

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2023	2/27/2023	

Rule Change Intent

The current chapter does not define all gaits that are called for within the different classes, this proposal will implement a definition for all gaits called to aid exhibitors in understanding what the judge is looking for. This new language will replace the current FR101.33 which only describes gaits being called for in English and Driving horses.

Proponent Details

Friesian

Contact Information

Nicole Zerbee

nzerbee@usef.org

Linked Rules

Comments

Committee Actions

Natl Breed & Disciplines Council - Advisory

FR101 Eligibility to Compete

33. RANGE OF TROT FOR ENGLISH AND DRIVING HORSES. Range of motion varies for the different English and Driving classes. This section is intended to show the relationships between motions in these classes. This description is not intended to set a literal standard. Motion is just one part of a horse's performance, which includes many other components of evaluation. Motion involves proper balance between the front and the rear end. Significant rear-end engagement and impulsion are equally important parts of a horse's overall motion. Regardless of the height of the trot, a horse should show a rhythmic, cadenced gait with adequate suspension and freedom of movement, versus a tight, "trappy" movement. Country English Pleasure Saddle Seat—Country Pleasure Driving: Trot—a two-beat gait. To be an overall balanced, relaxed, easy-going trot with elasticity and freedom of movement. High action must be penalized. Posting is required. The trot is a two-beat diagonal gait in which opposite fore and hind feet hit the ground together. The trot must be balanced, cadenced, free moving and easy, with rhythm and drive. The trot should show power and elegant carriage with strength from the hindquarters while moving in an easy, ground covering, natural manner. The trot should never look forced, labored or artificial. High Action **MUST** be penalized at the normal trot and strong trot. High action is defined as an intensified and ambitious manner of moving forward with collection in an upright frame with balance created by a round, supple back with substantial engagement of the hind limbs. There is a raising of the front end of the horse's torso as a result of the hind limb thrust, which propels the horse upward and forward energetically with determination and deliberate power with the forelegs breaking at or above level. English Pleasure Hunter Seat—Sport Pleasure Driving: Trot—A two beat gait: Straight and regular. The trot should be mannerly, cadenced, and balanced. To be performed at a medium speed with a free moving, long, ground covering, efficient stride that is not short, high, round, or choppy. Rider is to post the trot. The trot is a two-beat diagonal gait in which opposite fore and hind feet hit the ground together. The hunter's trot must be free flowing, balanced and cadenced with rhythm and drive. The hunter's trot should give the appearance of strength and ease of gait, a picture of elegance as the horse swings its front legs forward, through the shoulder, with each step and stretches for the ground. The hocks should bend and the hind legs should reach well under the belly, the steps reaching over the foot print of the front foot, showing power and suspension, giving the appearance of gliding over the ground. Speed is not a factor; the trot should never be hurried. Exaggerated action, (this doesn't just mean English type action, but up and down rolling motion from the knees rather than a swing through the shoulder for reach), quick, stiff or short-strided movement must be penalized. Horses trotting too fast to maintain balance and cadence should also be penalized. English Pleasure Saddle Seat/EQ—Show Pleasure Driving: Trot—a two-beat gait: to be performed at medium speed with moderate collection. The normal trot must be mannerly, cadenced, balanced and free moving. Posting is required. The trot is a two-beat gait in which opposite fore and hind feet hit the ground together. The trot must be balanced, cadenced, free moving and easy with rhythm and drive. The trot should show elegant carriage and strength from the hindquarters, lift and elevation through the horse's whole front end, not just the front legs. The trot should show equality of movement front end and rear end. The trot should never look forced, labored or artificial. Moderate collection in the English pleasure horse allows for higher action or knee elevation and a greater drive or thrust from the hindquarters. Through moderate collection the English pleasure horse displays higher action or knee lift because the hindquarters step further under the horse's body, lifting the forehand and allowing the horse to lift its shoulders and knees. Park—Fine Harness: Trot: a two-beat gait. Animated, natural and cadenced, with impulsion and power from behind, the front airy and light. The animated natural trot is extremely bold and brilliant, characterized by free shoulder action. The trot should appear effortless and be executed willingly with apparent ease. The horse is to have leg flexion with extension, (foreleg extending fully forward at full stretch with airy motion combined with hock action that is powerful and well raised, the hind leg being brought forward with a driving stride). The action should be balanced and cadenced. Loss of form due to excessive speed shall be penalized. The trot should be a true two-beat diagonal gait. Mixed gaits, pacing or racking must be considered major faults. The trot should be a cadenced gait performed with brilliance. It should be a powerful gait with its energy originating from the hindquarters. The front end of the horse should be elevated with equal motion in both front limbs. There should be an extreme degree of collection with the horse maintaining balance. Loss of form due to extreme speed should be penalized. Each horse should perform at the rate of speed that allows it to maintain cadence, balance, and form.

33. Description of Gaits**a. Walk**

- 1. Walk: A four-beat gait that is true, brisk, straight, flat-footed with good reach, and ground covering.**
- 2. Free Walk: The horse is on a long rein and stretching forward and down.**
- 3. Normal Walk: Regular and unconstrained, moving energetically and calmly forward.**
- 4. Collected Walk: The horse, remains "on the bit," moves resolutely forward, with its neck raised and arched and showing a clear self-carriage. The head approaches the vertical position and a light contact is maintained with the mouth. The hind legs are engaged with good hock action. The gait should remain marching and vigorous, the feet being placed in regular sequence. The steps cover less ground and are higher than at the medium walk, because all the joints bend more markedly. The**

collected walk is shorter than the medium walk, although showing greater activity.

