



**GHSA**

# **2020 RULE BOOK**

**Gypsy Horse Show Association**

**P.O. Box 226**

**Pocasset, OK 73079**

**Email [ghsasouth@gmail.com](mailto:ghsasouth@gmail.com)**



January 1, 2019

Dear GHSA Member:

Welcome to the Gypsy Horse Show Association!

The Board of Directors and Officers are excited about launching the GHSA Regions. The GHSA was born out of a dream to bring something new to all Gypsy owners across the United States who show their beloved horses. The Association has received 501(c)(5) non-profit status but is appealing and requesting we be granted 501(c)(3) status by the IRS.

The GHSA has four long-term goals - #1 – to create a system of Regional and State associations and shows that lead to a true National Championship Show held at a time and location that is reasonably accessible to all Gypsy owners. #2 – to be an organization that each and every one of the various registries affiliates with and approves GHSA shows to be points shows for their registry; thus providing additional benefit to their registry's members. #3 – to become the sole provider of judges' training and carding and to maintain an exceptional list of the best trained, most consistent, most knowledgeable judges for both GHSA shows and all Gypsy-specific horse shows across the country thus relieving the registries of this enormous responsibility. #4 to provide a rule book that all registries can approve and one that is utilized at all Gypsy-specific horse shows across the continent – whether GHSA-sponsored or not – thus providing one set of governing rules for all Gypsy horse shows that lends to consistency for Gypsy owners, judges, show officials and show managers no matter where the show or who the judge.

We believe we have achieved the fourth goal with this 2019 GHSA Rule Book. We feel this rulebook can and should become the standard for all Gypsy Horse Shows across North America. We hope you will agree and encourage your horse's registry to approve and affiliate with us. We also encourage you to reach out to owners and managers of non-GHSA shows and let them know that the GHSA Rulebook is available to be used at their shows **after an application process is completed**. It only takes a phone call or email to the GHSA Board to get the ball rolling.

We are thrilled to be able to offer a **High-Point Buckle Series** this year in the founding South Central Region and would like to remind all exhibitors participating in the GHSA Series that they **MUST** be current GHSA members before entering their first show. You do not have to live in the South Central Region to participate, just be a GHSA member and compete at the shows!

Please "LIKE" and interact with us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/GypsyHorseShowAssociation/>

See you at the show!

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**\*\*\*2020 RULE BOOK\*\*\***  
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## PURPOSE

The purpose for which the Gypsy Horse Show Association is exclusively educational and charitable and promotes equine and human athletics, defined as follows:

- (A) Promote youth and adult involvement in horse shows, exhibitions, equine educational events and other equine related activities associated with horsemanship, driving and riding.
- (B) Aid and encourage the breeding, exhibiting, use, perpetuation and protection of Gypsy Vanners, Gypsy Horses, Gypsy Cobs, Irish Cobs, Tinkers, etc... **(hereto also known as Gypsy's)** by promoting the breed through GHSA horse shows, coordinate and cooperate in providing qualified judges for GHSA and other Gypsy horse shows and in devising and adopting GHSA show rules, regulations and standards.
- (C) To encourage exhibition of pure bred Gypsy's, regardless of breed registry. (D) To cooperate with other organizations with similar interests in Gypsy's.
- (E) Provide publicity and educational programs and other activities in the interest of Gypsy's, associations, clubs and enthusiasts, for the purpose of stimulating interest in Gypsy's.

# **2020 NATIONAL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

## **2020 OFFICERS**

**Colin Stanly, President**  
**Brenda Hearon, Vice President**  
**Wendi Coleman Everingham, Treasurer**  
**Christine Deerinwater, Secretary**  
**Shannon Creel Lord, Communications Officer**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Lyn Jenkins**  
**Marli Spears**  
**Debra Rivers**  
**Jackie Rollins**

# **THE GYPSY HORSE SHOW ASSOCIATION**

## **GENERAL RULES**

The Gypsy Horse Show Association adheres to the Constitution and Standards of Conduct as put forth by the USEF rulebook. Any specific point not covered in these articles may be found in the USEF rulebook ([www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)). When showing in open "All Breed" shows/classes where a direct conflict may arise, the USEF rules will take precedent. In Gypsy sanctioned classes, GHSA rules take precedent.

## **Membership**

Membership shall be open to all persons interested in promoting and supporting the goals and activities of the Gypsy Horse Show Association and agree to abide by its rules and regulations and who apply for membership. Members of the GHSA shall be admitted, retained, reprimanded, fined, suspended or expelled in accordance with such rules and regulations as the membership, from time to time, may adopt. In all matters of elections governed by a vote of the membership, each Annual and Lifetime member in good standing who has attained the age of eighteen (18) years shall be entitled to one (1) vote. A family with a Family membership is entitled to one (1) vote. Farm/Corporate/Association members are also entitled to one (1) vote.

The members of this Association consist of five (5) types:

**Annual Member** – this is a member who has applied for and been accepted to membership in the GHSA and who has paid the annual membership fee.

**Lifetime Member** – Lifetime Members are those that have applied for and been accepted to membership in the GHSA and paid their Lifetime Member fee. Lifetime Members shall pay no annual dues after they have paid their Lifetime Member fee.

**Lifetime Family Membership**, – A Lifetime Family Membership are those that have applied for and been accepted to membership in the GHSA and paid their Lifetime Member fee. Lifetime Members shall pay no annual dues after they have paid their Lifetime Family Member fee. A family is a unit consisting of parent/guardian and up to four (4) minor children or grandchildren who have not reached their eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) birthday) who all reside at a single residence and has paid the designated annual dues.

**Family, Farm, Association and Corporate Memberships** – A Family Membership is an immediate family unit consisting of parent/guardian and up to four (4) minor children or grandchildren who have not reached their eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) birthday) who all reside at a single residence and has paid the designated annual dues.

A Farm, Association or Corporate Membership is for a Farm/Ranch, Corporation or Association that has been accepted to membership in the GHSA and that has paid the designated annual dues.

Family/Farm/Corporate/Association memberships shall be required to notify the Secretary, in writing, designating one member of the family, farm, corporation or association, who has reached their eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) birthday by January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year and who shall be entitled to cast its one(1) vote in all matters governed by the vote of the membership.

Farm memberships will be given four (4) auxiliary membership cards to be used for up to four (4) different handlers at shows for that year. Additional handler cards may be purchased on an as needed basis by purchasing an Annual membership for that handler.

**Youth Member** – this is a non-voting membership for youth under the age of eighteen (18) as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

**2020 Membership Dues**

**Annual Member - \$20**

**Lifetime Member - \$500**

**Lifetime Family Membership - \$600**

**Family Membership - \$50**

**Youth Membership - \$10**

**Farm, Association and Corporate Memberships - \$250**

For Association purposes, membership dues count for the current year from the date received through December 31st of that year.

A new member who joins and pays first time annual dues during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year will be considered paid up through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the following membership year.

Each member's dues shall be divided between the National Association and the Region and State of the member's main residence as stated on the member's application. For 2018, the division of the dues shall be 70% to the member's Region and 30% to the National Association. If a member is in a Region and/or State that does not have an active/existing organization, those funds shall be escrowed by the National Treasurer until such time as an active organization is in place to receive and utilize the funds.

### Eligibility to Compete

1. At least one owner of the full-bred Gypsy Vanner/Gypsy Horse, Gypsy Cross-bred horse or Drum horse to be shown must be a paid member of the Gypsy Horse Show Association. Otherwise, a non-member fee of \$10 **per horse** will be assessed at each show.
2. All purebred Gypsy Vanners and Gypsy Horses must be registered with one of the following registries: The Gypsy Vanner Horse Society (GVHS), the Gypsy Cob and Drum Horse Association (GCDHA), the Gypsy Horse Registry of America (GHRA), the Traditional Gypsy Cob Association (TGCA), the Irish Cob Society – Nederland (ICS), the International Gypsy Equine Association (IGEA) and/or the Gypsy Horse Association (GHA).
3. Gypsy crosses must be registered with one of the following registries: the Gypsy Cob and Drum Horse Association (GCDHA), the Gypsy Horse Registry of America (GHRA), the Gypsy Horse Association (GHA), the Traditional Gypsy Cob Association (TGCA), the Irish Cob Society – Nederland (ICS), the International Gypsy Equine Association (IGEA) and/or the International Drum Horse Association (IDHA).
4. All horses entered in any class designated for Drum horses must be of Gypsy, Clydesdale, and/or Shire breeding only and be registered with at least one of the following registries/associations and provide a current legible copy of the registration certificate with show entries verifying registration status, age, gender, current ownership and breed eligibility. Acceptable breed registries for the Drum horse division include: International Drum Horse Association (IDHA)/the Traditional Gypsy Cob Association (TGCA), the Irish Cob Society – Nederland (ICS), the International Gypsy Equine Association (IGEA) (added 12/2/17) and/or Gypsy Cob and Drum Horse Association (GCDHA) IDHA.
5. The listed registries and associations in #'s 2, 3 and 4 above will be here after referred to as the "Registries".
6. Competition entries will include a Proof of Registration or Pending Registration.
7. Competition Management will resolve any question or dispute that may arise from said eligibility of horses. This decision will be final.
8. Registered Purebred Gypsy horses and other horses cannot compete in the same class at the same competition, EXCEPT IN THOSE CLASSES THAT SHOW MANAGEMENT HAS DESIGNATED IN THE PREMIUM BOOK AS "OPEN" OR "ALL-BREED" CLASSES. Competition Officials, however, have the discretion to run the show concurrent with other "open" or "all breed" classes using whatever rules they deem appropriate for those breeds and the other "open" or "all breed" classes will be considered a separate Competition with applicable rules.
9. Registered Purebred Gypsy horses, Drum horses and Gypsy Crosses cannot be shown under saddle until they are three years old.
10. Registered Purebred Gypsy horses, Drum horses and Gypsy Crosses cannot compete in any driving class until they are three years old.



11. Classes may be divided by age of the horse, based on the size of the Competition and the discretion of the Competition management. Competition management reserves the right to combine or divide any classes at their sole discretion.

### Grand and Reserve Championship Classes

1. There is no fee for Grand and Reserve Halter classes and Supreme Halter classes.  
In Grand and Reserve Halter classes, a second place horse shall not be placed over a horse that was placed above him. Exception: if for any reason a first place horse fails to return for their respective Grand and Reserve Championship class.
2. Grand and Reserve Champion classes may be held in performance classes, ie. English Pleasure WT Grand & Reserve Champion and Western Pleasure WJL Grand & Reserve Champion. If such classes are offered, they will be announced in the class list. The 1st and 2nd place horses from all classes in that particular section (ie. English Pleasure WT, Western Pleasure WJL, etc...) will be eligible to compete in the Grand & Reserve Championship for that section after paying the required entry fee. All horses that competed in that particular section, regardless of placing, will be eligible to compete in the Grand & Reserve Championship for that section after paying the required entry fee. Entrants should inquire with show management regarding procedure for making payment for Championship classes. Unlike in Halter Grand and Reserve Champion classes, in Performance Grand and Reserve Champion classes, the Championship class is considered a new class and a 2<sup>nd</sup> place horse can be placed over a 1<sup>st</sup> place horse.

### High-Point Awards ( South Central Region 1)

1. High-Point awards may be offered at each show and/or for an entire show series
2. To qualify for High-Point awards, entrants must be paid members of the GHSA prior to competing in their first show. Awards will be based on horse/rider combinations For Amateur and Youth.
3. **Horse of the Year (2020) The GHSA will be awarding year-end High-Point Belt Buckles to Horse of the Year. All Pointed Classes count (i.e. Youth, Amateur and Open) Points Accumulated by the horse not horse and rider Combination**
4. **The GHSA will be awarding year-end High-Point Belt Buckles awarded in Amateur and Youth divisions for Purebred Gypsy horses only To the High-Point horse/rider combinations that enter and compete in a GHSA shows in 2019. These shows will include the May 23-24 GHSA Spring show in McKinney TX, The Oklahoma State Fair Gypsy Horse Show and the October 10-11 Fall Show Chickasha OK**
5. A point system will be kept for awards. Points will be kept on a 6-5-4-3-2-1 basis. If less than 6 horses are in a class, points will be based on the number in the class. (ie. if four horses are in the class, points will be 4-3-2-1). For classes designated as WTC or WJL, an additional point will be added to the point system. (ie. if there are 4 horses in the class, the points will be 5-4-3-2)
6. Reserve champions will earn 3 points for that class. Champions will earn 5 points for that class. Supreme Champions will earn 5 points for that class.
7. **Tie Breaker:** Competitors tying with points shall have ties broken as follows:
  - a. First Tie Breaker – Competitor having the most 1<sup>st</sup> places;
  - b. Second Tie Breaker – Competitor having the most 2<sup>nd</sup> places;
  - c. Third Tie Breaker – Competitor having the most 3<sup>rd</sup> places.

8. Classes that will NOT count toward High-Point awards include Novice, Green, Maiden or Limited classes, Lead Line, Freestyle, Liberty, Costume, Concours D'Elegance Ridden or Driving or any classes where Purebred and cross-bred horses compete together.

