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CHAPTER NS NATIONAL SHOW HORSE DIVISION

SUBCHAPTER NS-1 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

NS101 Eligibility

Horses must be registered with National Show Horse Registry at the time entry is made. The exhibitor must supply the competition with a copy of an official NSHR certificate of registration or confirmation letter before the horse is allowed to show. Horse owners must be members of the National Show Horse Registry in order to exhibit at Local, District and National Finals Competitions. In the case of multiple ownership, only one owner is required to be a member. Riders, drivers, handlers, and/or trainers are required to either be NSHR members or pay the NSHR non-member fee per show at Local and District levels; membership is required for the Finals level.

1. Electronic communication devices used for purposes of coaching exhibitors during a competition shall be prohibited in all classes in the National Show Horse Division. Exhibitors with a permanent hearing impairment are permitted to use an electronic communication device upon submission of a written certification from a treating medical professional's office certifying the permanent hearing impairment and certifying the requirement of an electronic communication device. The certifying medical certification must be provided to the competition Steward within a reasonable time prior to competing who shall attach a copy to the Steward report.
2. An exhibitor with a disability (other than hearing), will be provided reasonable accommodation upon submission of a written certification from a treating medical professional's office certifying the disability and identifying the accommodation necessary for the exhibitor to compete safely. The medical certification must be provided to the competition Steward within a reasonable time prior to competing who shall attach a copy to the Steward report.

NS102 Shoeing Regulations

1. Soundness is required.
2. Shoeing regulations are designed to provide comfort and protection for the horse as well as better performance that is as natural as possible.

NS103 Boots

Either unweighted bell boots or unweighted quarter boots are permitted in five-gaited, fine harness and roadster classes, but are prohibited in all other classes. When used, only one of either type boot is permitted on a hoof. In case of inclement weather, the use of polo boots and bandages may be permitted provided competition management publicly announces it before a class.

NS104 Breed Standard

The National Show Horse shall strive to produce an athletic horse which retains size, beauty and refinement. Specifically, the following traits are desirable:

1. Motion—Balance and obvious power from the hindquarters flowing into an elevated front end, the front legs showing both flexion and extension;
2. Neck—Very long, set high on the shoulder and relatively upright with fine throatlatch. The neck should be shapely but without a pronounced crest;
3. Head—Relatively small, short and refined with large eyes and small, well placed ears and a straight or slightly concave profile (a "Roman nosed" or convex profile is not desirable);
4. Pronounced withers and a very deep and well laid-back shoulder;

5. Proportionately short back closely coupled with a long hip and relatively level top line (moderately sloping croup not to be penalized);
6. Legs—Correct from all angles with long forearms and short cannon bones in front and long, well-angled pasterns front and rear;
7. Refinement of bone but not lacking in substance, especially in the chest, girth, shoulder and hip;
8. A relatively high-set tail, natural and flowing;
9. When observed at rest or in motion, the horse must exhibit a natural presence and, when animated, extreme brilliance. The horse must exhibit high carriage when showing or relaxed.

NS105 General

1. All horses shall be worked both ways of the ring at all required gaits as directed by the judge(s). All horses chosen for a workout must be worked both ways of the ring in front of each judge, at any gait except the walk.
2. To be penalized: Over-bridling (i.e., over-flexed, chin toward chest); mixed gaits; unbalanced action; pulling; fighting the bit; tossing the head; carrying head to one side or going sideways; leaving hocks behind; strung out; wrong lead or cross-cantering; breaking of gait; winging; interfering; traveling wide behind; loss of form due to excessive speed; bad manners; exaggerated opening of mouth; carrying sour ears; bucking; rearing; balking; kicking, or not being under control. Horses with head-sets behind the vertical must be penalized.
3. BACKING. Entries are not to be requested to back in the line up with the exception of the Country Pleasure, Ladies English Side Saddle, Western Pleasure and Show Hack divisions where backing is optional at the judge's discretion.
4. One attendant, without whip, is allowed to head each entry in all driving classes. The attendant may uncheck and stand the entry on its feet. Attendants must be neatly attired and may be required to meet dress requirements set forth by individual competition managements, provided that such requirements are printed in the prize list.
5. The use of action devices is permitted in all sections in accordance with GR839. (Exception: NS118.4)
6. Stallions may be shown in Ladies', Junior Exhibitors' and National Show Horse Saddle Seat Equitation classes unless prohibited in the prize list.
7. Nasal strips are not permitted in the National Show Horse Division.

NS106 Division of Classes

1. Classes may be divided according to:
 - a. Sex or age of horse.
 - b. Height—15.2 hands and under; over 15.2 hands.
 - c. Sex or Age of rider.
 - d. With or without Championships.
2. Recommended are Maiden, Novice, Limit, Junior (Five-Year-Olds & Under), Owners Classes in all classifications and Amateur-Owner-Trainer (open to horses that have not had professional training since January 1 of the current competition year).

NS107 Conduct

An exhibitor is entitled to request only one time out per class. See GR833.

NS108 Judging Criteria

The specific type of class being judged determines the importance of each criterion in the final judging outcome. The order in which each is listed in the class specifications determines where the emphasis should be placed. For example, a horse placed first in a class judged on performance, quality, manners and conformation could justifiably be unplaced against the same horses if the class were judged on manners, quality, performance and conformation. The criteria considered are; performance, manners, quality and conformation.

