

## NAH Open Show Series Rules

### General Show and Ground Rules

All Horses/Ponies must show an original current Coggins Test dated within one year for each horse exhibited, and any other horse brought to the show grounds. Anyone without such documentation will be excused from the Show Grounds and refused entrance to classes.

NO EXCEPTIONS!

- **NO DOGS ALLOWED! on show grounds PERIOD!**
- All entries must be accompanied by full payment of all necessary fees by way of cash or open check.
- There will be a \$10.00 Office fee for Day of Show Entries at each show
- Pre Entry Class Fees \$8.00 Day of Show Entry Fees \$10
- All Day Fee \$60 (excludes Jackpot Classes)
- Jackpot Added money only if 3 or more Entries
- All fields on registration form must be filled out completely.
- Release of Liability must also be signed by exhibitor and parent or guardian of exhibitor in under 18 years of age.
- Need A Hand Horse Training, Participants Staff, and Volunteers will not be held responsible for accident, loss, injuries to exhibitors, spectators, or animals, or damage to equipment.
- Should any question or dispute arise that is not provided for in the rules, the decision will be left to the show management whose decision will be final.
- The judge's decisions are FINAL!
- Exhibitors are hereby notified that any act of discourtesy or disobedience to judge or show officials on the part of the owner, trainer, rider, groom or parent shall be grounds to disqualify the horse and all entry fees and prizes will be forfeited.
- Any exhibitor or spectator who is abusive to any individual or animal may be removed from the grounds. Safety is our main concern both in and out of the ring.
- No cursing, poor sportsmanship or bad conduct will be tolerated and exhibitors will be asked to leave with NO refund of class fess.
- The show management has the right to split, combine, or cancel classes for divisions when there are 3 entries or less.
- Walk/Trot riders may not show in any canter class with the same HORSE/Rider combination.
- Un-judged rides will be allowed at the regular entry fee and must be registered prior to the class start. This is subject to time allowance and show management has the right to cancel at any time.
- In regards to English \*See AQHA rules for Tack and Equipment, for Western/Ranch Division AQHA rules for tack and equipment
- Dress is casual (ie boots and breeches or half Chaps) **No** sleeveless shirts, tank tops, halter tops, or spaghetti strap shirts. Shoulders must be covered. Appropriate heeled boots and headgear are required. All English classes must wear helmet when mounted.
- Age of rider is determined "as of" January 1 of current year.
- All exhibitors are expected to clean the area around their trailer and to take any manure home with them for the safety and care of horses housed on the property
- Scratches may be made with FULL REFUND ONLY if done **5 classes ahead.** Ex. Entry is in class 15 but scratches during class 9 will receive a refund. Entry entered in class 15 but scratches at class 11 will not receive a refund.

- Class may be only be added 5 CLASSES in advance. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- All Entries will close for the first 5 Classes 15 minutes before show start time.
- If a rider/handler enters a class and is asked to leave for the safety of their selves and others or a rider is disqualified from a class there will be no refunds.

### **Points**

Points will be awarded as follows:

First Place =	7 points
Second Place =	5 points
Third Place =	4 points
Fourth Place =	4 points
Fifth Place =	2 points
Sixth Place+	1 point

### **Year End Awards**

To qualify for year end awards the rider must have shown in a minimum of (2) two shows.

Points will be awarded to each rider and may not be transferred.

Points will accumulate for each calendar year.

To receive Year End prizes participants must be present at the awards banquet and hold a current membership purchased for \$15. Points will only be counted for after membership is purchased.

### **Membership**

Annual Fees

Individual Membership (1) \$15

All riders interested in competing for yearend awards will need to purchase an annual membership with the NAH Open Show Series. A year end banquet will be held at the conclusion of the show season.

Points from a previous show will not count if participant did not purchase membership at that show.

### **Divisions**

Hunter 8 & under, 9-13, 14-18 Adult

In Hand Youth

In Hand Adult

Ranch 8 & Under, 9-13, 14-18, Adult

Walk Trot English 8 & under, 9-13, 14-18, Adult

Walk Trot Western 8 & under 9-13, 14-18, Adult

Trail

Western 8 & under, 9-13, 14-18, Adult

## **Divison Entries and Equipment**

### **General**

- Walk Trot Classes are designed for Beginner Riders and Horses. No Rider may enter a Walk/Trot Class and Canter class in the same seat but may enter a canter class in a different seat.
  - Ex. Susie shows Jack in walk trot Hunter Under Saddle and shows Jack in Youth Ranch Riding.
- Riders may not show the same horse/rider combination in Western and Ranch divisions however the same horse may show in both divisions.
  - Ex. Susie shows Preacher in western pleasure and Bob shows preacher in Ranch Riding.
- Riders must enter appropriate age division and may not ride UP an age division unless their age division is not offered for that class.
- Youth may not show in Adult as Adult may not show in Youth
- OPEN classes are open to all ages and riding levels
- Adult classes are open to all adults (Professionals, Novice, Amateur etc.)
- Horses may wear protective boots and leg wraps in any class except showmanship and halter, however, if the judge or show management feels these items are being used in a manner other than their designed purpose the rider may be asked to remove leg gear.
- For western/ ranch divisions horses may be shown in a snaffle at any age.
  - Horses shown in a snaffle or bosal must be shown two handed and horses shown in a curb/shank bit must be shown one handed.
  - Chin Straps are permissible but must meet the approval of the judge, be at least ½ inch in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse.
- **Optional Equipment**
  - Spurs, not to be used forward of the cinch, except in showmanship and halter classes where they are prohibited.
  - Chaps, except in showmanship and halter classes, where they are not allowed
  - Crops in English classes to be used behind the shoulder