### Definitions - Individual

1. Adult or Senior Individual who has reached his 18th birthday as of January 1st of the current competition year.
2. Age of an Individual on January 1st will be maintained throughout the entire competition year.
3. **Amateur**- Regardless of one's equestrian skills and/or accomplishments, a person is an amateur for all competitions who after his/her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, has not engaged in any of the following activities which would make him/her a professional
  - a. Accepts remuneration for riding, driving, showing, training, schooling, or conducting clinics or seminars.
  - b. Accepts remuneration for giving riding or driving lessons, lessons in showmanship, instructions in equitation or horse training. (Persons acting as counselors at summer camps, who are not hired in the exclusive capacity of riding instructors, are excluded and persons giving instructions and training to the handicapped are also excluded).
  - c. Accepts remuneration for employment in any other capacity (e.g. secretary, bookkeeper, veterinarian, groom, farrier) and gives instruction, rides, drives, shows, trains or schools horses, other than horses actually owned or leased by him/her, when his/her employer or a member of the family of said employer or a corporation which a member of his/her family controls, owns, boards or trains said horses.
  - d. Accepts remuneration for the use of his or her name, photograph or other form of personal association as a horseman in connection with any advertisement or article to be sold.
  - e. Accepts prize money in equitation or showmanship classes, except as allowed in 3.k. below.
  - f. Advertises professional services such as training or giving lessons by way of business cards, print ads, or internet.

The following activities **do not** affect amateur status of a person who is otherwise qualified.

- g. The writing of books or articles pertaining to horses.
  - h. Accepting remuneration for officiating as a judge, steward, course designer, announcer, or participating as a TV commentator, or accepting bona fide remuneration for services as a veterinarian, groom, farrier, tack shop operator or breeder, or for accepting bona fide remuneration for boarding services.
  - i. Accepting reimbursement for any expenses directly related to the horse.
  - j. Accepting a token of appreciation, other than money, for riding, driving, or showing in hand in halter (tokens worth more than \$300 are considered remunerations)
  - k. Prize money won in any amateur or owner class does not affect amateur status of a person otherwise qualified.
  - l. Any person who is serving an internship for college credit through his/her respective accredited college program and who has never held professional status, can accept reimbursement for expenses without profit.
4. A "client" and "clients" of a judge or steward shall include any person who has received or who has a member of his or her family who has received horse training or instruction in riding, driving or showing in hand or in halter from the judge, steward or from said official's employee, whether

- or not remuneration has been given or received, and whether or not such training or instruction took place at a Competition
- a. Also included are any persons who pay horse board (excluding stud fees and broodmare board) to the judge, steward, or to a member of his or her family and
  - b. Also included are any persons entered in a Competition as rider, driver, handler, exhibitor, owner or lessee, and members of the family of the foregoing, on an entry blank signed in any capacity by the judge, steward or his or her agent, employee or member of his or her family, whether or not remuneration has been given or received.
  - c. The conducting of clinics or assistance in group activities, unless private instruction is given, will not be considered as instruction, coaching or tutoring.
5. Coach is defined as any adult or adults who receive remuneration for having or sharing the responsibility for instructing, teaching, schooling, or advising a rider, driver, handler in equestrian skills.
6. **Agent** is any adult or adults, including but not limited to any groom(s), veterinarian(s), coach(es) or other persons who act on behalf of an exhibitor, owner or lessee of a horse, trainer, rider, driver or handler at or in connection with a Competition.
7. **Family** - For competition purposes the term family includes husband, wife, parent, step-parent, child, brother, step-child, sister, half brother and sister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandmother, grandfather, grandchildren, and in-laws of the same relation as stated above.
8. **Gender** - Whenever in these rules the words he, him, or his are used, unless the context requires otherwise, they shall include she, her, or hers.
9. **Youth** (Individual)
- a. An individual who has not reached his 18th birthday as of January 1st of the current competition year.
  - b. The age of an individual on January 1st will be maintained throughout the entire competition year.
10. **Lessee** is an individual who leases a horse from the owner for the purpose of riding, driving or exhibiting said leased horse in a competition. Lessee is considered the "owner" of the horse with proper documentation submitted with the entry forms.
11. **Not in Good Standing**
- a. Any person who has been expelled or suspended by the any of the Registries participating in the Common Show Rules or the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF).
  - b. Any licensee suspended who is indebted to any of the Registries participating in the Common Show Rules.
  - c. Any person that has failed to abide by the GHSA Code Of Conduct.
12. **Owner** – is the person or persons listed on the horse’s registration or the lessee of the horse with proper documentation submitted with the entry forms.
13. **Professional** – is a person who engages in the activities described in Definition 3.a. through 3.l above.
14. **Trainer**
- a. Any adult or an adult who has the responsibility for the care, training, custody or performance of a horse.
  - b. Said person must sign the entry blank of that Competition whether said person be an owner, rider, agent and/or coach as well as trainer.
  - c. Where a minor exhibitor has no trainer, a parent or guardian must sign and assume responsibility of trainer.

- d. The name of the trainer must be designated as such on the entry blank.
- 15. **Veterinarian** is a graduate of an accredited veterinary medical school and currently licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the state where the licensed Competition is being held.

### Definitions - Equine

1. Age of Equine for competition purposes is considered to be one year old on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling.
  - a. A **mature or senior horse** is one that is six years of age or older.
  - b. A **Junior horse** is one that is five years of age or younger.
2. **Green Horse** – is a horse in their first competition year of showing in any performance discipline.
3. **Maiden Horse** – is a horse that has not yet won a first place ribbon in a specific division.
4. **Novice** – is a horse that has not yet won three first place ribbons in a specific division.
5. **Limit** – is a horse that has not yet won six first place ribbons in a specific division.
6. **Owned by Him or Her**
  - a. For purposes of applying suspension only, the phrase “owned by him or her” with regard to a horse shall include any individual who is one of the following: an owner, a partial owner, a lessor (a lessee may apply for the release from suspension of a leased horse), a lessee, a holder of a partnership interest in a horse, or an owner of shares in a corporation, limited liability company, syndicate or any similar entity which owns or leases a horse either directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, and spouses or domestic partners of such persons.
  - b. This rule is not applicable in determining ownership for any other purposes in the rules.

### Definitions - Competitions

1. **Amateur Classes**
  - a. Every exhibitor must hold amateur status
  - b. Amateur classes are restricted to riders, drivers or handlers who are no longer eligible to compete as a Youth exhibitor.
  - c. It is up to Competition management whether or not to include Amateur classes.
2. **Commencement and Completion of Classes**
  - b. In classes where horses compete collectively, a 2-minute warning is issued and the in-gate must be closed after the last horse enters the ring..
  - c. Judging must not commence until the gate is closed or at the end of the gate call. An official timer may be appointed to enforce this rule.
  - d. The Judge or Management may agree to give additional time for tack or attire changes.
  - e. In classes where horses compete collectively, a class is considered completed when the class has been judged in accordance with the rules and the judge(s) submit their cards to the ringmaster or announcer.
  - f. In a class where horses compete individually, a class is considered completed when all horses have completed the class routine as designated by the rules.
3. **Competition Staff** includes and refers to the following persons: Gate Attendants, Ring Clerks, Farrier, Timekeepers, Announcers, Ringmasters and other persons engaged directly by the competition.
4. **Competition Officials** includes and refers to the following persons: Directors, Officers,

Chairman of the Competition Committee, Manager, Secretary, Judges, Stewards, Technical Delegates, Veterinarians and Course Designers.

**5. Competition Terminology**

- a. **Pointed Classes** count toward year end awards and competition awards.
- b. **Non-pointed Classes** do not count toward year end awards and competition awards
- c. A **Division** is a group of rules pertaining to a specific discipline (i.e. Western or English)
- d. A **Section** is a group of rules within a specific discipline division that pertains to a type of class. (i.e. Western Pleasure or English Pleasure)
- e. A **class** is an activity by entries, judged according to criteria specified in the rules or in the Prize List.

**6. Competition Year** is defined as starting January 1<sup>st</sup> and ending December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**7. Competitor** is the horse, exhibitor (handler, driver) or horse/exhibitor combination being judged depending on the judging specifications for a particular competition. In Equitation classes the competitor is the rider.

**8. Disqualification in a Competition**

- a. To exclude a competitor, for cause, from participation in a given class, division or competition.
- b. Competitors may be disqualified by the Competition Officials.
- c. If a competitor is disqualified following the completion of a class, for the purpose of determining the number of horses which have been entered, shown, and judged, said competitor's performance shall count. If the competitor received an award, the award must be forfeited.
- d. A competitor disqualified in this manner may not use this class as a qualifying class for a Championship.
- e. Competitors have the right to contest any action taken pursuant to this Rule by filing a protest or grievance pursuant to Common Show Rules for hearing and determination by the Common Show Rules Hearing Committee.

**9. Elimination** in a Competition is to exclude a competitor, for cause, from judging consideration in a class.

- a. A competitor who is eliminated is ineligible to receive an award regardless of the number of competitors in the class.
- b. If an eliminated competitor completes a class, for the purpose of determining the number of horses which have been entered, shown, and judged, said competitor's performance shall count.

**10. Excused** in a Competition is to have judge (s) grant permission to, or request that a competitor leave the class.

- b. A competitor who is excused is ineligible to receive an award for that class.

**11. Exhibition (Class or Demonstration)**

- a. An Exhibition may be held as a recognized but non pointed class or demonstration.
- b. Exhibition classes must be advertised in the prize list and may be judged and ranked. However, results may not be counted for high score awards or championships. If published, the rankings report must be clearly separated from competition results and noted as being an Exhibition Class (a non-pointed class or a "fun" class, e.g. Costume Class).

**12. Exhibitor**

- a. The handler or rider of a horse when entered in a class where only the merits of the horse or horse/rider combination are to be considered.
- b. In Equitation Classes, the Exhibitor refers to the rider.

**13. Falls**

- a. A rider is considered to have fallen when he is separated from his horse that has not fallen, in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle.
- b. A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground or an obstacle and the ground.
- c. If a horse falls in a class while competing they must be disqualified from the class and excused from the arena.

**14. Maiden, Novice, and Limit Classes**

- a. **Maiden** classes are open to horses that have not won a first place ribbon in a specific division. **Novice** classes are open to horses that have not won three first place ribbons in a specific division. **Limit** classes are open to horses that have not won six first place ribbons in a specific division at Regular Competitions and Dressage Competitions
- b. The Maiden, Novice or Limit status of both riders and drivers is affected by winnings at Regular or Dressage Competitions.
- c. Ribbons won in one-horse classes do not count in reckoning the maiden, novice or limit status of either horse and/or rider/driver in any division.
- d. The status of Maiden, Novice or Limit entries is as of the closing date of entries for any particular Competition.
- e. A Maiden, Novice or Limit Pair is one which has not won more than the specified number of ribbons as a pair.
- f. Winnings in Four-In-Hands, Tandems, Teams, Unicorns and Pairs; and winnings in Combination, Breeding and Futurity classes are not considered in reckoning the status of Maiden, Novice or Limit horses.
- g. In all other divisions, ribbons won within one section or division do count in the reckoning of Maiden, Novice, or Limit status if horses compete in a different section or division.
- h. In the Dressage division, ribbons won within one dressage level do not affect a horse's Maiden, Novice or Limit status when shown in a higher level.
- i. **If Maiden, Novice, Limit and Open classes are offered at a Competition, horses cannot cross enter into lower level classes.**

**15. Open Classes**

- a. An Open class is open to all horses of any age or sex, regardless of previous awards received, in accordance with division rules.
- b. There is no qualification for the rider, driver or handler except as specified in division rules for the particular category or level of classes.

**16. Academy Classes** are non-pointed learner level classes.

**17. Owner's Classes or Amateur/Owner Classes**

- Every competitor must be an amateur and the owner, or an amateur member of the owner's family, unless the prize list states otherwise.
- Combined ownership is not permitted in Owner's or Amateur Owner's classes unless all **owners are members of the same family. Leased horses are not eligible.**

**18. Protests, Charges and Grievances** - Non-protestable Decisions are:

- a. The soundness of a horse, when determined by an official veterinarian, judge or steward of the Competition.
  - b. A judge's decision, representing his/her individual preference or opinion, is not protestable unless it is alleged to be in violation of the Common Show Rules.
  - c. A protest, charge or grievance may be filed with the Competition Management before the close of the Competition and must state the full name and address (if known) of the accused, must list each Rule number alleged to have been violated and must contain a complete statement of the acts which constitute the alleged violation. The maker of the protest, charge or grievance must be prepared to substantiate the protest, charge or grievance by his or her own personal testimony at a hearing or by the testimony of at least one other witness with personal knowledge who is subject to cross-examination, and by additional evidence including but not limited to sworn statements, other witnesses. Protests, charges, or grievances will be referred to the Common Show Rules Hearing Committee for resolution.
19. **Registry** – indicates the participating registries. Please see “Eligibility to Compete” points 2, 3, 4 and 5 above. Those listed registries and associations will be here after referred to as “Registries”.
20. **Shown and Judged**
- a. To be shown and judged in any class in which horses compete together and must remain in the ring until excused by the judge.
21. **Warmup Arena (2020)**
- a. All GHSA Shows must have a warm-up arena, that is clear of trail obstacles and jumps unless warming up for class and must be taken down after class is over.

