

**FEATHERED HORSE CLASSIC**

**OFFICIAL RULES 2018**



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## GENERAL RULES

### Eligibility to Compete

1. All horses must be registered with a US registry that maintains proof of Gypsy horse heritage through DNA testing and record maintenance. This includes the Gypsy Vanner Horse Society (GVHS), the Gypsy Horse Registry of America, (GHRA), the Gypsy Cob and Drum Horse Association (GCDHA), and the Gypsy Horse Association (GHA) Traditional Gypsy Cod Association (TGCA). These registries and associations will be referred to as “Registries”.
2. Competition entries will include a Proof of Registration or Pending Registration.
3. Competition Management will resolve any questions or dispute that may arise from said eligibility of horses. This decision will be final.
4. Registered Purebred Gypsy Horses and other horses can not compete in the same class at the same competition, EXCEPT IN THOSE CLASSES THAT SHOW MANAGEMENT HAS DESIGNATED IN THE Prize List/Class List as OPEN.
5. Classes may be combined or divided based on the size of the Competition and the discretion of the Competition management.
6. Horses cannot compete in any driving or riding classes until they are three (3) years old.
7. Registration papers must be sent in with entries or copies given to show management before horse is allowed to enter a class.
8. Protective headgear is defined as a riding helmet which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. The headgear and harness must be secured and properly fitted. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place. YOUTH must wear above said Headgear at all times while mounted on a horse.

### Definitions (Individuals)

1. Age of an individual on January 1<sup>st</sup> will be maintained throughout the entire competition year.
2. **Agent** is any adult or adults, including but not limited to any groom(s), veterinarian(s), coach(es) or other persons who act on behalf of an exhibitor, owner or lessee of a horse, trainer, rider, driver or handler at or in connection with a Competition.
3. **Trainer/Professional** is any person who has the responsibility for the care, training, custody or performance of a horse. And, receives monies for services of training or riding of horses in any breed or discipline. Said person must sign the entry blank of any Competition whether said person be an owner, rider, agent and/or coach as well as trainer. Also if a minor exhibitor has no trainer, a parent or guardian must sign and assume responsibility of trainer. The name of the trainer must be designated as such on the entry blank.
4. **Youth** is an individual who is age 7 and has not reached his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year. A Youth exhibitor may NOT show a

stallion in hand, or under saddle, including lead line. Any Youth exhibitor anywhere on the show grounds while riding a horse **is required to wear an equestrian helmet that is ATSM/SEI approved**. Youth must also wear an ATSM/SEI helmet while driving or serving as driving groom. See General Conduct/Responsibility Rules. **Only one Horse/Youth combination can be shown in a class. If multiple Youth are showing the same horse, they receive a new back number, and cannot show in same classes as the first Youth/Horse combination. i.e., Ground Obstacles In-Hand, Showmanship etc. Horse can be only exhibited/ridden one time in any Class.**

5. **Amateur** is an individual that has reached his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year. **Every Amateur must show an Amateur Declaration or Amateur Card from their Registry.** An Amateur exhibitor does not receive monies/reimbursement for any type of horse training in any breed or discipline.

### **Definitions (Equine)**

Age of Equine for competition purposes is considered to be one year old on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January following the actual date of foaling. For example, a horse born on 1<sup>st</sup> January and a horse born in the middle of the same year would be considered the same age (measured in years) So, on 11/24/15 a horse born Jan 1, 2013 and a horse born June 6, 2013 would both be considered 2 year olds, even though one is under 2 years in actual age and one is over 2 years. You compute from January 1 of the year in which the horse is foaled.

1. Age of Equine for competition purposes is considered to be one year old on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January following the actual date of foaling.
2. All horses must be 3 years of age to be ridden under saddle or driven.
3. **A Junior horse** is one that is five years or under
4. **A Senior horse** is one that is six years and over.
5. **An Open Class** is open to all horses of any age or sex, unless specified, regardless of previous awards received. There are no qualifications for the rider, driver or handler except as specified. Points won in Open Classes are on the horse regardless of who exhibits the horse.
6. **A Green Horse** is in its first year of FHC shows, and should be exhibited by a trainer/professional or experienced handler/rider. The Horse can compete for 1 Show Calendar Year Only in Green Horse Classes. Competition year is defined as January 1<sup>st</sup> through Last Show of Season.

### **Definitions (Competition)**

#### **1. Amateur Classes**

- a. Every exhibitor must hold amateur status
- b. Amateur classes may be restricted to riders, drivers or handlers who are no longer

eligible to compete as a Youth exhibitor.

- c. Only one Horse/Amateur combination can be shown in a class. If multiple Amateurs are showing the same horse, they receive a new back number, and cannot show in same classes as the first Amateur/Horse combination. i.e., Ground Obstacles In-Hand, Showmanship etc. Horse can be only exhibited/ridden one time in any Class.

## **2. Commencement and Completion of Classes:**

- a) In classes where horses compete collectively, a warning is issued and the in-gate must be closed after the last horse enters the ring. Timing is at the discretion of the Competition management and will be announced at the beginning of Competition.
- b) Judging will not commence until the gate is closed or at the end of the gate call.
- c) In classes where horses compete collectively, a class is considered completed when the class has been judged in accordance with the rules and the judge(s) submit their cards to the Ring Steward or Announcer.
- d) In classes where horses compete individually, a class is considered completed when all horses have completed the class routine as designated by the rules

**Competition Staff** includes and not limited to: Paddock Master, Ring Clerks, Farrier, Timekeeper, Announcers, Ring Steward and other persons engaged directly by the management.

**3. Competition Officials** include and not limited to: Competition Management, Show Manager, Show Secretary, Judges, Stewards, Paddock Master, Awards Master, Technical Delegates, Veterinarians and Course Designers.

**4. Falls:** a rider is considered to have fallen when he/she is separated from their horse that has not fallen, in such a way to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle. A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground or obstacle and the ground. If such an event happens, the horse and exhibitor will be excused from the ring.

**5. Any Equipment (Tack) Failure** in any class resulting in the rider/exhibitor inability to complete the class, rider/exhibitor shall be disqualified with no re-ride or repeat go.

**6. Dismounting the Horse** in any under saddle class, whereas the rider or riders coach/agent's decision was to do so for any reason, shall be disqualified with no re-ride.

**7. Not in Good Standing:** Any exhibitor who fails to pay for fees owed to competition management at the time fees are due or any exhibitor who bounces a check is considered Not in Good Standing and will not be allowed to enter any Feathered Horse Classic shows until their previous balances are paid in full.

**8. Protests, Charges and Grievance:** Non-Protestable Decisions are the soundness of a horse when determined by an official veterinarian, judge or steward of the competition. A judge's decision, representing his/her individual preference or opinion, is not protestable unless it's alleged to be in Violation of the Common Show Rules. A

protest, charge or grievance may be filed with the Competition Management before the close of the Competition with a \$100 Payment non-refundable and must state the full name and address of the accused must list each Rule number alleged to have been violated and must contain a complete statement of the acts which constitute the alleged violation. The maker of the protest, charge or grievance must be prepared to substantiate the protest, charge or grievance by his or her own personal testimony at a hearing or by the testimony of at least one other witness with personal knowledge who is subject to cross-examination and by additional evidence including but not limited to sworn statements and other witnesses. Protests, charges, or grievances will be referred to the Show Management for resolution.

**Definition (Prohibited Conduct/Disqualifications)**

1. All horses entered must be serviceably sound, healthy and in good condition. Lameness, obviously unhealthy or unthrifty animals will be disqualified.
2. The use or application of, to or into any horse (other than legal levels of allowed medications) any foreign or caustic substance, such as ginger, mustard, pepper, abrasives, etc, which alter or influence a horse's movement tail carriage or behavior, is prohibited and will be cause of disqualification from further competition and forfeit all entry fees and winnings. Offenders may be fined, suspended or barred from future competitions and events.
3. Abusive treatment, excessive use of whip or other abusive equipment on a horse inside or outside the arena if forbidden and renders the offender subject to penalty or disqualification.
4. Judges must excuse from the ring any horse shown that possesses a whip mark or welt on any portion of the horse. A whip mark or welt shall be defined as an inflammation of skin resulting in a swelling and in extreme cases, a laceration or abrasion.
5. Inhumane treatment of any horse or any other animal on show grounds is strictly prohibited. Treatment of any horse will be considered inhumane if a person, educated or experienced in accepted equine training techniques, would perceive the conduct of an individual to be inhumane.
6. Inhumane treatment includes, but is not limited to: placing an object in a horse's mouth so as to cause undue discomfort or distress;
7. leaving a bit in a horse's mouth for extended periods of time so as to cause undue discomfort or distress;
8. tying a horse up or around in a stall in the manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress;
9. lounging or riding in a manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress;
10. tying or fastening any foreign object onto a horse, halter, bridle and/or saddle in order to de-sensitize the horse;
11. use of training techniques or methods such as poling or striking a horse's legs with objects;
12. excessive spurring or whipping;

13. excessive jerking of reins;
14. excessive fencing;
15. excessive spinning (defined as no more than eight (8) consecutive turns in either direction);
16. poling (altering an obstacle while the horse is negotiating the obstacle);
17. schooling over ramped oxers in reverse order (i.e., from highest to lowest instead of lowest to highest);
18. schooling using rails higher than four (4) feet; use of prohibited equipment, including, but not limited to, saw tooth bits, hock hobbles, tack collars or tack hackamores;
19. use of any item or appliance that restricts movement or circulation of the tail;
20. exhibiting a horse which appears to be sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired;
21. Intentional or negligent treatment which results in obvious blood and/or any bleeding.
22. Abusive treatment, excessive use of whip or other abusive equipment on a horse inside or outside the arena if forbidden and renders the offender subject to penalty or disqualification.
23. Judges must excuse from the ring any horse shown that possesses a whip mark or welt on any portion of the horse. A whip mark or welt shall be defined as an inflammation of skin resulting in a swelling and in extreme cases, a laceration or abrasion.
24. The injecting of any foreign substance into a horse's tail, the cutting of tail ligaments or nerve blocking is not permitted and is subject to disqualification from further competition and forfeit of all entry fees and winnings. Offenders may be fined suspended or barred from future competitions and events.
25. The use of any device or aides that alter the natural movement of the horse (such as chains, shackles, rubber bands) are strictly prohibited at any competition. Any animal with prohibited equipment must be disqualified from further competition and forfeit all entry fees and winnings.
26. The addition of supplemental hair in the mane, foretop, tail or feather shall be cause for disqualification. Horses may be shown clipped or unclipped, both are equally acceptable. Body clipping or saddle pad clipping will not be discriminated against.
27. A horse that is observed by Competition official to be unruly to the point of presenting a real danger to itself, handler or other participants in or outside the arena will be asked to leave the ring and may be asked to leave the Competition grounds by the judge or ring steward. An exhibitor CANNOT protest this action.
28. The natural color of the horse may not be changed. Products such as hoof black applied to hooves, chalk/powder/corn starch however may be used to emphasize the natural color. The use of glitter or other such exterior body products while showing is prohibited.
29. Any Exhibitor/Person that is Rude, Unruly or causing Distress to Staff, other Exhibitors, or Facility Owners will be asked to ***Leave the Show Grounds*** and will forfeit all Awards, Points, with No Refund. To return to future Shows, the Person must write an Apology Letter to everyone involved and agree the behavior will not

happen again. If a second occurrence happens, the exhibitors will be Band from all future FHC events permanently. Rude Behavior will be determined by show management via letter from the person (s) that was/were the victim(s) of the situation.

## **Horse General Rules**

Horses are to be shown in their natural way of going. They should demonstrate a calm and willing demeanor yet be powerful. They should be an all around utility horse that is eager and able to perform in all disciplines. Any extreme or exaggerated movement unnatural to the breed will be heavily penalized. Any horses demonstrating aggressive behavior shall be disqualified

### **Gaits - General (See each discipline section for more on gaits specific to classes)**

1. **Walk** - a natural forward flowing four beat gait. The pride of the breed is expressed in the head and neck carriage, being elevated in the movement, alert with presence.
2. **Trot** - a natural forward, free-flowing two beat diagonal gait. The horse has an animated style of movement. When asked to extend the trot, there should be a definite lengthening of the stride
3. **Jog** - a smooth, ground-covering two-beat diagonal gait. The jog should be square, balanced and with straight, forward movement of the feet. When asked to extend the jog, it moves out with the same smooth way of going.
4. **Canter** - a natural flowing three beat gait to be smooth, free moving, relaxed and correct on both leads
5. **Hand Gallop** - a faster three beat gait with a lengthened stride, controlled, straight, and correct on both leads.
6. **The Lope** - an easy, rhythmical three-beat gait. The horse should lope with a natural stride and appear relaxed and smooth. It should be ridden at a speed that is a natural way of going and correct on both leads
7. **Back (Reinback)** – horses should back on command, quietly, willingly, and easily in a straight line without resistance.
8. At the judge's discretion, considering the size and ability of the class, horses may be asked to extend any gait. Novice and Green Horse classes will not be asked to extend gaits.

