

National Show Horse



Points of Emphasis and Class Specifications

Points of Emphasis



- Judge must place an emphasis on motion in Halter Classes
 - Close attention placed upon animated motion, flexion of the joints and correct movement of the horse.

Points of Emphasis



- Quality of Gaits
 - Coordinated motion, straight true folding action of front legs, hocks carried close together
 - Clean, rhythmic and fluid way of going
 - Animation, brilliance and extreme grace of movement, balance
- **Undesirable traits**- winging, interfering, traveling wide behind, mixing of gaits, shackled look and loss of form

Points of Emphasis



- Slow Gait and Rack are 2 separate gaits
 - **Slow Gait:** lateral feet lift almost together but the hind foot contacts ground slightly before front “1-2—3-4”
 - Highly collected, restrained gait executed with **hesitation** and precision. **Speed to be penalized.**
 - **Rack:** each foot lifts and contacts ground at equal, separate intervals “1-2-3-4”
 - Highly animated with great action and speed
 - Maximum speed while maintaining gait and head set

Points of Emphasis

- ❑ Attention getting devices are allowed
- ❑ Tongue ties are allowed



Class Specifications



- ❑ Remember there are different specifications for each division, listed in order of importance.
- ❑ Consult the class specs for your division to see what criteria you will be judged on.

OPEN horse judged on...



-Performance

-Quality

-Manners

-Conformation

- ❑ Ultimate representative of the breed
- ❑ As nearly perfect as possible
- ❑ All gaits performed with animation, brilliance and extreme action at both ends

LADIES horse judged on...



-Manners

-Quality

-Performance

-Conformation

- Outstanding in refinement and elegance
- Suitable to rider
- **Expression is paramount** and quality is of prime consideration
- Perform brilliant gaits on command
- Walk and stand quietly

JUNIOR EXHIBITOR, AMATEUR, OWNERS
classes judged on...



-Manners

-Performance

-Quality

-Conformation

- **Jr Exhibitor horse:** mannerly, willing, expressive.
Walk and stand quietly
- **Amateur, Gentleman, and Owners horse:**
 - Can be a bit stronger and bolder, more action and animation
 - Less emphasis can be put on manners than in Ladies or Junior Exhibitor classes

Pleasure Gaits



- **Walk-** elastic, ground covering, 4 beat
- **Trot-** mannerly, balanced, cadenced, free-moving
- **Canter-** smooth, moderate collection, straight
 - If manners not paramount for class- acceptable to have bolder, stronger canter
 - If manners paramount for class- slow consistent rate of speed must be maintained

English Pleasure



- ❑ Shown at the **walk, trot, and canter**
- ❑ Should give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride and drive
- ❑ Should display a *pleasurable* attitude
- ❑ All gaits performed with willingness and smoothness
- ❑ Exhibits the appearance of being neither held back nor having to be pushed forward

English Pleasure



- ❑ Light contact must be maintained with all reins at all gaits
- ❑ The horse's head should be set by flexing at the poll and not the neck.
- ❑ Extreme speed is **to be penalized**

Country Pleasure



- ❑ Less animation than English Pleasure and Pleasure Driving horses
- ❑ **EXTREME KNEE MOTION AND SPEED ARE TO BE PENALIZED**
- ❑ Comfortable gaits giving the distinct impression that it is a true pleasure to ride
- ❑ Manners are **paramount**
- ❑ Shown at the **flat walk, trot, and canter** (plus slow gait and rack in 5-gaited)
- ❑ Specific **emphasis** is placed on a **true, flat walk**

Country Pleasure



- ❑ Transitions should be smooth and effortless
- ❑ Light contact with horse's mouth must be maintained
- ❑ Halting is not mandatory, but horses may be asked to halt and stand quietly on the rail
- ❑ Horses may be asked to back at judge's discretion

Classic Country Pleasure



- Less animation than English Pleasure/
Pleasure Driving and Country Pleasure/
Country Pleasure Driving horses
- **EXTREME KNEE MOTION AND SPEED ARE
TO BE PENALIZED**
- **MUST** have comfortable gaits giving the
distinct impression it is a true pleasure to ride
- Manners are **paramount**
- Shown at the **flat walk, trot, and canter**
- Specific emphasis placed on a **true, flat walk**

Classic Country Pleasure



- ❑ Transition from one gait to another should be smooth and effortless
- ❑ Light contact with horse's mouth must be maintained
- ❑ Halting is not mandatory, but horses may be asked to halt and stand quietly on the rail
- ❑ Horses may be asked to back at judge's discretion
- ❑ To be judged on **manners**, **performance** and **quality**

