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# CHAPTER PF PASO FINO HORSE DIVISION

## SUBCHAPTER PF-1 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS.

### PF101 Eligibility.

1. To be eligible for entry and exhibition in a show, a horse must be registered with the Paso Fino Horse Association and must be entered and exhibited under its full registered name and registration number. All participants (owners, agents, lessees, trainers, riders, exhibitors, and handlers) must be current members of, and in good standing with, the PFHA. These rules are a condensed version of the Paso Fino Horse Association rules. Please refer to the latest edition of the PFHA rules for details.
2. Definition of an Amateur Owner. Each exhibitor in an Amateur Owner Class must be an amateur, certified as an Amateur by the Federation and be the owner of the horse being ridden or a member of the owner's family (GR106 and GR122). In the case of a corporate owner, the stockholders of the corporation shall be considered the owners for purposes of this definition. A horse that is the subject of a lease to an amateur is not considered owned by that amateur for purposes of this definition. The purchaser of a horse under an installment method of payment shall be considered the owner of the horse for purposes of this definition, if the purchaser, either before or at the time of the competition in question, files an affidavit on a form provided by the Paso Fino Horse Association for this purpose that describes certain relevant information about the purchase.
3. Senior Amateur Owner. Senior amateur owner status provides a separate track for recognition and awards for those association members age sixty-two (62) and older. The member must have attained at least age sixty-two (62) at the beginning of the show year to qualify as a "Senior Amateur Owner." All other criteria for Amateur Owner status provided in the Bylaws and these Rules apply. In order to facilitate recognition of Senior Amateur Owner status, a senior amateur owner must provide his or her date of birth.
4. All horses born in 1980 or after shall be prohibited from showing if scarred by training devices. Imported horses born prior to 1980 shall not be penalized for old training scars provided they are indicated on their association registration description, unless such scars evidence fresh signs of blood or new scar tissue caused by training devices. Paso Finos will be exhibited in the most natural way possible.
5. Manes, tails and forelocks should be as long, full and luxurious as nature can provide. No artificial additions are allowed. A short area, not to exceed four (4) inches in length, may be clipped from the mane to accommodate the bridle. Horses under one (1) year of age will not be penalized for having clipped manes or tails.
6. No artificial appliances are allowed. Normal grooming preparations including the use of black or clear polish on hooves are allowed, but make-up, (other than on hooves), and glitter are prohibited. All horses must be in good condition. The color of a horse or the color of the horse's eyes will not be a consideration in judging a horse.
7. Soreing of a horse is prohibited. Any physical evidence, including but not limited to scars or blisters, of training with heavy shoes or artificial devices or soreing shall cause the horse to be disqualified.
8. Inspection. At the line-up in all classes, Judges will carefully inspect the horses for artificial devices, training scars, raw or bleeding sores, soundness, marked lameness, and welts from whips or spurs in accordance with these rules. At all PFHA approved shows, the Judge may, at his or her discretion, inspect any horse for evidence of soreing. Any evidence of soreing shall disqualify the horse for the class and remainder of the show.
9. Prohibited: any surgical procedure that could affect the horse's performance or alter its natural conformation or appearance, except for those surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the horse. Upon discovery that prohibited surgery or injection of a foreign substance or drug has occurred, show management shall immediately disqualify the horse and report the matter to the PFHA. Such surgical procedure or injection shall, in addition to disqualification by show management, be grounds for the PFHA, by action of its Hearing Committee, to bar the horse from future participation in PFHA approved events or presence at shows for such period as determined appropriate. Upon request, the owner shall deliver the horse's Certificate of Registration to the PFHA for such ineligibility to be prominently marked on the

face of the Certificate of Registration. Although ownership of the horse may thereafter be transferred to another party, the transfer of ownership will not dissolve or shorten the term of ineligibility. If preliminary examination indicates a violation of this rule and pending final hearing by the PFHA Hearing Committee, the PFHA Executive Director may, by giving written notice of his action to the owner of record at his current address as shown on PFHA records, temporarily suspend the horse from further participation in an PFHA approved event or show and request the return of its Certificate of Registration.

a. This rule shall not apply to castration or to the cosmetic alteration of the horse's tail. However, the horse's tail may not be altered by the insertion of a foreign object, foreign substance or drug.

10. Examination of Horse Required. Every owner and exhibitor shall, upon request of show management, permit examination of a horse for determination of the presence of prohibited surgery or foreign drug or substance. Refusal to comply with such request shall: (1) constitute grounds for disqualification of the horse from further participation at the show or from further approved events pending hearing of the PFHA Hearing Committee; (2) bar the horse from participation in future approved events or shows for such period as determined by the PFHA Hearing Committee; and (3) constitute grounds for suspension of PFHA membership of the owner and trainer.

11. To be eligible to show in a Performance Championship class a horse must have been properly entered, shown and judged in one qualifying class in the same division or section.

## **PF102 General Rules.**

1. Horse's Age. For separation into classes by age in years at horse shows, a horse's age is determined by the age it would be if its next birthday were the first day of January of the show year in question. Therefore any horse will be considered to be one year older on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling and the same for each subsequent year. For example, a horse born in 1996 would be a yearling during the September 1996–August 1997 show year, a two year old during the September 1997–August 1998 show year, etc. However, when a horse's age requirement is stated in months, as for saddle or driving classes, a horse is considered to be twenty-four (24) or thirty (30) to sixty (60) months old as counted from its actual foaling date.

2. Ring Conduct. The ring conduct of any exhibitor shall not be such as to affect adversely the exhibition of any other exhibitor's horse in the ring. Horses should be spirited, display refinement and beauty, but must be obedient. Anyone not controlling his mount shall be excused from the ring. In all mounted classes, the riders shall space their mounts in such a manner so as to avoid bunching up and shall maintain such relative positions during such class demonstrations.

3. Calling Class Placement. After a class has been pinned and Judge's Card turned in, any non-placing horses shall be eliminated from the ring. Non-winners of ribbons in any class should remain in the ring until excused. The placement of the class shall be called starting with honorable mention seventh (7th) and proceeding sixth (6th) through first (1st). The first (1st) place horse shall have the option of making a victory ride once around the ring.

4. In a class with a single entry a judge may have the horse perform all required gaits one way of the ring and pin it or excuse it in accordance with the rules. Exception: In a youth class, the class shall be worked as if there were several horses.

5. Delay and/or Commencement of Classes.

a. Commencement see GR109. Delay see GR831.

b. When horses are competing collectively, if horses do not enter in the in-gate ready to participate, after the in gate is open, within two minutes, a warning is issued and horses are given two minutes before the gate is closed and judging commences or class is cancelled.

6. Jumps. In all classes calling for jumps, the jumps must include two (2) vertical poles, appropriate jump cups, a horizontal bar for the jump, and a bar for a ground line. All material should be white or some other color that is in contrast to the ring. Jump rails must sit firmly in jump cups and cannot be on the cup edges. Ground lines must be on the approach side of the jump and no farther than two (2) feet away from the horizontal jump crossbar. The jump height may not exceed two (2) feet. Hay bales cannot be used as jumps. All jumps in warm-up areas must conform to the above guidelines as well.

7. **Withdrawing from Competition.** No exhibitor may withdraw a horse from a sanctioned competition after it has commenced, or remove the horse from the competition grounds, without the permission of the competition secretary. An exhibitor who has entered the ring may request permission of the judge to exit the ring before judging is completed. If an exhibitor voluntarily removes a horse from the ring without the permission of the judge, except in deference to safety, the Show Committee will disqualify the exhibitor and all his or her entries from all future classes at that competition and all prizes and entry fees for the entire competition shall be forfeited.

8. **Same Rider on Two Horses/Two Different Riders on Same Horse Prohibited.** In saddle classes, a rider may only ride one (1) horse in a class. Even in classes with individual work, for example, the Paso Trail class, one (1) rider cannot show two (2) different horses. In addition, in any saddle class, riders cannot be changed in the middle of the class.

9. An exhibitor may not use any type of electronic, mechanical or similar communication or mechanical device in the show ring while being judged, except for an exhibitor who is hearing impaired and who normally uses a sound enhancing device to achieve normal hearing.

10. Showing a horse with raw or bleeding sores or raw or bleeding abrasions around the muzzle, nose, chin groove, or jaw is considered an act of abuse. Horses showing signs of undue stress or inhumane treatment must be disqualified from the competition.

11. **Soundness.** All horses must be serviceably sound for competition purposes. A horse must not show evidence of lameness, broken wind, or complete loss of sight in either eye.

12. Extremes of temperature or climate conditions, may modify the requirements for attire as specified in various sections of these rules. Competition management will determine the modification and need thereof.

### **PF103 Shoeing Regulations.**

If a horse is shown unshod, hooves will be neatly trimmed to a short natural length, not to exceed four (4) inches. If a horse is shown shod, the length of the hooves is not to exceed four and one half (4 1/2) inches, including shoes. All four (4) feet must be shod with flat shoes that do not affect the way a horse travels or how a foot breaks over. All four (4) feet must have the same type of shoe of the same material, weight, and thickness although front and back hooves may be shod in different sizes. Each shoe cannot exceed ten (10) ounces. Weighted shoes and pads are prohibited. However, toe and/or side clips drawn from the same shoe (an integral part of an otherwise flat saddle plate shoe which does not exceed ten (10) ounces in weight) that in no way affects how a horse travels or breaks over are allowed.

### **PF104 Type and Conformation.**

The Paso Fino horse reflects its Spanish heritage through its proud carriage, grace and elegance. Modern care and selective breeding have enhanced its beauty, refinement and well-proportioned conformation that conveys strength and power without extreme muscling.

The Paso Fino is born with a gait unique to the breed, and its attitude seems to transmit to the observer that this horse knows its gait is a very special gift that must be executed with style and pride! The gait, being totally natural, does not exhibit the catapulting or exaggerated leg action of man-made gaits; rather the movements are smooth, rhythmic, purposeful, straight, balanced in flexion and synchronous front to rear, resulting in unequaled comfort and smoothness for the rider. The Paso Fino is a graceful, agile and supple equine athlete that uses all four legs with precision and harmony. With its definite but controlled spirit, natural gait and presence, and responsive attitude, the Paso Fino is, indeed, a rare and desirable equine partner.