### **Presentation – General**

1. Horses may be shown clipped or unclipped, both are equally acceptable. Body clipping or saddle pad clipping will not be discriminated against.
2. There may be a small bridle path clipped to keep the halter or bridle in place. A single braid behind the ear to create a bridle path is also permissible but should not be



prominent. The braid should be braided to tuck under and be hidden by the remaining mane. The single braid behind the ear should be no wider than three inches from the poll along the neck at the base of the mane hair, a small braid is preferred.

3. When showing under saddle or in harness, horses with very long thick foretops must have the foretop banded, braided, and/or tucked under the side of the bridle or in some way prevented from impairing the horse's vision.
4. Braiding is acceptable in classes where braiding is traditional for that class (i.e. Hunt, Dressage) Braiding is optional in English or Western Performance classes. All types of braids are permissible including continental braids, French braids, double French braids, half French braids, etc.
5. Ribbons or additional decorations to mane may only be used in specialty classes such as costume.

### **General Shoeing Rules**

1. Horses may be shown flat shod with no pads (hoof next to shoe) see exceptions and details #8 below.
2. Hoof length should be reasonable for the size of the horse being shown.
3. If shown shod, hooves and shoes must be reasonable for the size of the horse being shown. Excessive length of toe is discouraged and will be penalized or disqualified at the judge's discretion.
4. Toe and/or side clips drawn from the same shoe that in no way affect how a horse travels or breaks over are allowed.
5. If shod, it must be with flat shoes that do not affect the way the horse travels or how a foot breaks over.
6. Either metal shoes or shoes of other material may be used. Shoes must be of the same material, weight, and thickness, although, front and back hooves may be shod in different size shoes.
7. Weighted shoes (toe, side or heel weighted) scotch bottoms, pads, or wedges are prohibited. Exception: a horse with medical or therapeutic issues needs a signed letter from a doctor of veterinary medicine that will be submitted to the competition office with the entry forms.
8. Corrective shoeing with a pad or artificial hoof material shall be allowed in the show ring for the purpose of mending broken hoof or hoof wall. The mended hoof must match the corresponding natural hoof. A horse with medical or therapeutic issues needs a signed letter from a doctor of veterinary medicine that will be submitted to the competition office with the entry forms.

9. The weight of the shoe, not including nails, should be proportionate to the horses' height and weight. Excessive weight or weight that causes unnatural action/movement is prohibited.
10. Borium on the toe or heel areas of the shoe for traction is allowed.
11. Caulks are permitted only in classes that require a jump.

### **General Conduct/Responsibilities Rules**

1. Dress for handlers and exhibitors should be appropriate for the purpose and the class. Exhibitors should consult the specific attire rules for each class being entered.
2. The exhibitor shall be dressed in a safe, neat and clean manner.
3. Attire may NOT display a farm or owner's name, the horse's name or farm logo.
4. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.
5. No T-shirts, shorts, skirts or strapless tops are permitted.
6. Open toe shoes are not allowed.
7. All riders in all English, Hunter, Jumper and Dressage classes, or in other classes where exhibitor rides in those disciplines, rider must wear an equestrian safety riding helmet which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. The headgear and harness must be secured and properly fitted. Any rider violating this rule must be immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place. Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear at any level of competition without penalty from the judge.
8. Any Youth exhibitor anywhere on the show grounds while riding a horse **is required to wear an equestrian safety helmet that is ATSM/SEI approved.** Youth must also wear an equestrian ATSM/SEI helmet while driving or serving as driving groom.
9. Use of a protective helmet or vest, worn by any exhibitor in any class will not be penalized and use of helmet is strongly encouraged.
10. Exhibitors, riders, drivers, owners, handlers, and trainers should be knowledgeable of and compliant with the rules.
11. Exhibitors, riders, drivers, owners, handlers and trainers are responsible for payment of applicable fees.
12. Every exhibitor, rider, driver, handler, and trainer or his/her agent must sign an entry form. In case of a rider, driver, handler under the age of 18 his/her parent or guardian or if not available, the trainer must sign an entry form on the minor's behalf.
13. **Exhibitors are responsible for their own errors and those of their agents in the preparation of entry forms.**
14. No member of the judge's family nor any cohabitant, companion domestic partner, housemate, or member of judge's household nor any of the judge's clients, employer or employees or employers of a member of the judge's family may compete as trainer, coach, exhibitor, rider, driver, handler, owner, lessor, or lessee unless the relationship is terminated 60 days prior to the competition.

15. Neither judge's trainer nor any of the judge's trainer's clients may compete as trainer, coach, exhibitor, rider, driver, handler, owner, lessee, or lessor in any class unless the relationship is terminated 60 days prior to competition.
16. No horses trained by a member of the judge's family may compete in any class unless the relationship is terminated 60 days prior to competition.
17. Stud fees, retiree board and broodmare board are excluded.
18. No horse that has been sold by a judge or his/her employers within a period of 60 days prior to competition may be shown before that judge.
19. No horse that has been trained by the judge within 60 days prior to the competition may be shown before the judge.
20. No one may show before a judge who has received or has contracted to receive any remuneration for the sale, purchase, or lease of any horse to or from, or for the account of the exhibitor within a period of 60 days prior to the competition, unless the sale or purchase has been made and fully consummated at public auction.
21. No one may show before a judge who boards, shows or trains any horse under the exhibitor's ownership or lessee within a period of 60 days prior to the competition.
22. No one may show any horse before a judge who has remunerated the exhibitor for the board or training of any horse, leased a horse from a judge unless its 60 days prior to competition.
23. No rider may compete in any class before a judge with whom he/she or his/her parent, guardian, or instructor has had any financial transaction in connection with the sale, lease, board or training of a horse or has been instructed, coached or tutored with or without pay within 60 days of the competition. The conducting of clinics or assistance in group activities unless private instruction is given will not be considered as instruction, coaching or tutoring. However, a judge may officiate over entries who attended a group clinic at the competition if the clinic is open to all exhibitors.
24. No one shall approach the judge with regard to a decision unless he first obtains permission from the ring steward who shall arrange an appointment with the judge at a proper time and place. No exhibitor has the right to inspect the judge's cards without the judge's permission.
25. Stewards may not officiate unless their client who is showing terminates the relationship 60 days prior to the competition.
26. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to understand the rules pertaining to showing under a judge the exhibitor may or may not have had a business relationship with.
27. If an exhibitor voluntarily removes a horse from the ring without the permission of the judge or ring steward, the competition management will disqualify the exhibitor and all prizes and entry fees for that class will be forfeited.
28. Any horse leaving the ring without the exhibitor's volition is deprived of an award in that class.
29. Failure of an exhibitor to wear the correct number in a visible manner will be giving one (1) warning at the show before being disqualified.

30. A horse must be shown under the same number throughout the entire competition. Changing numbers will result in disqualification.

## IN HAND DIVISION

### General

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing, Hoof Section and Conformation sections.
2. A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for elimination from the class.
3. Horses should be presented by handler with front legs and back legs perpendicular to the ground. Front legs should be square and on a vertical line directly under the shoulder. Back legs should be positioned square with the hocks in a vertical line with the animal's buttocks. At no time should the horse be stretched or parked out.

### Presentation

4. Handlers shall follow the judge's instruction to present the horses at a walk and trot. After which time they will line up for final presentation/judging. Exception: Color Classes, In Hand and Produce or Dam or Get of Sire which are not required to trot.
5. **Gaits** – Movement can vary, but must always be clean, straight and true. Movement must be natural, not forced or artificial. The horse must travel straight, true and square with no winging, paddling or crossing.
6. **The walk** shall be relaxed, forward, and balanced from the hindquarters. The walk should be a natural flat footed, four beat gait with the stride a reasonable length for the size of the horse.
7. **The trot** should be a strong, forward moving gait and shall exhibit good impulsion and power from the hindquarters while being balance with an even cadence in the stride. The trot should be a smooth, ground covering, two beat diagonal gait. The trot shall show suspension, while being balanced with an even cadence in the stride.
8. Place holder may be used, but **Not in Youth or Amateur Classes.**

### Appearance and Impression

The first glance impression of the breed is that of a small, powerful, well balanced and muscular draft type horse with good bone and a sturdy body that upon maturity would be capable of pulling a gypsy caravan wagon. The image is enhanced with abundant mane, tail, and feathering from the knees to the ground. An important breed quality is the presence that reflects a gentle, cooperative, willing animal with a kind and intelligent eye. Muscling is balanced throughout the body. Refer to Breed Standard for complete conformation, appearance, characteristics and traits. ~~(See Appendix for Breed Standard)~~

### Appointments

1. Tack should reflect the manner in which the horse is being presented. Halters and bridles may be made of leather, natural or synthetic material. Gag and twisted bits of

any type are prohibited. Nosebands are optional for in-hand classes. A split or single chain lead may be used instead of a rein. **Rope halters** are prohibited. All tack must be clean, properly fitted and in good repair.

2. Mares and Geldings may be shown in a bridle with a snaffle bit with no shanks or in a halter. Gag and twisted bits of any type are prohibited. Figure eight nose bands, drop or flash noseband are not permitted. A flat chain may be used over the nose or under the chin. Leads should be at least 6' long.
3. Stallions three years and older must be shown in the following: a bridle with a snaffle bit with no shanks or with a stallion rein, full stallion tack or a halter with chain, Gag and twisted bits of any type are prohibited. Figure eight nose bands, drop or flash noseband are not permitted. Bridles, halter and stallion tack may be leather or synthetic. Lip Chains or Lip Chords are not allowed.
4. All horses under the age of two must be shown in a halter.
5. The use of a four foot whip including the lash is permitted.

### **Attire**

1. The exhibitor shall be dressed appropriately for the purpose.
2. The exhibitor shall be dressed safe, neat, and clean.
3. **Attire may not display a farm or owner's name, horse's name or Farm logo.**
4. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.
5. No T-shirts, shorts, skirts, strapless tops or canvas/cloth/open toed shoes are allowed.
6. Attire may be Western, English, or Sport type
  - a. Western attire should consist of a sleeved shirt with collar, jeans or long pants with suitable boots and hat. Belts, gloves, ties, scarves, vests and jackets are optional.
  - b. English attire may be either breeches or jodhpurs with boots and a shirt with tie or choker. Jackets, vests, gloves, belts, and hats are optional. If hats are worn they must conform to General Conduct helmet rules. Half chaps are permitted.
  - c. Sport attire should consist of slacks or khakis with either a shirt or tie or an appropriate shirt. Footwear may be boots, closed toe shoes, or leather running shoes.
  - d. Evening In Hand attire may consist of more formal attire including suits or tuxedos for men and pants and dress jackets for ladies.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

Classes will be judged on *conformation, breed type, quality, movement, temperament, and presence*. Excessive unruly behavior or bad temperament shall be penalized. Refer to Breed Standard for complete conformation, appearance, characteristics and traits.

## **CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **Grand Champion and Reserve Champion**

1. Will be chosen from the First and Second place winners of their respective In Hand Halter class divided by sex. (i.e. Grand Champion Mare, Grand Champion Gelding, and Grand Champion Stallion).
2. In no case will a second place horse be placed over a horse that was placed above him. Exception: if for any reason a first place horse fails to return for their respective Grand and Reserve Championship class or if the first place horse is disqualified.
3. There will be one Grand Champion Horse and one Reserve Champion Horse from each sex division.
4. Horses will be lined up according to wins in qualifying classes.

### **Supreme Champion**

1. At the discretion of Competition Management, a Supreme Champion may be chosen.
2. The Supreme champion will be chosen from the three Grand Champion winners of their respective In Hand Halter class. Exception: if a Grand Champion horse fails to return for the Supreme Champion class, the Reserve Champion horse in that division may compete in his place.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

Classes will be judged conformation, breed type, quality, movement, temperament and presence. Excessive unruly behavior or bad temperament shall be penalized. Refer to Breed Standard for complete conformation, appearance, characteristics and traits.

### **Get of Sire and Produce of Dam**

1. Get of Sire and Produce of Dam entries must be shown with one handler per horse.
1. The entries consist of at least 2 (or more) offspring from the sire/dam. The sire/dam do not enter the ring. Exception: In an entry with a nursing foal, the dam will be allowed in the show ring. Management can also set the maximum number of offspring per entry.
2. Entries shall be presented under the same specifications as the In Hand Division General Rules, Presentation, Appointments and Attire with the following exception: horses will not be asked to trot or work on the line.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Get of Sire and Produce of Dam classes will be judged 75% conformation, quality, and breed type and 25% on uniformity of offspring.

## **COLOR CLASSES**

### **General**

1. Color classes may be divided into Patterned Horses, Solid Horses, and Blagdon Horses at the discretion of Competition management.

### **Presentation**

1. Handlers shall follow the judge's instruction to present the horses at a walk and trot, at judge's discretion. After which time they will line up for final presentation/judging.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specification**

1. Color classes will be judged on richness, balance and clarity of color, and crispness and clarity of pattern.

## **NORTH AMERICAN BRED**

### **General**

1. North American Bred classes are limited to horses bred and foaled within the borders of North America.

### **Presentation**

1. Handlers shall follow the judge's instruction to present the horses at a walk and trot, at the judge's discretion, after which time they will line up for final presentation/judging.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. North American Bred class will be judged on conformation, breed type, quality movement, temperament, and presence. Excessive unruly behavior or bad temperament shall be penalized. Refer to Breed Standard.