### **Prohibited Equipment**

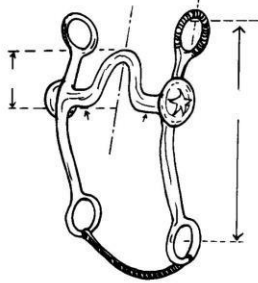
- Wire chin Straps, regardless of how padded or covered
- Any chin strap narrower than ½ inch
- Martingales and draw reins
- Nosebands and Tie-Downs or mechanical hackamores
-

## Western

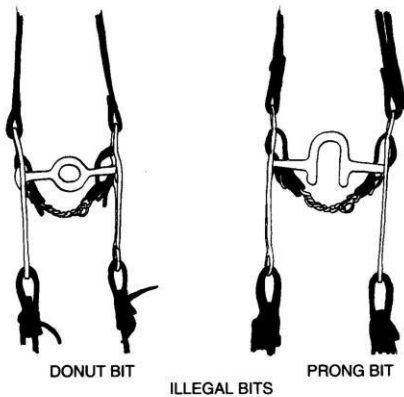
### ACCEPTABLE CHAIN CURB STRAPS



### WESTERN BITS



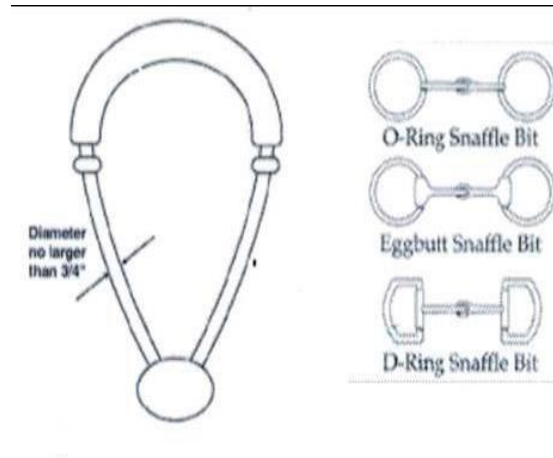
LEGAL BIT



DONUT BIT

ILLEGAL BITS

PRONG BIT



## Western Pleasure

A good pleasure horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with his conformation. He should cover a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. Ideally, he should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gaits is a major consideration. He should carry his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with his poll level with or slightly above the level of the withers. He should not carry his head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. His head should be level with his nose slightly in front of the vertical, having a bright expression with his ears alert. He should be shown on a reasonably loose rein, but with light contact and control. He should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions when called for. When asked to extend, he should move out with the same flowing motion. Maximum credit should be given to the flowing, balanced and willing horse that gives the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride.

Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads. At the option of the judge, horses may be asked to lengthen their stride at the walk or lope, one or both ways of the ring. A moderated extension of the jog is a

definite two-beat lengthening of stride, covering more ground. Cadenced and balanced with smoothness is more essential than speed. Riders should sit at the moderated extension of the jog. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly. Passing is permissible and should not be penalized as long as the horse maintains a proper and even cadence and rhythm.

Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or jog at the discretion of the judge, but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope.

Horses to be shown at a walk, jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein or light contact without undue restraint.

Faults to be scored according to severity:

- (1) Excessive speed (any gait)
- (2) Being on the wrong lead
- (3) Breaking gait (including not walking when called for)
- (4) Excessive slowness in any gait, loss of forward momentum (resulting in an animated and/or artificial gait at the lope)
- (5) Failure to take the appropriate gait when called for (during transitions, excessive delay will be penalized)
- (6) Touching horse or saddle with free hand
- (7) Head carried too high
- (8) Head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers)
- (9) Overflexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical
- (10) Excessive nosing out
- (11) Opening mouth excessively
- (12) Stumbling
- (13) Use of spurs forward of the cinch
- (14) If a horse appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired
- (15) Quick, choppy or pony-strided
- (16) If reins are draped to the point that light contact is not maintained.
- (17) Overly canted at the lope. (when the outside hind foot is further to the inside of the arena than the inside front foot)

## **Western Horsemanship**

The western horsemanship class is designed to evaluate the rider's ability to execute, in concert with their horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position. The ideal horsemanship pattern is extremely precise with the rider and horse working in complete unison, executing each maneuver with subtle aids and cues. The horse's head and neck should be carried in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with or slightly above the withers. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance.

**CLASS PROCEDURES:** All exhibitors must enter the ring and then work individually, or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When exhibitors are worked individually from the gate, a working order is required. Exhibitors should be instructed to either leave the arena, fall into line, or fall into place on the rail after their work. The whole class, or just the finalists, at the judges discretion may work at all three gaits at least one direction of the arena. If the Judge does not feel rail work is needed to place the class they may decline to work horses on the rail. The following maneuvers are acceptable in a pattern: walk, jog, trot, extended trot, lope or extended lope in a straight line, curved line,serpentine, circle or figure 8, or combination of these gaits and maneuvers; stop; back in a straight or curved line; turn or pivot, including spins and rollbacks on the haunches and/or on the forehand; sidepass, two-track or leg-yield; flying or simple change of lead; counter-canter; or any other maneuver; or ride without stirrups. A back should be asked for at sometime during the class. Judges should not ask exhibitors to mount or dismount.

**SCORING:** Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to 100 with 70 denoting an average performance. One-half point increments are acceptable. Run content scores will be indicated as follows:

- + = Above Average
- (check mark)= Average
- – = Below Average

**Overall Presentation of Exhibitor and Horse –** The exhibitor's overall poise, confidence, appearance and position throughout the class as well as the physical appearance of the horse will be evaluated.