## The GHSA Code of Conduct

*The Gypsy Horse Show Association (GHSA) members and non-members who have paid a fee to participate in GHSA shows and events, including riders, coaches, officials, and volunteers must conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner, and are responsible for their actions in competitions, going to and from competitions, and while at areas hosting competitions. In all equestrian sports the wellbeing of the horse shall be above the demands of trainers, riders, owners, organizers, sponsors or officials. In the interests of the horse, the fitness and competence of the rider is essential. All riding and training methods must demonstrate respect for the horse as a living entity and may not include any techniques considered to be abusive or overtaxing of the horse's ability or fitness. Members and nonmembers who have paid a fee to participate are responsible for adherence to the GHSA competition rules and procedures.*

- Be respectful of officials, even if you do not agree with them.
- Encourage riders and show your appreciation for their efforts.
- Do not openly ridicule and criticize participants and/or their horses.
- Do not encourage unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Do not use inappropriate language to either riders, officials or other spectators.
- Do not use or threaten physical violence to anyone.
- Abide by rules and reasonable directions given by show officials.

- You will be cautioned, reported and/or asked to leave any GHSA and/or affiliate show premises without reimbursement of shows fees paid if you violate any terms of this Code of Conduct.
- Making adverse comments directly to the media, either in written or verbal form, about the GHSA, and its affiliates may result in disqualification from an event, loss of points earned at the event and possibly prevent participation at future GHSA events at the discretion of the GHSA Board.

***NOTE: Anyone may respectfully approach the steward or show management to report violation(s) to the GHSA Code of Conduct. Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in disqualification from an event, loss of points earned at the event and possibly prevent participation at future GHSA events at the discretion of show management, show steward and/or GHSA Board. The GHSA reserves the right to refuse admission and/or participation of GHSA events or functions to anyone.***

## **The GHSA Code of Conduct for Spectators**

The Gypsy Horse Show Association welcome spectators; your support encourages and supports the participants. Your actions can have a positive or negative effect on the show. Therefore:

- Be respectful of officials, even if you do not agree with them.
- Encourage riders and show your appreciation for their efforts.
- Do not openly ridicule and criticize participants and/or their horses.
- Do not encourage unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Do not use inappropriate language to either riders, officials or other spectators.
- Do not use or threaten physical violence to anyone.
- Abide by rules and reasonable directions given by show officials.
- You will be cautioned, reported and/or asked to leave any GHSA and/or affiliate show premises if you violate any terms of this Code of Conduct for Spectators.
- Making adverse comments directly to the media, in written or verbal form, about the GHSA, and its affiliates may result in being banned from participation at future GHSA events at the discretion of the GHSA Board.

***The GHSA reserves the right to refuse admission and/or participation of GHSA events or functions to anyone.***

### **Horse General Rules**

Horses are to be shown in their natural way of going. The horse should demonstrate a calm and willing demeanor and yet be powerful but respectful. The goal is to be an all-around utility horse that is eager and able to perform in all disciplines. Any extreme or exaggerated movement unnatural to the breed will be heavily penalized. Any horses demonstrating aggressive behavior shall be disqualified

1. All horses entered must be serviceably sound, healthy, and in good condition. Lame, obviously unhealthy or unthrifty animals will be disqualified.
2. The use, or application of, to or into any horse (other than legal levels of allowed medications) any foreign or caustic substance, such as ginger, mustard, pepper, abrasives, etc. which would alter or influence a horse's movement or behavior, is prohibited and will be cause for disqualification from further competition and forfeit all entry fees and winnings. Offenders may be fined, suspended, or barred from future competition and events.
3. The injecting of any foreign substance into a horse's tail, the cutting of tail ligaments, or nerve blocking is not permitted and is subject to disqualification from further competition and forfeiture of all entry fees and winnings. Offenders may be fined, suspended or barred from future competition and events.



4. The uses of any device or aides that alter the natural movement of the horse (such as chains, shackles, rubber bands) are strictly prohibited at any competition. Any animal with prohibited equipment must be disqualified from further competition and forfeit all entry fees and winnings.
5. The addition of supplemental hair in the mane, foretop, tail or feather shall be cause for disqualification. **Horses may be shown clipped or unclipped, both are equally acceptable.** Body clipping or saddle pad clipping will not be discriminated against. There may be a small bridle path clipped to keep the halter or bridle in place. A single braid behind the ear to create a bridle path is also permissible but should not be prominent. The braid should be braided to tuck under and be hidden by the remaining mane. The single braid behind the ear should be no wider than three inches from the poll along the neck at the base of the mane hair, a small braid is preferred. When showing under saddle or in harness, horses with very long thick foretops must have the foretop banded, braided and/or tucked under the side of the bridle or in some way prevented from impairing the horse's vision. Braiding is acceptable in classes where braiding is traditional for that class (i.e. Hunt, Dressage). Braiding is optional in English or Western Performance classes. All types of braids are permissible including continental braids, French braids, double French braids, half French braids, etc. Ribbons may only be used in specialty classes such as costume.
6. The natural color of the horse may not be changed. Products such as chalk/powder/corn starch may be used. The use of glitter or other such exterior body products while showing is prohibited. Exception: Costume Class.

### Shoeing General Rules

1. Horses may be shown flat shod (hoof next to shoe) with no pad (unless deemed medically necessary by a licensed veterinarian and written proof of such necessity is provided) or with shoes on the front feet and barefoot on the hinds, or may be shown without shoes.
2. Hoof length should be reasonable for the size of the horse being shown.
3. Foals, yearlings and two year olds must be shown barefoot.
4. If shown shod, hooves and shoes must be reasonable for the size of the horse being shown. Excessive length of toe is discouraged and will be penalized or disqualified at the judge's discretion.
5. Toe and/or side clips drawn from the same shoe that in no way affects how a horse travels or breaks over, are allowed
6. If shod, it must be with flat shoes that do not affect the way the horse travels or how a foot breaks over.
7. Either metal shoes or shoes of other material may be used. Shoes must be of the same material, weight, and thickness, although, front and back hooves may be shod in different size shoes.
8. Weighted shoes (toe, side, or heel weighted), scotch bottoms, pads, or wedges, are prohibited. Exception: a horse with medical or therapeutic issues needs a signed letter from a doctor of veterinary medicine which letter will be submitted to the Competition office with the entry forms.
9. Corrective shoeing with a pad or artificial hoof material shall be allowed in the show ring when applied for the purpose of mending a broken hoof or hoof wall. The mended hoof must match the corresponding natural hoof. Medical corrective shoeing methods must be approved by the show manager. If special shoeing is required for more than one hoof, the owner will need to request an exception from the show manager in writing and include a letter from a licensed vet

in your home state. It will be the show manager's decision to grant the exception or not. It is recommended to request this exemption well before submitting your entries.

10. The weight of the shoe, not including nails, should be proportionate to the horses' height and weight. Excessive weight or weight that causes unnatural action / movement is prohibited.
11. Borium on the toe or heel areas of the shoe for traction is allowed.
12. Caulks are permitted only in classes that require a jump.

### Conduct and General Rules

1. Abusive treatment observed by a Competition official or excessive use of whip or other abusive equipment on a horse inside or outside the arena is forbidden and renders the offender subject to penalty or disqualification.
2. Conduct designed to distract a horse or otherwise interfere with the showing of another exhibitor's horse will not be tolerated.
3. Excessive use of spurs or use of spurs in front of the girth by the rider is prohibited and shall be penalized or disqualified at the Judge's discretion.
4. A horse that is observed by a Competition official to be unruly to the point of presenting a real danger to itself, its handler or other participants in or outside the arena will be asked to leave the ring and may be asked to leave the Competition grounds by the judge, ringmaster or steward. An exhibitor cannot protest this action.
5. YOUTH:
  - a. Youth may not show a stallion or colt of any age nor may they ride or drive a stallion of any age while on the show grounds.
  - b. Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any in-hand class at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. Youth under the age of 12 showing in any in-hand class MUST have an adult attendant (over the age of 18), who has reasonable horse experience, present in the arena. Attendants are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class. If an attendant has to handle a horse more than one (1) time in a class, the horse will be excused from the ring and disqualified for that class. Removal shall be at the direction and discretion of the judge(s) and/or Technical Delegate and may not be protested.
  - c. A Youth may not lead another Youth in any lead-line class. The handler must be 18 or older and must have horse experience. Please see all the specifications for Lead-Line classes in the LEAD LINE 9 AND UNDER section of the rulebook.
  - d. At any time, if the Technical Delegate and/or judge(s) feels that a horse is unsafe to be shown by a Youth, whether being show in-hand, under saddle or driving, the horse and Youth will not be allowed to enter the ring or may be excused from ring and disqualified from that class. This decision may not be protested.
  - e. Any Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any performance class that includes a lineup to act as a header at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. The headers will be allowed into the ring at the judge's direction upon completion of all rail work and once the horses/riders have all come into the lineup. Attendants acting as headers must stand back from the horse's head 3-4 feet, must not interfere with the judge(s) and may not touch the horse except in an emergency situation. Headers are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in

the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class.

- f. Please see the Driving Division rules for specifications regarding Youth participation in Driving classes.
6. It is required for all riders in all ridden English, Hunter, Jumper and Dressage classes or in other classes where exhibitors ride in those disciplines, anywhere on the competition grounds, must wear properly fastened, protective headgear which meets or exceeds ASTM standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. Any rider violating this rule must be immediately prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place. **Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear at any level of competition and in any discipline without penalty from the judge.**
7. **All Youth are required to wear ASTM/SEI certified equestrian safety helmets in all classes while riding, driving or serving as a driving groom. All Youth are required to wear ASTM/SEI certified equestrian safety helmets at all times when riding or driving on show property. Although Youth are strongly encouraged to wear a helmet while showing in-hand, it is optional and at the discretion of the Youth's parents and trainer. Youth exhibitors shall not be penalized for wearing or not wearing a helmet while showing inhand. THE GHSA SHALL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURY TO A YOUTH WHO DOES NOT WEAR A HELMET WHILE SHOWING IN-HAND.**
8. **Use of a protective helmet or vest, worn by any exhibitor in any class will not be penalized and is strongly encouraged.**
9. Dress for handlers and exhibitors should be appropriate for the purpose and the class. Exhibitors should consult the specific attire rules for each class being entered.
10. The exhibitor shall be dressed in a safe, neat, and clean manner.
11. Attire may not display a farm or owner's name, the horse's name or farm logo.
12. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.
13. No T-shirts, shorts, skirts, or strapless tops are permitted.
14. Open toe shoes are not allowed.

## **Responsibilities**

1. Exhibitors, riders, drivers, owners, handlers and trainers should be knowledgeable of and compliant with the rules.
2. Exhibitors, riders, drivers, owners, handlers and trainers are responsible for payment of all applicable fees.
3. Every exhibitor, rider, driver, handler and trainer or his/her agent must sign an entry form. In case of a rider, driver or handler under the age of 18 his/her parent or guardian, or if not available, the trainer, must sign an entry form on the minor's behalf.
4. Exhibitors are responsible for their own errors and those of their agents in the preparation of entry forms.
5. An exhibitor, coach or trainer may not serve as a judge, steward or technical delegate at any competition in which he/she exhibits.
6. No member of the judge's family, nor any cohabitant, companion, domestic partner, housemate, or member of a judge's household nor any of the judge's clients, employer or employees or employers of a member of the judge's family may compete as trainer, coach, exhibitor, rider, driver, handler, owner, lessor or lessee unless the relationship is terminated 60 days prior to the competition.

7. Neither judge's trainer nor any of the judge's trainer's clients may compete as trainer, coach, exhibitor, rider, driver, handler, owner, lessor or lessee in any class unless the relationship is terminated 60 days prior to the competition.
8. No horses trained by a member of the judge's family may compete in any class unless the relationship is terminated 60 days prior to the competition.
9. Stud fees, retiree board and broodmare board are excluded.
10. No horse that has been sold by a judge or by his/her employer within a period of 60 days prior to the competition may be shown before that judge.
11. No horse that has been trained by the judge within 60 days prior to the competition may be shown before that judge.
12. No one may show before a judge who has received or has contracted to receive any remuneration for the sale, purchase or lease of any horse to or from, or for the account of the exhibitor within a period of 60 days prior to the competition unless the sale or purchase has been made and fully consummated at public auction.
13. No one may show before a judge who boards, shows or trains any horse under the exhibitor's ownership or lease, within a period of 60 days prior to the competition. Stud fees, retiree board, and broodmare board excluded.
14. No one may show before a judge who has remunerated the exhibitor for the board or training of any horse for competition purposes within a period of 60 days prior to the competition. Stud fees, retiree board, and broodmare board is excluded.
15. No one may show before a judge from whom he has leased a horse unless the lease terminated 60 days prior to the competition.
16. No rider may compete in an Equitation class before a judge with whom his or her parent , guardian or instructor has had any financial transaction in connection with the sale, lease, board or training or a horse within 60 days of the competition unless the sale or purchase has been made and consummated at public auction.
17. No rider may compete in an Equitation or Dressage class before a judge by whom he has been instructed, coached or tutored with or without pay within 60 days of the day of the competition. The conducting of clinics or assistance in group activities, unless private instruction is given, will not be considered as instruction, coaching or tutoring. However, a judge may officiate over entries who attended a group clinic at the competition if the clinic is open to all competitors, the clinic is advertised and available to all possible entrants and during the clinic the judge does not ride or drive any animal that is entered in the competition.
18. No one shall approach the judge with regard to a decision unless he first obtains permission from the steward who shall arrange an appointment with the judge at a proper time and place. No exhibitor has the right to inspect the judge's cards without the judge's permission.
19. Stewards may not officiate unless their client who is showing terminates the relationship 60 days prior to the competition.
20. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to understand the rules pertaining to showing under a judge the exhibitor may or may not have had a business relationship with.
21. A Steward may not operate any business (i.e. tack shop, braiding business, etc.) at the same competition where he or she is officiating.
22. No exhibitor may withdraw horses from a competition after it has commenced or remove them from the competition grounds, without the permission of the competition management.
23. If an Exhibitor voluntarily removes a horse from the ring without the permission of the judge, ringmaster or steward, the competition management will disqualify the exhibitor and all his

entries from all future classes at that competition and all prizes and entry fees for the entire competition will be forfeited.