1. **Head:** The head should be refined and in good proportion to the body of the horse, neither extremely small nor large with the preferred profile being straight. Eyes are large and well-spaced, very expressive and alert, and should not show excessive white around the edges. Ears are comparatively short, set close and curved inward at the tips. The lips should be firm and the nostrils large and dilatable. Jaws are defined but not extreme. The impression should be of a well-shaped, alert, and intelligent face.

2. **Neck:** The neck is gracefully arched, medium in length and set on at an angle to allow high carriage, breaking at the poll. The throat latch should be refined and well-defined.

3. Forehand: Shoulders are sloping into the withers with great depth through the heart. Chest is moderate in width. Withers are defined but not pronounced and slope smoothly into the back.
4. Midsection: The midsection is moderate in length with a well-sprung rib cage. The top line should be proportionately shorter than the underline. The back should be strong and muscled. The midsection should join the forehand and the hindquarters so as to give the horse a pleasing, proportioned appearance.
5. Hindquarters: The croup is slightly sloping with rounded hips, broad loins, and strong hocks. The tail is carried gracefully when the horse is in motion.
6. Legs: The legs are straight with refined bones and strong, well defined tendons and broad, long forearms with shorter cannons. The thigh and gaskin are strong and muscled but not exaggerated. Standing slightly under in the rear is acceptable. Pasterns are sloping and medium in length. Bones are straight, sound, and flat, and joints are strong and well defined. Hooves are well rounded, proportionate in size and do not show excessive heel.
7. Mane, Tail and Forelock: Mane, tail, and forelock are as long, full, and luxurious as nature can provide. No artificial additions or alterations are allowed. A bridle path not exceeding 4" is acceptable.
8. Size: Paso Fino horses are 13 to 15.2 hands with 13.3 to 14.2 being the most typical size with weight ranging from 700 to 1100 pounds. Full size may not be attained until the fifth year.
9. Color: Every equine color can be found, with or without white markings.
10. Disposition: The Paso Fino is an extremely willing horse that truly seems to enjoy human companionship and strives to please. It is spirited and responsive under tack while sensible and gentle at hand.

#### **PF105 Gaits.**

The gait of the Paso Fino horse is totally natural and normally exhibited from birth. It is an evenly-spaced four-beat lateral gait with each foot contacting the ground independently in a regular sequence at precise intervals creating a rapid, unbroken rhythm. Executed perfectly, the four hoof beats are absolutely even in both cadence and impact. Footfall is in the same sequence as a natural equine walk, i.e., left rear, left fore, right rear, right fore. Propulsion is primarily from the hind limbs and the horse's motion is absorbed in its back and loins, resulting in unequaled smoothness and comfort for the rider. The Paso Fino gait is performed at three forward speeds and with varying degrees of collection. In all speeds of the gait, the rider should appear virtually motionless in the saddle, and there should be no perceptible up and down motion of the horse's croup.

1. Classic Fino—Forward speed is very slow, and the footfall is extremely rapid while the steps and extension are exceedingly short. To be executed fully collected.
2. Paso Corto—Forward speed is moderate, ground-covering but unhurried, executed with medium extension and stride. The degree of collection desired varies with class requirements.
3. Paso Largo—The fastest speed of the gait. The largo is executed with a longer extension and stride. Forward speed varies with the individual horse, since each horse should attain its top speed in harmony with its own natural stride and cadence. The degree of collection desired varies with class requirements.
4. The Paso Fino can execute other gaits natural to horses in addition to the Paso Fino gait.
  - a. Walk—Smooth, steady evenly-spaced four-beat gait.
  - b. Lope—True, three-beat gait, slow, cadenced, smooth, straight on both leads, with no tendency to mix gaits.
  - c. Canter—True, three-beat gait, straight on both leads, smooth and unhurried with no tendency to mix gaits.

#### **SUBCHAPTER PF-2 PASO FINO YOUTH SECTION.**

##### **PF106 General.**

1. A rider's age for Youth classes shall be determined by the rider's age on September 1 of the current competition year, and this age shall remain the same throughout the competition year.

- a. If a competition is in progress on any September 1, an individual's age at the start of the competition will be maintained throughout the competition.
2. Junior. Junior riders shall be ages 13-17.
3. Sub-Junior. Sub-Junior riders shall be ages 7-12.
4. Walk-Corto Leadline. Walk-Corto Leadline riders shall be six years old or under. Exception: see PF108.1
5. Safety Headgear. All riders twelve (12) years of age and under, including walk-corto leadline riders, are required to wear Safety Headgear at all times while on horseback. (GR801)
6. Handling Stallions. A child under thirteen (13) shall not at any time ride, handle or exhibit a colt or stallion on the show grounds during an Association sanctioned show. This rule applies to all classes, point or non-point, specifically including leadline classes. The adult responsible for such a child who violates this rule will be subject to dismissal from the show grounds and forfeiture of any remaining fees.
7. Ineligible for Championship. Riders in the youth classes are not eligible for the championship classes because of riding in the Youth division classes.
8. Youth Championship Classes. Championship classes may be offered for youth riders in any division in which two or more qualifying classes are offered at a given competition. To be eligible for entry into a championship class, a horse/rider combination must have been properly entered, shown, and judged in one of the qualifying classes. To be considered shown and judged, a horse must perform all required gaits both ways of the ring in the original class and must remain in the ring until either placed or excused by the judge(s).
9. A Junior Youth rider may be excused from a class if the rider's horse does not meet the requirements of the class.
10. Suitability. In all youth classes, special attention should be paid to the suitability of the horse for its rider. Horses should not appear unmanageable or too excitable for their riders, nor should they be unwilling to work for their riders. Good disposition is paramount for a youth horse.

#### **PF107 Class Separations.**

1. Any youth class, with the exception of Gold or Silver Medal Advanced Equitation, may be offered as open to all youth or may be divided into age groups as follows:
  - a. Divided into Junior Youth (13-17) and into Sub-junior Youth (7-12)
  - b. Divided into Junior Youth Level I (13-15), Junior Youth Level II (16-17), Sub-junior Youth Level I (7-9) and Sub-junior Youth Level II (10-12)
2. Gold and Silver Medal Advanced Equitation: The Gold and Silver Medal Equitation may be offered as follows:
  - a. Open to all Youth riders who have not reached their 18th birthday. A Youth rider who places first or second in an Association Silver Medal Class (held at Regional Group show) is qualified to participate in the Gold Medal Finals at the Grand National Championship Show.
  - b. Once a Youth rider has placed first in a Silver Medal Class, that youth rider is not eligible to exhibit in another Silver Medal Class for the remainder of the current competition year. The Youth rider may, but is not required to, ride the same horse at Gold Medal Final Class that the rider rode when he or she qualified to participate in the Gold Medal Final Class.
  - c. To hold a Silver Medal class at a Regional Group show, the show management must request class when asking for approval for show.
  - d. The name of the winner of the Gold Finals at the Grand National Show is engraved upon a Perpetual Trophy which remains in the possession of the Association. The winner will receive a Gold Medallion at the Grand National Championship Show.
  - e. The winner of a Gold Medal class is no longer eligible to compete in Medal classes after having won twice.

#### **PF108 Class Descriptions.**

1. Walk-Corto Leadline. This class is open to children three (3) to six (6) years of age and to physically or mentally disabled adults or children who are unable to show in other classes. Tack and attire will be the same as that for the Paso Pleasure class except riders are required to wear Safety Headgear. See GR801 for the definition of Safety Headgear. No belt or other type implement shall be used to hold a child in the saddle. The horses shall

enter the ring with the child mounted and an adult holding a leadline attached to a halter (leather or nylon) worn under the bridle or holding the pisador attached to the bridle. The leadline is for control only if necessary and should remain slack during the class if possible. The child should control the horse. This class is to be judged the same as the Equitation class except that no dismount/mount or tests will be asked for and the horses will be requested only to perform at a Paso Corto gait and at a walk. All exhibitors shall receive participant ribbons for this class and there shall be no points awarded for riders or horses. In addition, there shall be no point requirement to enter this class in the National Show.

### **PF109 Paso Equitation.**

1. The Paso Equitation seat enhances the particular and special style, grace, rhythm and oneness of horse and rider. The class is to be judged 100% on equitation. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them. Horses shown in this class will perform the required Paso gaits.

2. Basic Position. The rider shall convey the impression of effective and complete control at all times, showing both the horse and the rider to the rider's best advantage. A complete picture of the whole is of major importance.

3. Arm and Hand Position. The arm should hang naturally with the elbows not extending outward beyond a perpendicular line even with the rider's shoulders. The reins shall be held in one of the following manners:

a. The reins should be held one (1) rein in each hand entering at the bottom below the little finger and extending upward with the bight (excess) of the rein hanging on the off (right) side of the horse.

b. The rein must pass directly from the bit, between the little and third fingers, the thumb being placed on top. It is important that the third finger holds the edges of the rein in the joints nearest the palm and that the fingers are closed securely but without tension. Bight (excess) of the rein should be on the off (right) side.

c. The rider's hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle and should show sympathy, adaptability and control. The height the rider's hands are held above the horse's withers is determined by the head carriage of the individual horse. However, extremely high or low hand positions are improper. The rider's hands should not pass over or behind the pommel of saddle. The rider shall make every effort to achieve as straight a line as possible from the elbow through the forearm, hand and rein to the bit. Hands and wrists should be flexible and not held extremely separated.

4. Head Position. The rider's head should be held erect with the chin up. The rider's eyes should look straight forward.

5. Back Position. The rider's back should be straight, but not stiff. The rider's shoulders should be square.

6. Feet and Leg Position. The rider's leg should hang naturally with a slight bend at the knee. The rider's lower leg should be under the rider's body and not flared outward. Flaring of lower leg shall be penalized. The rider's feet should be parallel with the horse's body with the heels slightly lowered (approximately 1 inch). The ball of the rider's foot should rest directly over the stirrup iron with even pressure on the entire iron with heel, hip and point of shoulder in line. The rider's foot position should be natural (neither extremely in nor out).

7. Position in Motion. The rider's position in motion should be natural, coordinated and graceful. The rider should remain almost motionless at all gaits. From the side a straight line should be able to be drawn perpendicular to the ground through the rider's head, shoulder, hip and ankle. The rider's toe should never be more forward than his knee, thereby keeping his center of balance directly above his feet and ankles. The rider's upper arms should fall naturally from the shoulders toward the hip bones and should be flexible, never clutched to the body, extended forward, or spread away from the body. The rider should appear to have a natural flow downward into the saddle and show no side to side movement of upper body. At all gaits the rider should remain in the center of the saddle and not slip back on the cantle. *EC 9/21/09 Effective immediately*

### **PF110 Tests.**

The rider may be required to perform the following tests:

1. Ride without stirrups at a Paso Corto, maintaining the proper position. The stirrups may be crossed over the pommel of the saddle if so desired.