Clothes and person are to be neat and clean.

### **Position of Exhibitor**

- the exhibitor should appear natural in the seat and ride with a balanced, functional and correct position regardless of the maneuver or gait being performed. During the rail work and pattern, the exhibitor should have strong, secure and proper position. Exhibitors should sit and maintain an upright position with the upper body at all gaits.
- the rider should sit in the center of the saddle and the horse's back with the legs hanging to form a straight line from the ear, through the center of the shoulder and hip, touching the back of the heel or through the ankle. The heels should be lower than the toes, with a slight bend in the knee and the lower leg should be directly

under the knee. The rider's back should be flat, relaxed and supple. An overly stiff and/or overly arched lower back will be penalized. The shoulders should be back, level and square. The rider's base of support should maintain secure contact with the saddle from the seat to the inner thigh. Light contact should be maintained with the saddle and horse from the knee to mid-calf. The knee should point forward and remain closed with no space between the exhibitor's knee and the saddle. The exhibitor will be penalized for positioning the legs excessively behind or forward of the vertical position. Regardless of the type of stirrup, the feet may be placed home in the stirrup, with the boot heel touching the stirrup, or may be placed with the ball of the foot in the center of the stirrup. The rider's toes should be pointing straight ahead or slightly turned out with the ankles straight or slightly broken in. Riding with toes only in the stirrup will be penalized. Those exhibitors that can maintain the proper position throughout all maneuvers should receive more credit. When riding without stirrups, the exhibitor should maintain the same position as previously described. Both hands and arms should be held in a relaxed, easy manner, with the upper arm in a straight line with the body. The arm holding the reins should be bent at the elbow forming a line from the elbow to the horse's mouth. The free hand and arm may be carried bent at the elbow in a similar position as the hand holding the reins or straight down at the riders side. Excessive pumping of the free arm as well as excessive stiffness will be penalized. The rider's wrist is to be kept straight and relaxed, with the hand held at about 30 to 45 degrees inside the vertical. The rein hand should be carried immediately above or slightly in front of the saddle horn. The reins should be adjusted so that the rider has light contact with the horse's mouth, and at no time shall reins require more than a slight hand movement to control the horse. Excessively tight or loose reins will be penalized.

- the rider's head should be held with the chin level and the eyes forward, and may be directed slightly toward the direction of travel. Excessive turning of the head to the inside of the circle, or down at the horse's head or shoulder will be penalized.
- the exhibitor should not crowd the exhibitor next to or in front of them when working on the rail and should pass to the inside of the arena. When reversing on the rail, the exhibitor should always reverse to the inside of the arena.

#### Presentation of Horse

- the horse's body condition and overall health and fitness should be assessed. The horse should appear fit and carry weight appropriate for the body size. A horse which appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired should be penalized according to severity.
- tack should fit the horse properly and be neat, clean and in good repair.

#### Performance

- the exhibitor should perform the work accurately, precisely, smoothly, and with a reasonable amount of promptness. Increasing speed of the maneuvers performed increases the degree of difficulty; however, accuracy and precision should not be sacrificed for speed. Exhibitors that perform the pattern sluggishly and allow their horse to move without adequate impulsion, collection or cadence will be penalized.
- the horse should perform all maneuvers in the pattern willingly, briskly and readily with minimal visible or audible cueing. Severe disobedience will not result in a disqualification, but should be severely penalized, and the exhibitor should

not place above an exhibitor that completes the pattern correctly. Failure to follow the prescribed pattern, knocking over or working on the wrong side of the cones, excessive schooling or training, or willful abuse by the exhibitor is cause for disqualification.

- the horse should track straight, freely and at the proper cadence for the prescribed gait. Transitions should be smooth and prompt in the pattern and on the rail, and should be performed when called for on the rail. The horse's head and neck should be straight and in line with their body while performing straight lines and slightly arched to the inside on curved lines or circles. Circles should be round and performed at the appropriate speed, size and location as requested in the pattern. The counter-canter should be performed smoothly with no change in cadence or stride unless specified in the pattern.
- the stop should be straight, square, prompt, smooth and responsive with the horse maintaining a straight body position throughout the maneuver. The back should be smooth and responsive.
- turns should be smooth and continuous. When performing a turn on the haunches, the horse should pivot on the inside hind leg and step across with the front legs. A rollback is a stop and 180 degree turn over the hocks with no hesitation. Backing during turns will be penalized severely
- the horse should step across with the front and hind legs when performing the sidepass, leg-yield and two-track. The sidepass should be performed with the horse keeping the body straight while moving directly lateral in the specified direction. When performing a leg-yield, the horse should move forward and lateral in a diagonal direction with the horse's body arced opposite to the direction that the horse is moving. In the two-track, the horse should move forward and lateral in a diagonal direction with the horse's body held straight or bent in the direction the horse is moving.
- a simple or flying change of lead should be executed precisely in the specified number of strides and/or at the designated location. A simple change of lead is performed by breaking to a walk or trot for one to three strides. Flying changes should be simultaneous front and rear. All changes should be smooth and timely.
- position of the exhibitor and performance of the horse and rider on the rail must be considered in the final placing.

Faults: Faults can be classified as minor, major or severe. The judge will determine the appropriate classification of a fault based upon the degree and/or frequency of the infraction. An exhibitor that incurs a severe fault avoids elimination, but should be placed below all other exhibitors that complete the pattern correctly. A minor fault can become a major fault and a major fault can become a severe fault when the degree and/or frequency of the infraction(s) merits.