24. Any horse leaving the ring without the exhibitor's permission is deprived of an award in that class.
25. Failure of an exhibitor to wear the correct number in a visible manner may result in disqualification.
26. A horse must be shown under the same number throughout the entire Competition. Changing numbers will result in disqualification.

### **Show Stewards and Technical Delegates**

1. The following are required responsibilities and duties of Show Stewards and Technical Delegates:
  - a) Safeguard the welfare of the horses.
  - b) Protect the interests of competitors, judges and Competition Management.
  - c) When they become aware of a potential violation of GHSA rules, without waiting for a protest, investigate and notify the appropriate individual or official, and, if not rectified, issue a warning and/or file a charge.
  - d) Assist Competition Management to insure that every effort is made to provide for a safe competition including assisting in setting up practice jumps and competition course.
  - e) Report on the suitability of the competition facilities in all aspects, including stabling. The steward or technical delegate must commence his duties early enough to deal with these matters. The Technical Delegate should also evaluate potentially unsafe conditions related to the show, e.g. poor footing in the warm-up area and bring to attention of show management to correct.
  - f) A steward or technical delegate should clearly understand that he has no authority in connection with the management or the judging of a competition.
  - g) Answer exhibitors' questions about rules.
  - h) Additionally, stewards and technical delegates should reference the Check List available on the website [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) which has additional Guidelines which should be considered when officiating at a competition.
2. No steward may officiate for more than three consecutive years at the same competition or at more than three consecutive competitions run by the same governing body, Board of Directors or Licensee.

When three or more stewards are officiating, one steward will not be subject to these restrictions and will be eligible to serve as steward for a fourth consecutive competition run by the same governing body, Board of Directors or Licensee.
3. The Steward's and/or schooling supervisor's decision regarding schooling fences, tack and equipment in the warm-up and/or schooling areas is final (Exception for Dressage: The final authority rests with Competition Management).
4. No Steward or Technical Delegate may officiate at more than one competition at the same time.
5. Stewards and technical delegates must retain copies of steward/technical delegate reports, and supporting documentation, for a period of three years.

### **Special Duties of a Technical Delegate**

In addition to the responsibilities of a steward and/or technical delegate, the powers, duties and responsibilities of a technical delegate are as follows:

1. General Duties for Driving Technical Delegates
  - A. Help supervise the technical conduct of the competition, including after he has indicated to the show manager that he is satisfied with the arrangements. Until he has indicated to the show manager that he is satisfied with all the arrangements, the authority of the technical delegate shall be absolute.
  - B. Courses and Arenas- Inspect the courses and arenas to ensure that the technical details are in accordance with the rules and regulations.
  - C. Instruct the show manager to make any alterations to the course(s) or arena(s) or to any technical detail associated with the conduct of the competition which he considers necessary.
  - D. Be satisfied that the course is fair, at the standard of the level offered and safe. Also insure that correct distances between obstacles is accurately measured. The Technical Delegate will also insure that knowledge of local conditions does not play any part.
  - E. Inspect all entry forms to determine completion of entry form, horse Breed registration numbers, rider membership numbers, owner membership numbers, and horse and rider age verification.
  
2. General Duties for Dressage Technical Delegates
  - A. Inspect the arenas to ensure that the technical details are in accordance with the rules and regulations.
  - B. Advise Competition Management to make necessary changes to arenas, schooling areas, or other facilities in order to comply with the rules.
  - C. At Dressage Competitions, to observe and report that management and competitors are in compliance with all Dressage Division regulations.
  - D. Inspect all entry forms to determine completion of entry form, horse Breed registration numbers, rider membership numbers, owner membership numbers, and horse and rider age verification.

### **Warnings - Stewards and Technical Delegates**

1. A Warning may be issued by a Steward, Technical Delegate, or Competition Official working in any of these capacities at the competition to any competitor, spectator or participant for improper conduct, or for noncompliance with the rules, provided the issuer considers the conduct not severe enough to cause the issuer to file formal Charges.
2. To issue a Warning a Steward, Technical Delegate, or Competition Official must complete and sign the Warning Card.
3. A copy of the signed Warning Card must be provided to the alleged offender at the competition either in person or by any other suitable means. A copy of the Warning Card must then be sent to the GHSA with the Steward's/Technical Delegate's Report Form and noted therein.
4. Upon receipt of the Warning Card, the Federation will send an acknowledgment of its receipt of the Warning Card to the alleged offender advising of the provisions of this Rule.
5. The issuance of a Warning Card is not meant to replace the filing of charges for a willful and serious violation of GHSA rules, and in no case may a Warning Card be issued for abuse of a horse in any form. It is for lesser offenses only.

6. Immediately following receipt by the GHSA of a third Warning Card indicating that a competitor, spectator, or participant has been issued three (3) Warning Cards within a sixteen (16) month period the GHSA President or his designee shall either levy a fine ranging from \$500 to \$1000 or issue a formal Charge pursuant to this Rule alleging that the rules have been violated on all or any one of said three occasions. If the alleged offender is found in violation of any or all of said violations they may be subject to the penalties.

### **Conflicts of Interest and Restrictions - Stewards and Technical Delegates**

1. The following persons at a given competition are ineligible to serve as stewards and technical delegates: the president, chairman, other Show Committee officers, competition secretary, manager or other competition officials or employees, judges or exhibitors at that competition.
2. No steward or technical delegate may officiate in any competition in which any member of his family or any of his clients are judging.
3. No steward or technical delegate may officiate at a competition if he or any member of his family has any relationship with the competition which constitutes a conflict of interest with the steward's or technical delegate's duties under these rules. No member of the steward's or technical delegate's family may serve as a Competition Manager or Competition Secretary at the competition where the steward or technical delegate is officiating.
4. No member of a steward's or technical delegate's family, nor any of the steward's or technical delegate's clients, may take part as a trainer, coach, lessor, lessee, exhibitor, rider, driver or handler at a competition where the steward or technical delegate is officiating.
5. In addition to the above restrictions, the following persons may not serve as the technical delegate at a Dressage competition:
  - a. A close relative of a competitor or owner of a horse entered in the competition.
  - b. Chefs d'Equipe whose teams are entered in the competition.
  - c. Instructors or trainers of competitors entered in the competition.
  - d. The Director (Manager) of the competition or a member of the Director's family.
6. Stewards and technical delegates are not to be used as a ringmaster, announcer, timer or Judge, or in any other volunteer or paid position not related to their proper duties at GHSA competitions where they are officiating. Exception: At a competition where more than one steward or technical delegate is officiating, and after a Steward or Technical Delegate has entirely completed his/her duties at that competition, he/she may serve in another capacity; including as a judge.
7. During the course of a competition, no steward or technical delegate may be the houseguest of a person who is exhibiting, or whose family is exhibiting, at the same competition.
8. A member of a manager's family may not officiate as a judge, steward or technical delegate at said manager's competition.
9. A steward or technical delegate cannot own or operate any business (i.e. tack shop, braiding business, etc.) at the same competition where he/she is officiating.
10. No Steward or Technical Delegate who is presently receiving or has received within the past 30 days, any form of compensation from a competition management firm for services other than as an official or schooling supervisor, may officiate at any of said management's competitions.



11. Any individual serving as an official at a competition may not charge or receive direct financial benefit from tutoring a learner or apprentice at the same competition.

## Conformation

**General Appearance and Impression** - The first glance impression of the breed is that of a small, powerful, well balanced and muscular draft type horse with good bone and a sturdy body. The image is enhanced with abundant mane, tail and feathering from the knees to the ground. An important breed quality is the presence that reflects a gentle, cooperative, willing animal with a kind and intelligent eye. Muscling is balanced throughout the body. Any height is acceptable, each horse will be judged based on the breed standard, regardless of height.

1. **Hooves** - The hooves of the horse must be of a size and proportion to properly support the horse in all athletic uses. The hooves must have symmetrical shape, with ample width and angle at the heels. Flat hooves with low heels are not desirable. Although the lower legs of the Gypsy Vanner are typically covered with feather, the pasterns and hooves must not be ignored and need to be correct and sound.
2. **Legs** – The legs should be straight, correct, clean, plumb and true with substantial bone and feather. Rear legs may have a “set” to them, set closer together from the hock to the fetlock, dropping straight from the hock to the fetlock due to the draft heritage of the breed.
3. **Chest** - The chest must be viewed from the front as prominent, well-developed, powerful pectoral muscles. There should be sufficient separation of the forelegs for correct movement of the forelimbs at all gaits. A horse with a narrow chest means the horse’s lower forelegs will have the increased ability to interfere while in motion. Whereas, the horse with the excessively wide chest requires outward, forward rotating movement of the forelimbs, which reduces the ability to provide the continuous powerful forward movement expected for draft type horses.
4. **Shoulders** – The horses have deep, well sloped, powerful shoulders covered with sufficient muscling while allowing the horse to have full ability to perform as a powerful athlete. The shoulder is one of the most important anatomical regions impacting upon “form to function”, providing a natural “home” for the collar and hames, as well as the ability to flex forward for the extension and reach of movement at the walk and trot.  
As viewed from the side, the shoulder should have an angle of 50 to 55 degrees, with deviations allowed of +/-5 degrees. The angle of the shoulder can be viewed from the most prominent [center] point of the withers with an imaginary line being drawn to the point of the shoulder. When a base horizontal line is added to the point of the shoulder, the angle of the shoulder should be apparent. The shoulder angle of the horse tends to be more toward the vertical [90 degrees] due to the historical genetic selection of a shoulder to be easily fitted to a draft collar. In partnership with the angle of the shoulder is the arm, the bone connecting the point of the shoulder with the elbow. The length and angle of attachment of the arm to the elbow joint affects the shoulder’s ability to lift and move the forelimb forward for all gaits. A long arm is more desirable, resulting with the placement of the foreleg under the center of the body, closer to its natural center of gravity. It is undesirable to have legs appearing to attach close to the point of the shoulder, as this affects stride and support of the body by the forelimb. The shoulder must be covered with sufficient muscling to protect the shoulder while allowing the horse to have the full ability to perform as a powerful athlete.
5. **Neck** - The neck should rise upward from a well sloped shoulder. The upper neckline (crest) should be arched and well-muscled in the mare and stallion demonstrating power, strength and flexibility with more prominence is desired and expected in the stallion. The underline of the neck should be inwardly rounded following a parallel line created by the arch of the upper



neckline (crest) from wither to poll, while the underline tapers into a clean throatlatch. It must be remembered, these horses' necks tend to be shorter with more powerful muscling than many breeds, due to the genetic selection for these horses to be used in draft-related activities, thus these horses have strong necks that easily fit the philosophy of form to function.