## **SHOWMANSHIP Youth and Amateur**

### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules Section, Shoeing, Hoof and Conformation Section.
2. The showmanship class shall be judged strictly on the exhibitor's ability to condition and show a horse at halter. In this class the horse is merely a prop to demonstrate the ability and preparation of the exhibitor. The ideal showmanship performance consists of a poised, confident, neatly attired exhibitor leading a well groomed and conditioned horse that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern with promptness, smoothness, and precision.
3. The showmanship class is not another halter class and should not be judged as such.

4. Patterns are required to be posted at least thirty minutes prior to the class. Patterns are designed to test the showman's ability to effectively present a horse to the judge.
5. All ties will be broken at judge's discretion.
6. Any use of an artificial aid (e.g. whip) will be considered a disqualification.
7. No one under the age of 18 may show a stallion in hand, riding, including lead line. No one under the age of 12 may show any horse under the age of three, including leading in a lead-line class.

### **Scoring**

Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to 100 with 70 denoting an average score. It is suggested a minimum score of 50 be administered except for disqualifications. One-half point increments are acceptable. Maneuver scores will be indicated as follows:

+ = Very Good

√+ = Good

√ = Correct

√- = Poor

- = Very Poor

An additional + (Excellent) or – (well below average) may be given.

### **FINAL SCORING**

shall be on a basis of 0-100, with an approximate breakdown as follows:

1. 90-100 Excellent showmanship, including body position and presentation of horse. Completes pattern accurately, quickly, smoothly and precisely; demonstrates a high level of professionalism.
2. 80-89 Very good performance in execution of the pattern as well as correct showmanship and presentation of horse. Excellent showman that commits a major fault.
3. 70-79 Good pattern execution and average showmanship; lacking adequate style and professional presentation to merit elevating to the next scoring range. A very good showman that commits a major fault or an excellent showman that commits a severe fault.
4. 60-69 Fair pattern that lacks quickness or precision. Horse with consistently unwilling attitude or handler with obvious position and/or presentation faults that prevents effective showmanship. A good showman that commits one major fault in the performance of the pattern. A very good showman that commits a severe fault.
5. Less than 59 Good showman that commits one severe or multiple major and/or minor faults; excellent or very good showman that commits multiple, and/or combination of, severe, major or minor faults in the performance or presentation or position of exhibitor that precludes effective communication with the horse.

### **FAULTS**



Faults are classified as minor, major or severe. The judge will determine the appropriate classification of a fault based upon the degree and/or frequency.

1. Minor Faults (5 point deduction)
  - Break of gait at the walk or trot for up to two strides
  - Over/under turning up to 1/8 turn
  - Ticking or hitting the cone.
2. Major Faults (10 point deduction)
  - Not performing the gait required
  - Not stopping within 10ft of the designated area
  - Break of gait at the walk or trot for more than two strides
  - Splitting the cone (cone between horse and handler)
  - Horse stepping out of set up after presentation
3. Sever Faults (20 point deduction – avoids disqualification but should be placed below exhibitors that do not incur a severe fault)
  - Exhibitor not in required position during inspection
  - Exhibitor touching the horse or kicking or pointing their feet at the horses feet during set up.
  - Standing directly in front of horse
  - Holding the chain or two hands on shank
  - Severe disobedience, including rearing, pawing, horse continually circling exhibitor
  - Knocking over the cone
  - Going off Pattern
4. Disqualification
  - Loss of control of horse
  - Failure to wear the correct number
  - Never performing the specific gait
  - Use of any artificial aids **including, but not limited to lighters, hay, dirt, sharp pins, Magnetic device, etc. will results in Disqualification**
  - Illegal equipment

### **Presentation**

1. All exhibitors may enter the ring and then work individually or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually, at the discretion of the judge.
2. The following maneuvers are considered acceptable: lead the horse at a walk, jog, trot or extended trot or back in a curved or straight line, or a combination of straight and curved lines, stop and turn 90, 180, 270 or 360 degrees in any combination or multiple turns.
3. The judge must have exhibitors set their horse up squarely for inspection at some time during the class.

4. The exhibitor should be poised, confident, courteous and genuinely sportsmanlike at all times.
5. The exhibitor should continue to show the horse until the class has been placed or they have been excused.
6. The exhibitor should appear business like, stand and move in a straight, natural and upright manner.
7. The exhibitor must lead on the horse's left side holding the lead shank in the right hand near the halter with the tail of the lead loosely coiled in the left hand unless requested by the judge to show the horse's teeth.
8. When leading, the exhibitor should be positioned between the eye and the mid-point of the horse's neck
9. Both arms should be bent at the elbow with the elbows held close to the exhibitor's side and the forearms held in a natural position.
10. When executing a right turn, the exhibitor should turn and face the horse's head and have the horse move away from them to the right.
11. When executing a back, the exhibitor should turn from the leading position to face toward the rear of the horse with the right extended across the exhibitor's chest and walk forward beside the horse with the horse moving backward.
12. When setting the horse up for inspection, the exhibitor should stand angled toward the horse in a position between the horse's eye and muzzle and should never leave the head of the horse.
13. The exhibitor's position should not obstruct the judge's view of the horse.
14. Leading, backing, turning, and initiating the set up should be performed from the left side of the horse.
15. The exhibitor should never stand directly in front of the horse
16. The exhibitor should not touch the horse with their hands or feet or visibly cue the horse by pointing their feet at the horse during the set up.
17. The horse's body condition and overall fitness should be assessed by the judge.
18. Youth and Amateur exhibitors may only show one horse in Showmanship.

### **Appointments**

1. All horses, including stallions, must be shown in halter in a showmanship class. All tack must be clean, properly fitted and in good repair. Halter should reflect the purpose and discipline in which the horse is being presented.
2. Halters may be of leather, synthetic or traditional rope halters. Knotted training rope halters are prohibited. Leads should be at least 6' long. No Lip chains are allowed in Showmanship.
3. Whips and other artificial aids are not allowed.

## **Attire**

1. Dress for handlers should be appropriate for the purpose and discipline.
2. The exhibitor shall be dressed in a safe, neat, and clean manner.
3. Attire may not display a farm or owner's name, a horse's name or farm or ranch logo.
4. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.
5. No T-shirts, shorts, skirts, strapless tops or canvas/cloth/opened toe shoes are allowed.
6. Attire may be Western, English, or Sport type.
7. Western attire should consist of a sleeved shirt with collar, jeans or long pants with suitable boots and hat. Belts, gloves, ties, scarves, vests and jackets are optional.
8. English attire may be either breeches or jodhpurs with boots and a shirt with tie or choker. Jackets, vests, gloves, belts, and hats are optional. If hats are worn they must conform to General Conduct helmet rules. Half chaps are permitted.
9. Sport attire should consist of slacks or khakis with either a shirt or tie or an appropriate shirt. Footwear may be boots, closed toe shoes, or leather running shoes.
10. Evening Showmanship attire may consist of more formal attire including suits or tuxedos for men and pants and dress jackets for ladies.

## **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. The horse should perform the work accurately, precisely, smoothly and with a reasonable amount of speed.
2. A severe disobedience will not result in a disqualification, but should be severely penalized.
3. Excessive schooling, training, willful abuse, loss of control of the horse by the exhibitor shall be cause for disqualification.
4. Failure to follow prescribed pattern, knocking over or working on the wrong side of cones shall result in heavy penalty.
5. Stops should be straight, prompt, smooth and responsive with horse's body remaining straight
6. The horse should back readily with head, neck, and body aligned.
7. Counter clockwise turns should be 90 degrees or less.
8. Turns over 90 degrees should consist of the horse pivoting on the right hind leg while stepping across in front.
9. The horse should set up quickly with feet squarely underneath the body.
10. Judging is based on showmanship leading, showing, poise and attitude, presentation, horse's conditioning, horse's grooming, and on appointments.

## ENGLISH DIVISION

### English Pleasure

#### General

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing, and Hoof Section.
2. Position, attire and appointments as appropriate to Hunter Seat or Dressage
3. A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for elimination from the class.
4. Youth may not show a stallion.

#### Qualifying Gaits

1. It is imperative that the horse give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride. A quiet, responsive mouth is paramount. All gaits must be performed with willingness and obvious ease, cadence, balance, and smoothness.
2. Horses shall be worked at all gaits including walk, trot, and canter both ways in the ring. Exception: no canter will be required in a Walk Trot Class.
3. At the judge's discretion horses may be asked to extend any gait.
4. **Walk** – a four beat forward working walk. To be true, flat footed and ground covering.
5. **Trot** – a definite two beat diagonal gait. Overall balanced, relaxed, easy going trot with elasticity and freedom of movement. Posting is required.
6. **Extended Trot** – a definite two beat diagonal gait executed with a lengthened stride, maintaining balance, ease and freedom of movement. Posting is required.
7. **Canter** – a three beat gait. To be smooth, free moving, relaxed and correct on both leads.
8. **Hand Gallop** – to be a faster three beat gait. Lengthened stride and controlled, straight and correct on both leads. Extreme speed must be penalized as should lack of obvious extension.
9. **Back** – Horses should back, on command, quietly, willingly, and easily in a straight line without resistance. In the lineup horses may be asked to back individually or as a group.
10. The horse should move freely forward with even ground covering strides. The horse should exhibit a comfortable, balanced, consistent way of going while maintaining a frame suitable for a hunter or dressage horse. Excessive speed or slowness or choppiness of any gait will be penalized.

#### Appointments

1. Bridles shall be the light show type either Hunter, (Snaffle, Pelham, or Kimberwick) bit are acceptable. Dressage (Snaffle bit permitted) Figure eight nose bands, drop or flash nosebands are not permitted.
2. Colored brow bands and cavesons are not permitted.
3. Hunting style breastplates are allowed. However, martingales of any type are prohibited.
4. Draw reins, artificial appliances, boots, and bandages are prohibited.
5. A judge may penalize a horse with a non-conventional type of bit or noseband.
6. English Hunt, all purpose, dressage or sidesaddles made of leather or synthetic materials are permitted. Saddle pads are required.
7. All tack should be clean, properly fitting, and in good repair.
8. Manes and tails may be braided. Unbraided manes and tails are not to be penalized.

### **Attire**

1. Riders should wear a short traditional Hunt or Dressage style coats made in a conservative color, i.e. black, navy, tweed, melton, or plaid, or other dark customary color and of a material appropriate for the area and season.
2. Traditional breeches or jodhpurs in buff, grey, white, rust, or canary worn with black or brown hunt or field boots should be worn. Half chaps are permitted.
3. Traditional Equestrian safety helmets must be worn in blue, black, or brown. See Conduct General Rules for safety helmet requirements.
4. Gloves, crops, bats, and spurs are optional.
5. If spurs are used, spurs must be made of metal. Only English-style spurs are permitted, as described below. The shank must be either curved or straight pointing directly back from the center of the spur when on the rider's boot. If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directed downwards. However, swan necked spurs are allowed. The inside arm of the spur must be smooth and one or both arms may have rubber covers. If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth and free to rotate. The maximum length for spurs used is 2 inches including rowels.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Horses will be judged 70% on performance, 20% on condition, and 10% on turn out.

### **ENGLISH EQUITATION Youth and Amateur**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing, and Hoof Section.
2. The rider's position, seat, hands, and the correct use of the aids are to be judged
3. A lack of required tack, equipment or appointments shall result be grounds for elimination from the class.
4. Youth may not show a Stallion, No Exceptions.

### **English Walk/Trot/Canter Equitation**

1. Position and appointments as appropriate to Hunter Seat or Dressage. Youth must wear equestrian ASTM approved safety helmets. It is encouraged that all riders wear safety helmets.
2. Bridles shall be the light show type either Hunter (Snaffle, Pelham, Kimberwick bit permitted) or Dressage (Snaffle bit permitted.) Gag and twisted bits of any type are prohibited. Figure eight nose bands, drop or flash noseband are not permitted.
3. All riders must wear equestrian safety helmets. See General Conduct Rules for safety helmet requirements.
4. Classes are to be shown on the flat at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the arena.
5. At the judge's discretion, individual work may be required. If a pattern is used, it must be posted at least 1 hour before the class. A pattern is defined as two or more tests to be ridden consecutively.
6. Tests from which a judge may choose may include the following:
  - a) Work collectively at walk, trot, and canter
  - b) Sitting or rising trot.
  - c) Halt (4-6 seconds) and/or back
  - d) Execute a figure eight at a trot, showing a change of diagonals.
  - e) Execute a figure eight at a canter, showing a simple change of lead. This is a change whereby the horse is brought back in to a walk or trot and restarted into a canter on the opposite lead. Figures to be commenced in center of two circles so that one change of lead is shown.
  - f) Ride without stirrups, riders must be allowed option to cross stirrups.
  - g) Turn on the forehand from the walk
  - h) Turn on the haunches from the walk
  - i) Execute a serpentine at a trot demonstrating changes of diagonals and/or canter on correct lead demonstrating simple changes of lead.
7. At the judge's discretion, classes may be asked to show on the rail at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the arena.