NS109 Qualifying Classes and Specifications

1. OPEN, JUNIOR, THREE-YEAR-OLD, TWO-YEAR-OLD, MAIDEN, NOVICE, AND LIMIT. Classes are judged on performance, quality, manners and conformation (Exceptions: NS128). The OPEN horse should be the ultimate representative of the breed. It should be as nearly perfect as possible; performing all gaits with animation, brilliance and extreme action at both ends. Performance is paramount in these classes; next is quality, manners and conformation.
2. LADIES. Classes are judged on manners, quality, performance, and conformation. A Lady's horse should be outstanding in refinement and elegance with suitability of horse to rider taken into consideration. Expression is paramount and quality is of prime consideration. The execution of gaits should be performed with brilliance on command. The horse should walk and stand quietly.
3. JUNIOR EXHIBITORS, AMATEUR and OWNERS. Classes are judged on manners, performance, quality and conformation (Exception: Show Hack). Manners are paramount in these classes but there is a difference in the way in which horses are judged in each. Suitability of horse to rider shall be given consideration.
4. The JUNIOR EXHIBITOR horse should be mannerly, willing and expressive with balanced action. The execution of gaits should be performed with brilliance on command. The horse should walk and stand quietly.
5. AMATEUR, GENTLEMEN, and OWNERS horses can be a bit stronger and perform in a bolder manner. More action and animation are desired and less emphasis can be put on manners than in Ladies and Junior Exhibitor classes.

NS110 Division of Classes

1. It is recommended that classes of 25 or more entries be divided into separate sections by sex, size of horse or selecting every other number on the list of entries. The division of entries must be posted in the competition office and announced over the public address system or listed in the program.
2. In Ladies, Junior Exhibitor, Amateur, Owner, Fine Harness, Pleasure Driving and Country Pleasure Driving classes it is recommended that classes of more than 15 entries be divided in the same manner.

SUBCHAPTER NS-2 DESCRIPTION OF GAITS

NS111 General

1. The standard of excellence of the National Show Horse is beauty, symmetry and balance. Balance features coordinated motion, with straight true folding action of the front legs with flexing hocks carried close together, producing a clean, rhythmic and fluid way of going. In addition, the National Show Horse possesses animation, brilliance and extreme grace of movement.
2. UNDESIRABLE: Winging, interfering, traveling wide behind, mixing of gaits, shackled look and loss of form.

NS112 Walk

Judging at the walk is based on manners, quality and natural action it is not used as a rest period.

1. WALK: The walk should be an elastic, ground covering and collected four-beat gait maintaining proper form and consistency in stride. It should be executed in a brisk manner that is compatible with the type of class. It should display the horse's good manners, type of stride and attitude. The walk is relaxed.
2. ANIMATED WALK: The animated walk is a highly collected gait, exhibiting much "primp" at a slow, regulated speed, with good action and animation. It should have snap and easy control. It can be either a two-beat or four-beat gait. It is performed with great style, elegance and airiness of motion. A flat-footed walk is not to be penalized.
3. The walk is required as a transition between gaits in English Pleasure, Three-Gaited and Five-Gaited, except between the trot and strong trot and slow gait and rack.

NS113 Trot

1. The trot is a natural, two-beat diagonal gait in which the front foot and the opposite hind foot take off from the ground in unison and land simultaneously. A balanced trot features coordinated motion with straight, true, shoulder motion of front legs, with flexing hocks carried close together. To be performed at a moderate speed and collection. The trot must be mannerly, balanced, cadenced and free moving. Posting is required.
2. Strong trot: A two-beat gait. At the strong trot the horse exhibits more power and motion than at the trot. It is performed with a lengthened stride but no decrease of collection. The speed is determined by each horse's own natural ability to increase stride, to maintain collection and not to lose form. Horses that string out behind are to be penalized. Extreme knee flexion or extreme extension are encouraged if combined with a bright and willing attitude and an unlabored, pleasurable appearance. The strong trot must be mannered, balanced, cadenced, and free moving.
3. Park trot: A two-beat gait that requires extreme knee flexion and use of the shoulder for balanced, graceful extension. Speed to be penalized. The most desirable park trot gives a balanced appearance from front and rear. It should be executed in a highly collected manner. Posting is optional.
4. Roadster Jog-trot: The jog-trot is called to display the purity of the horse's gait. It is executed in a highly collected manner. The horse's energy should be directed toward animation rather than speed.
5. Gaited trot: The trot of the Five-Gaited horse should show speed in form. The desired speed is the maximum rate at which the horse can trot while still maintaining proper form, control and balance. Posting is optional.
6. "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 excessive speed shall be penalized.
7. Road Gait: The road gait trot is executed in a highly collected manner. It is faster, stronger and bolder than the jog-trot; with a fuller extension of stride to obtain desired speed.
8. Drive On: When asked to drive on in Roadster classes, the horse must show speed in form. The desired speed is the maximum rate at which a horse can trot while still maintaining proper form, control and balance.

NS114 Canter

Criteria.

1. A three-beat gait. Smooth, unhurried, with moderate collection, correct and straight on both leads. The horse must appear bright but relaxed.
2. It is acceptable, although not encouraged, for the horse to have a bolder, stronger canter in those classes where manners are not paramount or where speed at a qualifying gait is desired. Ease of control, rate of speed and collection may vary according to the class specifications.
3. Where manners are paramount, a slow, consistent rate of speed must be maintained with little obvious effort from the rider.

NS115 Slow Gait

1. The slow gait was developed from the pace to be a four-beat gait with each of the four feet contacting the ground separately. In the takeoff, the lateral front and hind feet start almost together but the hind foot contacts the ground slightly before its lateral forefoot.
2. The slow gait is a highly collected gait with most of the propulsion coming from the hindquarters, while the forequarters assist in the pull of the final beats. The slow gait is not a medium rack.
3. The slow gait is a restrained four beat gait, executed with hesitation and slight elevation with true and distinct precision. Speed is to be penalized. It is high, lofty, brilliant and restrained, denoting style, grace and polish of the horse.

