



## **Summary of Key Substantive Revisions for 2022 to the USPA Arena Rules**

### **Key substantive revisions to Arena Rule 3 (Players and Alternates)**

Under new Arena Rule 3.b(3), no player's handicap may exceed the upper handicap limit of the event, unless the Host Tournament Committee communicates to the teams before the event begins that Alternative Rule 3b(3) will be used. In that case, a player's handicap may exceed the upper handicap limit of the event provided that the team's aggregate handicap does not exceed the upper handicap limit of the event.

Under new Arena Rule 3.a(8), no player shall play for more than one team in any event *except that if a player is injured in a game and there are no eligible substitutes available an eliminated player may be substituted to complete that game and any subsequent game for that team only. An eliminated player is a player who has completed his or her final game in the Event and whose team has been eliminated from the Event. If a player with a known injury begins a game, that player may not use a player from another team as a substitute, should that player not be able to complete the game.*

Under new Arena Rule 3.e, the penalty for violation of player eligibility, which is forfeiture, shall be exacted regardless of the player's knowledge or intent. Unlike many other penalties which the Umpire(s) may elect not to exact, the penalty for violation of this rule must be exacted if a Referee, an Umpire, or a member of the Committee is notified of or otherwise becomes aware of the violation prior to 24 hours after the violation took place.

### **Key substantive revisions to Arena Rule 5 (Length and Number of Periods)**

Under new Arena Rule 5.c(2)(iii), the mounts used in a shootout shall be those used in the final regular period *unless replaced with the Umpire's consent due to injury or fatigue.*

### **Key substantive revisions to Arena Rule 13 (Dangerous Riding)**

Arena Rule 13 has been revised to align with Outdoor Rule 26. Under the new rule, the Umpire(s) have the discretion to call a foul for conduct that could have qualified in prior years as dangerous riding but decide not to issue the offending player a yellow card, if in their judgment the conduct is neither deliberate nor unduly dangerous.

### **Key substantive revisions to Rule 14 (Improper Play and Unsportsmanlike Conduct)**

Arena Rule 14.f has been revised to replace the terms "whip" and "spurs" with the terms "artificial aides (riding crop and spurs)." The interpretation provides guidance for players and Umpires about how the Rule should be applied and states that the rule applies before, during and after a game to players and members of a team organization who are located anywhere in or near the arena.

The yellow and red card provisions of Arena Rule 14 (14.g – 14.f) have been revised to align more closely with the comparable provisions of Outdoor Rule 33.



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### **Key substantive revisions to Rule 16 (Interruption of Play)**

Arena Rule 16 has been revised to align more closely with Outdoor Rule 21 (the comparable Outdoor Rule).

### **Key substantive revisions to Rule 18 (USPA: Protests, Variation from Rules)**

Under new Arena Rule 18.c, c. No team may challenge the scorekeeping or timekeeping of any portion of a game *except for the final period (whether regulation or overtime) once the final whistle has blown. A team, acting only through its Captain, may question the scorekeeping in, or timekeeping of, the final period (whether regulation or overtime) until 15 minutes elapses following the final whistle.*