### **English Walk /Trot Equitation Youth and Amateur**

1. Position and appointments as appropriate to Hunter Seat or Dressage. Youth exhibitors are required to wear an equestrian ASTM/SEI approved safety helmet. Bridles shall be the light show type either Hunter (Snaffle, Pelham, Kimberwick bit permitted) or Dressage (Snaffle bit permitted.) Gag and twisted bits of any type are prohibited. Figure eight nose bands, drop or flash noseband are not permitted.
2. Classes are to be shown on the flat at a walk and trot both ways of the arena.

3. At the judge's discretion, individual work may be required. Instructions must be announced to all exhibitors.
4. If a pattern is used, it must be posted at least 30 minutes before the class. A pattern is defined as two or more tests to be ridden consecutively.
5. The same Horse/Rider combinations cannot show in both equitation walk/trot and equitation walk/trot/canter.
6. At the judge's discretion, classes may be asked to show on the rail at a walk and trot both ways of the arena.
7. Tests from which a judge may choose may include the following:
  - a) Work collectively at walk and trot
  - b) Sitting or rising trot.
  - c) Halt (4-6 seconds) and/or back
  - d) Execute a figure eight at a trot.
  - e) Turn on the forehand from the walk
  - f) Turn on the haunches from the walk
  - g) Execute a serpentine at a trot

### **Judging Criteria**

Riders will be judged on seat, hands, performance of horse, appointments of horse and rider and suitability of horse to rider. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are NOT to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them.

Equitation is also judged on the ability of the rider to perform on the rail and/or Individual pattern work with correct riding position and gaits. Although the horse is only considered a prop in equitation, soundness is a consideration. Obvious lameness will be cause for disqualification.

## **DRESSAGE DIVISION**

### **SUITABILITY FOR DRESSAGE IN HAND**

#### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing, and Hoof Section.
2. Horse's quality shall be evaluated as to potential for dressage horses.
3. Only one handler per horse is permitted.
4. The class is open to horses of all ages but may be further subdivided by Competition Management at their discretion.
5. A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for elimination from the class.

6. YOUTH May Not Show a Stallion, No Exceptions.

**Presentation**

1. Horses are being shown individually on the triangle.
2. Following a posted order, entries in each class will approach the judging area one at a time, walk to the apex of the triangle, and await the judge's request to proceed on the triangle.
3. The Handler will lead the horse, in a clock-wise direction, on the perimeter of the triangle at a walk and a trot, returning to the apex to stand the horse for conformation judging or to repeat any movement at the judge's request.
4. Repetition of all or part of the movement on the triangle may be allowed at the judge's request only.
5. At the completion of judging, the handler will lead the horse away from the judging area.
6. The next entry will enter the judging area promptly.
7. The judge may elect to judge conformation either before or after judging the horse's movement on the triangle.
8. The horse should stand square and not parked out. Horses will stand for conformation judging before and/or after the completion of the horse's movement.
9. After all the horses are shown on the triangle, some or all may be recalled at the judge's discretion (depending on size, format, and schedule of the competition) to be shown in groups at a walk and a trot.
10. Horses shown as a group may not necessarily work on the triangle. At the discretion of the judge, they may be asked to move at a walk and trot, either in line or moving around the arena. Horses will stand for conformation judging before and/or after the completion of the horse's movement.
11. The Judging Triangle: Two basic designs are acceptable for presenting horses to the judge. Competition management may choose the triangle best suited for local conditions. Triangle corners should be well defined. Footing must be firm. Decorative fencing, plants or flowers are allowed.
12. Horses must travel clockwise.
13. The size of the triangle may be adjusted to meet local conditions, however, the back side of the triangle must be at least 25 meters in length and the other two sides must be at least 20 meters in length.

**Appointments**

1. Halters and bridles may be made of leather, natural or synthetic material. Pelhems, Kimberwicks, Gag and twisted bits of any type are prohibited. Nosebands are optional for Dressage Suitability in Hand classes. A split or single chain lead may be used instead of a rein. All tack must be clean, properly fitted and in good repair.



2. **Stallions three years and older** must be shown in a bridle with a snaffle bit with no shanks, or with a stallion bit. Bridles may be leather or synthetic.
3. **All horses under two years of age** must be shown in a halter. Halters may be of leather, natural, or synthetic materials. Knotted training rope halters are prohibited.
4. **All Mares & Geldings** over the age of age 3 must be shown in a Bridle
5. A whip of no more than 47.2 inches including lash is allowed.
6. Braiding of manes is recommended but optional for Dressage classes and shall not be penalized.

#### **Attire**

1. Dress for handlers should be appropriate for the purpose. Western attire being inappropriate.
2. The exhibitor shall be dressed in a safe, neat, and clean manner.
3. No Derby or Top Hats. Only an equestrian helmet ATSM/SEI approved or no head gear is appropriate.
4. **Attire may not display a farm or owner's name, horse's name or farm or ranch logo.**
5. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.
6. No T-shirts, shorts, skirts, strapless tops or canvas/cloth/open toed shoes are allowed.
7. Attire may be English or Sport type.
8. English attire may be either breeches or jodhpurs with boots and a shirt with tie or choker. Jackets, vests, gloves, belts, and hats are optional. If hats are worn they must conform to General Conduct helmet rules. Half chaps are permitted.
9. Sport attire should consist of slacks or khakis with either a shirt or tie or an appropriate shirt. Footwear may be boots, closed toe shoes, or running shoes.
10. Evening Dressage Suitability In Hand attire may consist of more formal attire including suits or tuxedos for men and pants and dress jackets for ladies.

#### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Judging will be based on 60% movement, 30% conformation, and 10% general impression. This includes harmony (relationship of conformation to movement) athleticism (strength and mobility) development related to age and condition. Demonstrated character, presence and temperament necessary for dressage training.
2. Conformation is to be evaluated based on the breed standard, in terms of potential trainability, potential performance and predisposition to unsoundness. Function, not fashion, is to be emphasized. Weakness or conformation faults with a predisposition to unsoundness or to difficulties in training shall be penalized. Blemishes are not to count unless resulting from conformation faults.

3. Gaits are to be natural evaluated in terms of purity, quality and correctness. Purity and correctness are more important than brilliance at this level. Correct gaits contributing to the ease of training and the horse remaining sound and usable are more important than gaits which are merely superficially flashy. Purity and quality are judged mainly in profile. Correctness is judged mainly while the horse is coming to and going away from the judge's position.
4. A horse shall be disqualified for unsoundness at the judge's discretion.

## **SUITABILITY FOR DRESSAGE – Under Saddle**

### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing, and Hoof Section.
2. Horse's quality shall be evaluated as to potential for dressage horses.
3. Competition may separate walk/trot dressage suitability with walk/trot/canter classes.
4. The same horse/rider combination that competes in a walk/trot/canter class in this division they may not compete in a walk/trot class in this division at the same Competition.
5. A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for elimination from the class.
6. YOUTH May Not Show a Stallion, No Exceptions.

### **Qualifying Gaits**

1. It is imperative that the horse's muscles are supple and loose. That it moves freely forward in a clear and steady rhythm, with purity of the gaits and accepting contact with the bit. The horse should show lightness of the forehand and engagement of the hindquarters. Resistance and tension of the horse is to be penalized. The horse's potential as a Dressage mount is to be considered. All gaits must be performed with willingness and obvious ease, cadence, balance, and smoothness.
2. Horses shall be worked at all gaits including walk, trot, and canter (if required) both ways in the ring. At the judge's discretion horses may be asked to free walk and to extend any gait.

### **Appointments**

1. An English type saddle or Dressage type saddle with stirrups is compulsory. An English type saddle may be constructed with or without a tree but cannot have a horn, swell, gallerie, or open gullet. Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock, or Western saddles are not permitted nor are modified versions of these saddles.

A Dressage saddle must be close to the horse and have long, near-vertical flaps and stirrups.

2. Saddle pads are optional, but should be white or of conservative color.
3. Bridles may be made of leather, natural or synthetic material. A plain snaffle bit and bridle is required with a regular cavesson, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband (a combination of a cavesson and a dropped noseband attachment) or a crossed noseband. A padded noseband is allowed. A cavesson noseband may never be so tightly fixed that it causes severe irritation to the skin. Cavesson nosebands may be used with a chin pad. At any level of competition, a brow band may be multicolored and may be decorated with metal, beads, gemstones and crystals.
4. Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (including “easy-boots”) or bandages (including tail bandages) and any form of blinkers, earmuffs or plugs, nose covers, seat covers, hoods are not permitted. Fly hoods (ear covers) will only be permitted in order to protect horses from insects. The fly hoods should be discreet and should not cover the horse’s eyes, and will only be permitted in extreme cases at the discretion of the presiding judge(s).
5. All bits must be smooth and with a solid surface. Twisted, wire and rollerbits pelhums and kimberwicks are prohibited. A bushing or coupling is permitted as the center link in a double jointed snaffle, however, the surface of the center piece must be solid with no moveable parts. The mouthpiece of a snaffle may be shaped in a slight curve, but ported snaffles are prohibited. A bridoon is defined as a snaffle bit used together with a curb bit to form a double bridle. Bits (including curb and/or bridoon bits of a double bridle) must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber; flexible rubber bits are not permitted. The diameter of the snaffle or bridoon mouthpiece must be minimum 3/8 inch diameter at rings or cheeks of the mouthpiece.

### **Attire**

1. A short riding coat of conservative color, with tie, choker or stock tie, white or light-colored breeches or jodhpurs, boots or jodhpur boots. Half chaps, gaiters and/or leggings are not allowed. Gloves of conservative color are recommended.
2. Riders at all levels of competition must wear an equestrian safety helmet which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. The headgear and harness must be secured and properly fitted. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place. Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear at any level of competition without penalty from the judge. See General Conduct Rules for safety helmet requirements.
3. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches including lash may be carried.

4. In extreme heat and/or humidity in all classes Competition management can allow competitors to show without jackets. However, competitors must wear a regulation helmet and solid white or very pale colored long or short sleeved shirt, without neckwear. T-shirts are not permitted.
5. Competitors will be allowed to wear a hat cover and a transparent or conservative color rain coat in inclement weather.
6. Spurs must be made of metal. Only English-style spurs are permitted. The shank must be either curved or straight pointing directly back from the center of the spur when on the rider's boot. If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directed downwards. However, swan necked spurs are allowed. The inside arm of the spur must be smooth and one or both arms may have rubber covers. If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth free to rotate. The maximum length for spurs used is 2 inches including rowels.
7. Attire may not display a farm or owner's name, horse's name or farm or ranch logo.
8. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.
9. No T-shirts, shorts, skirts, strapless tops or canvas/cloth/opened toe shoes are allowed.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Judging will be based on movement, conformation, and general impression. This includes harmony (relationship of conformation to movement) athleticism (strength and mobility) development related to age and condition. Demonstrated character, presence and temperament.
2. Conformation is to be evaluated in terms of potential trainability, potential performance and predisposition to unsoundness. Function, not fashion, is to be emphasized. Weakness or conformation faults with a predisposition to unsoundness or to difficulties in training shall be penalized. Blemishes are not to count unless resulting from conformation faults.
3. Gaits are to be evaluated in terms of purity, quality and correctness. Purity and correctness are more important than brilliance at this level. Correct gaits contributing to the ease of training and the horse remaining sound and usable are more important than gaits which are merely superficially flashy. Purity and quality are judged mainly in profile. Correctness is judged mainly while the horse is coming to and going away from the judge's position.
4. A horse shall be disqualified for unsoundness at the judge's discretion.

## **HUNTER DIVISION**

### **HUNTER UNDER SADDLE (On The Flat)**

#### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing, and Hoof Section.

2. The purpose of the hunter under saddle horse is to present or exhibit a horse that is obedient and responsive, who has a bright, alert expression, and whose gaits show a potential of being a working hunter. Hunters under saddle should be suitable to purpose.
3. A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for elimination from the class.
4. YOUTH May Not Show a Stallion, No Exceptions.

### **Qualifying Gaits**

1. The horse should move freely forward with even, ground covering strides. The horse should exhibit a comfortable, balanced, consistent way of going while maintaining a frame suitable for a hunter.
2. Horse should be able to lengthen stride and cover ground with relaxed, free-flowing movement, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence.
3. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gaits is a major consideration.
4. Horse should respond willingly to the rider with light leg and hand contact.
5. Horses should be responsive and smooth in transitions.
6. Horses shall be worked at all gaits including walk, trot, and canter both ways in the ring. Exception: no canter will be required in a Walk Trot Class.
7. **Walk** – a four beat forward working walk. To be true, flat footed and ground covering.
8. **Trot** – a definite two beat diagonal gait. Overall balanced, relaxed, easy going trot with elasticity and freedom of movement. Posting is required.
9. **Canter** – a three beat gait. To be smooth, free moving, relaxed and correct on both leads.
10. **Hand Gallop** – to be a faster three beat gait. Lengthened stride and controlled, straight and correct on both leads. Extreme speed must be penalized.
11. **Back** – Horses should back, on command, quietly, willingly, and easily in a straight line without resistance. In the lineup horses may be asked to back individually or as a group.
12. The head position should be slightly in front of, or on, the vertical. The poll should be level with, or slightly above, the wither to allow proper impulsion behind.