NS116 Rack

1. The rack is a four-beat gait in which each foot meets the ground at equal, separate intervals. It is smooth and highly animated, performed with great action and speed, in a slightly unrestrained manner. Desired speed and

collection are determined by the maximum rate at which a horse can rack in form. Racking in form should include the horse remaining with a good set head. It should be performed by the horse in an effortless manner from the slow gait, at which point all strides become equally rapid and regular.

2. TO BE PENALIZED: Any tendency to become “trotty”, “pacey”, or “hitchy gaited”.
3. In Pleasure classes, there is more emphasis on the way of going as a pleasure gait with only moderate speed required. Where manners are paramount, there is more emphasis on the ease by which it is performed by the rider.

NS117 Hand Gallop

The hand gallop is performed with a long, free, ground-covering stride. The amount of ground covered may vary between and among horses due to difference in natural length of stride. A decided lengthening of stride should be shown while the horse remains controlled, mannerly, correct and straight on both leads. The hand gallop is not a fast collected canter.

SUBCHAPTER NS-3 HALTER CLASSES

NS118 General

1. Halter classes may be divided by sex and age groups at the discretion of competition management.
2. Horses to be shown standing, at a walk and at the trot. Halter horses are not to be stretched or “parked out”. A horse is considered not stretched if all four feet are flat on the ground and at least one front and one rear cannon bone are perpendicular to the ground. Horse’s weight evenly distributed on all four legs. Emphasis shall be placed upon adherence to breed standards, conformation and quality, with close attention placed upon animated motion, flexion of the joints and correct movement of the horse. Transmissible weakness to be counted strongly against breeding stock. Horses must be serviceably sound.
3. A suitable headstall equipped with throatlatch is mandatory. Curb bits are optional on horses one year and older. Only one handler is permitted in the ring per horse. Showmanship is important in any competition class including halter. However, when showmanship of one handler is at the expense of another, then that handler’s entry shall be penalized at the discretion of the judge. Excessive use of the whip which would harm the horse, cause negative reaction of the spectators or interfere with another entry is forbidden. Halter handlers shall dress neatly. It is recommended that both men and women wear a vest and/or a dress jacket. Gloves, hats and ties are recommended. English riding suits are preferred but only with pants and coats specifically tailored in length for standing. Rolled up pants are not permitted. Denim jeans, hunt seat attire or western suits of any kind are not permitted.
4. The use of shackles, elastic stretchers or blindfolds on weanlings and yearlings is prohibited on the grounds before or during a competition.

NS119 Get of Sire and Produce of Dam

Get of Sire and Produce of Dam classes shall have at least two entries entered under the name of the sire or dam, one handler per entry. They shall be shown and judged under the same provisions as in NS118.2 and .3 above, except a walk or trot is optional and emphasis shall be placed upon reproductive likeness, uniformity and quality of, and adherence to, breed characteristics and conformation. More than one set of entries per sire or dam may be entered in the same class.

SUBCHAPTER NS-4 PLEASURE SECTION

NS120 English Pleasure, Country Pleasure and Classic Country Pleasure Amateur Owner to Show Appointments

1. Bridle shall be light, show type; full bridle. No martingale or tie-down. (Exception: Horses three years old and under may show in single snaffle defined as an unwrapped, smooth, rounded snaffle bit 3/8 inch to 3/4 inch diameter as measured one inch from the ring with gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle, half cheeks permitted. When using a snaffle, running martingales with one or two reins are permitted.
2. English-type saddle. Girth either leather, web or other suitable material. Hunt attire or equipment in all National Show Horse classes is prohibited.
3. Informal English riding suits are required for Pleasure classes. It consists of conservative solid colors such as black, burgundy, blue, grey, beige, or brown with matching jodhpurs (contrasting jackets are permitted), and derby or soft hat or protective headgear. Top hats are prohibited. Gloves are recommended.
4. Extremes of temperature or climatic conditions may modify the above dress requirements at the judge's discretion.
5. Spurs or whips are optional in all English classes.

NS121 Pleasure Driving and Country Pleasure Driving Appointments

To be shown in light show harness, bridle with blinkers, overcheck (when an overcheck is used, two bits are required; when side check is used second bit is optional), snaffle bit (straight or jointed) to a two-wheeled show vehicle. Equipment to be in sound condition. Drivers are to be appropriately attired. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty. (See GR801) One attendant without whip is allowed to head each entry. The attendant may uncheck and stand the entry on its feet. Attendants should be neatly attired and may be required to meet dress requirements set forth by individual competition managements.

NS122 English Pleasure Description

The English Pleasure horse should give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride and drive and display a pleasurable attitude. All gaits must be performed with willingness and smoothness.

NS123 English Pleasure Gait Requirements

Qualifying gaits are walk, trot, and canter. Light contact must be maintained with all reins at all gaits. A judge may not request that gaits be performed only on the snaffle or curb. Horses must be shown at all gaits, both ways of the ring. It is important that the horse gives the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride and display a pleasurable attitude. All gaits must be performed with willingness and smoothness. All horses should enter the ring at a trot. A pleasure horse, when properly bridled, shall exhibit the appearance of being neither held back nor having to be pushed forward with the rider's legs. The horse's head should be set by flexing at the poll and not the neck.

NS124 English Pleasure Classes and Specifications

1. OPEN, LIMIT, JUNIOR HORSE, THREE-YEAR-OLDS, TWO-YEAR-OLDS, MAIDEN, NOVICE. Judged on performance, quality, manners and conformation.
2. LADIES. Judged on manners, quality, performance and conformation.
3. JUNIOR EXHIBITORS, AMATEURS (Ladies and/or Gentlemen); OWNERS, AMATEUR OWNERS. Judged on manners, performance, quality and conformation.
4. GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP: To be eligible, horses must have been entered, shown and judged in any other class in this section. Judged on performance, quality, manners and conformation.