#### (A) Minor faults

- Break of gait at walk or jog/trot up to 2 strides
- Over/under turn up to 1/8 of turn
- Head carried too high
- Head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers)
- Overflexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical
- Excessive nosing out



(B) Major faults

- Break of gait at a lope, out of lead or missing lead for 1-2 strides
- Not stopping within 10 feet of designated area
- Incorrect gait or break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides
- Over turn of more than 1/8 turn, but not more than 1/4
- exhibitor looking down to check leads
- failure of bottom of boot to be in contact with the pad of the stirrup

(C) Severe Faults (avoids disqualification but should be placed below other exhibitors that do not incur a severe fault) include:

- Loss of stirrup or rein
- Missing a lead for more than 2 strides
- touching horse
- grabbing the saddle horn or any other part of the saddle
- cueing with the end of the romal
- spurring in front of the shoulder
- kicking at other horses, exhibitors or judge
- severe disobedience or resistance by horse including, but not limited to, rearing bucking or pawing
- knocking over the cone, going off pattern or working on wrong side of cone

(D) Disqualifications (should not be placed) include:

- willful abuse
- knocking over the cone, going off pattern or working on wrong side of cone
- fall by horse or rider
- illegal use of hands on reins
- use of prohibited equipment
- overturning more than 1/4 of prescribed turn

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

90-100 Excellent rider, including body position and use of aids. Completes pattern accurately, quickly, smoothly and precisely while demonstrating a high level of professionalism.

80-89 Above average performance in execution of the pattern as well as correct horsemanship and use of aid. Excellent horseman that commits a minor fault.

70-79 Average pattern execution and average horsemanship lacking adequate style and professional presentation to merit elevating to the next scoring range. Above average rider that commits a minor fault.

60-69 Below average pattern that lacks quickness or precision or rider has obvious position and/or appearance faults that prevents effective horsemanship; or an average horseman that commits two minor faults in the performance of the pattern. An excellent rider that commits a major fault.

50-59 One major fault or multiple minor faults in the performance. A rider that demonstrates a lack of riding ability and knowledge of correct body position.

40-49 A rider that commits a severe fault, two or more major faults or multiple minor faults in the performance or the exhibitor that demonstrates a lack of riding ability and knowledge of correct body position.

10-39 Rider that commits more than one severe fault of multiple major faults in performance or exhibits poor riding skills but completes the class and avoids disqualification.

### **Walk/ Trot Classes**

The overall performance of the horse will be judged according to the ideals of the discipline specific class and the rider's performance will be judged according to the horsemanship/equitation skills on the rail. This class is designed to allow the beginner rider show experience with other riders of similar riding experience.

### **Ranch Pleasure (Rail Class Only)**

A horse will be shown at three gaits - the walk, jog and lope. He will also be asked to reverse away from the rail, to stop and to back. The judge may ask for an extended walk or jog. Extended jog may be ridden by sitting in the saddle, posting or standing in the stirrups.

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

A superior ranch riding horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with his conformation and covering a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. Ideally, he should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits with proper cadence and rhythm. The quality of the movement and consistency of the gaits is a major consideration.

Exhibitor should not be penalized for picking up reins or moving horses body if horse is soft, willing and free of resistance but should receive credit. Horse should be credited for softness when picking up through transitions, departures, stops, and back-ups. (This should not be confused with constant pulling and jerking around the arena as this shall be faulted according to severity).

A willing horse will not ring their tail, or be blatantly disobedient to the rider's cues or demands. The horse should drive off his hind quarters using it as a driving force for his body. The horse should not carry his head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving the appearance of resistance. He should have a bright expression with his ears alert, he should be mannerly without the appearance of a dull, sullen lethargic drawn or overly tired attitude. He should be shown on a reasonable loose rein, but with light contact and control. He should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions when called for. When asked to extend, he should move out with the same flowing motion.

Maximum credit should be to given to the horse that has a flowing stride, is balanced, and that gives the appearance of being willing, fit, alert and a pleasure to ride while possessing great athletic ability and agility.

**A)** This class will be judged on the performance, athletic ability, condition and conformation of the horse.

**B)** Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads. At the option of the judge, horses may be asked to extend the walk and the jog, one or both ways of the ring. The extended jog is a definite two-beat lengthening of the stride, covering more ground. Cadence and balance with smoothness are more essential than speed. Passing is permissible and should not be penalized as long as the horse maintains a proper and even cadence and rhythm. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly.

**C)** Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or jog at the discretion of the judge, but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope.

**D)** Judge may ask for additional and individual(s) work of the same nature from any horse.

**E)** Rider shall not be required to dismount except in the event the judge wishes to check equipment.

**F)** Horses are to be shown at a walk, jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein or light contact without undue restraint.

**Faults to be scored according to severity:**

- 1) Excessive speed (any gait)
- 2) Being on the wrong lead
- 3) Breaking gait (including not walking when called for)
- 4) Excessive slowness in any gait, loss of forward momentum (resulting in an animated and/or artificial gait at the lope)
- 5) Failure to take the appropriate gait when called for (during transitions, excessive delay will be penalized)
- 6) Head carriage too high or low (in keeping with horse's conformation).
- 7) Over flexing or straining neck in carriage so that the nose is behind the vertical.
- 8) Excessive nosing out
- 9) Opening/gapping mouth excessively
- 10) Stumbling
- 11) Use of spur in front of the cinch
- 12) If horse appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired.
- 13) Quick, choppy or pony-strided.
- 14) Overly canted at the lope (Horses which lope with haunches in towards the center of arena).
- 15) Excessive head bobbing.
- 16) Excessive ringing of tail.