2. Back his or her horse smoothly and under control. The horse's mouth should remain closed and horse should not throw his or her head.
3. Dismount and mount. To dismount, the rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration. To remount, the rider shall check the curb chain and girth and adjust them if necessary. The rider shall gather the reins in his or her left hand with gentle pressure. The rider shall stand diagonally facing the front of the horse. The rider shall place his or her left hand in front of the horse's withers without holding the mane, turn the stirrup toward the rider with his or her right hand and place his or her left foot in the stirrup. The rider shall place his or her right hand either on the far side of the saddle at the waist or on the front arch (pommel), and spring lightly up, straightening both knees. The rider shall ease into the saddle and place his or her right foot in stirrup without looking down.
4. Perform a figure eight at Paso Corto (see diagram for pattern). The rider shall always turn and face the Judge unless otherwise instructed. The Judge may tell exhibitors whether he or she prefers large or small diameter circles.
5. Move his or her horse from Paso Largo to walk on a quiet rein.
6. Answer questions on parts of the horse and tack. See line drawings. Judge must refer to these drawings in asking questions.

#### **PF111 Procedures.**

1. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until asked to reverse or change gait. Entries will space themselves, maintain the same relative position and avoid bunching up. Entries will be penalized for bunching up or for not working on the rail.

The sequence of the gait will be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, walk, reverse, and repeat. The reverse will be executed toward the center of the ring. A halt will be called at least once during the Paso Corto. Entries will execute the above class requirements and, in addition, Judges are encouraged to call for at least two (2) of the tests provided at subsection (g), above, of the top contestants. Each of the tests is to be performed individually.

a. Judges must select only from test numbers 2, 5 and/or 6 for Sub-Junior riders. Junior riders may be asked to perform any of the tests.

b. For the safety of the other entries, Judges are required to excuse any rider who is unable to control his or her mount.

#### **PF112 Appointments.**

The tack shall be English type. Schooling tack is not acceptable. The attire shall be the official Paso Fino show costume.

#### **PF113 Classic Fino Youth.**

Qualifying gaits, procedures and appointments, except for Safety Headgear (GR801), if applicable, are the same as described under the Classic Fino Division.

#### **PF114 Paso Performance Youth.**

Qualifying gaits, procedures and appointments, except for Safety Headgear (GR801), if applicable, are the same as described under the Paso Performance Division.

#### **PF115 Paso Pleasure Youth.**

Qualifying gaits, procedures and appointments, except for Safety Headgear (GR801), if applicable, are the same as described under the Paso Pleasure Division.

#### **PF116 Youth Horsemanship.**

Regional Group shows may offer this class at their discretion. This class shall be judged: 50% on horsemanship of rider, 10% on the suitability of the horse to the rider, and 40% on the performance of the horse.

#### **PF117 Procedures.**

Exhibitors will enter the ring to the right at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until asked to reverse or change gait. The entries will space themselves, maintain the same relative position and avoid bunching up. Entries will be penalized for bunching up or for not working on the rail. The sequence of the gait will be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, walk, reverse, and repeat. The reverse will be executed toward the center of the ring. A halt will be called at least once during the Paso Corto. Entries will execute the above class require-

ments. Horses that do not perform the paso gait will be eliminated after lining up. Judges will line up exhibitors and require exhibitors to perform the chosen tests individually.

Gaits:

Walk: slightly collected and maintained at an even pace with no hesitations

Corto: collected, with sustained cadence and rhythm

Largo: collected, with good transitions to and from corto, sustained cadence and rhythm.

#### **PF118 Tests.**

1. Stop: The rider should quietly stop the horse and keep the horse still and parallel to the rail.
2. Serpentine: At a corto, the rider will serpentine through cones without touching cones while maintaining gait, cadence, and rhythm.
3. Circles: At a corto, the rider will perform two (2) circles through cones while maintaining gait, cadence, and rhythm.
4. Figure Eights: In a distance of nine (9) feet between two (2) cones with the horse at a corto, the rider will perform two (2) figure eights while maintaining gait, cadence and rhythm without touching the cones.
5. Back: The horse shall back four (4) to six (6) steps in a straight line.
6. Sounding Board: At a corto, the rider shall put horse over the sounding board while maintaining gait, cadence and rhythm. The horse should move straight down the center of the board, tracking straight. The rider shall circle at the end of the board and return over the sounding board.

The course shall be posted approximately two (2) hours before the class. Off pattern: a rider will not be disqualified for failure to complete the pattern in the correct sequence but must be placed accordingly.

#### **PF119 Gold and Silver Medal Equitation.**

1. All requirements, including appointments, for this class shall be the same as for Paso Equitation (see PF109 and PF112). However, the Gold and Silver Medal Equitation classes are intended to be conducted and judged as advanced level Paso Equitation classes. As in the Equitation class, all entries will enter the ring, counterclockwise, at a Paso Corto and continue at a Paso Corto until otherwise instructed. The sequence of gait will be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, Collected Walk, reverse and repeat in the opposite direction. After the sequence of gaits is requested, the horses will be lined up. Any horse that did not perform the proper Paso gait will be eliminated at this line up.

2. Tests. The judge will prepare, in writing, the number and sequence of tests that each exhibitor will be required to perform after the horses are lined up. The tests from which the judge will choose will be the same as those described at paragraph PF110, above, with the addition of the tests described below in letters a through f. The number and sequence of tests should be designed so the majority of exhibitors can complete the tests in under sixty (60) seconds. The number and sequence of tests will be posted at the show office no less than approximately one hour before the commencement of the class. As directed by the judge, each exhibitor will individually perform the tests in the sequence posted and will return to the line up.

a. Dismount and mount from either side of the horse. The procedure described in PF110 above for the dismount and mount will be modified as appropriate for the side of the horse from which the rider will dismount and mount.

b. Properly execute a serpentine at the walk or Paso Corto. The horse should smoothly perform the serpentine without missing or breaking gait throughout.

c. Perform circles at a Paso Corto. The horse should smoothly perform the circles without missing or breaking gait throughout.

d. Stop the horse from a Paso Corto. The horse should quickly stop on the rider's command, without throwing its head or otherwise expressing discontent about being stopped.

e. Traverse the sounding board at a Paso Corto.

f. Side Pass, left and right, for as many steps as the judge directs. The horse should move evenly left and right at the side pass

**PF120 Eligibility.**

Eligibility. See PF101.1.

**PF121 Class Specifications & Qualifying Gait.**

The choice of gait is optional, either Classic Fino or Paso Corto, and one form of the gait shall not be given preference over the other.

Both conformation and gait shall be judged in this class. The Breed Standard of the ideal Paso Fino shall be used as the standard for judging. Transmissible faults, such as buck-kneed, calf-kneed, base wide, base narrow, cow hocks, sickle hocks, toe-in, toe-out, offset knees, standing under, camped out in front, too straight behind, etc., shall be counted heavily against breeding stock. A horse with a swayback or fallen crest will be heavily penalized. A horse must be serviceably sound to be considered for placement. Any horse that fails to demonstrate the Paso gait so that the Judge can evaluate and ascribe gait percentages shall be disqualified from placement. This class shall be judged: 60% on conformation, 30% on quality and naturalness of gait, and 10% on appearance, grooming, and manners.

**PF122 Procedures.**

1. Entries of any age may be shown with a halter and single or double lead line. If two lines are used, they shall be long and shall be one on either side of the halter; if two lines are used, the horse may be handled by one attendant holding both lines or by two (2) attendants- one holding each line. If one line is used, only one (1) attendant is allowed. No attendants other than those actually holding the lines are allowed. Lines may end in a smooth link chain (minimum width 3/8") which may be crossed over the nose and/or under the jaw. The horse must demonstrate the Classic Fino or the Paso Corto gait whenever moving. In the lineup, the horse must stand square, not stretched, and remain quiet without undue restraint.
2. Horses shall enter the ring one at a time in the order that show management designates. The horses shall proceed to the right and circle the arena in a counter-clockwise direction on the rail.
3. Quality of gait, that is, smoothness, symmetry of action, harmony of cadence, and naturalness, that is, consistency, absence of undue restraint, will be judged during rail work. After completing one circle, or when instructed by the Ringmaster, the horse will line up in the center of the ring for conformation inspection. The Judge shall penalize a horse if the handler uses his or her hands on the horse's leg below the knee to position the hoof in the lineup.
4. Additional work-offs may be required at the Judge's discretion including the use of the sounding board to exhibit horse's cadence of gait. During work-offs, the horses must remain on the rail except to pass.

**PF123 Appointments.**

1. A horse will be shown in a leather show halter without a bit, nameplate or inscription thereon. The halter will be English or Colombian type leather, flat, rolled, or braided (3/8, 1/2, or 5/8 inch) with a matching stitched or plain nose piece with optional browband not to exceed one (1) inch in width. A matching lead line, or long lines, as described in Section A above is required. A riding crop or whip not exceeding 30" in length may be carried. No other devices may be used.
2. Attendants will be attired in the official Paso Fino show costume.

**PF124 Classes within this Division.**

Classes within this Division may be separated into one of the following categories:

1. Open Bellas Formas (all ages and all sexes);
2. Yearlings Bellas Formas (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Colts, Geldings, and Fillies), and/or Bellas Formas Two Year Olds (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Colts, Geldings, and Fillies), and/or Bellas Formas Three Year Olds (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Colts, Geldings and Fillies); and/or Bellas Formas Four Year Olds and Older (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Mares, Geldings and Stallions); or
3. Bellas Formas Four-Year-Olds and Older (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Mares, Geldings, and Stallions); and/or Bellas Formas Three-Year-Olds and Under

(may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Colts, Geldings, and Fillies) or further divided as described above.

In a show where Bellas Formas classes are offered by age groups, e.g., three-year-old colts, a younger horse must be shown in the class corresponding to its age group and cannot be shown in a mares, geldings, or stallions class.