5. COMBINATION. Shown to a suitable two-wheeled vehicle. Shown in harness as a driving horse and under saddle as a Pleasure horse. English equipment. Change of equipment to be made in the ring. Each phase of competition to count 50%. Prize list must specify whether driver/rider must be the same in both phases of the class.
6. FIVE-GAITED PLEASURE. Shown at a walk, trot, slow gait, rack at moderate speed and canter. Judged on manners, performance and quality.
7. TWO-YEAR-OLD WALK TROT UNDER SADDLE: Open to two-year-old National Show Horses. Bridle shall be light, show type; full bridle or single snaffle bridle. Running martingales with one or two reins are permitted. Tiedowns, draw reins, and German martingales are prohibited. Horses are to be shown both ways of the ring at the walk and trot. Flat footed or animated walk are acceptable. To be judged on performance, presence, quality, manners, and conformation.

NS125 Country Pleasure Description

The Country Pleasure Horse has less animation than the English Pleasure/Pleasure Driving Horse, but should be typical of the National Show Horse. Extreme knee motion and speed are to be penalized. The Pleasure Horse must have comfortable gaits giving the distinct impression it is a true pleasure to ride. Manners and suitability as a pleasure mount are paramount. Horses shown in Country Pleasure, Western Pleasure, or Hunter Pleasure are ineligible to show in any other NSH class at the same show, except for Halter, Ladies English Side Saddle, Equitation, and/or Show Hack. Horses shown in Country Pleasure, Western Pleasure or Hunter Pleasure may cross-enter among these classes.

NS126 Country Pleasure Gait Requirements

To be shown at a walk, trot, and canter, plus slow gait and rack in Five-Gaited classes. In Driving classes the gaits are walk, trot and strong trot.

NS127 Country Pleasure Judging Requirements

Transition from one gait to another should be smooth and effortless. Light contact with the horse's mouth must be maintained. Special emphasis is placed on a true, flat walk. Halting is not mandatory, however, entries may be asked to halt and stand quietly on the rail either and/or both ways of the ring at the judge's discretion. Horses may be asked to back at the judge's discretion.

NS128 Country Pleasure Classes and Specifications

1. Country Pleasure. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter. To be judged on manners, performance and quality. Suitability of horse and rider shall be given consideration.
2. Country Pleasure Driving. To enter ring at a trot. To be shown at a walk, trot and strong trot. To be judged on manners, performance and quality. All horses must stand quietly. They may be unchecked while lined up. To be shown both ways of the ring at all gaits. Backing is optional at judge's discretion. One header (without whip) allowed in the line up.
3. Five-Gaited Country Pleasure. To be shown at a walk, trot, slow gait and rack at moderate speed and canter. To be judged on manners, performance and quality.
4. Combination. To be shown in harness (to a two-wheeled jog-cart only) as a driving horse and Under Saddle as a Pleasure horse. English equipment. Change of equipment to be made in the ring. Each phase of competition to count 50%. Prize list to specify whether driver and rider must be the same in both phases of the class.

NS129 Pleasure Driving Gait Requirements

To enter the ring at a trot. To be shown at a walk, trot and strong trot.

NS130 Pleasure Driving Judging Requirements

Manners and suitability as a Pleasure mount are paramount. Transitions from one gait to another should be smooth and effortless. Light contact with the horse's mouth must be maintained.

NS131 Pleasure Driving Class Specifications

1. OPEN, LIMIT, JUNIOR HORSE, THREE-YEAR-OLDS, TWO-YEAR-OLDS, MAIDEN, NOVICE. Judged on performance, manners, quality and conformation.
2. LADIES. Judged on manners, quality, performance and conformation.
3. JUNIOR EXHIBITORS, AMATEURS (Ladies and/or Gentlemen); OWNERS, AMATEUR OWNERS. Judged on manners, performance, quality and conformation.
4. GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP. To be eligible, horses must have been entered, shown and judged in any other class in this section. Judged on performance, manners, quality and conformation.

NS132 Classic Country Pleasure Amateur Owner To Show

Description. The Classic Country Pleasure horse has less animation than the English Pleasure/Pleasure Driving and Country Pleasure/Country Pleasure Driving horse, but should be typical of the National Show Horse. Extreme knee motion and speed are to be penalized. The Classic Country horse must have comfortable gaits giving the distinct impression it is a true pleasure to ride. Manners and suitability as a pleasure mount are paramount. Horses entered in Classic Country Pleasure classes may not enter any other Country Pleasure class offered at this competition. Classic Pleasure horses may cross enter in Hunter, Western, Show Hack, Ladies English Side Saddle, Halter and Saddle Seat Equitation.

NS133 Classic Country Pleasure Amateur Owner to Show Gait Requirements

1. Under Saddle. To be shown at the walk, trot and canter.
2. Driving. To be shown at the walk, trot and strong trot.

NS134 Classic Country Pleasure Amateur Owner to Show Judging Requirements

Transitions from one gait to another must be smooth and effortless. Light contact with the horse's mouth must be maintained. Special emphasis is to be placed on a true, flat-footed walk. Entries may be asked to halt and stand quietly on the rail both ways of the ring. Horses may be asked to back at the judge's discretion. To be judged on manners, performance and quality. Suitability of horse to rider shall be given consideration. In driving, one header (without whip) allowed in the line up. See NS120 and NS121 for appointments.

SUBCHAPTER NS-5 FINE HARNESS SECTION

NS135 General

The Fine Harness horse should possess all of the elegance and refinement of the ideal National Show Horse with animation, not speed.

NS136 Appointments

To be shown in light show harness, bridle with blinkers, overcheck (when overcheck is used, two bits are required; when side check is used second bit is optional), snaffle bit (straight or jointed) to a four-wheeled show vehicle. Equipment to be in sound condition. Formal attire is encouraged after 6:00 p.m.