### **Appointments**

1. Bridles shall be the light show Hunter type. Either Snaffle, Pelham, or Kimberwick bits are acceptable. Gag and twisted bits of any type are prohibited. Figure eight nose bands, drop or flash nosebands are not permitted.
2. Brow bands and cavesons other than Hunter type are not permitted. Colored brow bands and cavesons are not permitted.

3. Hunting style breastplates are allowed. However, martingales of any type are prohibited.
4. Draw reins, artificial appliances, boot, and bandages are prohibited.
5. A judge may penalize a horse with a non-conventional type of bit or noseband.
6. English Hunt, all purpose or sidesaddles made of leather or synthetic materials are permitted. Saddle pads are required.
7. All tack should be clean, properly fitting, and in good repair.
8. Manes and tails may be braided. Unbraided manes and tails are not to be penalized.

### **Attire**

1. Riders should wear traditional Hunt style coats made in a conservative color, i.e. black, navy, tweed, melton, or plaid, or other dark customary color and of a material appropriate for the area and season.
2. Shadbellys are not allowed.
3. Traditional breeches or jodhpurs in buff, grey, rust, or canary worn with black or brown hunt or field boots should be worn.
4. Half chaps are permitted.
5. Equestrian riding safety helmets must be worn in blue, black, or brown. See General Conduct Rules for safety helmet requirements.
6. Gloves, crops, bats, and spurs are optional.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. This class will be judged on performance and condition with the maximum consideration given to the flowing, balanced willing horse.
2. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gaits is a major consideration.
3. Excessive speed, excessive slowness or loss of forward momentum will be penalized.
4. Unnatural low head position (poll below the withers) or over flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently will be penalized.

### **Hunter Hack**

#### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing, and Hoof Section.
2. Wherever possible a schooling area should be set up with at least one practice jump
3. Schooling over obstacles in the ring or over any part of an outside course is permitted only at the time designated by Competition management.
4. A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for elimination from the class
5. YOUTH May Not Show a Stallion, No Exceptions.

### **Qualifying Gaits**

1. The horse should move freely forward with even, ground covering strides. The horse should exhibit a comfortable, balanced, consistent way of going while maintaining a frame suitable for a hunter.
2. Work over Fences will come first in the class. The horses shall be required to jump two fences, the first fence to be a minimum of 18 inches, and a maximum of 2'3" and the second fence to be a minimum of 2' and a maximum of 2'6". Fences should be set at the minimum heights if the judge feels the exhibitors are at an entry level. Fences should be set at least 48' (3 strides) apart, using increments of 12 feet. Ground lines at the take-off side of the jumps are required. Horses are to perform a hand gallop one way of the ring after the second fence, halt, and stand quietly on a loose rein.
3. Horses shall be worked at all gaits including walk, trot, and canter both ways in the ring. Walk – a four beat forward working walk. To be true, flat footed and ground covering.
4. Trot – a definite two beat diagonal gait. Overall balanced, relaxed, easy going trot with elasticity and freedom of movement. Posting is required.
5. Canter – a three beat gait. To be smooth, free moving, relaxed and correct on both leads.
6. Hand Gallop – to be a faster three beat gait. Lengthened stride and controlled, straight and correct on both leads. Extreme speed must be penalized.
7. Back – Horses should back, on command, quietly, willingly, and easily in a straight line without resistance. In the lineup horses may be asked to back individually or as a group.
8. The pattern or course for the jumping section shall be determined by the Competition management or the judge and will be posted at least one hour prior to the class. An entry level course should have jumps set at the minimum heights.
9. A warm up jump must be provided.

### **Appointments**

1. Bridles shall be the light show Hunter type. Either Snaffle, Pelham, or Kimberwick bits are acceptable. Gag and twisted bits of any type are prohibited. Figure eight nose bands, drop or flash nosebands are not permitted.
2. Brow bands and cavesons other than Hunter type are not permitted. Colored brow bands and cavesons are not permitted.
3. Hunting style breastplates are allowed. However, martingales of any type are prohibited.
4. Draw reins, artificial appliances, boot, and bandages are prohibited.
5. A judge may penalize a horse with a non-conventional type of bit or noseband.
6. English Hunt, all purpose or sidesaddles made of leather or synthetic materials are permitted. Saddle pads are required.

7. All tack should be clean, properly fitting, and in good repair.
8. Manes and tails may be braided. Unbraided manes and tails are not to be penalized.

### **Attire**

1. Riders should wear traditional Hunt style coats made in a conservative color, i.e. black, navy, tweed, melton, or plaid, or other dark customary color and of a material appropriate for the area and season.
2. Shadbellies and top hats are not allowed. See General Rules for Helmet requirements.
3. Traditional breeches or jodhpurs in buff, grey, rust, or canary worn with black or brown hunt or field boots should be worn.
4. Half chaps are permitted.
5. ASTM/SEI approved protective equestrian safety riding helmets are required during the class and while jumping anywhere on the Competition grounds. Helmets must be worn in blue, black, or brown. See General Conduct Rules for safety helmet requirements.
6. Gloves, crops, bats, and spurs are optional.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Horses will be judged 70% on the work over fences and 30% for flat work on the rail. If the horse is unable to complete the jumping section of the class he will be excused from the rail work and excused from the class.

## **WESTERN DIVISION**

### **Western Pleasure**

#### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing, and Hoof Section.
2. A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for elimination from the class
3. YOUTH May Not Show a Stallion, No Exceptions.

### **Qualifying Gaits**



1. Exhibitors shall enter the ring at the jog. Horses are to be shown at a walk, jog, and lope with forward impulsion both ways of the ring.
2. At the judge's discretion, horses may be asked to extend any gait.
3. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail) and will not be asked to reverse at a lope.
4. Horses must stand quietly and may be asked to back individually or as a group.
5. Light hand contact with the horse's mouth must be maintained at all gaits without undue restraint.
6. Only one hand must be used around the reins, with a horse being shown in a standard western bit, and hands must not be changed. Two hands must be used with a horse is being shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore. . See appointments for bits that are permitted.
7. A natural head position is desired. A vertical head carriage is not to be penalized.
8. Unnatural low head position (poll below the withers) will be penalized
9. **The Walk** - a natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait. The horse must move straight and true at the walk. The walk must be alert, with a stride of reasonable length in keeping with the size of the horse.
10. **The Jog** - a smooth, ground-covering two-beat diagonal gait. The horse works from one pair of diagonals to the other pair. The jog should be square, balanced and with straight, forward movement of the feet. Horses walking with their back feet and trotting in the front are not considered performing the required gait. When asked to extend the jog, it moves out with the same smooth way of going.
11. **The Lope** - an easy, rhythmical three-beat gait. Horses moving to the left should lope on the left lead. Horses moving to the right should lope on the right lead. Horses traveling at a four-beat gait are not considered to be performing at a proper lope. The horse should lope with a natural stride and appear relaxed and smooth. It should be ridden at a speed that is a natural way of going.
12. **Back** – Horses should back, on command, quietly, willingly, and easily in a straight line without resistance. In the lineup horses may be asked to back individually or as a group.
13. A natural head position is desired. A vertical head carriage is not to be penalized. Over flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently will be penalized.
14. Unnatural low head position (poll below the withers) will be penalized.

### **Appointments**

1. Western style saddles, including side saddles (with proper attire), with either square or round skirt with the appropriate Western saddle pad. Western style bridle with split reins. Breast collars are optional.

2. **Stallions** must be shown in a bitted bridle, with either smooth snaffles or a Western curb bit. Hackamores and Mechanical Hackamores are not permitted
3. All tack should be clean, properly fitted and in good repair. Either leather or synthetic is permissible.
4. Hackamore means the use of a flexible, braided rawhide, leather or rope bosal, the core of which must be flexible. A hackamore must use a complete mecate rein, which must include a tie-rein. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered. Horse hair bosals are prohibited. This rule does not refer to a mechanical hackamore. Riders are required to ride with two hands.
5. Snaffle bits mean the conventional O-Ring, egg but or D ring with a ring no larger than 4" in diameter. The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments which would provide leverage. The mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg shaped, smooth (no twist) and unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid, but smooth or latex wrapped. The bars must be a minimum of 5/16" in diameter, measured one inch in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three piece, connecting ring of 1 1/4" or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2" which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable. Optional leather strap attached below the reins on a snaffle bit is acceptable. Riders are required with ride with two hands.
6. A standard Western bit is one that has a shank with a maximum overall length of 8 1/2 inches. The mouthpiece shall consist of a metal bar which is from 3/8" to 3/4" in diameter, varying from the straight bar to a full spade. Jointed mouthpieces are permitted. Flat leather chinstrap, other than the buckle(s), must be at least 1/2" in width. Any device made of wire, metal, or rawhide used in conjunction with or as part of leather chinstrap is prohibited. Curb chains are allowed and must be at least 1/2" in width and lie flat against the jaw. Riders are required to ride with one hand and hands must not be changed during class.
7. Once a horse is shown in a standard Western bit, it may not go back and be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore in the Western Division at the same Competition.
8. Split reins or closed reins with romal are equally acceptable. When split reins are used and the ends fall on the side of the reining hand, one finger between the reins is permitted. If the split reins fall on the opposite side of the reining hand, no finger is allowed in between the reins, and the ends must be held at least 16 inches from the reining hand. When closed reins with romal are use, the end may be held by the rider provided it is held at least 16 inches from the reining hand. When a hackamore is used, attached reins may be of hair, rope, or leather.
9. Martingales or tie downs are prohibited.
10. Whips are not allowed; exception for a side saddle.
11. Bit guards are not allowed.

### **Attire**

1. Rider's attire must include a long sleeved shirt with collar, jeans or long pants, boots and hat. Optional attire to include tie, scarf, belt, gloves vest, jacket, and chaps and spurs.
2. Protective headgear may be worn by any exhibitor without penalty. All Youth riders must wear equestrian ASTM/SEI approved safety helmets.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Horses should display a pleasant and natural way of going with an emphasis placed on a pleasurable ride and purity of gaits.
2. Excessive speed or slowness to be severely penalized.
3. The class will be judged on performance, manners, and quality.
4. Either an unnatural low head position (poll below the withers) or over flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently will be penalized.

### **Western Equitation (Horsemanship) Walk/Jog/Lope Youth and Amateur**

1. Position and appointments as appropriate to Western Seat
2. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing, and Hoof Section.
3. A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for elimination from the class.
4. Youth may not show a Stallion. NO exceptions.
5. Riders showing with a **snaffle bit must use two hands on the reins.**
6. Exhibitors will work pattern either from a line up or from the gate as directed by the judge. Rail work is optional.
7. At the judge's discretion, additional individual work may be required.
8. If a pattern is used, it must be posted at least 1 hour before the class. A pattern is defined as two or more tests to be ridden concurrently.
9. Tests from which a judge may choose may include the following:
  - a) Back
  - b) Figure eight at the jog trot
  - c) Figure eight at the lope, with a simple change of lead. This is a change whereby the horse is brought back into a walk or jog and restarted into a lope on the opposite lead. Figures to be commenced in center of two circles so that one change of lead is shown.
  - d) Jog and stop, either on or off the rail.
  - e) Lope and stop, either on or off the rail, the judge must specify which lead to start on.

- f) Change leads down center of ring, demonstrating simple change of lead.
- g) Ride a serpentine, demonstrating a simple change of leads at a lope.
- h) Execute a 360 degree turn on the haunches.

### **Western Walk /Jog Equitation Youth and Amateur**

1. Position and appointments as appropriate to Western Seat
2. Riders showing with a snaffle bit must use two hands on the reins.
3. Exhibitors will work pattern either from a line up or from the gate as directed by the judge. Rail work is optional.
4. At the judge's discretion, additional individual work may be required.
5. If a pattern is used, it must be posted at least 1 hour before the class.
6. Tests from which a judge may choose may include the following:
  - a) Back
  - b) Figure eight at the jog
  - c) Jog and stop, either on or off the rail.
  - d) Ride a serpentine at a job
  - e) Extend the walk or jog.
  - f) Execute a 360 degree turn on the haunches

### **Judging Criteria**

1. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, performance of horse, appointments of horse and rider and suitability of horse to rider. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are NOT to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them.
2. Equitation is also judged on the ability of the rider to perform on the rail and/or individual pattern work with correct riding position and gaits. Although the horse is only considered a prop in equitation, soundness is a consideration. Obvious lameness will be cause for disqualification.

## **RANCH RIDING**

### **Class Specifications**

1. The purpose of the ranch riding class is to show a working horse's versatility, attitude and movement. The primary considerations are the horse's quality of movement and overall manners and responsiveness while performing the required maneuvers. The class should allow the horse to show its ability to work at a forward working speed while under the control of the rider. A horse being shown with light contact should be rewarded.

- A. No horse younger than 3 years of age can compete in this class
- B. Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers:
- C. Required Maneuvers walk, jog, lope both directions and the extended jog and lope in at least one direction as well as stops, turn to change directions, and back. **(Walk Jog classes disregard any Loping details)**
- D. Optional maneuvers: side pass, turns on 360 degree or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, jog or lope over a pole(s), or some reasonable combination for a ranch horse to perform.
- E. The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.
- F. The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be hose described above with emphasis on forward, free-flowing, and ground-covering movements at all gaits. Transitions where designated should be smooth and responsive.
- G. There is no time limit.
- H. A horse that fails to perform a required maneuver will be placed below all other horses that perform all maneuvers.
- I. Refer to Western Division General, Shoeing Requirements, Appointments, Gaits, and Attire.