**Credits:**

- 1) Natural ground covering gaits
- 2) Consistency at all gaits
- 3) Smooth upward and downward transitions
- 4) Work on reasonably loose rein without excessive cueing to maintain moderate pace
- 5) Giving the appearance of being able to do a day's work
- 6) Athletic Ability/Agile

7) Softness of horses' chin, poll, neck, shoulder, body, hip and being broke through thru the whole body.

### **Ranch riding ( Pattern Class)**

The purpose of the ranch riding class is to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits. The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait. Horses shall be shown individually and the class may be conducted inside or outside of an arena. The pattern may be started either to the right or left direction. Show management has the option to set markers to designate gait changes. If the class is held inside an arena, the course shall be set up to make approximately one pass of the arena in each direction. The optional ranch riding pattern may be used or another pattern may be used as long as all elements of the class are fulfilled as follows: - Horses will be shown individually at three gaits; walk, trot and lope in each direction of the arena. - Horses will also be asked to reverse, stop and back. - The judge must ask for an extended trot and extended lope at least one direction of the ring. Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to trotting will be penalized. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly could be a credit-earning situation. Penalties will be assessed as follows: - 1 Point: Over-bridled, out of frame, too slow, gapping mouth, break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less. - 3 Point: Wrong lead or out of lead, draped reins, break of gait at lope, break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides. -5 Point: Spurring in front of cinch, blatant disobedience, use of either hand to instill fear/praise, use of two hands per maneuver, 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal, more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between reins (except two rein) per maneuver. Cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly. (OP) Off-Pattern: Breaking pattern, leaving working area before pattern is complete, repeated disobedience. Cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly. Disqualification (DQ): Lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper western attire. fall of horse/rider.

### **Reining**

This class denotes the ability of the horse to be reined willfully through all maneuvers of the patterns. Contestant should not be penalized for reining their horse through the pattern in a reasonable manner. Stops should be hard and deep as if needed to stop and go in the other direction. Stop should be square and done without resistance (it should be at the judge's discretion on what he/she considers an excessive slide. Excessive Stops should be stops beyond 10 feet). Turn a rounds should be those of a working horse. They should be correct and job efficient.

### **PENALTY POINTS**

### **1/2 Point**

- A) Failing to remain more than 20 feet from the fence when stopping or performing a rollback.
- B) In run to end, failure to change leads by 1 stride.
- C) Starting a lope departure at a jog or exiting rollbacks up to 2 strides.
- D) Delaying changes of lead by 1 stride.
- E) Over or under spinning by one-eighth (1/8) turn.

### **1 Point**

- A) **Each time a horse is out of lead, a judge is required to deduct one point.** The penalty for being out of lead is cumulative and the judge will deduct one penalty point for each quarter of the circumference of a circle or any part thereof that a horse is out of lead. **A judge is required to penalize a horse one-half (1/2) point for a delayed change of lead by one stride.**
- B) Over or under spinning by one-fourth (1/4) turn.
- C) Failure to be on the correct lead in run-about.
- D) During the run to the end of arena, failure to change lead beyond 1 stride, but prior to next maneuver.

### **2 Points**

- A) Break of gait
- B) During the run to the end of arena, failure the change lead prior to next maneuver
- C) Jogging beyond 2 strides, but less than half (1/2) circle or half (1/2) the length of the arena.
- D) Failure to go beyond the markers.
- E) Freezing up in spins or rollbacks.

### **5 Points**

- A) Spurring in front of the cinch.
- B) Use of free hand to instill fear.
- C) Holding saddle with free hand.
- D) Kicking out.
- \*\*E) Excessive building to the stop.

### **0 Score**

- A) Failure to complete pattern.
- B) Performing maneuvers in unspecified order.

- C) Inclusion of additional maneuvers.
- D) Equipment failures.
- E) Balking or running away.
- F) Jogging more than half (1/2) circle or half (1/2) arena length while starting a circle, circling or executing rollback .
- G) Over spins of more than one-fourth (1/4) turn.
- H) Fall to ground by horse or rider.
- I) More than one finger between reins or more than one (1) hand on reins except for JR horses ridden with snaffle, hackamore or mecate with snaffle.
- J) Blatant disobedience, bucking, rearing, ect.

### **Showmanship**

**A)** Showmanship class shall be judged strictly on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse in a conformation 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 exhibitor leading a well-groomed and conditioned horse that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern with promptness, smoothness and precision. The showmanship class is not another conformation class and should not be judged as such.

**B)** Pattern(s) should be designed to test the showman's ability to effectively present a horse to the judge. All ties will be broken at the judges' discretion.

**C)** Exhibitors will perform a designated pattern approved by the judge. The following maneuvers are considered acceptable: lead a horse at a walk, jog or extended trot, or back in a straight or curved line or a combination of both, stop; or turn 90 (1/4), 180 (1/2), 270 (3/4), 360 (full turn) degrees or any combination or multiple of these turns (No pull turns). The judge must have exhibitors set the horse up squarely for inspection sometime during the class.

#### **Minor Faults-1 point penalties**

- a) Break of gait at walk or jog for 1 stride.
- b) Sliding or lifting pivot foot and replacing in same.
- c) Open fingers on lead shank.
- d) Crooked to judge depending on severity.
- e) Stopping to far from judge.
- f) Over showing.
- g) Loud voice commands.
- h) Drifting
- i) Continuous holding of chain on lead shank.
- J) Changing hands on lead except to show teeth.
- k) Horse stopping crooked or drops hip when stopping.
- l) Leading, backing or turning sluggishly.
- m) Failure to perform maneuvers at designated markers but horse is on pattern
- n) Backing slightly crooked.
- o) Horse having to be pulled to trot or pushed to back.
- p) Pulling down on lead shank to lower horse's head.
- q) Poorly groomed depending on severity.