NS137 Gait Requirements

Horses are to enter ring at a park trot. Qualifying gaits are animated walk, park trot, “show your horse”. Exception: “show your horse” is not called for in Ladies, Junior Exhibitor, Amateur, Owners and Amateur Owners Classes.

NS138 Line Up

Entries are to stand quietly but shall not be required to back. They may be unchecked while lined up. An attendant may stand the entry on its feet but must remain at least two paces from the head when the entry is being judged.

NS139 Ring Attendants

One attendant, without a whip will be permitted to stand quietly inside the gate during any Ladies, Amateur, Owners or Junior Exhibitor class but must take no action that will affect the performance of any horse. Attendants should be neatly attired and may be required to meet dress requirements set forth by individual competition management.

NS140 Class Specifications

1. OPEN, LIMIT, JUNIOR HORSE (Five-years Old & Under), THREE-YEAR OLDS; TWO-YEAR OLDS; MAIDEN; NOVICE. Exhibited at an animated walk, park trot and “show your horse” (speed to be penalized), to stand quietly. Judged on performance, quality, manners and conformation.
2. LADIES. Shown at a park trot and an animated walk, to stand quietly. Judged on manners, quality, performance and conformation.
3. JUNIOR EXHIBITOR; AMATEUR (Ladies and/or Gentlemen); OWNERS; AMATEUR OWNER. Shown at a park trot and an animated walk, to stand quietly. Judged on manners, performance and conformation.
4. GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP: To be eligible, horses must be entered, shown, and judged in any other class in this section. Exhibited at an animated walk, park trot and “show your horse” (speed to be penalized); to stand quietly.

SUBCHAPTER NS-6 FIVE GAITED SECTION

NS141 Appointments

1. Horses shall be shown in a full bridle. No horse shall be shown with a breast plate, tie-down, martingale or a single bit only. The saddle should be flat English-type with leather or web girth.
2. Informal English riding suit is required. It consists of conservative solid colors such as black, burgundy, blue, grey, beige or brown with matching jodhpurs (contrasting jackets are permitted) and derby or soft hat or protective headgear. Top hats prohibited. Gloves are recommended.
3. Extremes of temperature or climatic conditions may modify the above dress requirements at the judge's discretion.

NS142 Gait Requirements

Qualifying gaits are animated walk, gaited trot, slow gait, rack and canter.

NS143 Classes Offered and Specifications

Classes may be divided by sex. To be shown at an animated walk, trot, slow gait, rack and canter.

1. OPEN, LIMIT, JUNIOR HORSE (FIVE-YEAR-OLDS & UNDER), THREE-YEAR-OLDS, TWO-YEAR-OLDS, MAIDEN, NOVICE. Judged on performance, quality, manners and conformation. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS: Judged on performance, quality, manners and conformation.
2. LADIES. Judged on manners, quality, performance and conformation. LADIES CHAMPIONSHIPS: Judged on manners, quality, performance and conformation.
3. JUNIOR EXHIBITORS, AMATEURS (Ladies and/or Gentlemen), OWNERS, AMATEUR OWNERS. Judged on manners, performance, quality and conformation. CHAMPIONSHIPS: Judged on manners, performance, quality and conformation. Suitability of horse and rider shall be given consideration.
4. To be eligible for above Championships, horses must be entered, shown and judged in a qualifying class restricted in a similar manner, i.e., Ladies classes qualify for Ladies Championships, Gentlemen's classes qualify for the Gentlemen's Championship and Junior Exhibitor classes qualify for the Junior Exhibitor Championship. If only an Amateur Championship is offered, horses are eligible if they have been entered, shown by an amateur and judged in the Ladies class or in any qualifying class having the same judging specifications.
5. GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP: To be eligible, horses must be entered, shown and judged in any other class in this section. Judged on performance, quality, manners and conformation.
6. COMBINATION. Shown first to an appropriate four-wheeled vehicle at an animated walk and trot, then shown Under Saddle at an animated walk, trot, slow gait, rack and canter. Judged 50% on suitability for harness; 50% on saddle work with emphasis on the trot. Entries to be driven with snaffle bit and separate overcheck. Prize list must specify whether driver/rider must be the same in both phases of the class.

SUBCHAPTER NS-7 THREE-GAITED SECTION

NS144 General

The Three-Gaited National Show Horse should be the epitome of beauty, brilliance, elegance, refinement and expression. Its gaits are collected and its energy directed toward animation and precision.

NS145 Appointments

1. Horses shall be shown in a full bridle. No horse shall be shown with a single bit only, breast plate, tie-down or martingale.
2. Flat English-type saddle, leather lining preferred. Girth can be leather, web or other suitable material.
3. Informal English riding suit is required for morning and afternoon classes (contrasting jackets permitted). Formal attire and accessories are appropriate, but not mandatory for evening classes after 6 p.m.

NS146 Gait Requirements

To be shown at an animated walk, park trot and canter.

NS147 Classes Offered and Specifications

1. Quality, animation and expression are paramount. Classes may be divided according to:
 - a. Sex—Mares, Stallions/Geldings.
 - b. Height—over 14.2 hands and not exceeding 15 hands; 15.2 hands and under; over 15.2 hands.
2. OPEN, LIMIT, JUNIOR HORSE (Five-Year Olds & Under); THREE-YEAR-OLDS, MAIDEN, NOVICE. Judged on performance, quality, manners and conformation. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS: Judged on performance, quality, manners and conformation.
3. LADIES. Judged on manners, quality, performance and conformation. LADIES CHAMPIONSHIPS: Judged on manners, quality, performance and conformation.