## **SCORING**

Scoring is on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.

## **PENALTIES**

One point penalties: Too slow/per gait, Over-bridled, Out of Frame, Break of gait at walk or job for two strides or less, Split log at lope.

Three point penalties: Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides, Break of gait at lope, wrong lead or out of lead, draped reins.

Five point penalties: Blatant disobedience (kicking, biting, bucking, rearing etc.)

Zero Score: Illegal equipment: hoof black, braided or banded manes, tail extensions, willful abuse, major disobedience or schooling.

No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs or over/under spins, but deduction may be made in the maneuver score.

## **TRAIL DIVISION**

### **OBSTACLES IN HAND and TRAIL UNDER SADDLE**

#### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing, and Hoof Section.
2. The rider's position, seat, hands, and the correct use of the aids are to be judged.
3. A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for elimination from the class.
4. Horses are required to work over and through obstacles on a reasonably light contact without undue restraint or force.
5. The judge must walk the course and has the right and duty to alter the course in any manner. The judge may remove or change any obstacle he/she deems unsafe or non-negotiable. If at any time a trail obstacle is deemed to be unsafe by the judge it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it can not be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous works for that class.
6. Patterns will be posted at least one hour prior to start of class.
7. Exhibitors will be allowed one course walk prior to the start of trail classes with the approval of the judge. (no horses will be allowed on trail course at this time.)
8. Care in preparing the course should be exercised to prevent a direct advantage to either a small or large horse.
9. Rail work is not required.
10. Two or more horses may be entered by the same exhibitor.
11. After enough horses have completed the course for the ribbons awarded, any horse with a major fault may be eliminated at the judge's discretion, without completing the course.
12. Obvious unsoundness must be disqualified with no prize awarded.
13. Management, when setting courses, should keep in mind that the idea is not to trap a horse, or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to eliminate any accidents. When the distances and spaces are measured between all obstacles, the inside base to inside base measurement of each obstacle considering the normal path of the horse should be the measuring point. Enough space must be provided for a horse to jog [at least 30 feet (9 meters)] and lope [at least 50 feet (15 meters)] for the judges to evaluate these gaits.

### **Qualifying Gaits and Obstacles**

1. Obstacles which may be encountered include, but are not limited to; negotiation of a gate, carrying objects from one part of the arena to another, going through water, over logs or simulated brush, walking down into and up out of a ditch without lunging or jumping, crossing a bridge, backing through obstacles, side passing, or performing over any reasonable condition encountered along the trail. However, unnatural obstacles, such as fire extinguishers, perforated plywood, water boxes, live animals or unsafe elements such as hay bales, should be avoided.

2. In any section requiring a trot, if riding posting to the trot is optional.
3. The regular course will include a minimum of six obstacles and a maximum of eight obstacles except in the case of damaged obstacles
4. An introductory course will include a minimum of four obstacles and a maximum of six obstacles except in the case of damaged obstacles.
  - a) Walk-Over – An obstacle of at least four poles measuring 20 to 24 inches between poles either on the ground or raised with a maximum center height of 10 inches. These can be in a straight line, curved, or zigzag.
  - b) Trot-Over – An obstacle of at least four poles measuring 36 to 42 inches between poles either on the ground or raised with a maximum center height of 10 inches. These can be in a straight line, curved, or zigzag.
  - c) Side Pass – an obstacle of such nature and length which is safe and may be used to demonstrate the responsiveness of the horse to leg signals. If raised, height may not exceed 12 inches. The obstacle may be designed to require the horse to side pass either or both ways or in a pattern. Objects such as bales of hay that may become entangled in the horse's feet or legs will not be permitted.
  - d) Lime Circle – Requiring either a turn on the forehand with front feet inside and back feet on outside of a circle, or a turn on the haunches with hind feet inside and front feet outside of a circle.
  - e) Box – is a minimum 6 foot sides. Ride into the square. While all four feet are confined in the square make a 360 degree turn and ride out.
  - f) Gate – The gate must be set up so that it is a minimum of four feet in length and four feet in height and so that the exhibitor can open from his right or left side. It is permissible to change hands prior to opening the gate if the gate is in such a position as to justify the change of hands on the reins. Losing control of the gate while passing through shall be penalized and scored accordingly
  - g) Back Through – shall consist of Poles or a Straight L, double L, V, U or similar obstacles. On the ground 30 inches between minimum; elevated height not to exceed 12 inches. Back Through can also consist of Barrels or Cones – a minimum of three with at least 36 inches between. A Back Through can also be a triangle with 36 inches between, minimum, at entry and 40 inches between minimum for sides. If guardrails are used with barrels, cones, or triangle they shall be 3-4 feet from the sides of the obstacle
  - h) Bridge- with a wooden floor not to exceed 12 inches in height and with or without side rails not less than 36 inches apart will be used. A log placed under the bridge to create teeter-totter effect is not prohibited so long as it is secured to the bridge.
  - i) Water Hazard – a ditch or shallow pond of water may be used. A horse must pass through this obstacle which must be large enough so that to properly complete the obstacle all four feet of the horse must step in the water. Management may not place any item in the water. If a box is used, simulated

water is permissible. If a water box is used preceding and in combination with a bridge, simulated water must be used. Simulated water is a plastic sheet secured to the ground, so that it will not become affixed to the horse's foot when a horse passes over the simulated water.

- j) Carrying an Object – Any object, other than animal or fowl, and of a reasonable size or weight, may be carried to a specific point.
  - k) Drag or Pull – Any object other than animal or fowl which can reasonable be pulled or dragged without the exhibitor having to dally may be used.
  - l) Slicker – When this obstacle is used it will be located so that the exhibitor can ride to the slicker, put it on and remove it and return it to a designated place. Reins may be held or dropped on the neck of the horse or over the saddle horn while doing so if riding.
  - m) Mail Box – Remove and/or replace items. Side pass is optional
  - n) Ground Tie – Ride or proceed to the designated place, dismount and drop reins on the withers in front of the saddle or ground tie the horse and move away from the horse a reasonable distance to clearly show the proper training of the horse. To ground tie the reins shall be as follows; Spilt – drop the reins. Romal – remove the reins over the head of horse, unclip off rein and drop; Hackamore – drop lead. A mounting box will be provided.
  - o) Serpentine –An obstacle consisting of four pylons, guardrails optional, through which a horse will maneuver at a walk or jog. Guardrails shall consist of poles places parallel and a minimum of 3 feet from the side of pylons; walk pylons, minimum 3 feet apart, base to base. Jog pylons minimum 6 feet apart, base to base.
  - p) Jog Around – Square consisting of 4 poles, minimum 12 feet long, and a pylon placed in the center of the square. Exhibitor will enter over a designated pole, perform a minimum 90 degree jog around the pylon and exit over a designated pole.
  - q) Jog Through – Shall consist of poles L, double L, V, U or similar shaped obstacle. Placed on the ground at 3 feet minimum and 4 feet maximum; if elevated, between 39 inches minimum and 51 inches maximum. Elevated height shall not exceed 12 inches.
5. If at any time an obstacle is found to be unsafe, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all horses' scores. No horse shall be asked to repeat the course, except in the case of a tie.
  6. The class is to be shown at a walk and trot only, at this time.
  7. If an obstacle requires a dismount, a mounting block may be used to remount.



8. If a horse refuses to complete an obstacle three times it is considered a fault and the judge will ask the exhibitor to move to the next obstacle
9. Horses shall be disqualified if Off Course. Off Course is defined as;
  - a) Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction
  - b) Negotiation of an obstacle from the wrong side
  - c) Skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge
  - d) Negotiating the obstacles in the wrong sequence
  - e) Not following the correct line of travel
  - f) Failure to open and shut the gate or failure to complete gate

### **Appointments**

1. Horses may be shown in any discipline and appointments should reflect the chosen discipline.
2. No whips are allowed.
3. Knotted training type rope halters are not allowed.

### **Attire**

1. Dress for handlers and riders should be appropriate for the purpose and chosen discipline.
2. The exhibitor shall be dressed safe, neat, and clean.
3. Attire may not display a farm or owner's name, horse's name or logo.
4. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.
5. No T-shirts, shorts, skirts, strapless tops or canvas/cloth/opened toe shoes are allowed.
6. Handler's attire may be Western, English, or Sport type.
7. Rider's attire may be Western or English type.
8. Western attire should consist of a sleeved shirt with collar, jeans or long pants with suitable boots and hat. Belts, gloves, ties, scarves, vests and jackets are optional.
9. English attire may be either breeches or jodhpurs with boots and a shirt with tie or choker. Jackets, vests, gloves, belts. For In-Hand hats are optional. If hats are worn they must conform to General Conduct helmet rules. Half chaps are permitted.
10. Sport attire should consist of slacks or khakis with either a shirt or tie or an appropriate shirt. Footwear may be boots, closed toe shoes, or leather running shoes.
11. All Youth Riders are required to wear an equestrian ATSM/SEI helmet regardless of attire when mounted.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. The In Hand exhibitor should attempt to move the horse through the course with a minimal amount of touching for guidance. The horse that completes the obstacles with less physical manipulation should be rewarded over one that uses more physical force.

2. Speed will not be rewarded.
3. Entries will be evaluated on skill, responsiveness, willingness and general attitude.
4. Horses are to be judged on performance, obedience, willingness and manners.
5. Horses are to be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching an obstacle.
6. Judges are encouraged to ask any horse that is taking an excessive amount of time at an obstacle to advance on to the next obstacle.
7. Judges will assign a point value to each obstacle and points will be added to or subtracted from this score based on the horse's performance over that obstacle.

## **SCORING & FAULTS (SEE APPENDIX A)**

### **DRIVING DIVISION**

#### **PLEASURE DRIVING**

##### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing, and Hoof Sections.
2. A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for elimination from the class.
3. Driving rules are derived from and used with the permission of the American Driving Society. In the case of conflicts, the current Rules of the American Driving Society shall be applied.
4. The minimum competition age for a driving horse to compete is three years of age.

##### **Definitions**

1. Driver is the person controlling the reins and whip and brake.
2. Groom is the person capable of assisting in the event of difficulty.
3. Turnout refers to the combination of driver, horse(s), groom(s) and vehicle exhibiting in classes.

##### **Responsibilities**

1. It is the responsibility of each driver to ensure that harness and vehicle are in good repair and structurally sound.
2. The driver should always be the first person to enter the vehicle and the last to leave. Passengers must never be left on the vehicle while the driver is dismounted unless the passenger has taken control of the reins.
3. Drivers should maintain a safe distance from other vehicles during the competition and in the warm-up and parking areas.

4. All Youth in all competitions, whether driver, groom, or passenger, must wear equestrian helmet properly fastened protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM/SEI standards for equestrian use. Must conform to General Conduct helmet rules. It must be properly fitted with harness secured. Failure to comply will result in elimination. All competitors are strongly encouraged to wear equestrian ASTM/SEI approved protective helmet headgear, and no participant will be penalized for wearing protective headgear.
5. Whenever fully harnessed to a vehicle and while being harnessed to a vehicle, a horse must wear a bridle with reins attached and passed through the saddle terrets. Exceptions: Once a horse is fully harnessed to a vehicle, one rein at a time may be adjusted and Horses in multiple hitches must have at least one rein attached to the bridle while being harnessed to a vehicle.
6. The horse must never be left unattended while put to a vehicle
7. No change of driver is permitted except where specified.
8. It is preferred the driver sit on the right-hand side of the vehicle.
9. The driver should be seated comfortably on the box so as to be relaxed and effective. Either the one or two handed method of driving is acceptable. Common to methods, the elbows and arms should be close to the body with an allowing but steady hand enabling a consistent “feel” of the horse’s mouth. Drivers should not be penalized or rewarded for using one style over another.
10. An appropriate whip shall be carried in hand at all times while driving. The thong on the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the farthest horse. A driver not in compliance will severely penalized.
11. The driver should perform whip salute in one of two ways:
12. By moving the whip, held in the right hand, to a vertical position, the butt end even with the face.
13. By moving the whip, held in the right hand, to a position parallel with the ground, the handle before the face.
14. The whip salute is appropriate at the start and finish of an individual test, or at the beginning and end of a dressage test.
15. A gentleman may place the whip in his left hand and remove his hat.
16. A groom is optional for a single horse turnout.
17. One groom is required for a pair or tandem to assist in the event of difficulty.
18. Two grooms are required for four –in-hands or unicorns to assist in the event of difficulty
19. Passengers are permitted in vehicles, but must be appropriately dressed and must wear a hat or protective headgear. Youth Must wear an equestrian ASTM/SEI approved helmet.