## **SUBCHAPTER PF-4 PERFORMANCE CLASSES (UNDER SADDLE).**

### **PF125 Qualifying Gaits.**

In all classes, special attention shall be afforded to the rhythmic consistency and smoothness of the Paso gait. While style of execution may vary with horses, any style of execution that reduces smoothness and consistency shall be penalized. In addition, a horse shall be excused for failure to perform any gait prescribed in a class. Any tendency to mix gaits, the loss of even cadence or lack of smoothness, as evidenced by an up and down or side to side movement of the horse's croup or of the rider, shall be penalized. Horses who fight the bit, flatten their ears or swish their tails shall be penalized.

In all qualifying gaits, light contact on the reins is required. Horses requiring undue restraint or "holding" in gait or collection shall be penalized. While the degree of collection required varies from class to class, in no gait should the horse go "strung-out" behind, squat down in the rear, jut out his nose, lug, or work behind the headgear. Exaggerated leg action (excessive fold, over-reaching, unnaturally high front leg action, etc.) is not desirable. The ideal Paso Fino should track straight; however, some slight winging or padding is acceptable and should be penalized only if it is severe or a result of conformation faults. In all classes and all gaits, the Paso Fino should give the appearance of naturalness and ease combined with a degree of the pride and elegance that is characteristic of the Paso Fino breed.

1. Walk: An animated, collected walk in Paso Performance and Paso Versatility classes. A flat walk in Paso Pleasure, Paso Trail and Paso Western Pleasure classes with head carriage natural and relaxed.

2. Classic Fino: Smooth, animated, exciting and executed with brilliance and style. Horse must be fully collected and balanced, putting its complete dynamic energy into its carriage and quickness of its footfall. The horse must perform naturally and willingly and any indication that the horse is being excessively restrained or held in gait shall be penalized. Horses who fight the bit, flatten their ears or swish their tails shall be penalized. Extension is absolutely minimum, forward speed is very slow and footfall is extremely rapid.

3. Paso Corto: Evenly spaced four-beat gait executed with moderate forward speed and extension. Horse should be smooth, balanced and exhibit symmetry in flexion and stride. In the Paso Performance and Paso Versatility classes the horse is well-collected, animated, proud and brilliant. In the Paso Pleasure, Paso Trail and Paso Western Pleasure classes collection and carriage are natural and relaxed with slightly more collection required in the Paso Pleasure class.

4. Paso Largo: Forward speed is rapid and the gait is executed with longer extension and faster cadence than the paso corto. Extension and flexion must be harmonious with no tendency to become light on the front or strung out behind. A definite change of speed from the paso corto must be observed. A significant difference will be rewarded. The even four-beat cadence must be retained. Forward speed varies with the individual horse, since each horse should attain its top speed in harmony with its own natural stride and cadence. In Paso Performance and Paso Versatility, the gait is collected, bold and animated. In the Paso Pleasure class, collection is mild and carriage is natural and relaxed.

5. Canter: True, three-beat, cadenced, straight on both leads, smooth, unhurried, executed with collection, head well-elevated and set.

6. Lope: True, three-beat gait, slow, cadenced, smooth, straight on both leads. Horse should be balanced going with mild collection.

### **PF126 Showing.**

1. Horses shall be shown at all gaits both ways of the ring. In all classes except Classic Fino and Costume all horses shall enter the ring at paso corto. Exception: see PF102.4

2. Only one hand may be used on reins when the horse is shown under Western tack and hands must not change except in Trail Classes. Rider may hold romal or end of split reins to keep from swinging.

### **PF127 Schooling Classes.**

1. Horse Must be 30 Months. Notwithstanding the fact that a horse may be considered three years old under GR102.1a, no horse may be ridden in a saddle class, whether a Schooling class or regular class, until it is at least thirty (30) months old, based on the actual date of foaling.
2. Schooling Class Sections. Schooling classes may be offered in the Fino, Performance and Pleasure Divisions, including the Amateur Owner Classes, as follows. There may be open schooling classes for horses three or four years old. Alternatively, there may be two Schooling age sections within a Division for: (1) horses that are three years old, and (2) horses that are four years old. The horse's age for purposes of determining the appropriate class shall be determined under GR102.1a
3. Crediting of Points. In a show that does not offer Schooling classes, a schooling horse may compete in the regular appropriate class and still retain its schooling status, and any show points awarded to such horses shall be computed and credited as points awarded in the appropriate Schooling class.
4. Restriction on Schooling Status. Once a horse has been shown in a regular Paso Performance, Paso Pleasure or Classic Fino class at a show that offers Schooling horse classes, it can never be shown again in a Schooling class in that Division.

### **PF128 Junior Riders, Youth and Amateur Owner Classes.**

1. Riders under the age of thirteen may not ride stallions and/or exhibit a colt or stallion on the competition grounds during a Federation sanctioned competition. This rule applies to all classes, point or not-point, specifically including lead line classes.
2. Youth Classes. Youth classes are offered where the award goes to the rider and not the horse. Youth riders must be seventeen years old or under. Youth classes shall be Junior (ages thirteen to seventeen) and Sub-Junior (ages seven to twelve). Horses entered in Youth classes may be cross entered in other classes in the same section.
3. Amateur Owner Classes. Horses entered in Amateur Owner classes may be cross entered in other classes in the same section.
4. When horses that are at least thirty (30) months old but no older than sixty (60) months old are shown in Amateur Owner or Youth classes (not including Equitation), schooling headgear is allowed.
5. Entries in Youth classes in a division are not eligible for Championship classes in that division unless otherwise qualified.

### **PF129 Tack.**

1. Metal on Nosepiece. A curb chain or curb strap is permitted but shall not be cruelly tight. Except for Schooling classes, metal is not permitted in, under, over or attached to the cavesson nosepiece except for necessary buckles.
2. No Metal on Browbands. No metal decoration is allowed on browbands.
3. Schooling Headgear. In the following circumstances:
  - a. Schooling classes,
  - b. Three- and four-year-old horses in Amateur Owner classes that are not Schooling classes or
  - c. Three- and Four-year-old horses in Youth classes, except Equitation and Horsemanship classes, headgear can be any training headgear not considered cruel or inhumane by the Judge or Show Committee. Bare metal, except for curb chains or parts of buckles, is not allowed. In a schooling class, metal may be used if covered in a nose-piece or under the chin, but it must not be considered cruel or inhumane by the Judge or Show Committee and be sufficiently covered to ensure comfort to the animal.
4. English Tack.
  - a. Saddle. In all classes where English tack is designated, saddles may be of any English type except that forward seat jumping saddles are prohibited unless a jump is required in the class. If a saddle pad is used, it will be conservative in color and conform to the shape of the saddle. Stirrups for classes requiring English tack must conform in overall shape to commonly regarded English tack.
  - b. Bridle. Except as provided in the next sentence, bridles must be leather, but not rawhide except in Schooling Classes where rawhide is permitted, Colombian or English type headstalls, flat, rolled or braided. Goatskin bridles with white or creme colored reins matching the bridles may be used. Cheek pieces may be 3/8 to 5/8 inch with a

matching, plain or stitched, cavesson and matching browband. The browband and cavesson nose piece may not exceed one (1) inch in width. Dropped nosebands, tie downs, and martingales are prohibited. Headstalls may have a throatlatch with a pisador. The pisador may be rawhide. Throat latches may tie rather than buckle.

c. Reins. Reins may be leather, flat, rolled or braided. Nylon or other natural or man-made fiber reins may be used (hereafter referred to “nylon”). In all classes nylon reins may be used, but they must be the same color as the headstall. Combination leather/nylon buckle-back reins may be used. Snaps that attach the reins to the bit or bosal may be used in all classes, with the exception of Youth Equitation and Horsemanship classes.

d. Other. An English breast strap or breast plate not exceeding (one) 1 inch may be used. No silver or vinyl or reflective vinyl is allowed on headgear, breast straps or breast plates.

5. Western Tack.

a. In all classes where Western tack is designated, the tack shall consist of a good working stock saddle. Silver equipment is permitted but must not predominate. The head stall shall be of the Western type customarily used with a stock saddle. *Western Pleasure horses under the age of five years may use a snaffle or bosal; horses five and over must use a curb bit. In Paso Pleasure when using Western style tack, Colombian and Western hackamore, mecates, sidepulls, curb, and snaffle bits may be used. Cavessons and nose bands are prohibited. Breastplates are permitted. See specific class descriptions and appointments for additional requirements concerning tack.*

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b. Bits. (All Divisions) Bits are required in all classes except Schooling Classes or other classes as specified. Bits may be of any humane approved type in accordance with Appendix A of the PFHA Rule Book. However, shanks cannot exceed six (6) inches, upper shank of bit from mouthpiece to where bit attaches to bridle cannot exceed three (3) inches, and all bits with shanks must have a curb strap or curb chain attached and used for leverage. The length of a shank shall be measured in a straight line from the mouthpiece to the end of the shank (see illustration).

6. Bits. Slip or gag bits, rigid donut mouthpieces and flat polo mouthpieces are prohibited. Any rein design or bit shank which increases the effective length and thereby the leverage of the shank of the bit is prohibited.

7. Crops and Spurs. Blunt spurs appropriate for English or Western classes, respectively and a riding crop not exceeding thirty (30) inches in length may be used.

8. Special Tack, Attire or Considerations. An individual requiring special show considerations shall submit a request to the show secretary who will note appropriate judges' cards accordingly and inform the steward of same. These special considerations may include the exemption from dismounting and mounting in Paso Pleasure classes.

**PF130 Attire and Appointments.**

1. Official Paso Fino Show Costume. In classes requiring the official Paso Fino show costume, the attire shall be a long sleeved bolero type jacket and full length pants or jumpsuit which cover the boots. The bolero jacket and pants or jumpsuit must be conservative in color and trim. The exhibitor must wear a long sleeve shirt or blouse. A matching or contrasting cummerbund is optional. Sequins, glitter, or other similar reflective adornment is not allowed on any part of the Paso Fino show costume. Male riders shall wear an unadorned tie. The exhibitor must wear a Spanish type felt, leather or suede hat with a round, flat crown and with a flat or slightly rolled brim with a matching or contrasting hatband. The whole effect of the exhibitor's costume is to be one of good taste.

2. Western Attire. In classes requiring Western dress, the rider shall wear a Western type hat, long sleeved Western type shirt, full length trousers, Western boots together with chaps, shotgun chaps or chinks. A jacket or vest is optional.