4. JUNIOR EXHIBITORS, AMATEURS (Ladies and/or Gentlemen), OWNERS, AMATEUR OWNERS. Judged on manners, performance, quality and conformation. CHAMPIONSHIPS: Judged on manners, performance, quality and conformation. Suitability of horse and rider shall be given consideration.
5. To be eligible for above Championships, horses must be entered, shown and judged in a qualifying class restricted in a similar manner, i.e., Ladies classes qualify for Ladies Championships, Gentlemen's classes qualify for the Gentlemen's Championship and Junior Exhibitor classes qualify for the Junior Exhibitor Championship. If only an Amateur Championship is offered, horses are eligible if they have been entered, shown by an amateur and judged in the Ladies class or in any qualifying class having the same judging specifications.
6. GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP: To be eligible, horses must be entered, shown and judged in any other class in this section. Judged on performance, quality, manners and conformation.

SUBCHAPTER NS-8 NATIONAL SHOW HORSE ENGLISH SHOW HACK SECTION

NS148 General

1. Competitors to enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction at a normal trot.
2. Light contact must be maintained with all reins at all gaits. A judge may not request that gaits be performed only on snaffle or curb.
3. Judges are required to consider the performance at each gait equally in adjudicating this class.
4. Horses may show with a braided mane and tail. Braids may be secured with tape, yarn, or rubber bands. Decorations are prohibited.

NS149 Appointments

1. Bridle shall be light, show type; either single snaffle, double (full) or pelham. Kimberwick bit is permitted. Browbands and cavessons other than hunter or dressage types are prohibited. Unconventional tack such as figure eight, drop, or flash nosebands are not permitted.
2. English saddle of any type is required. Girths of either leather, white web, nylon string or suitable material.
3. Martingales, breastplates not allowed.
4. Acceptable Hack attire is required. It consists of conservatively colored coat, breeches, and boots. A conservatively colored hunting cap or derby is required. Formal attire consisting of white breeches, top hat and tails may be worn. It is usual to wear such attire after 6:00 p.m., or in Championship classes.
5. Spurs, whip or crop optional at the exhibitor's discretion.

NS150 Qualifying Gaits

A Show Hack horse is not necessarily a Dressage horse, nor an English Pleasure horse of the National Show Horse Division. Elevation and high knee action are not to be emphasized. The Show Hack is a suitable section for the well-trained animal. Show Hacks must be balanced and show vitality, animation, presence, clean fine limbs and supreme quality typical of the breed. Soundness is required.

1. Walk, a four-beat gait: Straight, true and flatfooted.
 - a. Normal walk: Regular and unconstrained, moving energetically and calmly forward.
 - b. Collected walk: Strides are shorter and higher than the normal walk. The head approaches the vertical, but should never move behind it. Pacing is a serious fault.
 - c. Extended Walk: The horse is allowed to lengthen frame and stride while rider maintains light rein contact. The horse should cover as much ground as possible without rushing.
2. Trot, a two-beat gait: Free-moving, straight, rider maintaining light contact with the horse's mouth at all times.
 - a. Normal Trot: Light, crisp, balanced and cadenced with the rider posting.

- b. Collected Trot: The horse's stride is shorter and lighter, maintaining balance and impulsion. The neck is more raised and arched than at the normal trot as the head approaches the vertical line, never moving behind it. Rider is sitting.
 - c. 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 the rider's hand as it lengthens its frame. Rider is posting.
3. Canter, a three-beat gait: straight on both leads, smooth.
- a. Normal Canter: Light even strides, should be moved into without hesitation.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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: The hand gallop is performed with a long, free, ground covering stride. The amount of ground covered may vary between horses due to the difference in natural length of stride. A decided lengthening of stride should be shown while the horse remains controlled, mannerly, correct and straight on both leads.
4. The collected and extended gaits are to be called by the judge both ways of the ring. At the discretion of the judge, horses while on the rail may be asked to halt and rein back. A Show Hack shall be able to perform all of these gaits with a noticeable transition between the normal, collected, and extended gaits. The horse must appear to be under complete control and easily ridden. Obedience to the rider is of prime importance. If the horse exhibits clear transitions in a balanced and level manner, appearing to be giving a comfortable and pleasurable ride, it is performing correctly for this class.

NS151 Gait Requirements and Judging Specifications

To be shown at a walk, trot, canter and hand gallop; collected, extended and normal gaits to be called by the judge both ways of the ring. To be judged on performance, manners quality and conformation. Horses may be asked to back at the judge's discretion.

SUBCHAPTER NS-9 ROADSTER SECTION

NS152 General

The Roadster should have good National Show Horse Conformation.

NS153 Appointments

In Bike and Under Saddle classes, exhibitors shall wear stable colors, cap and jacket to match. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty. (See GR801)

NS154 Equipment

Roadsters shall be shown to a bike of good appearance and stability. Harness shall consist of bridles with square blinkers, snaffle bit and overcheck, breast collar with straight flaps, with traces made round with flat ends. Reins should be of tan leather and made round up to the handpiece. Quarter boots are optional.

NS155 Judging Procedures

1. Roadsters must enter the ring clockwise at a jog-trot, then show at the road gait. On the reverse, to be shown at the jog-trot, road gait and then at speed. All three gaits must be considered.

2. Horses shall be shown on the rail at all times except when passing and should go to the far end on every corner without side-reining; should be light mouthed, capable of being taken up at any time, willing to walk and stand quietly when being judged in the center of the ring.
3. Judged on performance, speed, quality, manners and conformation. Exception: Manners are emphasized in Amateur and Junior Exhibitor classes.

NS156 Gait Requirements

At all speeds, Roadsters should work in form; i.e., chins set and legs working beneath them, going collectedly. Animation, brilliance and competition ring presence should be evident working at the jog-trot and Road Gait. Undesirable: Long, sprawling front action, dragging or trailing hind legs and straddle-gaited action behind, all of which indicate imbalance. Pacey or mixed gait; pacing and racking on turns; or breaking and running on the turns shall be penalized.