#### **Attire-Drivers**

1. Drivers and passengers should be dressed conservatively according to the style of the present day. Exception: when showing traditional Gypsy vehicles, drivers and passengers may dress accordingly when there is a separate traditional vehicle class.
2. Gentlemen must wear a coat or jacket while appearing in any class unless excused from doing so by the judge or competition management.
3. Gentlemen are requested to remove hats while accepting awards.
4. Ladies must wear a conservative dress, tailored suit, or slacks. Floppy hats are discouraged.
5. Drivers must wear a hat, and gloves. Apron or Knee rug is optional.
6. Protective head gear is acceptable in all classes.

### **Attire-Grooms**

1. Grooms of either sex may wear stable livery in any but the more formal vehicles where full livery is appropriate. Where it is specifically allowed in the Prize List, less formal attire may be appropriate, but it should always be neat and clean. In all classes grooms shall wear a hat or protective headgear.
2. Stable Livery consists of one of the following;
  - a) A conservative suit, white shirt, dark tie, derby, dark shoes and leather gloves.
  - b) A conservative jacket, jodhpurs or drill trousers, jodhpur or paddock boots, white shirt, stock or four-in-hand tie, leather gloves, derby or conservative cap.
  - c) Hunting attire with hunting derby or bowler.
  - d) Protective headgear is acceptable in all classes

### **Turn Out for the Horse**

1. Braiding of the mane is optional.
2. Tails are not braided
3. It is prohibited to tie a tail to a vehicle or harness
4. The application of supplemental hair to mane or tail is prohibited.
5. Use of any foreign substance to induce a high tail carriage is prohibited.
6. Bridles should fit snugly.
7. Throatlatch and noseband are mandatory.
8. Both leather and synthetic harness are equally acceptable.
9. Black Harness is considered appropriate with painted vehicles, with the shafts or pole trimmed in black.
10. Black Harness is considered appropriate with natural wood vehicle with iron parts painted any color except brown, shaft and pole trimmings, dash and fenders are done in black.
11. Russet harness is considered appropriate with a natural wood vehicle with brown or black trim.

12. Russet harness is considered appropriate with a painted vehicle with natural wood panels with any color iron or with a vehicle painted brown with brown iron.
13. Shaft and pole trimmings should match the harness.
14. All metal furnishings should match, be secure, and polished.
15. Breast collars are appropriate with lightweight vehicles.
16. Full collars are suggested for heavy vehicles such as bow-tops, coaches, brakes, dog carts, etc.
17. A wide saddle is suggested for a two wheeled vehicle as more weight rests on the horse's back.
18. Narrower saddles are more appropriate for four wheeled vehicles.
19. Tying of tongues is prohibited.
20. Each horse requires a bridle with a bit. Burr, gag, and twisted wire bits of any type are not permitted in competition.
21. Drivers should strive to present an appropriate turnout. "Appropriate" indicates a balance and pleasing appearance of the combination of horse and vehicle.
22. Use of marathon vehicles is generally prohibited from participation in pleasure driving competitions. At the discretion of show management vehicles with wire wheels and/or pneumatic tires may be allowed, but this allowance must be stated in the Prize list.
23. False martingales are permitted in all classes. Standing martingales are allowed for Standhope type or Park Gate Gig vehicles.

## **Gaits**

1. **Walk** is a free walk, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate extension is ideal. The horse should walk energetically, but calmly, with even and determined pace. The walk is a four beat gait.
2. The **Trot** is a two beat gait.
3. **Slow Trot**: the horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The trot is slower and more collected, but not to the degree required in the dressage collected trot. The horse should indicate willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence.
4. **Working Trot**: this is the pace between strong and slow trot and more round than the strong trot. The horse goes forward freely and straight; engaging the hind legs with good hock action; on a taut, but light, rein; the position being balanced and unconstrained. The steps should be as even as possible. The hind feet should touch the ground in the foot prints of the fore feet. The degree of energy and impulsion displayed at the working trot denotes clearly the degree of suppleness and balance of the horse.
5. **Strong Trot**: This is a clear, but not excessive, increase in pace and lengthening of stride while remaining well balanced and showing appropriate lateral flexion on turns. Light contact to be maintained. Excessive speed will be penalized.
6. **Halt** – Horses and vehicle should be brought to a complete and square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt, the horses should stand attentive, motionless and

straight with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs and be ready to move off at the slightest indication from the driver.

7. **Rein Back** – is the backward movement in which the legs are raised and set down simultaneously in diagonal pairs with the hind legs remaining well in line. To be performed in two parts:
  - a) the horse must move backward at least four steps in an unhurried manner, with head flexed and straight, pushing the carriage back evenly in a straight line.
  - b) move forward willingly to original position using the same quiet aids.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Large classes may be split by the judge or competition management into more manageable groups.
2. The judge or competition management has discretion as to how the division is made, keeping the following in mind, when applicable;
3. Separation of multiple and single entries
4. Separation of 2 and 4 wheeled vehicles
5. Traditional gypsy vehicles to include Vardo (either wood sided or canvas bow-top), Dray, Pot Cart, Flat Cart, or Whoopi Cart can only be shown in a separate Traditional Vehicle class.
6. Ladies to Drive
7. Gentlemen to Drive
8. Youth to Drive (may not drive stallions and must be accompanied by a knowledgeable adult horseman at all times) and must wear an equestrian ASTM/SEI approved safety helmet. See General Conduct Rules helmet requirements.
9. Management has the option to have final placing determined by working off the leaders of each section or by awarding duplicate ribbons and/or awards for each section as if they were a separate class.
10. A pleasure driving competition is judged primarily on the performance and quality of each turnout.
11. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot.
12. A break in gait shall incur a penalty.
13. Any outside assistance incurs elimination.
14. No entry may leave the ring after judging has begun without permission from the judge.
15. Entries chosen for a work off may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the judge, and may be asked to execute a figure eight and/or perform other appropriate tests.
16. Management may restrict Combined Driving marathon vehicles from participation in Pleasure Driving competitions.

17. Wire-wheeled and pneumatic-tired vehicles may be permitted only at management's discretion and must be specified in the Omnibus / Prize List. Exception: antique vehicles with long wire spokes and hard rubber tires are allowed in all classes.

### **Pleasure Driving Turnout**

1. A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the performance and quality of each turnout. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot, and strong trot. To stand quietly and to rein back.
2. To be judged: 70% on the condition, fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle, neatness and appropriateness of attire and overall impression; 30% on performance, manners and way of going.

### **Pleasure Driving – Working**

1. A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the suitability of the horse to provide a pleasant drive. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. To stand quietly, both on the rail and while lined up, and to rein back.
2. All entries chosen for a workout may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the judge and/or may be asked to execute a figure of eight.
3. To be judged: 70% on performance, manners and way of going of the horse(s); 20% on the condition and fit of harness and vehicle; 10% on neatness of attire.

### **Ladies' Driving**

1. Entries are judged primarily on the suitability of the turnout for a lady with emphasis on manners. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot, and strong trot. Must rein back without resistance and must stand quietly at any location in the arena.
2. To be judged 50% on manners, performance, elegance and suitability of the turnout for a lady, 25% on skill of the driver, and 25% on overall impression.

### **Gentlemen's Driving**

1. Entries are judged primarily on the suitability of the turnout for a gentleman with emphasis on manners. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. May show a degree of boldness, but not excessive speed. Must rein back without resistance and must stand quietly at any location in the arena.  
To be judged 50% on manners, performance and suitability of the turnout for a gentleman, 25% on skill of the driver, and 25% on overall impression

## **Reinsmanship**

1. A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the ability and skill of the driver.
2. To be shown at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. Drivers shall
3. be required to rein back.
4. All drivers chosen for a workout may be worked at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a figure of eight and/or perform other appropriate tests.
5. The driver should be seated comfortably on the box so as to be relaxed and effective.
6. Either the one or two-handed method of driving is acceptable.
7. Common to both methods, the elbows and arms should be close to the body with an allowing but steady hand enabling a consistent “feel” with the horse’s mouth.
8. Drivers should not be penalized or rewarded for using one general style over another.
9. In order to evaluate a driver’s versatility, the judge may request a test involving driving with one hand.
10. To be judged: 75% on handling of reins and whip, control, posture, and overall appearance of driver; 25% on the condition of harness and vehicle and neatness of attire.

## **GROUND DRIVING IN HARNESS**

### **Definitions**

1. Driver is the person controlling the reins and whip.
2. Turnout refers to the combination of driver and a horse exhibiting in the class

### **Responsibilities**

1. It is the responsibility of each driver to ensure that the harness is in good repair.
2. Drivers should maintain a safe distance from other vehicle and ground driven horses and drivers during the competition and in the warm-up and parking areas.
3. All **Youth** in all Ground Driving competitions must wear property fastened equestrian protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM/SEI standards for equestrian use. It must be properly fitted with harness secured. Failure to comply will result in elimination. All competitors are strongly encouraged to wear equestrian ASTM/SEI approved protective headgear, and no participant will be penalized for wearing protective headgear.
4. A horse must wear a bridle with reins attached and passed through the saddle terrets.
5. No change of driver is permitted except where specified.
6. An appropriate whip shall be carried in hand at all times while driving. The thong on the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the farthest horse. A driver not in compliance will severely penalized.

### **Attire-Drivers**



1. Drivers should be dressed conservatively according to the style of the present day.
2. Gentlemen must wear a coat or jacket while appearing in any class unless excused from doing so by the judge or competition management.
3. Gloves are required.

### **Turn Out for the Horse**

1. Braiding of the mane is optional.
2. Tails are not braided.
3. It is prohibited to tie a tail to a harness
4. The application of supplemental hair to mane or tail is prohibited.
5. Use of any foreign substance to induce a high tail carriage is prohibited.
6. Bridles should fit snugly.
7. Throatlatch and cavesson are mandatory.
8. Black Harness or russet harness is considered appropriate.
9. Tying of tongues is prohibited.
10. Each horse requires a bridle with a bit. Burr, gag, and twisted wire bits of any type are not permitted in competition.
11. Drivers should strive to present an appropriate turnout. "Appropriate" indicates a balance and pleasing appearance of the combination of horse and driver.
12. False martingales are permitted in all classes.

### **Gaits**

1. **Walk** is a free walk, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate extension is ideal. The horse should walk energetically, but calmly, with even and determined pace. The walk is a four beat gait.
2. The **Trot** is a two beat gait
3. **Slow Trot**: the horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The trot is slower and more collected, but not to the degree required in the dressage collected trot. The horse should indicate willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence.
4. **Halt** – Horses and vehicle should be brought to a complete and square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt, the horses should stand attentive, motionless and straight with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs and be ready to move off at the slightest indication from the driver.
5. **Rein Back** – is the backward movement in which the legs are raised and set down simultaneously in diagonal pairs with the hind legs remaining well in line. To be performed in two parts:
  - a) the horse must move backward at least four steps in an unhurried manner, with head flexed and straight, pushing the carriage back evenly in a straight line.

- b) move forward willingly to original position using the same quiet aids

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. To be shown both ways of the arena in the pattern posted at a walk and slow trot or jog
2. Entries chosen for a work off may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the judge, and may be asked to execute a figure eight and/or perform other appropriate tests.
3. Scoring shall be on performance, manners; condition of the horse and fit of the harness and neatness of attire.

## **SPECIALTY CLASSES**

### **Costume**

#### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing, and Hoof Section.
2. Exhibitor is to give free expression to the imagination and creativity of the presentation
3. Exhibitors show individually or as a group.
4. Horses may be ridden or lead in-hand in Youth Classes. If offered, Open Costume Class must be Ridden only.
5. Ridden horses may have an assistant handler leading them if that attendant is also in costume in Youth Classes
6. Youth may not rider, lead or otherwise handle a stallion in this class. No exceptions.
7. Youth may not show in classes with any authentic weaponry, only with “stunt props” made of rubber or other non-metal materials.
8. Youth may not ride, lead or otherwise handle a stallion in this class

#### **Gaits**

1. Exhibitors shall enter in the ring at a walk in a counterclockwise direction.
2. Exhibitors may be asked to halt & stand quietly.
3. Light hand contact must be maintained.
4. Entries are to be shown at the walk both ways of the ring.
5. A ridden/driven division will be shown at a walk and trot in both directions. All gaits should be natural and in conformance with the costume.
6. Horses may not be asked to back.
7. Horses must be under control of the rider (or handler) at all times.
8. Line up position is at the discretion of the Judge.