3. Safety Headgear. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty in any class. (GR801) In classes that may require a jump (Trail and Versatility), approved protective headgear is required. All riders twelve (12) years of age and under, including walk-corto leadline riders, are required to wear approved protective headgear at all times while on horseback at any competition.

**PF131 Qualifying Gait & Class Specifications.**

Classic Fino, which is an evenly-spaced four-beat lateral gait. This gait is smooth, animated, exciting and executed with brilliance and style. The horse must be fully collected and balanced, putting its complete dynamic energy into its carriage and the quickness of its footfall. Flexion and extension should be harmonious in all four legs, and the horse must present a picture of symmetry and fluidness of motion. The horse must perform this highly collected form of the gait naturally and willingly, and any indication that the horse is being excessively restrained or held in gait shall be penalized. A horse that fights the bit, flattens its ears or swishes its tail shall be penalized. Extension is absolutely minimal. The horse's forward speed is extremely slow, whereas the footfall is exceedingly rapid. Any tendency to mix gaits, the loss of even cadence, or lack of smoothness as evidenced by an up and down or side to side movement of the horse's croup or of the rider, shall be penalized.

In this class, horses shall demonstrate only the fully collected Classic Fino gait whenever moving. This class shall be judged: 75% on execution and naturalness of the Classic Fino gait; 15% on appearance, conformation and way of going; and 10% on manners.

**PF132 Procedures.**

Exhibitors will enter the ring to the right on the rail and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until instructed to reverse or halt. Horses must work both directions, reverse, halt and proceed in gait. Breaking gait on reverses, stops or starts shall be penalized. A figure eight may be requested to demonstrate flexibility, responsiveness, and steadiness of gait, but diminishing circles are not allowed. Only inanimate objects may be used as "posts" for the figure eight as long as they do not present a danger to horse or rider. A solid, ground level, hard surface sounding board 48' or longer should be used in this class to clearly exhibit the rhythmic consistency of the horse's cadence and impact. The performance of the horse on the sounding board shall not be given preference over the horse's work on the rail. During competition, while being judged, exhibitors are not allowed to turn on the sounding board. Backing of horses may be requested.

**PF133 Appointments.**

The tack shall be English type. The attire shall be the official Paso Fino show costume.

**PF134 Classes within this Division.**

1. Classic Fino Schooling. Schooling classes may be offered. These classes are to be conducted in exactly the same manner as the Classic Fino classes except that they will be limited to schooling horses. Tack and attire shall be the same as in Classic Fino with the exception of the headgear, which may be schooling headgear. (GR801).

Schooling classes, if offered, may be separated as follows:

- a. May be open; or
  - b. May be divided into Open Schooling 3-Year-Olds and Open Schooling 4-Year-Olds; or
  - c. May be divided into 3-Year-Old Schooling Fillies, 3-Year-Old Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated), 4-Year-Old Schooling Fillies, and 4-Year-Old Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated).
2. Classic Fino. These classes may be separated as follows;
- a. May be Open (includes all ages and all sexes);
  - b. May be divided into Classic Fino Schooling Open (see Section 1,a, above) and Classic Fino Open (horses 5 years old and over, any sex); or
  - c. Schooling classes may be divided as provided in Section 1 above and Classic Fino divided into Mares, Geldings, and Stallions.
  - d. Amateur Owner classes may also be offered. They may be Open or, if divided, they must be divided into Mares, Geldings, and Stallions. Amateur Owner Schooling classes may be offered, and may be separated the same as set forth above in Section 1 above, Classic Fino Schooling.

**PF135 Qualifying Gaits & Class Specifications.**

1. Collected Walk, which is an evenly-spaced four-beat gait, cadenced, straight, brisk, animated and rhythmic. This gait is executed with collection, style and brilliance.
2. Collected Paso Corto, which is an evenly-spaced four-beat lateral gait with moderate forward speed and extension. This gait is smooth, supple, cadenced, animated and brilliant, with the horse well- collected, fully balanced, and exhibiting symmetry in flexion and extension. The horse should demonstrate pride, style, elegance and enthusiasm, along with good manners and ready response.
3. Collected Paso Largo, which is an evenly-spaced four-beat lateral gait. This gait is smooth, balanced, collected, bold and animated, with rapid forward motion. Extension and flexion must be harmonious with no tendency to become "light" on the front or "strung out" behind. The horse should appear eager and willing to move out, and a definite change of speed from the Paso Corto to the Paso Largo must be observed, yet a willingness to reduce speed on command must be demonstrated. All transitions between gaits should be performed evenly and smoothly. An even, four-beat cadence must be maintained, together with style, presence, boldness, and brilliance. Loss of form, cadence, or smoothness due to excessive speed shall be penalized.

In this class, the horse should combine style and spirit along with obedience and good manners. The horse should move out willingly, and stand quietly when requested.

This class shall be judged: 30% on collected Paso Corto; 30% on collected Paso Largo; 10% on the walk; 20% on appearance, conformation and way of going; and 10% on manners. Special attention shall be afforded to brilliance, form, smoothness, and rhythmic consistency of the gaits.

**PF136 Procedures.**

The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right on the rail at a collected Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. The sequence of gaits shall be: collected Paso Corto, collected Paso Largo, to show the marked difference in speed, collected walk, reverse and repeat.

While executing the collected walk, entries should space themselves to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail. In the collected Paso Corto and collected Paso Largo, entries shall maintain a position on the rail except to pass.

A solid, ground level, continuous hard surface, allowing no more than one-half inch of space between the sounding board 48' or longer may be used. However, the judges may require horses to perform only the Paso Corto gait over the sounding board. Judges may call for a serpentine at a collected Paso Corto and/or a figure eight at a collected Paso Corto as requirements for a work-off of horses in close competition. At a very minimum, a serpentine should consist of half circles with 180 degree turns.

**PF137 Appointments.**

The tack shall be English type. The attire shall be the official Paso Fino show costume.

**PF138 Classes within this Division.**

1. Paso Performance Schooling. Schooling classes may be offered. These classes are to be conducted in exactly the same manner as the Paso Performance classes except that they will be limited to schooling horses. Tack and attire shall be the same as in Paso Performance with the exception of the headgear, which may be schooling headgear. See PF129.3 for the definition of schooling headgear.

Schooling classes, if offered, may be separated as follows:

- a. May be Open; or
  - b. May be divided into Open Schooling 3-Year-Olds and Open Schooling 4-Year-Olds; or
  - c. May be divided into 3-Year-Old Schooling Fillies, 3-Year-Old Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated), 4-Year-Old Schooling Fillies, and 4-Year-Old Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated).
2. Paso Performance. These classes may be separated as follows;
- a. May be Open (includes all ages and all sexes);

- b. May be divided into Paso Performance Schooling Open (see Section 1, a, above) and Paso Performance Open (horses 5 years old and over, any sex); or
- c. Schooling classes may be divided as provided in Section 1 above and Paso Performance divided into Mares, Geldings, and Stallions.
- d. Amateur Owners classes may also be offered. They may be Open or, if divided, must be divided into Mares, Geldings, and Stallions. Amateur Owner Schooling classes may be offered, and may be separated the same as set forth above in Section 1 above, Paso Performance Schooling.

## **SUBCHAPTER PF-7 PASO PLEASURE DIVISION**

### **PF139 Qualifying Gaits & Class Specifications.**

1. Flat Walk, which is a true, evenly-spaced four-beat, flat-footed, smooth gait executed with mild collection. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.
2. Paso Corto, which is a smooth, steady, unbroken, evenly-spaced four-beat lateral gait, rhythmic, executed with moderate extension and mild collection. Forward speed is ground-covering but unhurried. Movements should be fluid, willing, relaxed, balanced and free-moving. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.
3. Paso Largo. Smooth, evenly-spaced four-beat lateral gait, fluid, and rapid, showing no tendency to labor or become "strung out." Collection is mild. Both extension and rapidness of cadence are increased over the Paso Corto, and a definite change of speed must be observed. The evenly-spaced four-beat cadence must be maintained at all times, and loss of cadence, form or smoothness due to excessive speed shall be penalized, but extension and speed in gait shall be rewarded. This class is to demonstrate the more relaxed manner of movement of the Paso Fino horse. Collection is mild. For this reason, manners and obedience of the horse are particularly important, and any indication of bad manners shall be heavily penalized. The horse should be controlled with minimal restraint and the rider should appear to be enjoying himself. Gait transitions should be made in a smooth, relaxed and willing manner, and the horse's attitude should be calm, pleasant and cooperative. A horse that fights the bit, flattens its ears or swishes its tail shall be penalized. The horse will be required to flat walk, Paso Corto, Paso Largo, line-up and back. The back should be straight, calm and controlled, and refusal to back disqualifies the horse from placement. Riders may not ride without stirrups. This class shall be judged: 20% on Paso Corto; 20% on Paso Largo; 20% on flat walk; 5% on back and 35% on manners, conformation, attitude and way of going.

### **PF140 Procedures.**

1. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. The riders shall space themselves while executing the flat walk so as to avoid bunching up and shall maintain their relative positions on the rail. In the Paso Corto and the Paso Largo, entries shall maintain a position on the rail except to pass.
2. The sequence of gaits shall be: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, to demonstrate the marked difference in speed, flat walk, reverse and repeat.
3. Each rider shall be asked to demonstrate the back from the line-up. In the back, the horse shall maintain proper head position, show evidence of a good mouth, back in a straight line and be readily responsive. At the judge's discretion, riders may be asked to perform individually; the required test should show the submissive manners, willingness and quiet temperament. Some of the requests may be as follows:
  - a. Dismount and remount from the left side, either in the line-up or along the rail, except in Youth Classes. Rider's style of dismount and mount is not to be emphasized; rather, emphasis is placed on the horse's willingness to stand quietly
  - b. Perform a serpentine at the Paso Corto gait;
  - c. Perform the Paso Corto gait over the sounding board;
  - d. Back on the board;
  - e. Back on the rail.

Any combination of the above may be used for a work-off.