NS157 Classes Offered and Specifications

1. SINGLE ROADSTER OPEN. To be shown to a bike at a jog-trot, road gait and then at speed. To be judged on performance, speed, quality and manners.
2. SINGLE ROADSTER TO BE SHOWN BY AN AMATEUR, JUNIOR EXHIBITOR; CHAMPIONSHIPS. To be shown to a bike at a jog-trot, road gait and then at speed. To be judged on manners, performance, speed and quality. In Amateur Championships, the horse must have been qualified by an amateur in one other amateur to bike class.
3. SINGLE ROADSTER CHAMPIONSHIP. To be eligible for any bike championship, horses must have been entered, shown and judged in another bike class in this section. To be shown to a bike at a jog-trot, road gait and then at speed. To be judged on performance, speed, presence, quality, conformation and manners.
4. ROADSTER UNDER SADDLE; CHAMPIONSHIPS. To be shown under English saddle, full martingale, open bridle with snaffle bit, single or double rein and quarter boots. Rider to wear stable colors, jacket and cap to match. To be shown at a jog-trot, road gait and then at speed. To be judged on performance, speed, quality and manners. Saddle classes do not qualify a horse for bike championships.

SUBCHAPTER NS-10 NATIONAL SHOW HORSE LADIES ENGLISH SIDE SADDLE SECTION

NS158 General

The National Show Horse Ladies English Side Saddle Horse should be typical of the National Show Horse breed. The side saddle horse should give the distinct impression that it is a comfortable mount to ride.

1. Competitors enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction at the trot.
2. Judges must consider all gaits equally in adjudicating this class.
3. Safety is of the utmost importance in tack and attire. Judges should penalize exhibitors not conforming to good safety practices.

NS159 Appointments

1. Bridle: appropriate bridle.
2. Martingales or tie downs are prohibited.
3. Saddle: Appropriate style side saddle.
4. Attire: Formal or informal, long sleeved blouse and/or jacket, skirt, divided skirt, or apron. Period attire is acceptable and encouraged to be researched as to its authenticity. Hat and boots required. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty. (See GR801)

5. Spur, whip or crop optional, at the exhibitor's discretion.
6. Competitors must be penalized for incomplete appointments but not necessarily disqualified.

NS160 Qualifying Gaits

A good ground-covering walk, a comfortable trot, and easy flowing canter is desirable. Transitions from one gait to another should be smooth and effortless. Riders may sit or post to the trot.

NS161 Class specifications

Open, Maiden, Novice, Limit, Stallions, Mares, Geldings, ATR, JTR, AOTR, AAOTR, JOTR. To be shown both directions of the ring at a walk, trot, and canter. Horses should back readily if requested by the judge and stand quietly. To be judged 85% on manners, performance, suitability, quality and conformation; 15% on appropriate side saddle attire. Manners and suitability of purpose shall be emphasized. (Suitability refers to the horse being suitable as a side saddle mount.)

SUBCHAPTER NS-11 NATIONAL SHOW HORSE HUNTER PLEASURE SECTION

NS162 General

It is imperative that the horse give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride and display a pleasurable and relaxed attitude. The National Show Horse Hunter should carry its head in a relaxed natural manner. Natural head carriage may vary with the horse's conformation. Horses behind the vertical must be penalized. Horses should perform in a balanced manner. As in all National Show Horse classes, the best quality specimens of the breed should prevail.

1. Competitors enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction at the trot.
2. Light contact with the horse's mouth must be maintained at all gaits.
3. Judges are required to consider the performance at each gait equally in adjudicating this class.
4. Horses may show with a braided mane and tail.

NS163 Appointments

1. Bridle shall be light, show type; either snaffle, pelham, full bridle, or kimberwick bit acceptable. Browband/cavessons other than hunter and dressage types are not permitted. Saddle Seat style colored brow bands/cavessons and/or figure eight, drop or flash nosebands are not permitted. No martingales or tie-downs are permitted.
2. Breastplate or breast collar is optional.
3. Type of English saddle is optional, but forward seat type is recommended. No cutback saddles allowed. Girth either leather, web, string or suitable material.
4. Informal attire of suitable material for hunting is required. It consists of conservatively colored coat of any tweed or melton (conservative wash jackets in season), breeches (or jodhpurs) and boots. A conservatively colored hunting cap or derby is mandatory. Formal attire is not permitted. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty. (See GR801)
5. Spurs and crop or bat, no longer than 30" including lash, are optional, at the exhibitor's discretion.

NS164 Qualifying Gaits

1. Walk, a four-beat gait: straight, true and flat-footed. Regular and unconstrained with good reach.
2. Trot, a two-beat gait: Straight and regular. The trot should be mannerly, cadenced and balanced. To be performed at medium speed with a free-moving, ground-covering stride, with rider posting.

3. Canter, a three-beat gait: even, smooth, unhurried, correct and straight on both leads.
4. Hand Gallop: The hand gallop is performed with a long, free, ground-covering stride. The amount of ground covered may vary between horses due to the difference in natural length of stride. A decided lengthening of stride should be shown while the horse remains controlled, mannerly, correct and straight on both leads.

NS165 Class Specifications

Open, Maiden, Novice, Limit, Stallions, Mares, Geldings, ATR, JTR, AOTR, AAOTR, JOTR, Ladies to ride, Gentlemen to ride, Junior Horse. To be shown at a walk, trot, canter and hand gallop both directions of the ring. To be judged on manners, performance, suitability as a Hunter, quality and conformation.