6. **Head** - The head should be characteristically pleasant and in proportion to body size reflecting gender. The refinement and delineation of facial features as well as the definition and shape to the lower jaw all contribute to the image of the head. The forehead must be flat and broad. The frontal facial bone should be flat to slightly convex, as it blends into a muzzle with sufficiently large nostril openings for the free exchange of air. The lips should be tightly closed. A pleasant, intelligent head is one of the trademarks of the breed.
7. **Jaw/Bite** - The point where the central incisors meet must be equal and even as viewed from the side. A slight deviation is possible without fault if the teeth vary no more than one half of the width of the tooth's surface. The slight deviation could occur with either the upper or the lower jaw. The accuracy of the bite may vary according to age.
8. **Eyes** – The horses have expressive eyes that convey kindness and intelligence. The eyes must be prominent and set well apart. The eye should be large in its external structure and appearance. The color of the eyes will vary according to the color and color pattern of the horse. The distance between the eyes should be wider than the base of the ears and located about 60-65% of the distance between the poll and muzzle. Partial white, blue, and dark color combinations are acceptable, along with white sclera.
9. **Ears** - The length and width of the ear should be proportional to the head. The originating placement of the ear should be with a slight forward slant. A mare's ears tend to be a bit longer than the stallion, whose ears are short and shapely. The ears contribute to the overall image of the horse.
10. **Body** - The overall impression of the horse's body is one of harmony and muscular proportionality. The deep body must convey the image of an athletically muscled horse, with smooth round muscles. The amount and size of bone should be substantial.
11. **Withers** - Should be well muscled. Horses with round withers are not desirable as this affects the ability to provide proper position for a harness.
12. **Back and Coupling/Loin** - The topline of the horse must be short coupled, well-muscled and tie in strongly at the loin, with slight curvature allowing the horse the ability to become round and flexible through the middle upper body. Mares may have longer coupling/loin areas than stallions, which permits greater capacity for expansion of a pregnancy, giving the mare a "broody" look.
13. **Hindquarters** – Smooth and round across the mid line of the croup, with a long hip and gentle slope, with a tail set high on a powerful hindquarter. When viewed from the back the hindquarters must be round, wide and reflect powerful athletic ability. To establish the length and angle of the hip, an imaginary line from the point of the hip is drawn to the tailhead. The length of this imaginary line should be slightly longer than the overall length of the topline. The point of the hip and the tailhead should be on a horizontal line which defines the length of the hip. If the tailhead is lower than the imaginary horizontal line from the hip, the hip/croup will be approaching too steep an angle for the horse.
14. **Hair** – Long, flowing and thick mane and tail. The forelock should be full and long. There should be abundant feather starting at the knees and hocks, running down the front as well as the back of the leg. They may have a beard, mustache, whiskers and muzzle hairs. These are often

trimmed or removed in preparation for competition in the show ring. **Either method not to be penalized.**

15. **Coat color** – They may be any color, either solid or patterned.

### **Gaits**

1. **Walk** is a natural forward flowing four beat gait. The pride of the breed is expressed in the head and neck carriage, being elevated in the movement, alert with presence.
2. **Trot** is a natural forward, free-flowing two beat diagonal gait. The horse has an animated style of movement. Some yearlings may show a lateral pace with the excitement of the show.
3. **Canter** is a natural flowing three beat gait to be smooth, free moving, relaxed and correct on both leads
4. **Hand Gallop** is a faster three beat gait with a lengthened stride, controlled, straight, and correct on both leads.
5. **Back** – horses should back on command, quietly, willingly and easily in a straight line without resistance.
6. At the judge's discretion, considering the size and ability of the class, horses may be asked to extend any gait. Youth exhibitors exhibiting in a Youth class will not be asked to extend gaits. Novice and Green Horse classes will not be asked to extend gaits.

## **CROSS-BRED GYPSY HORSES**

### **Horse General Rules**

Cross-bred classes to be open to all registered Drum horses and to all registered Gypsy cross-breds registered by one of the recognized registries (see Eligibility to Compete #'s 2, 3 and 4 above) and should be bred with a definitive purpose and use which is visually apparent. All horses must adhere to the GHSA general rules unless otherwise stated in the paragraph below.

1. Conformation of Cross-Breds may range from sport-type or performance-types bred for jumping, dressage, hunter, western, etc. This type may be of any size, pony to horse, produced by crossing with an obviously lighter and athletic horse or pony. The utility type may be a heavier type of any size and most suited for draft, driving, family and all around work. These Cross-Breds are produced by crossing with heavier, complimentary breeds of horse and pony.
2. Judging of conformation and movement should take into consideration type. The sport-type should be judged based on conformation and movement desirable of a sport or performance horse. The utility horse should be judged based on conformation and movement desirable for moderate to heavy, all-purpose horses.
3. Gypsy Horses and Cross-Bred Horses may not compete against each other in any in-hand, conformation or liberty class. (Exceptions would include costume, lead line and academy classes.)
4. Cross-Bred Gypsy Horses showing in a sport or performance horse divisions may pull manes and tails, trim heads and legs, as is deemed suitable for a sport or performance horse, though it is not required. It is recommended, but not required, that Cross-Bred Gypsy Horses showing in a heavy or utility division, or style, be shown with full mane, tail and feather.
5. No color or size preference is noted, nor shall variations of such be penalized.

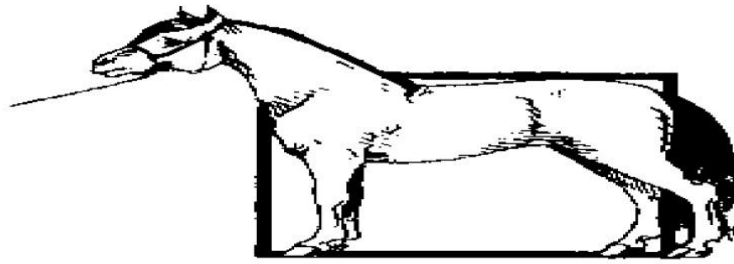
6. The overall conformation should be correct and suitable for that of a good using-type horse. The Cross-Bred Gypsy Horse should reflect the Gypsy Horse heritage in substance, bone, character and quality.

## **IN HAND DIVISION**

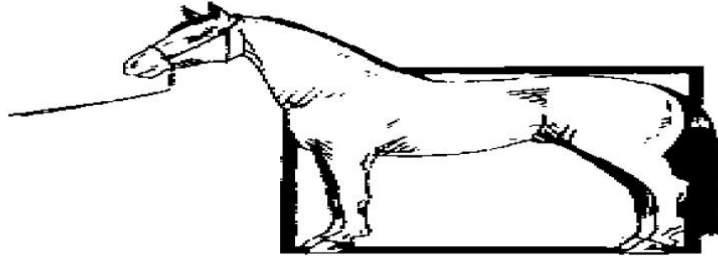
### **Open Halter**

#### **General**

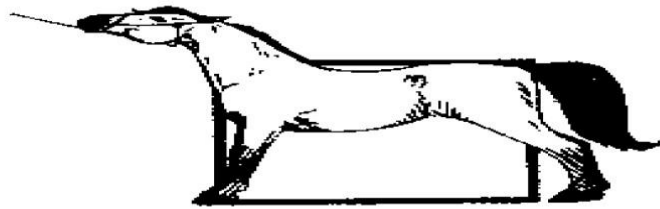
1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section and Conformation sections.
2. Horses should stand with front legs and back legs perpendicular to the ground. Front legs should be square and on a vertical line directly under the shoulder. Back legs should be positioned square with the hocks in a vertical line with the animal's buttocks. At no time should the horse be stretched or parked out.



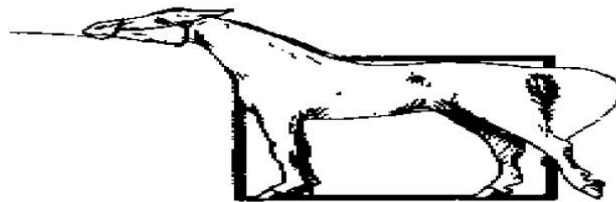
**ACCEPTABLE**



**ACCEPTABLE**



**UNACCEPTABLE**



**UNACCEPTABLE**

3. Specialty In Hand classes (e.g. Lead Line, Costume) do not qualify for Championships.
4. Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any in-hand class at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. Youth under the age of 12 showing in any in-hand class **MUST** have an adult attendant (over the age of 18), who has reasonable horse experience, present in the arena. Attendants are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class. If an attendant has to handle a horse more than one (1) time in a class, the horse will be excused from the ring and disqualified for that class. Removal shall be at the direction and discretion of the judge(s) and/or Technical Delegate and may not be protested.

## Presentation

1. Handlers shall follow the judge's instruction to present the horses at a walk and trot. The horses and handlers will enter the ring at a walk. They will receive further instruction from the judge or ringmaster. After which time they will line up for final presentation/judging.  
Exception: Some Specialty Classes such as color Classes, lead line and In Hand Costume are not required to trot.
2. Gaits- Movement can vary, but must always be clean, straight and true. Movement must be natural, nor forced or artificial. The horse must travel straight, true and square with no winging, paddling or crossing.
  - a. The **walk** shall be relaxed, forward and balanced from the hindquarters. The walk should be a natural flat footed, four beat gait with the stride a reasonable length for the size of the horse.
  - b. The **trot** should be a strong, forward moving gait and shall exhibit good impulsion and power from the hindquarters while being balanced with an even cadence in the stride. The trot should be a smooth, ground covering, two beat diagonal gait. The trot shall show suspension, while being balanced with an even cadence in the stride.
3. Place holders may be used **except in Youth and Amateur Classes.**

## Appointments

1. Tack should reflect the manner in which the horse is being presented. Halters and bridles may be made of leather, natural or synthetic material. Gag and twisted bits of any type are prohibited. Nosebands are optional for In Hand classes. A split or single chain lead may be used instead of a rein. All tack must be clean, properly fitted and in good repair.
2. Mares and Geldings may be shown in a bridle with a snaffle bit with no shanks or in a halter. Halters may be of leather or synthetic. **Knotted training rope halters are prohibited.** A flat chain may be shanked over the nose or under the chin. Leads should be at least 6' long.
1. Stallions three years and older must be shown in the following: a bridle with a snaffle bit with no shanks or with a stallion rein, full stallion tack or a halter with chain. Lip Chains are not allowed. Bridles, halters and stallion tack may be leather or synthetic. **Youth exhibitors may not show a stallion of any age.**
3. All horses two years of age and under must be shown in a halter. Halters may be of leather, synthetic materials or traditional rope halters. Knotted training rope halters are prohibited.
4. The use of whips is limited to a four foot whip including the lash.

## Attire

1. Dress for handlers should be appropriate for the purpose.
2. The exhibitor shall be dressed safe, neat, and clean.
3. Attire may not display a farm or owner's name, horse's name or logo.
4. **Although Youth are strongly encouraged to wear a helmet while showing in-hand, it is optional and at the discretion of the Youth's parents and/or trainer. Youth exhibitors shall not be penalized, either way, for wearing or not wearing a helmet while showing in-hand. THE GHSA SHALL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURY TO A YOUTH WHO DOES NOT WEAR A HELMET WHILE SHOWING IN-HAND (added 12/2/17).**
5. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.
6. No T-shirts, shorts, skirts, strapless tops or canvas/cloth shoes are allowed.
7. Attire may be Western, English or Sport type.

- a. Western attire should consist of a sleeved shirt with collar, jeans or long pants with suitable boots and hat. Belts, gloves, ties, scarves, vests and jackets are optional.
  - b. English or Dressage attire is permitted. English attire may be either breeches or jodhpurs with boots and a shirt with tie or choker. Jackets, vests, gloves, belts and hats are optional. Half chaps are permitted.
  - c. Sport attire should consist of slacks or khakis with either a shirt or tie or an appropriate shirt. Footwear may be boots, closed toe shoes, or running shoes.
8. Evening In Hand attire may consist of more formal attire including suits or tuxedos for men and pants and dress jackets for ladies

## Championships

1. Grand Champion and Reserve Champion
  - a. Will be chosen from the First and Second place winners of their respective In Hand Halter class divided by sex.
  - b. In no case will a second place horse be placed over a horse that was placed above him. Exception: if for any reason a first place horse fails to return for their respective Grand and Reserve Championship class.
  - c. There may be one Grand Champion Horse and one Reserve Champion Horse from each sex division, under management's discretion.
  - d. Horses will be lined up according to wins in qualifying classes.
2. Supreme Champion
  - a. At the discretion of Competition Officials, a Supreme Champion may be chosen.
  - b. The Supreme champion will be chosen from the three Grand Champion winners of their respective Open In-Hand Halter class. Exception: if a Grand Champion horse fails to return for the Supreme Champion class, the Reserve Champion horse in that division may compete in his place.

## Halter Judging Criteria and Class Specifications

Classes will be judged 60% on type and conformation, 20% on movement, 10% on temperament and 10% on Presence.

Excessive unruly behavior or bad temperament shall be penalized.

Refer to the **Conformation** section above for complete conformation, appearance, characteristics and traits.

At the discretion of the competition management, the above rules will also be used for Youth and Amateur Halter classes with the exception that there are no Grand and Reserve Champion for each sex within the Youth and Amateur Halter classes nor will there be a Supreme Youth or Amateur Halter Champion.

Youth halter classes will be limited to a mare and a gelding class with a Grand and Reserve Grand Champion youth being awarded from the first and second place horses in their respective Youth halter class. In no case will a second place horse be placed over a horse that was placed above him. Exception: if for any reason a first place horse fails to return for their respective Grand and Reserve Championship class.

Amateur halter classes shall be divided into mare, gelding and stallion classes with a Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Amateur being awarded from the first and second place horses in their respective Amateur halter class. In no case will a second place horse be placed over a horse that was placed above him. Exception: if for any reason a first place horse fails to return for their respective Grand and Reserve Championship class.

## **Traditional Gypsy Cob Halter**

**Horses entered in Traditional Gypsy Cob Halter classes may NOT cross-enter into Gypsy Performance Horse Halter classes.**

### **General**

1. A halter class designed specifically for horses with a traditional cob build that would be well suited for driving, pulling and riding.
2. Horses may enter between this class and traditional halter classes (i.e. halter classes based on conformation, age and sex). Classes will be divided by sex – ie. mares, geldings and stallions. The top two places from each class will be eligible for the Traditional Gypsy Cob halter championship. In no case will a second place horse be placed over a horse that was placed above him. Exception: if for any reason a first place horse fails to return for their respective Grand and Reserve Championship class.