## PF141 Appointments.

The tack and headgear for the horses *must be English or Western as described in PF129.4 and .5* including without limitation a side saddle and leather covered stirrups. A bit is not required. Metal is not permitted in, under, over or attached to the cavesson nosepieces and headrisers, except for necessary buckles. Attire shall be in keeping with the type of tack used. Where Western-style tack is used, riders shall dress as specified under requirements for Western attire described at PF130.2, with the exception that chaps or chinks are optional in this class. Where English-style or Plantation-type tack is used, the rider's attire shall consist of a long sleeved shirt, full-length trousers, tailored jacket or vest, hat and riding boots. Riders that use English tack cannot wear chaps. Sweater vests are not allowed. A tie is optional. Women riders may wear skirts, culottes or gaucho pants that are long enough to cover the knees while seated in a saddle along with knee-high boots. Sequins, glitter or other similar reflective adornment is not allowed on any part of the pleasure attire. Jeans and baseball-style hats are prohibited. No part of the official Paso Fino costume shall be allowed except for riding boots, *jumpsuit, or pants*. Exhibitors should remember that even though this is a Pleasure class, it is a horse show class and not just a ride for pleasure.  
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## PF142 Classes within this Division.

1. Paso Pleasure Schooling. Schooling classes may be offered. These classes are to be conducted in exactly the same manner as the Paso Pleasure classes except that they will be limited to schooling horses. Tack and attire shall be the same as in Paso Pleasure. Where Western-style tack is used, riders are allowed to use two (2) hands when using schooling type headgear.

Schooling classes, if offered, may be separated as follows:

- a. May be Open; or
  - b. May be divided into Open Schooling 3 Years Old and Open Schooling 4 Years Old; or
  - c. May be divided into 3-Year-Old Schooling Fillies, 3-Year-Old Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated), 4-Year-Old Schooling Fillies, and 4-Year-Old Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings may also be separated).
2. Paso Pleasure. These classes may be separated as follows;
- a. May be Open (includes all ages and all sexes);
  - b. May be divided into Paso Pleasure Schooling Open (see Section 1, a, above) and Paso Pleasure Open (horses 5 years old and over, any sex); or
  - c. Schooling classes may be divided as provided in Section 1 above and Paso Pleasure divided into Mares, Geldings, and Stallions.
  - d. Amateur Owners classes may also be offered. They may be Open or, if divided, they must be divided into Mares, Geldings, and Stallions. Amateur Owner Schooling classes may be offered, and may be separated the same as set forth above in Section 1 above, Paso Pleasure Schooling.

## SPECIALTY CLASSES

These classes are open to all horses regardless of age or sex unless otherwise prohibited in these rules.

## PF143 Paso Versatility Class.

1. Qualifying Gaits & Class Specifications.
  - a. Flat Walk, which is an evenly-spaced four-beat gait.
  - b. Paso Corto, which is an evenly-spaced four-beat lateral gait with moderate forward speed and extension. This gait is smooth, supple, cadenced, with the horse mildly collected, balanced, and exhibiting symmetry in flexion and extension. The horse should demonstrate pride, style, elegance and enthusiasm, along with good manners and ready response.
  - c. Paso Largo, which is an evenly-spaced four-beat lateral gait. This gait is smooth, balanced, with rapid forward motion. Extension and flexion must be harmonious with no tendency to become "light" on the front or "strung out" behind. The horse should appear eager and willing to move out, and a definite change of speed from the Paso Corto to the Paso Largo must be observed, yet a willingness to reduce speed on command must be demonstrated. All transitions between gaits should be performed evenly and

smoothly. An even, four-beat cadence must be maintained, together with style. Loss of form, cadence, or smoothness due to excessive speed shall be penalized.

d. Canter, which is a true, three-beat gait, cadenced, straight on both leads, smooth and unhurried, with no tendency to increase speed or to mix gaits. This gait is executed with collection. The horse's movements are light and airy, with no more elevation than the lope. The horse should exhibit style and presence, along with good manners and steadiness.

e. In this class, the horse will be asked to demonstrate balance, flexibility, coordination and manners while performing the various gaits, tests, and maneuvers. Manners and willingness are very important. The back must be controlled and smooth. Failure to properly execute the Paso Corto and Paso Largo, demonstrating an evenly-spaced four-beat lateral gait, will automatically eliminate the horse, and it will not be asked to do the individual work out, executing a figure eight maneuver at a Paso Corto and taking the jump from the canter. Failure to take the correct lead in the canter shall be penalized. The figure eight is to be performed at the Paso Corto and should be smooth, consistent in gait, and supple. A jump that is a minimum of eighteen (18) inches and a maximum of two (2) feet will be taken from the canter.

f. The class shall be judged: 20% on the Paso Corto; 20% on the Paso Largo; 10% on the walk; 10% on the canter; and 40% on back, jump, manners, and figure eight.

2. Procedures. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. The sequence of gaits shall be: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, flat walk, collected canter, flat walk, reverse and repeat. While executing the walk, riders shall space themselves to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail. In the remaining gaits, exhibitors shall remain on the rail except to pass. Riders shall be asked individually to back, execute a figure eight maneuver at a Paso Corto, and take a jump from the canter.

3. Appointments. The tack and headgear are to be English type, with a bridle and cavesson. Forward seat saddles are also allowed. Attire is to be English-style as described in the Paso Pleasure Division (PF141). Safety Headgear is required. (GR801)

#### **PF144 Paso Western Pleasure.**

##### **1. Qualifying Gaits & Class Specifications**

a. Flat Walk, which is a true, evenly-spaced four-beat, flat-footed, smooth gait executed with mild collection. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.

b. Paso Corto, which is a smooth, steady, unbroken, evenly-spaced four-beat lateral gait, rhythmic, executed with moderate extension and mild collection. Forward speed is ground-covering but unhurried. Movements should be fluid, willing, relaxed, balanced and free-moving. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed

c. Lope, which is a true, three-beat gait that is slow, cadenced, smooth, straight on both leads. Movements are less elevated than in the canter, and the horse's head is carried somewhat lower. The horse should be balanced, going with mild collection. Movements are free, relaxed, and easy, and the horse should not show a tendency to increase speed or mix gaits.

d. In this class, the horse should move in the working cow horse image, while still retaining the air of pride and grace that is typical of the Paso Fino. In all gaits, the horse must be smooth and responsive, and both horse and rider should appear comfortable and relaxed. The horse must work on a very light rein, but some contact should be maintained. Gait transitions should be taken on the first stride, and the horse should maintain his speed and cadence without restraint by the rider. Failure to take the correct lead in the lope shall be penalized.

e. This class shall be judged: 35% on Paso Corto; 30% on lope; 10% on flat walk; and 25% on manners, attitude, and way of going.

2. Procedures. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. Only one hand may be used on the reins *when using a curb bit* and hands must not be changed. If hands are changed or if two hands are used *with a curb bit*, the exhibitor shall be penalized. If the left hand is used with reins, the bight must drape to the left side of the withers. The only exception to this is if long reins or a romal are used. In that case, one hand may be used to carry the excess rein, but the hands must be at least twelve (12) inches apart. All horses being considered for an award are required to back in a straight line. Refusal to back disqualifies a horse from placement.

The sequence of the gaits shall be: Paso Corto, flat walk, lope, flat walk, reverse, and repeat.

Riders should space themselves while executing the flat walk to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail. In the Paso Corto and lope, entries shall remain on the rail except to pass.

The judge may require each rider to dismount and remount in the line-up from the left side. The rider's style of dismount and mount is not to be emphasized; rather, emphasis is placed on the horse's willingness to stand quietly. The judge also may require any of the following tests to any or all entries:

- a. Demonstrate a straight back for up to 15 feet.
  - b. Lope and stop either on the rail or on the center.
  - c. Perform the figure eight at the lope on the correct lead demonstrating a simple change of lead. One or two figure eights may be required. In a simple change of lead, the horse is brought back to the halt and restarted into the lope on the opposite lead from the halt or walk.
  - d. Perform the Paso Corto gait over the sounding board.
3. Appointments. The tack and attire are to be Western type. *Horses under the age of five may use a snaffle or bosal. Horses five and over must use a curb bit.* Australian stock saddles are prohibited but Western saddles made in Australia (with a horn) are allowed. See PF129 concerning Western tack. *BOD 1/18/09 Effective 4/1/09*

#### **PF145 Paso Trail.**

1. Qualifying Gaits & Class Specifications. (It is not required to use all the qualifying gaits.)
  - a. Flat Walk, which is a true, evenly-spaced four-beat, flat-footed, smooth gait executed with mild collection. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.
  - b. Paso Corto, which is a smooth, steady, unbroken, evenly-spaced four-beat lateral gait, rhythmic, executed with moderate extension and mild collection. Forward speed is ground-covering but unhurried. Movements should be fluid, willing, relaxed, balanced and free-moving. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.
  - c. Paso Largo. Smooth, evenly-spaced four-beat lateral gait, fluid, and rapid, showing no tendency to labor or become "strung out." Collection is mild. Both extension and rapidness of cadence are increased over the Paso Corto, and a definite change of speed must be observed. The evenly-spaced four-beat cadence must be maintained at all times, and loss of cadence, form or smoothness due to excessive speed shall be penalized.
  - d. Canter or Lope: True, three-beat, cadenced, straight on both leads, smooth and unhurried, with no tendency to increase speed or mix gaits.
2. Procedures. In this class, each horse shall be asked to negotiate through obstacles. Obstacles are to be negotiated by exhibitors individually with only one horse in the arena at a time. This class shall be judged 100% on the obstacle course; there is no rail work. This includes the distance from the beginning of an obstacle to the beginning of the next obstacle. Any horse not performing the gait required properly should be penalized in the same manner as not completing the obstacle. *The canter or lope is not to be called for in the class procedure. However, if a jump is called for in the class, the rider has the option of using any of the qualifying gaits in negotiating the jump.* Failure to follow the prescribed obstacles, or course of travel through obstacles, will result in automatic elimination. A drawn course will be provided by show management, reviewed for compliance with required procedures and approved by the judge(s) and steward(s). The course will show the line of travel through obstacles and the gait required to perform obstacles. Changes or revisions will not be permitted after posting. The course will specify how a horse is to negotiate or travel between obstacles that seems appropriate. *EC 11/17/08 Effective 12/1/08*

Tests that may be required are: negotiating a gate, carrying an object from one part of the arena to another, riding through water, over logs or simulated brush, riding down into, up and out of a ditch without lunging or jumping, crossing a bridge, backing through obstacles, sidepassing, mounting and dismounting from either side, and performing over any reasonable conditions along the trail. (See WS103.4 for posting requirements.) Any coat or jacket to be put on by the rider must be open in front and not be an item which must be put on over the head. Unnatural obstacles, such as fire extinguisher, perforated plywood in water boxes, or exotic animals should be avoided. The course is to include a minimum of six (6) obsta-

cles and a maximum of eight (8) obstacles. (See WS129, as may be amended from time to time, for dimensions of trail obstacles.)