Pleasure, Country, and Classic Country Pleasure Driving



- Shown at the **walk, trot, and strong trot**
- **Strong trot:**
 - exhibits more **power** and **motion** than the trot
 - Performed with lengthened stride but no decrease of collection, without losing form
 - Mannered, balanced, cadenced, and free moving
 - Horses that string out behind are **to be penalized**

Pleasure Driving classes



- ❑ **Pleasure Driving:** Manners & suitability as a pleasure mount are **paramount**, effortless transitions, light contact with mouth must be maintained
- ❑ **Country Pleasure Driving:** judged on manners, performance and quality, must stand quietly, backing is optional, may be unchecked in line up
- ❑ **Classic Country Pleasure Driving:** judged on manners, performance and quality, may be asked to halt and stand quietly on rail, may be asked to back in lineup, one header allowed in lineup

Fine Harness



- ❑ Should possess all of the *elegance* and *refinement* of the ideal NSH with animation, not speed
- ❑ Must stand quietly in the lineup but shall not be required to back
- ❑ May be unchecked while lined up
- ❑ One attendant may stand entry on feet, but must remain at least two paces away when being judged

Fine Harness Gaits



- **Animated walk**- highly collected, primpy with action and animation. Either 2 or 4 beat
- **Park trot**-extreme knee flexion and use of shoulder, balanced from front to rear, highly collected, **speed to be penalized**
- **“Show your horse”**- horse shows to its best advantage at the trot, **excessive speed shall be penalized**
 - Exception: “show your horse” not called for in Ladies, Jr. Exhibitor, Amateur, or Owners classes

Five Gaited



- Shown at **animated walk, trot, slow gait, rack, and canter**
 - **Trot:** should show speed in form while maintaining control and balance
 - **Slow gait:** executed with hesitation and slight elevation with true and distinct precision, **SPEED IS TO BE PENALIZED**
 - **Rack:** smooth, highly animated with great action and speed (in form), in a slightly unrestrained manner, **TROTTY, PACEY OR HITCHY GAITED HORSES TO BE PENALIZED**

Three Gaited



- Should be the epitome of *beauty, brilliance, elegance, refinement* and *expression*
- Energy directed toward animation and precision, collected
- Quality, animation and expression are **paramount**
- Shown at **animated walk, park trot, and canter**

English Show Hack



- ❑ This is a class for the well trained horse
- ❑ Not necessarily Dressage horses, nor English Pleasure horses
- ❑ Elevation and knee action are **NOT to be emphasized**
- ❑ Must be balanced and show vitality, animation, presence, and quality
- ❑ Must appear to be under complete control and easily ridden, **obedience is of prime importance**

English Show Hack Gaits



- ❑ **Normal walk-** regular, energetic, forward
- ❑ **Collected walk-** strides are shorter and higher but same rhythm, pacing is a serious fault
- ❑ **Extended walk-** lengthened frame and stride, ground covering, not rushed

- ❑ **Normal trot-** light, balanced, cadenced. Rider must post.
- ❑ **Collected trot-** stride is shorter and lighter, maintains balance and impulsion, neck and back are more raised and arched. Rider must sit.
- ❑ **Extended trot-** same cadence with lengthened stride and frame as a result of greater impulsion from hindquarters, medium speed, light in rider's hand. Rider must post.

English Show Hack Gaits



- ❑ **Normal canter**- light even strides
- ❑ **Collected canter**- light on forehand with hindquarters engaged, supple free shoulders, neck and back more raised and arched
- ❑ **Extended canter**- same cadence with lengthened stride and frame as a result of greater impulsion from hindquarters, light in rider's hand
- ❑ **Hand gallop**- long, free, ground covering stride. A decided lengthening of stride should be shown while horse remains controlled, mannerly, correct and straight.

English Show Hack



- ❑ Must exhibit all gaits both directions with a noticeable transition between them
- ❑ Should show clear transitions in a balanced and level manner, and give a comfortable and *pleasurable* ride
- ❑ May be asked to halt and rein back on the rail
- ❑ Judged on *performance*, *manners*, *quality* and *conformation*

Roadster



- ❑ Should have good NSH conformation
- ❑ Should be shown on the rail at all times except when passing
- ❑ Should go to the far end on every corner without side-reining
- ❑ Should be light mouthed and capable of being taken up at any time
- ❑ Must be willing to walk and stand quietly when being judged in the center of the ring.

Roadster Gaits



- **Jog-trot:** highly collected, energy directed towards animation rather than speed
- **Road gait:** faster, stronger and bolder than jog-trot, fuller extension of stride, highly collected
- **Drive On:** must show speed in form, and be controlled and balanced
 - Only shown at Drive On second way of ring
- **Judges must consider all three gaits, horses must show a difference in gaits**

Roadsters judged on...