#### **Major Faults- 3 point penalties**

- a) Not performing gait or not stopping within 5 feet of designated area.
- b) Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 1 stride.
- c) Splitting the cones.
- d) Picking up a pivot foot.
- e) Picking up a foot after presentation.
- f) Horse biting at chain or exhibitor.

- g) Over/under turning 1/8 or 1/4 of designated turn.
- h) Stopping too close to the judge.
- i) Failure to recognize and correct faults of the horse's position (poor set up)
- j) Starting on wrong side of horse.
- k) Poor fitting halter.

## **Halter**

The ideal Stock/gaited Horse shown at halter is a horse that possesses the following characteristics: the horse should possess eye appeal that is the result of a harmonious blending of an attractive head; refined throat latch; well-proportioned, trim neck; long, sloping shoulder; deep heart girth; short back; strong loin and coupling; long hip and croup; and well-defined and muscular stifle, gaskin, forearm and chest. All stallions 2 years old and over shall have two visible testicles. These characteristics should be coupled with straight and structurally correct legs and feet that are free of blemishes. The horse should be a balanced athlete that is muscled uniformly throughout.

One of the most important criteria in selecting a horse is conformation, or its physical appearance. While it could be assumed that most horses with several years' seasoning and past performance have acceptable conformation, the goal in selection should always be to find the best conformed horse possible.

Rating conformation depends upon objective evaluation of the following four traits: balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics, and degree of muscling. Of the four, balance is the single most important, and refers to the structural and aesthetic blending of body parts. Balance is influenced almost entirely by skeletal structure.

Horses will walk to the judge one at a time. As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the right (left of the horse) to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed 50 feet (15 meters) away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and trot toward the left wall or fence of the arena. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear.

## **Leadline**

This class is for 6 & under. These riders may not show in any other class. **Handlers must be 18 years of age or older.** The purpose of the class is to allow beginning riders to gain confidence and experience in the arena with the help of a handler to control and guide the horse. Riders are to present themselves in a way that portrays the look of controlling and guiding the horse on their own. This class is a Judged class.

## **English Classes**

All riders must wear properly secured riding helmets when mounted.

All Equitation divisions are judged on the rider's hands, seat guidance, and control. Points are awarded to the horse/rider combination. Each rider may only enter the class one time regardless of mount.

All hunter divisions are judged on the horses or pony's performance, manners, way of going and suitability and soundness.

See AQHA Rules for Tack and Equipment.

Boots or half chaps may be worn. Dress is casual. No bare shoulders.

## **Classification of rules for English classes**

- Walk Trot Cross rails- Open to beginner riders, juniors or amateurs, who have not shown at the canter in previous shows. May not cross enter into another section with same horse/rider combination.
- Green Horse- Open to beginners, juniors, and amateurs and professionals, with a horse that has not jumped higher than 18" in previous shows. May trot or canter course however points will be given to the horse that canters.
- 2'-2.3" Children/Adult Hunter & Eq- to be judged on performance, soundness, manners, and way of going. Flat phase is Walk/Trot/Canter. Riders should be able to jump 2' to 2'3".
- 2'3"-2.6" Children/Adult Hunter & Eq- to be judged on performance, soundness, manners, and way of going. Flat phase is Walk/Trot/Canter. Riders should be able to jump 2'3 to 2'6".
- 

## **Equipment**

In all English classes, an English snaffle (no shank), kimberwick, pelham and/or full bridle (with two reins), all with cavesson nosebands and plain leather brow bands must be used.

In reference to mouthpieces, nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar). Solid and broken mouthpieces must be between 5/16" to 3/4" (8 mm to 20 mm) in diameter, measured 1" (25 mm) from the cheek and may have a port no higher than 1 1/2" (40 mm). They may be inlaid, synthetic wrapped, including rubber or plastic or incased, but must be smooth. On broken mouthpieces only, connecting rings of 1 1/4" (32 mm) or less in diameter or connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10 mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lie flat in the horse's mouth, are acceptable. Snaffle bit rings may be no larger than 4" (100 mm) in diameter. Any bit having a fixed rein requires use of a curb chain. Smooth round, oval or egg-shaped, slow twist, corkscrew, single twisted wire, double twisted wire mouthpieces and straight bar or solid mouthpieces are allowed.

Saddles must be black and/or brown leather of traditional hunting or forward seat type, knee insert on the skirt is optional. Saddle pads should fit size and shape, except when necessary to accommodate numbers on both sides, for which a square pad or suitable attachment may be used.



### **Optional equipment**

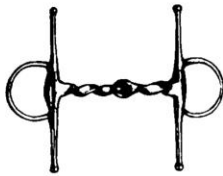
- (A) Spurs of the **unrowelled** type that are blunt, round or that include a smooth rolling rubber ball and no longer than one inch
- (B) Crops or bats
- (C) Gloves
- (D) English breast plate
- (E) ) Braiding of mane and/or tail in hunt style
- (F) Standing or running martingales in equitation over fences only
- (G) Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are allowed in all hunt seat classes.

### **Prohibited equipment**

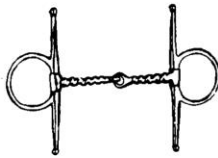
Bits of any style (Pelham, snaffle, kimberwick) featuring mouthpieces with cathedrals, donuts, prongs, edges or rough, sharp material shall be cause for elimination. Square stock, metal wrapped or polo bits shall be cause for elimination. If a curb bit is used, the chain must be at least 1/2" (15mm) in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse.