### **Appointments**

1. Tack should reflect the manner in which the horse is being presented. Halters and bridles may be made of leather, natural or synthetic material. Gag and twisted bits of any type are prohibited.
2. Mares and Geldings may be shown in a bridle with a snaffle bit with no shanks or in a halter. Halters may be of leather or synthetic material or may be traditional rope halters. **Knotted training rope halters are prohibited.** A flat chain may be shanked over the nose or under the chin. Leads should be at least 6' long.
3. Stallions three years and older must be shown in the following: a bridle with a snaffle bit with no shanks or with a stallion rein, full stallion tack or a halter with chain. Lip Chains are not allowed. Bridles, halter and stallion tack may be leather or synthetic. **Youth exhibitors may not show a stallion of any age.**
4. All horses two years of age and under must be shown in a halter. Halters may be of leather, synthetic materials or traditional rope halters.
5. The use of whips is limited to a four foot whip including the lash.

### **Presentation**

Handlers shall follow the judge's instruction to present the horses at a walk and trot, at the judge's discretion, after which time they will line up for final presentation/judging. Emphasis will be placed on the horse's movement and way of going and handlers may be required to present horses at the trot in both directions.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

Traditional Cob Halter Classes will be judged 50% on type and movement, 30% on conformation, 10% on temperament and 10% on Presence.

## Gypsy Performance Horse Halter

Horses entered in Gypsy Performance Horse Halter classes may NOT cross-enter into Traditional Gypsy Cob Halter classes.

### General

1. A halter class designed specifically for horses with an athletic style build that would be well suited for performance.
2. Horses may enter between this class and traditional halter classes (i.e. halter classes based on conformation, age and sex). Classes will be divided by sex – ie. mares, geldings and stallions. The top two places from each class will be eligible for the Performance Horse halter championship. In no case will a second place horse be placed over a horse that was placed above him. Exception: if for any reason a first place horse fails to return for their respective Grand and Reserve Championship class.

### Appointments

1. Tack should reflect the manner in which the horse is being presented. Halters and bridles may be made of leather, natural or synthetic material. Gag and twisted bits of any type are prohibited.
2. Mares and Geldings may be shown in a bridle with a snaffle bit with no shanks or in a halter. Halters may be of leather or synthetic. **Knotted training rope halters are prohibited.** A flat chain may be shanked over the nose or under the chin. Leads should be at least 6' long.
3. Stallions three years and older must be shown in the following: a bridle with a snaffle bit with no shanks or with a stallion rein, full stallion tack or a halter with chain. Lip Chains are not allowed. Bridles, halter and stallion tack may be leather or synthetic. **Youth exhibitors may not show a stallion of any age.**
4. All horses two years of age and under must be shown in a halter. Halters may be of leather, synthetic materials or traditional rope halters. 5. The use of whips is limited to a four foot whip including the lash.

### Presentation

Handlers shall follow the judge's instruction to present the horses at a walk and trot, at the judge's discretion, after which time they will line up for final presentation/judging. Emphasis will be placed on the horse's movement and way of going and handlers may be required to present horses at the trot in both directions.

### Judging Criteria and Class Specifications

Performance Halter Classes will be judged 50% on type and movement, 30% on conformation, 10% on temperament and 10% on Presence.



## SPECIALTY IN HAND

### Get of Sire and Produce of Dam

#### General

1. Get of Sire and Produce of Dam entries must be shown with one handler per horse. More than one entry per sire or dam shall be permitted in the same class. Competition management will determine the minimum and maximum number of offspring required to show in the class.
2. Sire or Dam may or may not be required as part of the entry and will be determined by Competition management, taking into consideration the safety of exhibitors and horses in the ring. Exception: in any entry with a nursing foal, the dam will be allowed in the show ring.
3. Entries shall be presented under the same specifications as the In Hand Division General Rules, Presentation, Appointments and Attire. Exception: horses will not be asked to work on the line.

#### Judging Criteria and Class Specifications

1. Get of Sire and Produce of Dam classes will be judged 75% conformation, quality and breed type and 25% on uniformity of offspring.

### Color Classes

#### General

1. Color classes may be divided into Patterned Horses, Solid Horses and Blagdon Horses at the discretion of Competition management. These classes may be further divided by sex if the number of entries warrants it per the discretion of Competition management.
2. Color classes solely for Youth and/or Amateur exhibitors may be offered at the discretion of Competition management.

#### Presentation

1. Handlers shall follow the judge's instruction to **present the horses at a walk only**.
2. Horses shall enter the arena traveling counter clockwise around the arena. Horses shall be asked to reverse direction so that both sides of the horse may be judged. Horses may be asked to line up or may be halted and set up on the rail for final judging, at judge's discretion.

#### Judging Criteria and Class Specifications

1. Color classes will be judged on richness, balance and clarity of color and crispness of pattern.
2. In color classes, horses are to be judged 80% on the natural color of the horse and conformation to count 20%.

### North American Bred and Bred In

#### General

North American Bred and Bred In classes are limited to horses **bred and foaled** within the borders of North America for the NAB class and within the borders of the host state for Bred In.

## **Presentation**

Handlers shall follow the judge's instruction to present the horses at a walk and trot, at the judge's discretion, after which time they will line up for final presentation/judging.

## **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

Both classes will be judged 60% on type and conformation, 20% on movement, 10% on temperament and 10% on Presence.

## **Imported**

### **General**

Imported classes are limited to horses **bred and foaled** outside the borders of North America.

### **Presentation**

Handlers shall follow the judge's instruction to present the horses at a walk and trot, at the judge's discretion, after which time they will line up for final presentation/judging.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

Imported Classes will be judged 60% on type and conformation, 20% on movement, 10% on temperament and 10% on Presence.

## **Grooming & Conditioning**

### **General**

Grooming & Conditioning is open to all ages and sexes. The focus of this class is as the title states. The horse will be judged on how well it has been physically conditioned as well as the quality of turnout and grooming.

### **Presentation**

Handlers shall follow the judge's instruction to present the horses at a walk and trot, at the judge's discretion, after which time they will line up for final presentation/judging.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

Grooming & Conditioning Classes will be judged 40% on conditioning, 40% on grooming, 10% on temperament and 10% on Presence.

## **Showmanship at Halter**

### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section and Conformation sections.
2. The showmanship class shall be judged strictly on the exhibitor's ability to condition and show a horse at halter. In this class the horse is merely a prop to demonstrate the ability and preparation of the exhibitor. The ideal showmanship performance consists of a poised, confident, neatly

- attired exhibitor leading a well-groomed and conditioned horse that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern with promptness, smoothness and precision.
3. The showmanship class is not another halter class and should not be judged as such.
  4. Patterns are required to be posted at least one hour prior to the class. Patterns are designed to test the showman's ability to effectively present a horse to the judge.
  5. All ties will be broken at judge's discretion.
  6. Any use of an artificial aid (e.g. whip) will be considered a disqualification.
  7. **No one under the age of 18 may show a stallion in Showmanship.** Youth, of any age, may have an attendant at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. Youth under the age of 12 **MUST** have an adult attendant (over the age of 18), who has reasonable horse experience, present in the arena. Attendants are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class. If an attendant has to handle a horse more than one (1) time in a class, the horse will be excused from the ring and disqualified for that class. Removal shall be at the direction and discretion of the judge(s) and/or Technical Delegate and may not be protested.

## Presentation

1. All exhibitors may enter the ring and then work individually or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually, at the discretion of the judge.
2. The following maneuvers are considered acceptable: lead the horse at a walk, jog, trot or extended trot, back in a curved or straight line or a combination of straight and curved lines, stop and turn 90, 180, 270 or 360 degrees in any combination or multiple turns.
3. The judge must have exhibitors set their horse up squarely for inspection at some time during the class.
4. The exhibitor should be poised, confident, courteous and genuinely sportsmanlike at all times.
5. The exhibitor should continue to show the horse until the class has been placed or they have been excused.
6. The exhibitor should appear business like, stand and move in a straight, natural and upright manner.
7. The exhibitor must lead on the horse's left side holding the lead shank in the right hand near the halter with the tail of the lead loosely coiled in the left hand unless requested by the judge to show the horse's teeth.
8. When leading, the exhibitor should be positioned between the eye and the mid-point of the horse's neck
9. Both arms should be bent at the elbow with the elbows held close to the exhibitor's side and the forearms held in a natural position.
10. When executing a right turn, the exhibitor should turn and face the horse's head and have the horse move away from them to the right.
11. When executing a back, the exhibitor should turn from the leading position to face toward the rear of the horse with the right extended across the exhibitor's chest and walk forward beside the horse with the horse moving backward.
12. When setting the horse up for inspection, the exhibitor should stand angled toward the horse in a position between the horse's eye and muzzle and should never leave the head of the horse.
13. The exhibitor's position should not obstruct the judge's view of the horse. After the horse is set up for inspection, the handler is to show using the quarter system where the exhibitor is allowed in the quarter next to the judge. The horse should be shown quietly and effectively at all times.

14. Leading, backing, turning and initiating the set up should be performed from the left side of the horse.
15. The exhibitor should never stand directly in front of the horse
16. The exhibitor should not touch the horse with their hands or feet or visibly cue the horse by pointing their feet at the horse during the set up.
17. The horse's body condition and overall fitness should be assessed by the judge.
18. Youth and Amateurs may only show one horse in Showmanship.

## Appointments

1. Tack should reflect the manner in which the horse is being presented. Halters and bridles may be made of leather, natural or synthetic material. Gag and twisted bits of any type are prohibited. Nosebands are optional for Showmanship classes. A split or single chain lead may be used instead of a rein. All tack must be clean, properly fitted and in good repair.
2. All horses, including stallions, must be shown in a halter in a showmanship class. All tack must be clean, properly fitted and in good repair. Halters should reflect the purpose and discipline in which the horse is being presented. Halters may be of leather, synthetic or traditional rope halters. Knotted training rope halters are prohibited. Leads should be at least 6' long. No lip chains or cords are allowed in Showmanship.
3. Whips and other artificial aids are not allowed.

## Attire

1. Dress for handlers should be appropriate for the purpose.
2. The exhibitor shall be dressed in a safe, neat, and clean manner.
3. Attire may not display a farm or owner's name, a horse's name or farm or ranch logo.
4. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.
5. No T-shirts, shorts, skirts, strapless tops or canvas/cloth shoes are allowed.
6. **Youth may wear an ATSM/SEI approved equestrian helmet.**
7. Attire may be Western, English or Sport type.
8. Western attire should consist of a sleeved shirt with collar, jeans or long pants with suitable boots and hat. Belts, gloves, ties, scarves, vests and jackets are optional.
9. English attire may be either breeches or jodhpurs with boots and a shirt with tie or choker. Jackets, vests, gloves, belts and hats are optional. Half chaps are permitted.
10. Sport attire should consist of slacks or khakis with either a shirt or tie or an appropriate shirt. Footwear may be boots, closed toe shoes or running shoes.
11. Evening Showmanship attire may consist of more formal attire including suits or tuxedos for men and pants and dress jackets for ladies

## Judging Criteria and Class Specifications

1. The horse should perform the work accurately, precisely, smoothly and with a reasonable amount of speed.
2. A severe disobedience will not result in a disqualification, but should be severely penalized.
3. Excessive schooling, training, willful abuse, loss of control of the horse by the exhibitor shall be cause for disqualification.
4. Failure to follow the prescribed pattern, knocking over or working on the wrong side of cones shall result in heavy penalty.

5. Stops should be straight, prompt, smooth and responsive with horse's body remaining straight
6. The horse should back readily with head, neck, and body aligned.
7. Counter clockwise turns should be 90 degrees or less.
8. Turns over 90 degrees should consist of the horse pivoting on the hind leg while stepping across in front.
9. The horse should set up quickly with feet squarely underneath the body.
10. Judging is based on the exhibitor's showmanship skills , - 20% on leading, 20% on showing, 20% on poise, attitude and presentation, 15% on horse's conditioning, 15% on horse's grooming, 10% on appointments.

## ENGLISH DIVISION

### ENGLISH PLEASURE

#### General

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section and Conformation sections.
2. **Youth may NOT show a stallion. No exceptions.**
3. Any Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any performance class that includes a lineup to act as a header at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. The headers will be allowed into the ring at the judge's direction upon completion of all rail work and once the horses/riders have all come into the lineup. Attendants acting as headers must stand back from the horse's head 3-4 feet, must not interfere with the judge(s) and may not touch the horse except in an emergency situation. Headers are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class.
4. (2019) Nine and Under Division entries must have an attendant who may lead, sidewalk or be present in the center of the arena. This attendant is not allowed to coach or aid the rider but is allowed to control the horse. This division is limited to walk/whoa and walk/trot/jog. Entrants may not cross enter in Youth Division unless there is not a Nine and Under class offered. The horse must be led by an adult 18 years of age or older. **The adult leading the youth must be knowledgeable and comfortable leading/working with equine.**

#### Qualifying Gaits

1. It is imperative that the horse give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride. A quite, responsive mouth is paramount. All gaits must be performed with willingness and obvious ease, cadence, balance and smoothness.
2. Exhibitors shall enter the ring at the trot. Horses shall be worked at all gaits including walk, trot and canter both ways in the ring. Exception: no canter will be required in a Walk Trot Class. **The same horse/rider combination may NOT cross enter between a Walk Trot class and a Walk Trot Canter class at the same Competition in all divisions.**
3. At the judge's discretion horses may be asked to extend any gait. Exception: Youth Exhibitors in a Youth class will not be asked to extend gaits.
4. **Walk** – a four beat forward working walk. To be true, flat footed and ground covering.

