Alternative Rules 6(a)(2) (Two-Point Goals) and 6.e (Buzzer-Beater) into the standard Arena Rules. The revisions clarify when two-point goals apply on Penalty 4 situations and formally establish end-of-period "buzzer-beater" scoring procedures as part of the regular rules. **Effective October 1 2025,** the rule states if the umpires and 3rd man declare no foul on a play, the team that had clear possession of the ball will retain possession as described in Rule 8e.
Arena Rule 9 Arena Rule 9 – Penalty 2	**Effective October 1, 2025**, this rule is revised to clarify execution procedures for Penalties 2, 3, and 4, specifically defining when the ball becomes live after a rebound, which team may play the ball, and the five-second requirement for immediate play following a rebound off the end wall or a properly positioned defender. The rule also clarifies when a re-hit is required due to improper positioning or illegal play on the rebound and further defines when a missed or altered penalty shot results in a change of possession rather than a re-penalty. In addition, the rule includes general organizational and formatting clean-up for clarity and consistency. Effective **October 1 2025**, this rule allows a choice of a hit from the spot or at the 15 yard line for a Penalty 2.
Alternative Arena Rule 9 – Penalty 5 Option (New Rule)	**Effective October 1, 2025,** this new Optional Tournament Condition allows the Host Tournament Committee to permit a team fouled outside the 25-yard line to elect to take a Penalty 2 or Penalty 3 from the spot of the foul, rather than from the standard placement. This creates a two-point scoring opportunity from the point of infraction and introduces a new strategic scoring option for Arena play.
Arena Rules 13 & 14 – Dangerous Riding, Improper Play & Unsportsmanlike Conduct (Reorganized)	**Effective October 1, 2025,** these rules are revised primarily to improve the flow, structure, and readability of the rules, reorganizing provisions related to dangerous riding, improper play, and unsportsmanlike conduct without making substantive changes to how the rules are enforced.