SUBCHAPTER NS-12 NATIONAL SHOW HORSE WESTERN PLEASURE SECTION

NS166 General

1. The National Show Horse Western Pleasure horse should be typical of the National Show Horse breed. The Western Pleasure horse must have comfortable gaits giving the distinct impression it is a true pleasure to ride. Horses shall perform in a balanced manner.
2. Headset should reflect a balanced horse based on its conformation. Extremes must be penalized.
3. Competitors enter the ring in a counter clockwise direction at the jog-trot.
4. Light contact with the horse's mouth must be maintained at all gaits.
5. Judges must consider all gaits in adjudicating the class.
6. If bridles are to be checked, it is the sole decision of the judge to do so. The judge may designate the steward to check bridles at the out gate. Riders must dismount.
7. Only one hand may be used on reins and hands must not be changed. Hand to be around reins. When end of split reins falls on side of reining hand, one finger between reins is permitted. When using romal or when ends of split reins are held in hand not used for reining, no finger between reins is allowed. Rider may hold romal or end of split reins to keep them from swinging and adjust the position of the reins provided it is held at least 16" from the reining hand.
8. Horses shall be asked to back at the judge's discretion.

NS167 Appointments

1. For personal appointments and tack refer to WS104, WS105, and WS109.
2. Standard snaffle bits or hackamores are permitted in any western class on a junior horse five years old and under. Horses may be ridden with two hands (both hands must be visible to the judge). A junior horse may not be switched back and forth from a bridle to snaffle or hackamore.

NS168 Qualifying Gaits

For performance criteria, see chart.

1. Walk, a four-beat gait: True, flat footed and ground covering.
2. Jog-trot, a two-beat gait: Free, square, slow and easy.
3. Lope, a true three-beat gait: Smooth, slow and straight on both leads.
4. Hand Gallop is not merely an extended lope; extreme speed must be penalized. There should be a distinct difference between the lope and the hand gallop.

NS169 Class Specifications

1. Open, Maiden, Novice, Limit, Stallions, Mares, Geldings. To be shown at a walk, jog-trot, lope and hand gallop. Extreme speed must be penalized. To be judged 75% on performance, manners, presence and quality; 25% on conformation and neatness of attire.
2. Junior Horse (five and under). To be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore at a walk, jog-trot, and lope. To be judged 75% on performance, manners, presence and quality; 25% on conformation and neatness of attire.
3. ATR, JTR, AOTR, AAOTR, JOTR, Ladies to ride, Gentlemen to ride. To be shown at a walk, jog-trot, and lope. To be judged 75% on performance, manners, presence and quality; 25% on conformation and neatness of attire.
4. GRAND CHAMPIONSHIPS—To be eligible, horses must have been entered, shown and judged in any other class in this section.

SUBCHAPTER NS-13 EQUITATION

NS170 Equitation Classes

Equitation classes held in the National Show Horse Division must be conducted in accordance with Chapter EQ, Equitation Division.

NATIONAL SHOW HORSE WESTERN PLEASURE

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 two-beat jog Failing to jog both front and back Hard or rough riding	
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 responsive Back in straight line	Hesitant Not backing straight	Throwing head Gaping Pulling not backing Rearing	
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 prohibited equipment Lameness Cueing horse in front of cinch Fall of horse or rider Bleeding mouth

HEADSET CRITERIA FOR NATIONAL SHOW HORSES IN WESTERN PLEASURE

ACCEPTABLE

ACCEPTABLE

UNACCEPTABLE

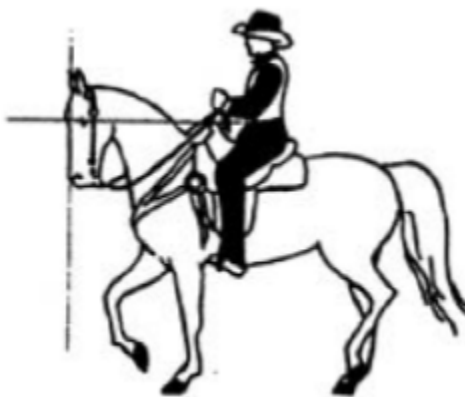


Figure 1

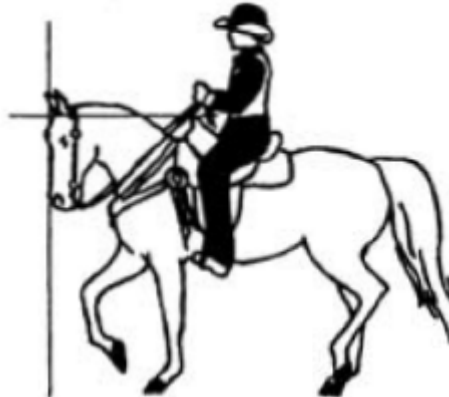


Figure 2

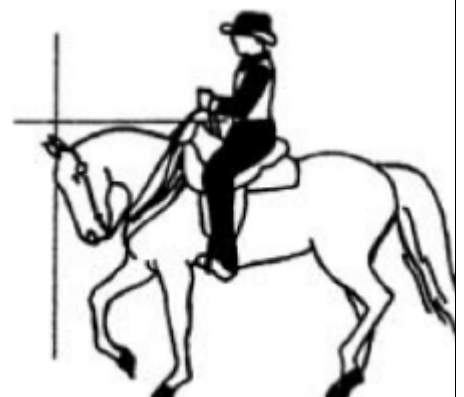


Figure 3

ILLUSTRATIONS ONE AND TWO DEPICT THE ACCEPTABLE HEADSET FOR A NATIONAL SHOW HORSE COMPETING IN WESTERN PLEASURE. THE VERTICAL LINE ILLUSTRATES THAT ALL GAITS, THE HORSE'S HEAD SHOULD BE PERPENDICULAR TO THE GROUND – THE NOSE NEITHER EXTENDED NOR TUCKED IN. THE HORIZONTAL LINE ILLUSTRATES THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE HEAD SET BE SUCH THAT THE POLL IS NEVER LOWER THAN THE SADDLE HORN.