5. **Trot** – a definite two beat diagonal gait. Overall balanced, relaxed, easy going trot with elasticity and freedom of movement. Posting is required.
6. **Extended Trot** – a definite two beat diagonal gait executed with a lengthened stride, maintaining balance, ease and freedom of movement. Posting is required.
7. **Canter** – a three beat gait. To be smooth, free moving, relaxed and correct on both leads.
8. **Hand Gallop** – to be a faster three beat gait. Lengthened stride and controlled, straight and correct on both leads. Extreme speed must be penalized as should lack of obvious extension.
9. **Back** – Horses should back, on command, quietly, willingly and easily in a straight line without resistance. In the lineup horses will be asked to back individually.
10. The horse should move freely forward with even, ground covering strides. The horse should exhibit a comfortable, balanced, consistent way of going while maintaining a moderate frame. Excessive speed or slowness or choppiness of any gait will be penalized.

### Appointments

1. Bridles shall be the light show type either Hunter or Dressage. Snaffle, Pelham or Kimberwick bits are acceptable. **BITLESS BRIDLES ARE NOT PERMITTED.** Figure eight nosebands, drop or flash nosebands are not permitted. [See Appendix C for specific legal Bites \(2020\)](#)
2. Colored brow bands and cavesons are not permitted. (With exception to crystal browband)
3. Hunting style breastplates are allowed. However, martingales of any type are prohibited.
4. Draw reins, artificial appliances, boots and bandages are prohibited.
5. A judge may penalize a horse with a non-conventional type of bit or noseband.
6. English Hunt, all purpose, dressage or sidesaddles made of leather or synthetic materials are permitted. Saddle pads are required.
7. All tack should be clean, properly fitting and in good repair.
8. Manes and tails may be braided. Unbraided manes and tails are not to be penalized.

### Attire

1. Riders should wear traditional Hunt style coats made in a conservative color, i.e. black, navy, tweed or other dark customary color and of a material appropriate for the area and season.
2. Traditional breeches or jodhpurs in buff, grey, white or charcoal worn with black or brown hunt or field boots should be worn. Half chaps are permitted.
3. Safety helmets must be worn in blue, black, or brown. See Conduct General Rules 6, 7 and 8 for safety helmet requirements.
4. Gloves, crops, bats and spurs are optional.

### Judging Criteria and Class Specifications

Horses will be judged 70% on performance and manners, 20% on condition, and 10% on turn out.

### EQUITATION

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing and Hoof Section
2. The rider's position, seat, hands and the correct use of the aids are to be judged
3. A lack of required tack, equipment or appointments shall result in immediate disqualification.

4. Position and appointments as appropriate to Hunter Seat or Dressage. Cutback saddles are not permitted.
5. Bridles shall be light show type either Hunter (Snaffle, Pelham, Kimberwick bit permitted) or Dressage (Snaffle bit permitted). **BITLESS BRIDLES ARE NOT PERMITTED.** Gag and twisted bit of any type are prohibited. Figure eight nose bands, drop or flash nosebands are not permitted.
6. All riders must wear equestrian safety helmets. See Conduct General Rules 6, 7 and 8 for safety helmet requirements.

**Youth may not show a stallion. No exceptions.**

7. Any Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any performance class that includes a lineup to act as a header at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. The headers will be allowed into the ring at the judge's direction upon completion of all rail work and once the horses/riders have all come into the lineup. Attendants acting as headers must stand back from the horse's head 3-4 feet, must not interfere with the judge(s) and may not touch the horse except in an emergency situation. Headers are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class.
8. Nine and Under Division entries must have an attendant who may lead, sidewalk or be present in the center of the arena. This attendant is not allowed to coach or aid the rider but is allowed to control the horse. This division is limited to walk/whoa and walk/trot/jog. Entrants may not cross enter in Youth Division unless there is not a Nine and Under class offered.
9. (2019) Nine and Under Division entries must have an attendant who may lead, sidewalk or be present in the center of the arena. This attendant is not allowed to coach or aid the rider but is allowed to control the horse. This division is limited to walk/whoa and walk/trot/jog. Entrants may not cross enter in Youth Division unless there is not a Nine and Under class offered. The horse must be led by an adult 18 years of age or older. **The adult leading the youth must be knowledgeable and comfortable leading/working with equine.**

### English Equitation - Walk Trot Canter

1. At the judge's discretion, individual work may be required. Instructions must be announced to all exhibitors.
2. If a pattern is used, it must be posited at least 1 hour before the class. A pattern is defined as two or more tests to be ridden consecutively.
3. Tests from which a judge may choose may include the following:
  - a. Work collectively at walk, trot and canter
  - b. Sitting or rising trot
  - c. Halt (4-6 seconds) and/or back
  - d. Execute a figure eight at a trot, showing a change of diagonals.
  - e. Execute a figure eight at a canter, showing a simple change of lead. This is a change whereby the horse is brought back in to a walk or trot and restarted into a canter on the opposite lead. Figures to be commenced in center of two circles so that one change of lead is shown.
  - f. Ride without stirrups, riders must be allowed option to cross stirrups.
  - g. Turn on the forehand from the walk
  - h. Turn on the haunches from the walk

- i. Execute a serpentine at a trot demonstrating changes of diagonals and/or canter on correct lead demonstrating simple changes of lead.
4. At the judge's discretion, classes may be asked to show on the rail at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the arena.

### **English Walk Trot Equitation**

1. At the judge's discretion, individual work may be required. Instructions must be announced to all exhibitors.
2. If a pattern is used, it must be posited at least 1 hour before the class. A pattern is defined as two or more tests to be ridden consecutively.
3. Tests from which a judge may choose may include the following:
  - a. Work collectively at walk and trot
  - b. Sitting or rising trot
  - c. Halt (4-6 seconds) and/or back
  - d. Execute a figure eight at a trot
  - e. Ride without stirrups, riders must be allowed option to cross stirrups.
  - f. Turn on the forehand from the walk
  - g. Turn on the haunches from the walk
  - h. Execute a serpentine at a trot.
4. At the judge's discretion, classes may be asked to show on the rail at a walk and trot both ways of the arena.

### **Judging Criteria**

1. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, performance of horse, appointments of horse and rider and suitability of horse to rider. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are NOT to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them.
2. Equitation is also judged on the ability of the rider to perform on the rail and/or individual pattern work with correct riding position and gaits. Although the horse is only considered a prop in equitation, soundness is a consideration. Obvious lameness is cause for disqualification.

## **DRESSAGE DIVISION**

### **Dressage Suitability In Hand**

#### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Horses are shown individually traveling right (clockwise) on the triangle, first at the walk and then at the trot. Horses will stand squared for conformation judging, before and/or after movement judging.
2. Judging will be based on 60% movement, 30% conformation and 10% general impression. This includes harmony (relationship of conformation to movement), athleticism (strength and mobility), development related to age and condition and demonstrated character, presence and temperament necessary for dressage training.
3. Conformation is to be evaluated in terms of potential trainability, potential performance and predisposition to unsoundness. Function, not fashion, is to be emphasized. Weakness or



conformation faults with a predisposition to unsoundness or to difficulties in training shall be penalized. Blemishes are not to be penalized unless resulting from conformation faults.

4. Gaits are to be evaluated in terms of purity, quality and correctness. Purity and correctness are more important than brilliance at this level. Correct gaits contributing to the ease of training and the horse remaining sound and usable are more important than gaits that are merely superficially flashy. Purity and quality are judged mainly in profile. Correctness is judged mainly while the horse is coming to and going away from the judge's position. A horse shall be disqualified for unsoundness at the judge's discretion.

## General

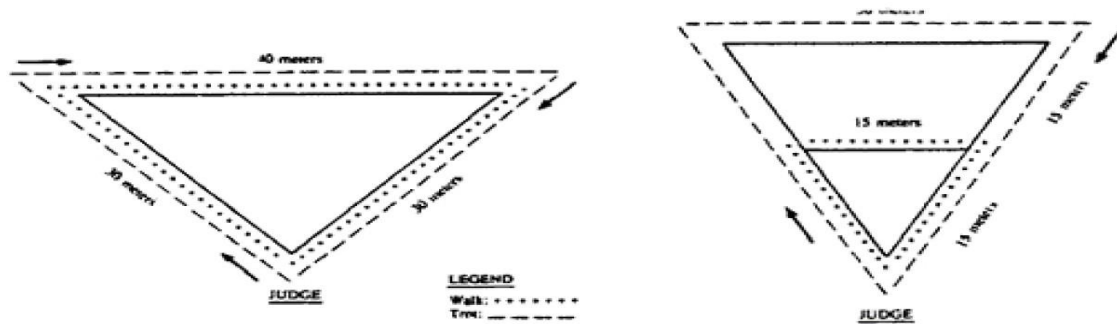
1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section and Conformation sections.
2. Horse's quality shall be evaluated as to potential for dressage horses.
3. **Youth may not show a stallion. No exceptions.**
4. Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any in-hand class at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. Youth under the age of 12 showing in any in-hand class MUST have an adult attendant (over the age of 18), who has reasonable horse experience, present in the arena. Attendants are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class. If an attendant has to handle a horse more than one (1) time in a class, the horse will be excused from the ring and disqualified for that class. Removal shall be at the direction and discretion of the judge(s) and/or Technical Delegate and may not be protested.
5. The judge may excuse from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger handlers, officials or other exhibitors.

## Presentation

1. Horses are being shown to the right individually on the triangle.
2. Following a posted order, entries in each class will approach the judging area one at a time, walk to the apex of the triangle and await the judge's request to proceed on the triangle. The pattern used on the triangle shall be at the judge's discretion.
3. The Handler will lead the horse on the perimeter of the triangle at a walk and a trot, returning to the apex to stand the horse for final conformation judging or to repeat any movement at the judge's request.
4. The exhibitor may pause the horse or execute a small circle at the end of each trot line without penalty.
5. Repetition of all or part of the movement on the triangle may be allowed at the judge's request only.
6. At the completion of judging, the handler will lead the horse away from the judging area.
7. The next entry will enter the judging area promptly.
8. The judge may elect to judge conformation either before or after judging the horse's movement on the triangle.
9. The horse should be shown square and not parked out.
10. After all the horses are shown on the triangle, some or all may be recalled at the judge's discretion (depending on size, format and schedule of the competition) to be shown in groups at a walk and a trot.

11. Horses shown as a group may not necessarily work on the triangle. At the discretion of the judge, they may be asked to move at a walk and trot, either in line or moving around the arena. Horses will stand for conformation judging before and/or after the completion of the horse's movement.
12. The Judging Triangle: Two basic designs are acceptable for presenting horses to the judge. Competition management may choose the triangle best suited for local conditions. Triangle corners should be well defined. Footing must be firm. Decorative fencing, plants or flowers are allowed.

### Gypsy Horse Suitability for Dressage In-Hand Triangle



13. The size of the triangle may be adjusted to meet local conditions; however, the back side of the triangle must be at least 25 meters in length and the other two sides must be at least 20 meters in length.

### Appointments

1. Halters and bridles may be made of leather, natural or synthetic material. Only bits that are legal in USEF Dressage classes are allowed. Pelhams, Kimberwicks, Gag and twisted bits of any type are prohibited. Nosebands are optional for Dressage Suitability in Hand classes. A split or single chain lead may be used instead of a rein. All tack must be clean, properly fitted and in good repair.
2. All horses age 3 and over must be shown in a bridle with a snaffle bit with no shanks.
3. Stallions three years and older must be shown in a bridle with a snaffle bit with no shanks or with a stallion bit. Bridles may be leather or synthetic.
4. All horses two years of age and under must be shown in a halter. Halters may be of leather or synthetic materials. Knotted training rope halters are prohibited.
5. One in-hand whip of no more than 47.2 inches long, including the lash, may be carried by the handler.
6. Braiding of manes is optional for Dressage classes and shall not be penalized.

### Attire

1. Dress for handlers should be appropriate for the purpose. Western attire is prohibited.
2. The exhibitor shall be dressed in a safe, neat and clean manner.
3. Attire may not display a farm or owner's name, horse's name or farm or ranch logo.
4. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.
5. No T-shirts, shorts, skirts, strapless tops or canvas/cloth shoes are allowed.
6. Attire may be English or Sport type.
7. English attire may be either breeches or jodhpurs with boots and a shirt with tie or choker. Jackets, vests, gloves, belts, and hats are optional. Half chaps are permitted.

8. Sport attire should consist of slacks or khakis with either a shirt or tie or an appropriate shirt. Footwear may be boots, closed toe shoes or running shoes.
9. Evening Dressage Suitability In Hand attire may consist of more formal attire including suits or tuxedos for men and pants and dress jackets for ladies.