5. Extended Walk: The horse covers as much ground as possible, without haste and without losing the regularity of the steps. The hind feet touch the ground clearly in front of the hoof prints of the fore feet. The rider allows the horse to stretch out the head and neck (forward and downwards) without losing contact with the mouth and control of the poll. The nose must be clearly in front of the vertical.

6. Flat Walk: A four-beat gait that is collected at a slow regulated speed with impulsive movement.

7. Medium Walk: A clear, regular, and unconstrained walk of moderate lengthening.

The horse, remaining "on the bit," walks energetically but relaxed with even and determined steps, the hind feet touching the ground in front of the hoof prints of the fore feet. The rider maintains a light, soft, and steady contact with the mouth, allowing the natural movement of the head and neck.

8. Animated Walk: A two or four-beat gait which is highly collected exhibiting much "primp" at a slow regulated speed with good action and animation. It should have snap and easy control. It is performed with great style, elegance and airiness of motion.

b. Trot/Jog

1. Trot: A two-beat diagonal gait that is free-moving, balanced overall, relaxed, straight, easy going with elasticity and freedom of movement, rider maintaining light contact with horse's mouth at all times.

2. Jog-Trot: A two-beat gait that is free, square, slow, and easy.

3. Normal Trot: A two-beat gait. To be an overall balanced, relaxed, easy-going trot with elasticity and freedom of movement. High action must be penalized. Posting is required.

4. Collected Trot: The horse, remaining "on the bit," moves forward with the neck raised and arched. The hocks, being well-engaged and flexed, must maintain an energetic impulsion, enabling the shoulders to move with greater mobility, thus demonstrating complete self-carriage. Although the horse's steps are shorter than in the other trots, elasticity and cadence are not lessened.

5. Animated Trot: A two-beat gait that is executed in a highly collected manner, speed to be penalized. The horse's energy should be directed toward animation rather than speed. An extended trot is faster, stronger, and bolder, with a fuller extension of stride to obtain desired speed. It is executed in a highly collected manner.

6. Working Trot: This is a variation between the collected and the medium trot, in which a horse's training is not yet developed enough and ready for collected movements. The horse shows proper balance and, remaining "on the bit," goes forward with even, elastic steps and good hock action. The expression "good hock action" underlines the importance of an impulsion originating from the activity of the hindquarters.

7. Extended Trot: Maintaining the same cadence and performing at medium speed, the horse lengthens its stride as a result of greater impulsion from the hindquarters. Horse should remain light in rider's hand as it lengthens its frame while maintaining balance, ease and freedom of movement. In order to extend some horses may need to achieve the desired movement at different speeds and should not be penalized.

8. Strong Trot: This is a stronger trot, performed with a lengthened stride, powerful and reaching, at a rate of speed which may vary between horses since each horse should attain his own strong trot in harmony with his own maximum natural stride. The horse must not be strung out behind. The horse should show moderate collection without exaggeratedly high action in front. He must present a willing attitude while maintaining form. The strong trot must be mannerly, cadenced, balanced, and free-moving.

9. Park Trot: The park trot is executed in a highly collected manner, speed to be penalized. The horse's energy should be directed toward animation rather than speed.

10. "Show Your Horse": At this command, the driver has the privilege of showing the Fine Harness horse to its best advantage at the trot, but speed will be penalized.

c. Canter/Lop

1. Canter: A three-beat gait that is to be collected, animated, true, smooth, unhurried, straight and correct on both leads. Loss of form due to excessive speed shall be penalized.

2. Lope: A true three-beat gait. Smooth, slow, easy, and straight on both leads

3. Normal Canter: Light, even strides, should be moved into without hesitation.

4. Collected Canter: Marked by the lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hindquarters, the collected canter is characterized by supple, free shoulders. Neck is more raised and arched than in normal canter as the head approaches the vertical line, never moving behind it.

5. Working Canter: This is a variation between the collected and the medium canter, in which a horse's training is not yet developed enough and ready for collected movements. The horse shows natural balance while remaining "on the bit", and goes forward with even, light and active strides, and good hock action. The expression "good hock action" underlines the importance of an impulsion originating from the activity of the hindquarters.

6. Extended Canter: Maintaining the same cadence, the horse lengthens its stride as a result of greater

impulsion from the hindquarters. Horse should remain light in rider's hand as it lengthens its frame.

d. Hand Gallop: *A faster gait than a canter, lengthened stride and controlled, straight, and correct on both leads. Is performed with a long, free, ground covering stride. The amount of ground covered may vary between horses due to difference in natural length of stride. The distinction between hand gallop and extended canter is, the latter being the ultimate linear extension of stride within the hand of the rider; the hand gallop being a looser, freer elongation of stride and frame of the horse. A decided lengthening of stride should be shown while the horse remains controlled, mannerly, correct, and straight on both leads. Extreme speed must be penalized.*