- (B) Draw reins
- (C) Rowelled spurs
- (D) Standing or running martingales except in equitation over fences
- (E) ) flash cavessons
- (F) Slip on spurs

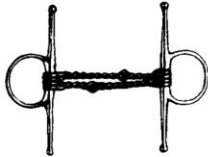
### Acceptable English Bits For All Ages



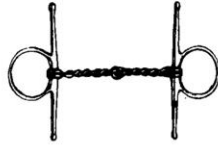
Slow Twist



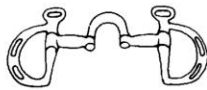
Corkscrew



Double Twisted Wire



Single Twisted Wire

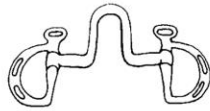


Correction Bit

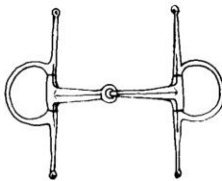


Snaffle Bit with  
Connecting Flat Bar

### Unacceptable English Bits



Excessive Port



Triangular Mouth

## Hunter Under Saddle

(a) The purpose of the hunter under saddle horse is to present or exhibit a horse with a bright, alert expression, whose gaits show potential of being a working hunter. Therefore its gait must be free-flowing, ground covering and athletic. Hunters under saddle should be suitable to purpose. Hunters should move with long, low strides reaching forward with ease and smoothness, be able to lengthen stride and cover ground with relaxed, free-flowing movement, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gaits is a major consideration. Horses should be obedient, have a bright expression with alert ears, and should respond willingly to the rider with light leg and hand contact. Horses should be responsive and smooth in transition. When asked to extend the trot or hand gallop, they should move out with the same flowing motion. The poll should be level with, or slightly above, the withers to allow proper impulsion behind. The head position should be slightly in front of, or on, the vertical.

(b) This class will be judged on performance, condition and conformation. Maximum credit shall be given to the flowing, balanced, willing horse.

(c) Horses to be:

(1) shown under saddle, not to jump.

(2) shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Horses should back easily and stand quietly.

(3) reversed to the inside away from the rail.

(d) Horses may be asked to change to canter from the flatfooted walk or trot, at the judges discretion.

(e) Faults to be scored according to severity:

(1) Quick, short or vertical strides

(2) Being on the wrong lead

(3) Breaking gait

(4) Excessive speed at any gait

(5) Excessive slowness in any gait, loss of forward momentum

(6) Failure to take the appropriate gait when called for

(7) Head carried too high

(8) Head carried too low (such that poll is below the withers)

(9) Overflexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical

(10) Excessive nosing out

(11) Failure to maintain light contact with horse's mouth

(12) Stumbling

(13) If a horse appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired

(14) Consistently showing too far off the rail

(f) Faults which will be cause for disqualification, except in novice amateur or novice youth, which shall be faults scored according to severity:

(1) Head carried too low (such that poll is below the withers consistently)

(2) Overflexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently

(g) At the option of the judge, all or just the top 12 horses may be required to hand gallop, one or both ways of the ring. Never more than 12 horses to hand gallop at one time. At the hand gallop, the judge may ask the group to halt and stand quietly on a free rein (loosened rein).

### **Hunt Seat Equitation On The Flat.**

(a) The purpose is to evaluate the ability of the hunter rider to perform various maneuvers on his/her horse which provides a base for natural progression to over fence classes. The communication between horse and rider through subtle cues and aids should not be obvious. Equitation is judged on the rider and his/her effect on the horse. Hunt seat equitation on the flat provides a base for a natural progression to over fence classes. The poll should be level with, or slightly above the withers, to allow proper impulsion behind. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance.

(b) Pattern. It is mandatory that the judge post the pattern at least one hour prior to commencement of the class. The pattern should be designed so the majority of exhibitors can perform it in a reasonable length of time (under 60 seconds). All patterns must include a trot and canter. Patterns used in classes for riders 13 and under should use maneuvers from Group #1 and/or Group #2. Horses' gaits are to be ridden with the same cadence and speed as you would find in the rail phase. All ties will be broken at the discretion of the judge.

(c) ) Class Procedure: Exhibitors may be worked individually from the gate or they may all enter at once, but a working order must be drawn regardless. The entire class, or only the finalists, must work at all three gaits at least one direction of the arena. Rail work can be used to break ties and possibly adjust placings. Individual works may be compromised of any of the following:

A turn on the forehand to the right is accomplished by moving haunches to the left. A forehand turn to the left is accomplished by moving haunches to the right.

If riders are asked to drop their irons, they can leave them down or cross them over the withers.

When performing a leg-yield, the horse should move forward and lateral in a diagonal direction with the horse's body straight with a slight flexion of the head in the opposite direction of lateral movement. When a horse yields to the right the head is slightly (just to see the eye of the horse) to the left. A horse yielding to the left the head is slightly flexed to the right.

(d) Basic Position:

(1) To mount, take up reins in left hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand and insert left foot in stirrup and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. The size of rider must be taken into consideration.

(2) Hands should be over and in front of horse's withers, knuckles thirty degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from horse's mouth to rider's elbow. Method of holding reins is optional, and bight of reins may fall on either side. However, all reins must be picked up at the same time.

(3) The eyes should be up and shoulders back. Toes should be at an angle best suited to rider's conformation; heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse. Iron should be on the ball of the foot and must not be tied to the girth.

**THE WALK:** Should be a 4-beat gait with the rider in a vertical position with a following hand.

**THE POSTING TROT:** Figure 8 at trot, demonstrating change of diagonals. At left diagonal, rider should be sitting the saddle when left front leg is on the ground; at right diagonal rider should be sitting the saddle when right front leg is on the ground; when circling clockwise at a trot, rider should be on left diagonal; when circling counter-clockwise, rider should be on right diagonal. The rider should close his/her hip angle to allow his/her torso to follow the horizontal motion of the horse. The upper body should be inclined about 20 degrees in front of the vertical.