Horses are to be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching the obstacles. Judges are encouraged to advance on to the next obstacle any horse taking excessive time at an obstacle. Entry will be evaluated on willingness, responsiveness, correctness and general attitude while negotiating through the obstacle course. Obstacles occurring in a natural trail environment only are to be used to break a tie.

3. Appointments. The tack and type of attire are optional; tack and attire as described for either the Paso Western Pleasure class or the Paso Pleasure class are permitted. Safety Headgear is required if a jump is included in the class. See GR801.

#### **PF146 Paso Costume.**

1. The purpose of this class is to create interest in the Paso Fino Breed by establishing and demonstrating its Latin American or Spanish origin by means of the various costumes for the rider employed in the respective countries of origin, for the diversion and enjoyment of the public. In this class, horses will be required to demonstrate their favorite Paso gait and stand in a line-up on display. They shall be judged: 80% on attractiveness of costuming and appropriateness of same to the horses and the completeness of the costuming idea; 10% on the brilliance of gait and on the carriage of the horse; and 10% on manners of the horse. Points in this class shall be assigned to the rider.

Riders entering the costume class must be members in good standing of the Association.

Procedures. Entries must submit a brief statement of approximately 100 words or a maximum of two (2) minutes on the cultural significance of their costume. This will be read as each entrant, one-by-one, enters the ring in his or her favorite *paso* gait (*Classic Fino, Paso Corto, Paso Largo*). Every exhibitor must circle the ring once in a counterclockwise manner and line up head to tail in the center of the ring. An attendant/handler is allowed. Such attendant/handler must be appropriately attired and in keeping with the costume of the rider. The rider's attire will not be offensive or detract from the main purpose of the Class.

*BOD 1/18/09 Effective 4/1/09*

2. Appointments. No specific tack for the horse is required, but all should be in keeping with the costume of the rider. Costume of the rider must be Latin American or Spanish related, but no specific country of origin need be identified.

#### **PF147 Paso Fino Country Pleasure. (Restricted to Amateurs)**

1. Qualifying Gaits & Class Specifications.

a. Flat Walk, which is a true, evenly-spaced four-beat, flat-footed, smooth gait executed with mild collection. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.

b. Corto, which is an evenly-spaced four-beat lateral gait with the horse going forward with free and moderately extended steps. The steps should be even and the whole movement balanced and unconstrained. A definite change of speed from the flat walk must be observed. The rider allows the horse, maintaining light contact on the reins, to carry his head somewhat in front of the vertical and allows him at the same time to lower his head and neck slightly. The horse should demonstrate pride, style, and enthusiasm, along with good manners and ready response.

c. Largo, which is an evenly-spaced longer strided four-beat lateral gait with considerably more speed than the Corto, *a greater difference in extension and speed will be rewarded*. The whole movement should be well balanced and the transition from Corto should be fluidly executed. A definite change of speed from the Paso Corto must be observed. The rider allows the horse, while maintaining light contact on the reins without leaning or pulling against the reins, to lengthen his frame and to gain ground. Extreme speed, loss of form, cadence or smoothness shall be penalized.

*BOD 1/18/09 Effective 4/1/09*

d. The Paso Fino Country Pleasure Horse should be a calm, mild-mannered, safe, using pleasure horse maintaining balance, ease and freedom of movement. It must demonstrate flawless manners. It must be absolutely agreeable to the commands and directions of the rider. It is imperative that the horse give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride with emphasis on the flat walk and smooth transitions. It must at all times work on a very light rein without resistance and, although it should be athletic, may be energetic, and should combine style and spirit. It must at all times demonstrate a quiet, calm and extremely tractable attitude. It must stand quietly and back

readily when requested. Horses indicating aggressiveness, over-collection or excessive animation shall be severely penalized.

e. This class is open to amateurs and to horses who have not been in professional training for thirty (30) days before the show. Cross entering in any other class is permitted.

f. This class shall be judged: 20% on flat Walk; 20% on Corto; 20% on Largo; 10% on the back; 10% on appearance and way of going; and 20% on manners. Special attention shall be afforded to form, smoothness, rhythmic constancy of the gaits and tractable attitude.

2. Procedures. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right of the rail at a Paso Corto, and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. Sequence of gaits will be: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, walk, reverse and repeat, then line up. When requested by the Judge, the rider will back the horse out of the line up, dismount from the left side, walk around to the front of the horse checking the headgear and/or bridle appointments, then remount from the right side and return to the line up. Rider's style of dismount and mount is not to be emphasized; rather, emphasis is placed on the horse's willingness to back in a calm controlled manner and to stand quietly.

While executing all gaits, entries should space themselves to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail except to pass.

3. Appointments. Tack and attire are to be appropriate for Paso Pleasure Class, at all times neat, clean and in good taste. Bits are not required in the Paso Fino Country Pleasure Class. The tack and headgear for the horses may be of any variety that would be appropriate and practical for pleasure riding.

Attire shall be in keeping with the type of tack used. Where Western-style tack is used, riders shall dress as specified under requirements for Western attire described in PF130 with the exception that chaps or chinks are optional in this class. Where English-style or Plantation-type tack is used, the rider's attire shall consist of a long sleeved shirt, full-length trousers, tailored jacket or vest, hat and riding boots. Riders who use English tack cannot wear chaps. Sweater vests are not allowed. A tie is optional. Women riders may wear skirts, culottes or gaucho pants that are long enough to cover the knees while seated in a saddle along with knee-high boots. Jeans and baseball-style hats are prohibited. No part of the official Paso Fino costume shall be allowed except for riding boots. Exhibitors should remember that even though this is a Paso Country Pleasure Class, it is a horse show class and not just a ride for pleasure.

#### **PF148 Paso Pleasure Driving Class.**

##### **1. General**

a. This class is open to Paso Fino horses thirty-six (36) months of age or older, as determined by the actual date of foaling.

b. In this class, the horses should combine style and spirit along with obedience and good manners. They should move out willingly and stand quietly when requested. The horses will be required to perform at a walk, Paso Corto and Paso Largo. The gait should be smooth in each speed, evidenced by a lack of an up and down movement of the horse's croup. This class shall be judged: 30% on Paso Corto; 30% on Paso Largo; 10% on walk; 15% on appearance; and 15% on manners.

c. Carts must reverse by turning to the center of the ring and angling to the opposite side to avoid accidents.

d. In the walk, the horse should be smooth, alert and graceful. In the Paso Corto, the horse shall move at a moderate rate of speed and the carriage of the horse should be proud, with only mild extension and the gait should be smooth and steady without hopping or breaking of rhythm. In the Paso Largo, the horse shall move more rapidly, and evidence a readily detectable marked difference in speed from the Paso Corto. Excessive speed, however, that might tend to create a safety hazard, may, at the discretion of the Judge, be penalized. The footfall, as always, must remain a four beat lateral gait and pacing and/or trotting will be penalized.

2. Procedures. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until required by the Judge to reverse or change gait. Sequence of the gaits shall be: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, walk, reverse and repeat. All horses being considered for an award are required to back in a straight line.

3. Appointments. The horse is to be shown in light driving harness, bridle (blinkers, overcheck and overcheck bit are optional), and hitched to a two- or four-wheeled vehicle suitable to the horse. Bits may be of the snaffle type, either regular, straight bar or jointed, or liverpooles. Liverpooles may be used "in the half cheek" or one hole only below. The check rein should not interfere with free way of going. The horses *forelock* may be braided. Sulky will not be allowed. Definition of a sulky is a two-wheeled vehicle with no place for the driver's feet except in stirrups. A basket will be allowed for the feet. A standard buggy whip will be allowed in this class. *EC 9/21/09 Effective immediately*

The attire of the driver in the driving class shall be the same as that prescribed for in the Paso Fino Pleasure class. A driving apron may be used. One attendant without a whip is permitted to head each horse during the lineup. Attendants will be neatly attired and a grooms smock is optional. The attendant may uncheck the horse and then must stand back two paces.

Only the driver is permitted in the cart except when a sub-junior is showing the entry, in which case an adult must accompany the sub-junior driver.

## **SUBCHAPTER PF-8 AMATEUR ADULT EQUITATION. BOD 1/18/09 Effective 4/1/09**

### **PF149 Paso Equitation.**

1. *The Paso Equitation seat enhances the particular and special style, grace, rhythm and oneness of horse and rider. The class is to be judged 100% on equitation. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them. Horses shown in this class will perform the required Paso gaits.*

2. *Basic Position. The rider shall convey the impression of effective and complete control at all times, showing both the horse and the rider to the rider's best advantage. A complete picture of the whole is of major importance.*

3. *Arm and Hand Position. The arm should hang naturally with the elbows not extending outward beyond a perpendicular line even with the rider's shoulders. The reins shall be held in one of the following manners:*

a. *The reins should be held one (1) rein in each hand entering at the bottom below the little finger and extending upward with the bight of the rein hanging on the off (right) side of the horse.*

b. *The rein must pass directly from the bit, between the little and third fingers, the thumb being placed on top. It is important that the third finger holds the edges of the rein in the joints nearest the palm and that the fingers are closed securely but without tension. Bight (excess) of the rein should be on the off (right) side. The rider's hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle and should show sympathy, adaptability and control. The height the rider's hands are held above the horse's withers is determined by the head carriage of the individual horse. However, extremely high or low hand positions are improper. The rider's hands should not pass over or behind the pommel of the saddle. The rider shall make every effort to achieve as straight a line as possible from the elbow through the forearm, hand and rein to the bit. Hands and wrists should be flexible and not held extremely separated.*

4. *Head Position. The rider's head should be held erect with the chin up. The rider's eyes should look straight forward.*

5. *Back position. The rider's back should be straight, but not stiff. The rider's shoulders should be square.*

6. *Feet and Leg Position. The rider's leg should hang naturally with a slight bend at the knee. The rider's lower leg should be under the rider's body and not flared outward. Flaring of lower leg shall be penalized. The rider's feet should be parallel with the horse's body with the heels slightly lowered (approximately 1 inch.) The ball of the rider's foot should rest directly over the stirrup iron with even pressure on the entire iron with heel, hip and point of shoulder in line. The rider's foot position should be natural (neither extremely in nor out.)*

7. *Position in Motion. The rider's position in motion should be natural, coordinated and graceful. The rider should remain almost motionless at all gaits. From the side, a straight line should be able to be drawn perpendicular to the ground through the rider's head, shoulder, hip and ankle. The rider's toe should never be more forward than his knee, thereby keeping his center of balance directly above his feet and ankles. The rider's upper arms*

should fall naturally from the shoulders toward the hip bones and should be flexible, never clutched to the body, extending forward, or spread away from the body. The rider should appear to have a natural flow downward into the saddle and show no side to side movement of upper body. At all gaits, the rider should remain in the center of the saddle and not slip back on the cantle.

