

English Pleasure Division



Effective 12/1/09

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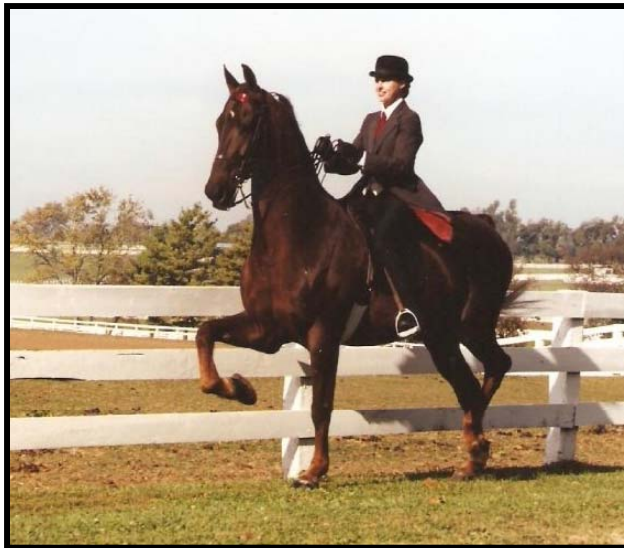
What is this new division?

- Effective 12/1/09, English Pleasure will be a recognized division with the United States Equestrian Federation.
- This division is open to all breeds and has 3 types of classes: Saddle Seat, Hunter Seat, and Driving.



What does this mean to me as an exhibitor?

- With classes being open to any breed or combination of breeds, you can bring more horses to a competition (i.e. show your Morgan at a Saddlebred show or your open hunter at an Arabian show).



- English Pleasure classes will be “rated”, so you can earn points towards Horse of the Year Awards.



What is an English Pleasure Horse?

- **Manners** and **suitability as a pleasure mount** are paramount!
- Transitions from one gait to another should be smooth and effortless.
- Horses must be obedient with prompt transitions.
- Classes are judged on manners, performance, presence, quality and conformation.



Gaits and way of going

- Special emphasis is placed on a true, flat walk.
- Special consideration is given to those entries that represent a **true recreational type, general riding horse**.
- Entries should not exhibit extreme motion, speed, or resistance of any type.
- Must stand quietly and back readily in the line up.



Saddle Seat

- Shown at a **flat walk**, **trot**, **extended trot**, and **canter** both ways of the ring.
- Horses may or may not stretch in the line up.
- Must stand quietly and back readily in the line up.



Saddle Seat Appointments

- Full bridle, pelham, or curb bit
- English-type saddle (no forward or dressage saddles)
- Full mane and tail without braids or ornamentation of any kind
- **Prohibited:** a single snaffle, hackamore, martingale, or tie-down.



Saddle Seat Attire

- Informal saddle seat attire with coat and hat or protective headgear.
- Gloves, crop, and spurs are optional
- Gaudy colors should be avoided.



Hunter Seat Classes

- Shown at a **flat walk**, **trot**, and **canter** both ways of the ring.
- May be asked to **hand gallop** one or more directions of the ring.



- Horses must **not** stretch in the line up.
- Must stand quietly and back readily in the line up.



Hunter Seat Appointments

- Snaffle bridle, pelham with two reins, kimberwick, or full bridle (if of hunter style, excessive length of curb shank shall be penalized)
- Forward or balance seat saddle, breast plates are permissible
- May be shown with or without braided manes and/or tails
- **Prohibited:** martingales.



Hunter Seat Attire

- Traditional hunter-style jacket, any color shirt with stock, choker or four in hand; breeches or hunter jodhpurs
- Dark hunting cap, derby, or protective headgear
- Tall dress or field boots preferred. Paddock or jodhpur boots with matching half chaps are permitted.
- Gloves, hunter crop or bat, and spurs are optional
- Junior riders must wear fastened ASTM approved headgear
- **Prohibited:** shadbellies



Driving Classes

- Shown at **flat walk, trot,** and **extended trot** both ways of the ring.
- Horses may or may not stretch in the line up.
- One attendant without whip may head the entry during the line up, but must not touch the horse except for safety purposes.



- **Imperative** that the horse stand quietly and back readily in the line up



Driving Appointments & Attire

- Two-wheeled jog/basket cart with driver only
- Light show harness, blinkers, overcheck with separate bit or sidecheck (separate bit optional) and snaffle bit (straight or jointed).
- Full mane and tail without braids of any kind
- Driver to dress conservatively (not period attire)



For all English Pleasure Classes...

- Horses may be of **any breed** or combination of breeds
- Animals with complete loss of sight in one eye may be found serviceably sound at the judge's discretion.
- Ponies may be ridden in Junior exhibitor classes.
- **Stallions are prohibited** in any English Pleasure Division class.



To be penalized:

- Pulling, head tossing
- Laboring action, extreme motion or speed
- Going sideways, tail switching
- Interference from attendant during line up in driving classes.



Combined Classes



- Combined English Pleasure classes may be offered (Saddle Seat and Hunter Seat together), depending on the needs of the competition
- These are recognized classes but not rated.
- Show management is required to print the class specifications in the prize list of any such “combined” classes.
- When classes are combined, it is encouraged that the extended trot be used versus the hand gallop (if the official chooses to add a gait to the combined class) and management should make exhibitors aware of this possibility.



For more information

- Visit the English Pleasure discipline page at www.usef.org under Disciplines, then English Pleasure.