**SITTING TROT AND CANTER:** At the sitting trot the upper body is only slightly in front of the vertical. At the canter the body should be positioned slightly more in front of the vertical. As the stride is shortened, the body should be in a slightly more erect position.

**TWO-POINT POSITION:** The pelvis should be forward, but relaxed, lifting the rider's weight off the horse's back and transferring the weight through the rider's legs. In this position the two points of contact between horse and rider are the rider's legs. Hands should be forward, up the neck, not resting on the neck.

**HAND GALLOP:** A three-beat, lengthened canter ridden in two-point position. The legs are on the horse's sides while the seat is held out of the saddle. When at the hand gallop, the rider's angulation will vary somewhat as the horse's stride is shortened and lengthened. A good standard at a normal hand gallop should be about 30 degrees in front of the vertical.

(e) **SCORING:** Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to 100 with 70 denoting an average performance. One-half point increments are acceptable. Run content scores will be indicated as follows:

- + = Above Average
- (check mark) = Average
- - = Below Average

(1) **Faults:** Faults can be classified as minor, major or severe. The judge will determine the appropriate classification of a fault based upon the degree and/or frequency of the infraction. An exhibitor that incurs a severe fault avoids elimination, but should be placed below all other exhibitors that complete the pattern correctly. A minor fault can become a major fault and a major fault can become a severe fault when the degree and/or frequency of the infraction(s) merits.

(A) **Minor faults**

- Break of gait at walk or trot up to 2 strides
- Over/under turn of 1/8 of the prescribed turn

(B) Major faults

- Break of gait, out of lead, missing lead or diagonal for 1-2 strides
- Not stopping within 10 feet of designated area
- Incorrect gait or break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
- Obvious looking for lead or diagonal
- Over or under turn more than 1/8 of prescribed turn, but not more than 1/4 turn

(C) Severe Faults (avoids disqualification but should be placed below other exhibitors that do not incur a severe fault) include:

- Loss of iron or rein
- Break of gait at canter, out of lead or missing lead or diagonal more than 2 strides
- lack of contact between rider's hand and bit
- touching horse
- grabbing any part of the saddle
- cropping or spurring in front of the shoulder
- kicking at other horses, exhibitors or judge
- severe disobedience or resistance by horse including, but not limited to, rearing, bucking or pawing.
- head carried too high
- head carried too low (such that the poll is below the withers)
- over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical
- excessive nosing out

(D) Disqualifications (should not be placed) include:

- failure of exhibitor to wear correct number in a visible manner
- willful abuse
- excessive schooling or training
- fall by horse or rider
- illegal use of hands on reins
- use of prohibited equipment
- knocking over the cone, going off pattern or working on wrong side of cone
- failure to follow pattern correctly, including failure to ever execute correct lead or gait where called for
- overturning more than 1/4 of prescribed turn
- In Novice Classes Only: Exhibitor's going off pattern, knocking over or on wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait, or overturning more than 1/4 turn than designated, shall not be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors not incurring a disqualifying fault.

## Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences.

- (a) The purpose of this event should be to evaluate the rider's correctness and ability over the fences. This class should be judged on the precision of riding ability while executing the jumps. The class objective is to judge the rider's ability over the fences, not the horse's. Only the effect the rider has on a horse is to be considered. How a rider elects to ride the course, the pace and approach to the jumps are used to evaluate the rider's judgment and ability.
- 1) Course is to be posted one hour prior to the class.
- (2) The exhibitor is being judged as soon as he/she enters the arena. Exhibitors have the option of entering the arena at any gait (unless otherwise stated on the course), making transition to canter from halt, walk or trot before approaching the first fence
- (3) Each competitor may circle once before approaching the first obstacle, then proceeds around the course keeping an even pace throughout.
- (4) Rider must obtain correct lead to properly turn around end of arena before breaking into final trot circle. The class is not over until the exhibitor trots a circle and walks out of the ring. Riders should leave the arena at a walk unless otherwise instructed.
- (5) Except for refusals, jumping faults of the horse are not to be considered unless it is the result of the rider's ability. If a refusal occurs in a double or triple, competitors must re-jump all obstacles in the combination.
- (6) The following will result in an elimination:
  - (A) Three accumulative refusals; and
  - (B) Off course.
- If elimination occurs during a ride-off, the competitor is placed last of all those chosen for the ride-off.
- (7) The following constitute major faults:
  - (A) a refusal
  - (B) loss of stirrup
  - (C) trotting while on course when not part of a test
  - (D) loss of reins
  - (E) incorrect diagonal
- (8) Outside assistance will be penalized at the judge's discretion.
- (9) In cases of broken equipment or loss of shoe, competitor must continue or be eliminated.
- (10) An exhibitor may enter the class only one time.

## Trail All Breeds

Riders will be judged as according to the American Stock Horse Association Trail class procedures.

Each obstacle will be judged on a score basis from 0-10.

0 being extremely poor (or failure to complete obstacle)

10 extremely good

5 being Average

Obstacles will be set in a manner that would be true to maneuvers and obstacles a rider may experience in everyday working environment or on a trail ride. The purpose of the trail class is to demonstrate the horses willingness to guide and maneuver obstacles. If a rider feels they cannot complete an obstacle safely they are allowed to move on to the next obstacle receiving a 0 score for the uncompleted obstacle. Failure to complete an obstacle is not cause for disqualification.