-Performance

-Speed

-Quality

-Manners

-Conformation

- Exception: Manners are emphasized in Amateur and Junior Exhibitor classes

Ladies English Side Saddle



- ❑ Side Saddle horse should give the distinct impression that it is a comfortable mount to ride
- ❑ Judges must consider all gaits equally
- ❑ Shown at a good ground covering **walk**, a comfortable **trot**, easy flowing **canter**.
- ❑ Transitions from one gait to another should be smooth and effortless.

Tack and Attire



- Safety is of **utmost importance** in tack and attire. **Judges should penalize exhibitors not conforming to good safety practices.**
- Appropriate tack and attire must be worn.
- Period attire is acceptable and encouraged to be researched to its authenticity
- Competitors **must be penalized** for incomplete appointments but not necessarily disqualified.

Side Saddle Tack



- Saddle should have a balance strap for safety
- Breast collar is often worn for added stability



Side Saddle judged on...



85% on manners, performance, suitability, quality, and conformation

15% on appropriate side saddle attire

- Manners and suitability of purpose shall be emphasized.

Hunter Pleasure



- ❑ Should carry head in relaxed natural manner
- ❑ Horses behind the vertical **MUST be penalized**
- ❑ Must give distinct appearance of being a *pleasure* to ride, display pleasurable and relaxed attitude
- ❑ Light contact with mouth must be maintained at all gaits

Hunter Pleasure Gaits



- ❑ Shown at a **flat walk, trot, canter, and hand gallop**
- ❑ Free moving, ground covering gaits
- ❑ Should be balanced
- ❑ Judges are required to consider the performance of each gate equally

Hunter Pleasure judged on...



-Manners

-Performance

-Suitability as a Hunter

-Quality

-Conformation

Western Pleasure



- Must have comfortable, balanced gaits giving the distinct impression it is a *true pleasure* to ride
- Light contact with mouth must be maintained
- Shown at the **flat walk, jog-trot, and lope**
 - **Jog-trot**- free, square, slow, easy, 2 beats
 - **Lope**- smooth, slow, straight, 3 beats
- Shall be asked to back at judge's discretion

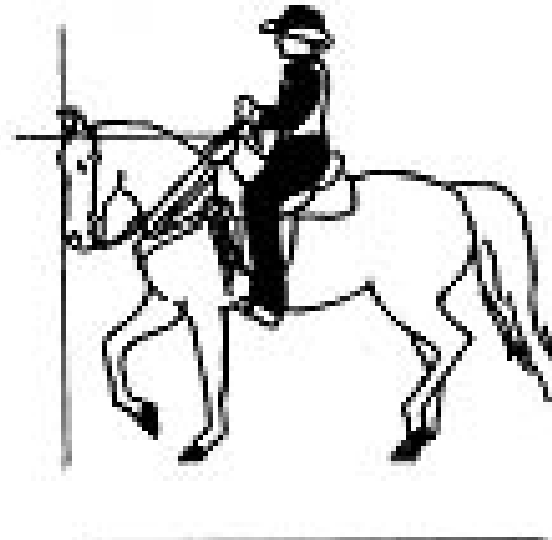
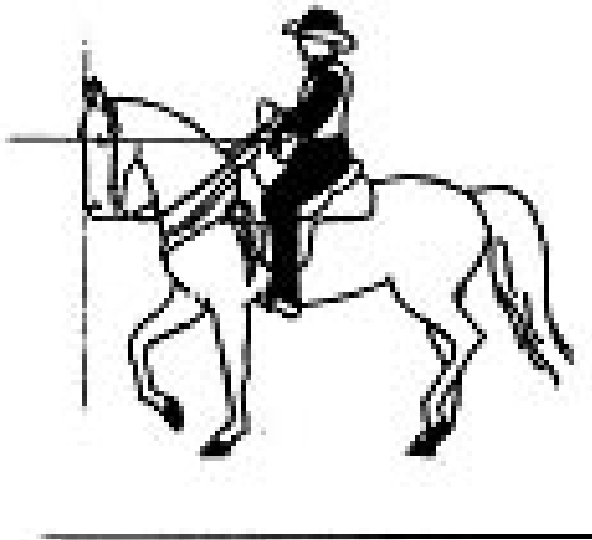
Western Pleasure judged on...