8. *Tests: The rider may be required to perform the following tests:*

- a. *Back his or her horse smoothly and under control. The horse's mouth should remain closed and the horse should not throw his or her head.*
- b. *Move his or her horse from Paso Largo to a walk on a quiet rein.*
- c. *Answer questions on parts of the horse and tack.*

9. *Procedures. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until asked to reverse or change gait. Entries will space themselves, maintain the same relative position and avoid bunching up. Entries will be penalized for bunching up or for not working on the rail. The sequence of the gait will be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, walk, reverse and repeat. The reverse will be executed toward the center of the ring. A halt will be called at least once during the Paso Corto. Entries will execute the above class requirements and, in addition, judges are encouraged to call for at least two (2) of the tests provided in PF149.8, above, of the top contestants. Each of the tests is to be performed individually.*

- a. *Riders may be asked to perform any of the tests.*
- b. *For the safety of the other entries, judges are required to excuse any rider who is unable to control his or her mount.*

10. *Appointments. The tack shall be English type. Schooling tack is not acceptable. The attire shall be the official Paso Fino show costume.*

11. *Age requirement. The rider must be considered an Adult for the competition year.*

## **SUBCHAPTER PF-9**      **Championship Classes** *EC 3/16/09 Effective immediately*

### **PF150**      **Championship Classes.**

1. Championship classes for Mares/Fillies, Stallions/Colts and Geldings for each division may be offered.

2. Eligibility. To be eligible for entry into a Championship class, a horse must have been properly entered, shown and judged in one of the qualifying classes. To be considered shown and judged, a horse must perform all required gaits both ways of the ring in the original class and must remain in the ring until either eliminated or placed by the judge. Entries qualified for Championship classes in Amateur Owner classes must compete in the Amateur Owner Championship classes in that Division, if offered. If Amateur Owner Championship classes are not offered, an entry that qualifies for the Championship class in the Amateur Owner class may compete in the regular Championship class in the Division for which they are qualified. However, in the Bellas Formas division, all Championship classes shall be composed of the entries who placed first and second in their qualifying classes. From these entries a Champion, Reserve Champion, Third Champion and Fourth Champion shall be chosen.

3. Procedures. The championship classes will be conducted in the same manner as the qualifying class. Horses will be required to perform in the gait of the qualifying class in both directions of the ring, execute the maneuvers of the qualifying class and line up as requested by the Judge. Horses will remain in the ring until excused by the Judge.

4. Classes Offered. Except in an All-Breed Show, Championship classes shall be offered in a division when at least two qualifying classes have been offered at a show.

If Bellas Formas classes are divided into colts/stallions, geldings, and fillies/mares classes, only the following Bellas Formas championship classes can be offered:

- a. Fillies and Mares All Ages.
- b. Geldings All Ages.
- c. Colts and Stallions All Ages.

In shows where there are only open Bellas Formas classes, there can be only an open championship.

- d. Youth. Entries in a youth class do not qualify that exhibitor for a championship class.

**PF151 Competitions.**

1. If classes are held concurrently (one performance, two judges, two sets placings) during a Federation Licensed Competition, both classes must be held in accordance with all applicable Federation rules and both classes must be Federation Recognized.

2. Federation-PFHA "AB" Sanctioned Shows.

An All Breed ("AB") show shall have PFHA sponsored classes which are part of an All Breed Federation Regular Member show. The cosponsoring PFHA Regional Group is responsible to make sure that all required paperwork is received by the PFHA office in the required time. FEDERATION-PFHA sanctioned shows shall be judged by an FEDERATION-PFHA certified Judge. FEDERATION-PFHA sanctioned shows shall be stewarded by one steward with both FEDERATION and PFHA certification or by one FEDERATION steward and one PFHA steward. In FEDERATION-PFHA sanctioned shows when any PFHA Rule conflicts with a FEDERATION Rule, the FEDERATION Rule will prevail. Thus, even if class specifications differ, FEDERATION Rules will be followed and PFHA points will be recorded for that class.

3. Classification. For the purpose of equalizing competition for High Point awards and Society of Merit awards, and to promote PFHA-FEDERATION All Breed shows, PFHA approved shows shall fall into one of three classifications: All Breed ("AB"), All Paso ("AP"), and Local ("L"). These shows must be sponsored by a recognized Regional Group. These do not include the PFHA National Championship Show.

4. Show Applications

Initial Application. Before a show date may be sanctioned by the PFHA, and "Reserved," the following must be received by the PFHA Office:

a. PFHA Form, Application for Approval, signed by the designated person of the sponsoring Regional Group, obtainable from the PFHA office, containing the date of the show, location, and classification (AP, AP/Federation, L, AB/Federation) and contact person, sent to the attention of the PFHA Executive Director. Appropriate show application fees.

b. Approval of Show. Before a show date can be "Approved" by the PFHA Executive Director, the following must be submitted by the contact person or President of the sponsoring Regional Group and received by the PFHA: The names of the Judge(s) and Steward(s) (in writing); and List of Classes

The PFHA must receive the items required under subsections 1 and 2, above, at least sixty (60) days before the scheduled show date; if not received by that date, show fees will be doubled. Notice of show approval or disapproval, signed by the PFHA Executive Director, will be sent to the contact person for the sponsoring Regional Group.

c. Show Date Approval. To assist in giving each sponsoring Regional Group the same opportunity to receive show date approval, each Regional Group should make application for proposed shows for the current show year by the first PFHA Board of Directors Meeting of that show year. Approval for "AP" shows and dates will be granted by the PFHA Executive Director.

d. Responsibilities. PFHA Regional Groups shall have full responsibility for promoting and conducting all shows sponsored by such organizations.

5. Show Reports.

a. Show Summary. A show summary must be submitted for each show listing class number, class name, horse placements, full registered names of horses, registration numbers of horses, exhibitors' names and membership numbers, and current recorded owner(s)' name(s) and/or farm name under which the horses are shown and their membership numbers. All fees due to the PFHA in connection with the show must either (i) accompany this summary or (ii) be sent to the PFHA no later than submission of the summary. See PFHA concerning fees due to the PFHA).

b. Record Of Points. The sponsoring Regional Group shall record the points earned during sponsored shows and forward the same together with the Judge's Cards, roster and show summary by First Class mail to the PFHA Office, postmarked within fifteen (15) calendar days of the completion of such show. Failure to do so will subject the Regional Group to an appropriate fine and forfeiture of the remainder of the approved shows until compliance with the rule is met. The PFHA shall maintain a record of points awarded for all horses and riders.

- c. Fees Due the PFHA. The Regional Group sponsoring the show shall collect all fees and proceeds of each respective “AP” show and maintain a record thereof. The Regional Group also shall pay all incurred show obligations and pay to the PFHA the appropriate fees along with a copy of the accounting of all receipts and expenses due to the PFHA.
- d. Committee/Officials Reports. Within thirty (30) days after each approved show, the Show Committee shall file a report on the quality of judging and actions of other show officials on forms provided by the PFHA. This report is to be mailed to the PFHA office. Failure to do so can result in a fine.
- e. Penalties. The Regional Group that sponsors a PFHA approved show shall be subject to a penalty or fine for failure to conduct a show in accordance with PFHA rules, for failure to meet show requirements or for failure to file the necessary reports in a timely manner.

**PF152 Grand National Championship Show.**

1. Specifications
  - a. Date and Location. The date and location of the Grand National Championship Show are to be selected by the Association Board of Directors at least three (3) years in advance. The competition dates must commence within one of the following months: July, August, September or October.
  - b. Selection of Judges. The selection of the Association National Show Judges and judging system shall be made for the next National Show at the Spring meeting of the Board of Directors. The selection of judges shall be made from a list of qualified judges supplied by the Judges and Stewards Committee. Conferencing of judges shall be allowed if desired by the Board of Directors. However, each judge will individually present his or her placements on a judge’s card. Each judge shall be a Certified judge of the Association and hold a Federation judge’s card. No judge shall be eligible to judge two (2) consecutive Association National Championship Shows. Those judges selected must be in good standing with the Association at the time of selection and at the time of the Grand National Championship Show. *EC 3/16/09 Effective immediately*
  - c. Selection of Stewards. The selection of the Association National Show Stewards shall be made by the show manager. A minimum of three stewards will be used. All stewards are to be Senior Certified or Federation certified. Those stewards selected must be in good standing with the Association at the time of selection and at the time of the Grand National Championship Show.
  - d. Federation Sanctioned. The Association National Championship Show shall be a Federation sanctioned show.
  - e. Eligibility. Except as provided in the next sentence, to be eligible for entry and competition in the Association National Championship Show, an entry must have accumulated, in the specific class in which it/he/she is entering, a minimum of twenty (20) points in Association sanctioned shows during that show year. The Walk-Corto Leadline class and the Paso Pleasure Driving Class have no entry requirements.
  - f. Hoof Inspection. All horses entered in any classes at the National Show shall have their hoofs inspected before entering the ring by a committee of three appointed by the Show Chairperson, consisting of an impartial farrier, a veterinarian, and a member of the Show Committee. Any evidence that the hooves have been trimmed too closely, which is a practice called “soreing,” shall disqualify the entry for the remainder of the show.
  - g. Grand National Champions: Grand National Championships will be divided by gender (Stallions, Mares, Geldings) in the Classic Fino, Paso Performance, and Paso Pleasure divisions in both Open and Amateur Owners classes. To be eligible for entry into the Grand National Championship class, a horse must have been properly entered, shown and judged in one of the qualifying classes.
  - h. The Association National Show shall be an “A” rated USEF licensed competition.