### **Appointments and Attire**

1. It will be at the Judge's discretion to decide if a costume is unsafe or creates an unsafe atmosphere in which case it will be cause for elimination.
2. Costumes should be made of durable material and securely attached, such that no part of costume falls off during the class.
3. Regarding appointments, exhibitor safety should be the primary consideration.
4. Horses must be shown with an "approved" bit. Twisted, burr, wire gag bits of any type are not permitted. Curb chains are also allowed and must be at least 1/2 inch in width and lie flat against the jaw. Mechanical Hackamores are prohibited. Ornamental bridles are permitted. Running martingales are permitted. Military martingales are permitted on military presentations only. Standing martingales or tie downs are prohibited
5. All Saddles, Sidesaddles, and girths are permissible, as well as "period" or "fantasy" saddles that are deemed safe.
6. Swords and daggers are permitted provided they have a sheath with a secondary guard and remain sheathed at all times. Any other weaponry such as an ax or mace, must be sheathed to prevent injury to exhibitors.
7. Drawing or brandishing swords, daggers, or any other weaponry on Competition grounds is not permitted and will result in disqualification.
8. Lances may not exceed 6 feet in length and must have a blunted point and be carried in the upright position only.
9. Weaponry appointments that cannot be secured by sheath and a secondary guard are to be inspected during the warm up by a technical official prior to class commencement.
10. Articles that are perceived to be important to the overall presentation, which are not permitted due to safety issues, may be substituted with "stunt props" made of rubber or other non-metal materials.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Classes are to be judged on creativity, originality, dramatic and or humorous value, and authenticity to period, suitability of costume to horse and handler and manners.
2. Competition management may split the costume class into divisions with one being a ridden/driven division and one being an in-hand division.
3. Manners are paramount.
4. Excessive speed or unsafe conduct is to be severely penalized or disqualified

### **Freestyle Riding**

#### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing, and Hoof Section.
2. Exhibitor is to give free expression to the imagination and creativity of the presentation
3. Exhibitors may show individually or as pairs.

4. The presentation is a **Maximum of 3** minutes long.
5. Music and commentary (if applicable) should be included with the entry.
6. This is a riding class. Therefore, tack and attire should not interfere with the rider's ability to control the horse at all times. **No Costumes in Freestyle** which also includes props, riders hands may only touch the reins or mane at any time during the performance.
7. The exhibitor is responsible for music and turning the music in to the competition management in a timely manner. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to have the music in an acceptable media. Using a CD - Mark CD Case With: Class #, Horse Name, Music Track # if applicable. Show Management is not responsible for CD's that do not play correctly or skip, malfunction. It is the Owner, Agent responsibility to test music prior to the presentation with the Announcer/Music Steward. No Cell Phone music or YouTube links will be accepted. Show Management can provide an email to send music to (MP3) for purpose of convenience and to que music for rider lineup. **Show Management can also download music from internet.**
8. Youth exhibitors may not ride a stallion.
9. Competitors will compete individually and then leave the ring.
10. Before planning to perform a **bridleless or saddleless (or both)** freestyle, the exhibitor must contact the show manager or **technical steward** to be sure the arena is safe enough and permitted by management. **Show management's decision is final.**
11. Competitors will compete individually and then leave the arena
12. Horses must be under control of the rider (or handler) at all times.
13. Line up position is at the discretion of the Judge.

### **Appointments and Attire**

1. It will be at the Judge's discretion to decide if a competitor is unsafe or creates an unsafe atmosphere in which case it will be cause for elimination.
2. Exhibitor safety should be a primary consideration.
3. Horses must be shown with an "approved" bit. Twisted, burr, wire gag bits of any type are not permitted. Curb chains are also allowed and must be at least 1/2 inch in width and lie flat against the jaw. Mechanical Hackamores are prohibited. Stallions to be ridden in a bitted bridle. Ornamental bridles are permitted. Running martingales are permitted. Standing martingales or tie downs are prohibited.
4. Tack and Attire must be appropriate for the discipline that is being ridden by competitor.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Classes are to be judged as follows:
  - a. 50% Artistic Expression – including creativity, originality, dramatic and or humorous value, and manners
  - b. 50% Technical Merit – quality of movement, degree of difficulty, harmony between horse and rider.

- c. Manners are a consideration.
- d. Class may be split as deemed necessary by Competition Management.
- e. Excessive speed or unsafe conduct is to be severely penalized or disqualified.

## **Command Class – Under Saddle**

### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing, and Hoof Section.
2. Horse can be ridden any discipline unless specified in the class listing.
3. A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for elimination from the class.
4. Youth exhibitors may not ride a stallion.

### **Gaits**

1. Horses must be under control of the rider (or handler) at all times.
2. Horses enter the ring counter clockwise at the trot.
3. The judge gives “Commands” and the horse/rider have 3 strides to perform the transition or the command. Any horse/rider that does not is pulled into the center of the ring and is “out”.
4. The judge can ask for walk, trot and canter/lope, reverse, halt, backup. When the judge gets down to the final competitors without cause for elimination, then they can get creative and call for a counter canter, side pass facing the rail or facing the center, or other more difficult tasks.

### **Appointments and Attire**

1. It will be at the Judge’s discretion to decide if a competitor is unsafe or creates an unsafe atmosphere in which case it will be cause for elimination.
2. Exhibitor safety should be a primary consideration.
3. Tack and attire must be appropriate to the discipline ridden by the competitor.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

Placements are based on order of elimination (last to be eliminated is 1<sup>st</sup> place, next is 2<sup>nd</sup> etc)

Placements are strictly based on order of elimination due to performing the command, without regard to quality of gait or transitions.

## **Liberty**

### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section and Conformation sections.

2. Exhibitor is to give free expression to the imagination and creativity of the presentation.
3. Exhibitors may show individually or with a helper.
4. The presentation must be one and a half minutes (1 ½).
5. All horses must be two years or older.
6. Music may be dropped in Show Office upon check in. Mark CD case with: Class #, Horse Name, Music Track # if applicable. Show Management may give an email to send Music (MP3 format) prior to the show date. Show Management is not responsible for CD's that do not play correctly or skip, malfunction. It is the Owner, Agent responsibility to test music prior to the presentation with the Announcer/Music Steward. No Cell Phone music or YouTube links will be accepted. **Show management can download music from internet. Youth exhibitors may not present a stallion.**
7. Competitors will compete individually and then leave the ring.
8. The exhibitor and helper, if applicable, enter the arena with the horse. At the first sound of music, **the In Hand Bridle or Halter is Removed** and the horse runs "free" in the arena demonstrating various gaits, or just playing along with the music. The music should be timed to exactly one and half minutes (1 ½). Once the music stops, the exhibitor has exactly two (2) minutes to catch and replace the Bridle or Halter on the horse's head. A helper may assist in the arena to keep the horse in motion but may not catch or touch the horse. Neither the exhibitor nor the helper may touch the horse in any way during the performance. One Whip per exhibitor and helper are allowed. No other props or aids may be used. Bull whips not allowed. Baiting to catch the horse is not permitted. The exhibitor is responsible for turning the music in to the competition management in a timely manner.

### **Attire**

1. Dress for the handlers should be appropriate for the purpose.
2. The exhibitor shall be dressed safe, neat and clean.
3. Attire may not display a farm or owner's name, horse's name or logo.
4. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.
5. No T-shirts, shorts, skirts, strapless tops or canvas/cloth shoes are allowed.
6. Footwear may be boots, closed toe shoes or leather running shoes.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Horses to be judged on movement, showing various gaits in each direction, style, type and quality. Use of entire arena in both directions. Consideration is to be given to how the horse performed during his exhibition. Horses will to "show off" and keep moving with moderate encouragement from the exhibitor and helper are preferred over those that need constant pushing and whip cracking from the exhibitor and helper.
2. The horse should give the impression that he/she is enjoying their Liberty class time, not so much that he/she is being forced to perform.
3. Classes may be split as deemed by competition management.

## **Pro-Am Class Western or English Pleasure**

### **GENERAL**

1. This class will be judged in two parts. The professional exhibitor will ride first. At the judge's direction, the professional will dismount and the amateur will mount and work the horse in the second direction of the ring. The Amateur rider need not be an Amateur Owner.

A. This class may be combined with English & Western Pro Am exhibitors or Separated into English only and Western only at show management's discretion.

B. Appointments for tack and attire see Basic Western and English Rules.

C. Exhibitor pair must stay in the discipline chosen. No Western/English pair allowed. i.e., English & English or Western & Western pairs only may enter the class.

D. Exhibitor may bring a mounting block into center ring – prior to the class commencing. Gaits 1. Walk, Jog-Trot, Lope-Canter (judge's discretion - extensions of each gaits for pro).

E. Horses will be shown at the walk, jog-trot and lope-canter both ways of the arena. As per Class List designation.

F. Horses will be shown at the walk, Jog-trot both ways of the arena. As per Class List designation.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. The professional will be judged as in an open class (i.e., extensions may be asked for at any gait) in the first direction.

A. When ridden by the professional rider, the horse will be judged on performance.

B. When ridden by the amateur rider, horses will be judged on manners, performance, type, quality and attitude.

C. Points are awarded to the Pro's point tally – not the Amateur Division tally.

## **Concours D'Elegance Under Saddle WT/WJ**

GENERAL Concours D' Elegance class is derived from an era of sophistication and pure elegance. This class takes you back to a specific time and place, Victorian England, think Hyde Park where if you were of means you spent a leisurely morning out and about to see and be seen.

The attire of dressing is specific to England during the reign of Queen Victoria. The attire is to convey the clean, classic historically elegant times using color, texture and embellishments. No penalty for safety helmet incorporated into the design. Decoration to be kept in moderation (no plumes, bells etc.)

### **Appointment & Attire**

The Exhibitor attire to be depicting equestrian elegance from the Victorian or Edwardian era. NO costuming for the Horse. The attire of this period clothing need not be authentic. Top hats and correct era hats are encouraged. Gaits Exhibitor will walk-jog/trot. Collected or extended gaits can be asked for at the discretion of the judge. The class is shown both ways of the ring at a walk-jog/trot. Excessive speed shall be penalized.

**Judging Criteria and Class Specifications** Judged on 50% - correct era appearance - being an elegance and couture presentation. Performance 50% - the horse is to give a brilliant performance with style, presence, finish, balance and cadence. Horse tack is to match the discipline (all western tack etc. no mixture of tack). The tack and attire must be in safe and serviceable condition. The judge will dismiss any unsafe entry whether due to equipment/attire or behavior of the animal. All Youth must wear an ASTM/SEI certified equestrian riding helmet.

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW:** Held after the Circuit is completed.

How to Qualify:

Horse must have attend a minimum of 2 Shows in current show circuit season. Yearlings must only attend 1 show to qualify.

Qualify by placing 1st—6th in the respective classes (final class list) **at 1 of the 2 shows** attended. Youth & Amateurs must be same Horse/Exhibitor.

National Championship Show class list is made up of all core/basic sponsored show classes. Final class list is posted per deadline given, prior to Show.

Current year of qualifying show rules apply. The classes by age will be the classes you qualified in that Year. Not classes where you have an age change (exhibitor/equine) as of Jan 1<sup>st</sup> the new year.



## **APPENDIX A FOR TRAIL IN HAND & UNDER SADDLE**

Scoring will be on the basis of 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 1/2 to minus 1 1/2: -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, +1 very good, +1 1/2 excellent. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

### **PENALITIES**

Penalties should be assessed, per occurrence, as follows:

**1. One-half (1/2) point**

each tick or contact of a log, pole, cone, plant, or any component of an obstacle

**2. One (1) point**

each hit, bite, or stepping on a log, cone, plant or any component of the obstacle

incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for two strides or less

both front or hind feet in a single-strided slot or space at a walk or jog

skipping over or failing to step into required space

split pole in lope-over incorrect number of strides, if specified

**3. Three (3) points**

incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for more than two strides

out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead)

knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant, obstacle, or severely disturbing an obstacle

falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or a water box with one foot once the horse has got onto or into that obstacle

stepping outside of the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (i.e. back through, 360 degree box, side pass) with one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle.

missing or evading a pole that is a part of a series of an obstacle with one foot

**4. Five (5) points**

dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course

first or second cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing

letting go of gate or dropping rope gate

use of either hand to instill fear or praise

falling or jumping off or out of a bridge or a water box with more than one foot once the horse has got onto or into that obstacle

stepping outside of the confines of an obstacle with designated boundaries (i.e. back through, 360 degree box, side pass) with more than one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle.

missing or evading a pole that is a part of a series of an obstacle with more than one foot

blatant disobedience (including kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking)

holding saddle with either hand

## 5. Disqualified 0 – Score

use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore classes designated for two hands) or changing hands on reins; except for junior horses shown with hackamore or snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, except that it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle as outlined in WESTERN PLEASURE DIVISION, or to straighten reins when stopped.

use of romal other than as outlined in WESTERN PLEASURE DIVISION

performing the obstacle incorrectly or other than in specified order

no attempt to perform an obstacle

equipment failure that delays completion of pattern

excessively or repeatedly touching the horse on the neck to lower the head to **make move**

entering or exiting an obstacle from the incorrect side or direction

working obstacle the incorrect direction; including overturns of more than 1/4 turn

riding outside designated boundary marker of the arena or course area

third cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing

failure to ever demonstrate correct lead and/or gait as designated

failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles

excessive schooling, pulling, turning, stepping or backing anywhere on course

~~failure to open and shut gate or failure to complete gate~~

Points System – Classes will receive ribbons 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> .... Points will be tabulated for all exhibitor placings through the displayed levels below.

#entries in class	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>
1	1														
2	2	1													
3	3	2	1												
4	4	3	2	1											
5	5	4	3	2	1										
6	6	5	4	3	2	1									
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1								
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1							
9	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1						
10	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1					
11	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1				
12	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
13	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
14	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
15+	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Dressage Test %	Points
< 50%	1
51 – 55.99%	2
56 – 60.99%	3
61 – 65.99%	4
66 – 70.99%	5
71 – 75.99%	6
76 – 80.99%	7
81 – 85.99%	8
86 – 100.00%	9