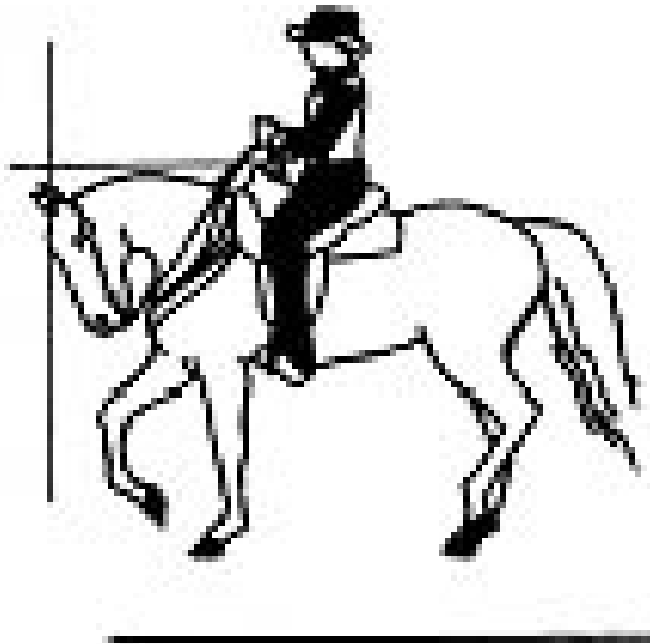
75% on performance, manners, presence,
and quality

15% on conformation and neatness of attire

Acceptable Head Sets



Unacceptable Head Set



MUST be penalized if the poll is below top of saddle horn, and if head is behind vertical

Western Pleasure Faults



PLEASURE	GOOD	MINOR FAULTS	MAJOR FAULTS	ELIMINATION
WALK	ground covering flat footed good attitude	slow disinterested not attentive	nervous jogging not walking	
JOG	easy riding good motion consistent steady	too slow too fast	not performing a two-beat jog failing to jog both front and back hard or rough riding	

Western Pleasure Faults



PLEASURE	GOOD	MINOR FAULTS	MAJOR FAULTS	ELIMINATION
LOPE	easy riding good motion consistent steady	too slow too fast	wrong lead pulling not performing three-beat lope hard or rough riding	
BACK	proper flexion readily reponsive back in straight line	hesitant not backing straight	throwing head gaping pulling not backing rearing	

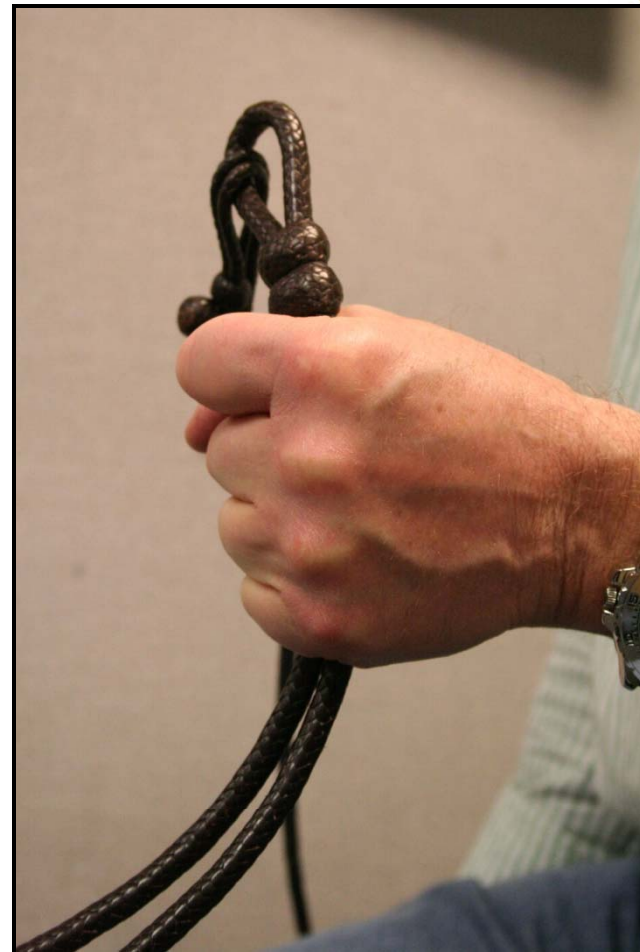
Western Pleasure Faults



PLEASURE	GOOD	MINOR FAULTS	MAJOR FAULTS	ELIMINATION
GENERAL	smooth, steady easy riding proper flexion and balance good attitude	under flexion sour ears switching tail inconsistent speed out of balance improper or incomplete appointments	over flexion throwing head bad mouth constant bumping the bit gaping constant breaking of gaits obvious schooling poll too low to throw horse out of balance	two hands on reins (exception: snaffle/hackmore horses) or fingers between closed reins or more than one finger between split reins kicking illegal equipment lameness cueing horse in front of cinch fall of horse or rider bleeding mouth

Romal Reins

- ❑ Riders hand is to be around reins
- ❑ No fingers allowed between reins
- ❑ May only rein with one hand and may not switch hands.



Illegal Rein Holds for Romal Reins



Split Reins

- ❑ One finger is permitted between reins when the end of the reins falls on the side of the reining hand