## Dressage Suitability Under-Saddle

### Requirements

1. The minimum age for a horse to compete in the Dressage Suitability Under Saddle class is 3 years old.
2. Any Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any performance class that includes a lineup to act as a header at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. The headers will be allowed into the ring at the judge's direction upon completion of all rail work and once the horses/riders have all come into the lineup. Attendants acting as headers must stand back from the horse's head 3-4 feet, must not interfere with the judge(s) and may not touch the horse except in an emergency situation. Headers are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class.

### Qualifying Gaits and Class Specifications

1. Horses to be shown at a walk and trot or the walk, trot and canter, both ways of the ring. Gaits shall be medium walk, working trot and working canter. Free walk on a long rein with horse stretching forward and down to be performed at least one direction. Transitions into and out of the canter will be called for through the working trot. Horses will be asked to reverse direction at the working trot or medium walk at the judge's discretion. Trot to be ridden rising/posting. Horses are placed and no scores are given. In the lineup, horses must stand quietly and may be asked to back (rein-back) individually or as a group.
2. Slight errors should not be penalized.
3. **Dressage Suitability Objectives:** To confirm that the horse's muscles are supple and loose and that it moves freely forward in a clear and steady rhythm, with purity of gaits and accept contact with the bit. The horse should show lightness of the forehand and engagement of the hindquarters. Resistance and tension of the horse should be penalized.
4. **Dressage Suitability Specifications:** Judging will be based 90% on movement on Performance of the horse's gaits and transitions, with attention to impulsion and submission and using the objectives as a reference and 10% general impression. Includes harmony, athleticism, development related to age and condition, character, presence and temperament necessary for training.

For detailed information on the object and principals of the Dressage horse gaits, refer to sections DR3DR8 of the USEF Dressage rules: <http://www.usef.org/documents/ruleBook/2011/08-DR.pdf>

### Rules

## General

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section and Conformation sections.
2. Refer to the USEF DR-Dressage Division for directives in performance and judging, including Chapter DR101-Object and General Principals, DR102-107-Gaits and Transitions, DR115Collection, DR116- The submission, The impulsion and DR117&- The Position and Aids of the Rider. <http://www.usef.org/documents/ruleBook/2011/08-DR.pdf>
3. Competition Management, at their discretion, may divide classes into walk/trot Dressage Suitability and walk/trot/canter Dressage Suitability.
4. **The same horse/rider combination that competes in walk/trot/canter class in this division may not compete in a walk/trot class in this division at the same Competition.**
5. Riders are permitted to ride only one horse per class.

## Judging Criteria

1. The above Dressage Suitability Objectives including harmony (relationship of conformation to movement), athleticism (strength and mobility) and development related to age and condition. The horse should demonstrate character, presence and temperament.
2. Judging will be based on 60% movement, 30% conformation and 10% general impression. This includes harmony (relationship of conformation to movement), athleticism (strength and mobility), development related to age and condition and demonstrated character, presence and temperament necessary for dressage training.
3. Conformation is to be evaluated in terms of potential trainability, potential performance and predisposition to unsoundness. Function, not fashion, is to be emphasized. Weakness or conformation faults with a predisposition to unsoundness or to difficulties in training shall be penalized. Blemishes are not to count unless resulting from conformation faults.
4. Gaits are to be evaluated in terms of purity, quality and correctness. Purity and correctness are more important than brilliance at this level. Correct gaits contributing to the ease of training and the horse remaining sound and usable are more important than gaits that are merely superficially flashy. Purity and quality are judged mainly in profile.
5. A horse shall be disqualified for unsoundness at the judge's discretion.

## Appointments

1. An English type saddle or Dressage type saddle with stirrups is compulsory. An English type saddle may be constructed with or without a tree but cannot have a horn, swell, gallerie or open gullet. Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock or Western saddles are not permitted nor are modified versions of these saddles. A Dressage saddle must be close to the horse and have long, near-vertical flaps and stirrups.
2. Saddle pads should be white or of conservative color.
3. Bridles may be made of leather, natural or synthetic material. A plain snaffle bridle is required with a regular caveson, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband (a combination of a caveson noseband and a dropped noseband attachment (to be fitted in front of the bit)) or a crossed noseband. A padded noseband is allowed. A caveson noseband may never be so tightly fixed that it causes severe irritation to the skin. Caveson nosebands may be used with a chin pad. At any level of competition, a brow band may be multicolored and may be decorated with metal, beads, gemstones and crystals.

4. Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (including “easy-boots”) or bandages (including tail bandages) and any form of blinkers, earmuffs or plugs, nose covers, seat covers or hoods are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden. Fly hoods (ear covers) will only be permitted in order to protect horses from insects. The fly hoods should be discreet and should not cover the horse’s eyes, and will only be permitted in extreme cases at the discretion of the presiding judge(s).
5. All bits must be smooth and with a solid surface. Bits must comply with USEF rules for allowable bits in a dressage class at 2nd level or lower. Twisted, wire and roller bits are prohibited. A bushing or coupling is permitted as the center link in a double-jointed snaffle; however, the surface of the centerpiece must be solid with no moveable parts. The mouthpiece of a snaffle may be shaped in a slight curve, but ported snaffles are prohibited. A bridoon is defined as a snaffle bit used together with a curb bit to form a double bridle. Bits (including curb and/or bridoon bits of a double bridle) must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber; flexible rubber bits are not permitted. The diameter of the snaffle or bridoon mouthpiece must be minimum 3/8-inch diameter at rings or cheeks of the mouthpiece.
6. Braiding of manes is optional for Dressage classes and shall not be penalized.

### **Attire and Equipment**

1. A short riding coat of conservative color, with tie, choker or stock tie, white or light-colored breeches or jodhpurs, boots or jodhpur boots and an ATSM/SEI approved safety helmet. A cutaway coat (modified tailcoat) with short tails is permitted. Half chaps are allowed. Gaiters and/or leggings are not allowed. Gloves of conservative color are recommended.
2. Riders at all levels of competition must wear an ASTM/SEI approved safety helmet. Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear at any level of competition without penalty from the judge.
3. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash, may be carried.
4. In extreme heat and/or humidity in all classes Competition management can allow competitors to show without jackets. However, competitors must wear a regulation hat and solid white or very pale colored long or short-sleeved shirt, without neckwear. T-shirts are not permitted. If coats are waived, competitors may wear a solid colored cooling or lightweight vest over a riding shirt.
5. Competitors will be allowed to wear a hat cover and a transparent or conservative color rain coat in inclement weather. Spurs must be made of metal. The shank must be either curved or straight pointing directly back from the center of the spur when on the rider’s boot. If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directed downwards. However, swan necked spurs are allowed. The inside arm of the spur must be smooth. If rowels are used, they must be free to rotate.
6. Attire may not display a farm or owner’s name, horse’s name or farm or ranch logo.
7. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.
8. No T-shirts, shorts, skirts, strapless tops or canvas/cloth shoes are allowed.
9. For more information on proper Dressage Attire and Equipment:

<http://www.usef.org/documents/FormsPubs/DressageEquipmentBooklet.pdf>

## HUNTER PLEASURE

### General

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section and Conformation sections.
2. The purpose of the hunter pleasure horse is to present or exhibit a horse that is obedient and responsive, who has a bright, alert expression and whose gaits show a potential of being a working hunter. Hunter pleasure horses should be suitable to this purpose.
3. A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for elimination from the class.
4. **Youth may NOT show a stallion. No exceptions.**
5. Any Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any performance class that includes a lineup to act as a header at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. The headers will be allowed into the ring at the judge's direction upon completion of all rail work and once the horses/riders have all come into the lineup. Attendants acting as headers must stand back from the horse's head 3-4 feet, must not interfere with the judge(s) and may not touch the horse except in an emergency situation. Headers are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class.
6. (2019) Nine and Under Division entries must have an attendant who may lead, sidewalk or be present in the center of the arena. This attendant is not allowed to coach or aid the rider but is allowed to control the horse. This division is limited to walk/whoa and walk/trot/jog. Entrants may not cross enter in Youth Division unless there is not a Nine and Under class offered. The horse must be led by an adult 18 years of age or older. **The adult leading the youth must be knowledgeable and comfortable leading/working with equine.**

### Qualifying Gaits

1. The horse should move freely forward with even, ground covering strides that would be comfortable for horse and rider over extended periods of time. The horse should have impeccable manners and should clearly enjoy his work. The horse should exhibit a comfortable, balanced, consistent way of going while maintaining a frame suitable for a hunter.
2. The horse may travel with his nose slightly ahead of the vertical. The hunter pleasure horse should not carry his head behind the vertical. The horse should give a ground-covering impression.
3. The horse should be able to lengthen stride and cover ground with relaxed, free-flowing movement, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence.
4. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gaits are a major consideration.
5. Horse should respond willingly to the rider with light leg and hand contact.
6. Horse should be responsive and smooth in transitions.
7. Horses shall be worked at all gaits including walk, trot and canter both ways in the ring. EXCEPTION: no canter will be required in a Walk Trot class.
8. **Walk** – a four beat forward working walk. To be true, flat footed and ground covering.
9. **Trot** - a definite two beat diagonal gait. Overall balanced, relaxed, easy going trot with elasticity and freedom of movement. Posting is required.

10. **Canter** – a three beat gait. To be smooth, free moving, relaxed and correct on both leads.
11. **Hand Gallop** – to be a faster three beat gait. Lengthened stride and controlled, straight and correct on both leads. Extreme speed must be penalized. The number of entrants to hand gallop at a time shall be at the discretion of the judge.
12. **Back** – Horses should back, on command, quietly, willingly and easily in a straight line without resistance. In the lineup horses may be asked to back individually or as a group.
13. The head position should be slightly in front of, or on, the vertical. The poll should be level with, or slightly above the wither to allow property impulsion behind.

## Appointments

1. Bridles shall be light show Hunter type. Either Snaffle, Pelham or Kimberwich bits are acceptable. Gag and twisted bits of any type are prohibited. .
2. [See Appendix C for specific legal Bites \(2020\)](#)
3. Brow bands and cavesons other than Hunter type are not permitted. Colored brow bands and cavesons are not permitted.
4. Hunting style breastplates are allowed. However, martingales of any type are prohibited.
5. Draw reins, artificial appliances, boot and bandages are prohibited.
6. A judge may penalize a horse with a non-conventional type of bit or noseband.
7. English Hunt, all purpose or sidesaddles made of leather or synthetic materials are permitted. Saddle pads are required.
8. All tack should be clean, properly fitting, and in good repair.
9. Manes and tails may be braided. Unbraided manes and tails are not to be penalized.

## Attire

1. Riders should wear traditional Hunt style coats made in a conservative color, i.e. black, navy, tweed, melton or plaid or other dark customary color and of a material appropriate for the area and season.
2. Shadbellys are not allowed.
3. Traditional breeches or jodhpurs in buff, grey, white or charcoal worn with black or brown hunt or field boots should be worn. Half chaps are permitted
4. Equestrian riding safety helmets must be worn in blue, black, or brown. See General Conduct Rules for safety helmet requirements.
7. Gloves, crops, bats and spurs are optional.

## Judging Criteria and Class Specifications

1. This class will be judged on performance and condition with the maximum consideration given to the flowing, balanced, willing horse. To be judged 60% on performance, manners, proper cadence and balance; 20% on quality, presence and apparent ability to give a good pleasure ride; and 20% on type and conformation.
2. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gaits are a major consideration.
3. Excessive speed, excessive slowness or loss of forward momentum will be penalized.
4. Unnatural low head position (poll below the withers) or over flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently will be penalized.



## HUNTER HACK

### General

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section and Conformation sections.
2. **Youth may NOT show a stallion. No exceptions.**
3. Any Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any performance class that includes a lineup to act as a header at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. The headers will be allowed into the ring at the judge's direction upon completion of all rail work and once the horses/riders have all come into the lineup. Attendants acting as headers must stand back from the horse's head 3-4 feet, must not interfere with the judge(s) and may not touch the horse except in an emergency situation. Headers are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class.

### Qualifying Gaits

1. The horse should move freely forward with even, ground covering strides. The horse should exhibit a comfortable, balanced, consistent way of going while maintaining a frame suitable for a hunter.
2. Work over Fences will come first in the class. The horses shall be required to jump two fences, as specified by management. Fences may be two crossbars with a minimum of 12" to a maximum of 24" or the first fence to be a minimum of 18" and a maximum of 2'3" and the second fence to be a minimum of 2' and a maximum of 2'6". Fences should be set at the minimum heights if the judge feels the exhibitors are at an entry level. Fences should be set at customary distances apart, using increments of 12'. Ground lines at the take-off side of the jumps are required. Horses are to perform a hand gallop one way of the ring after the second fence, halt, and stand quietly on a loose rein.
3. Horses shall be worked at all gaits including walk, trot and canter both ways in the ring.
4. **Walk** – a four beat forward working walk. To be true, flat footed and ground covering.
5. **Trot** – a definite two beat diagonal gait. Overall balanced, relaxed, easy going trot with elasticity and freedom of movement. Posting is required.
6. **Canter** – a three beat gait. To be smooth, free moving, relaxed and correct on both leads.
7. **Hand Gallop** – to be a faster three beat gait. Lengthened stride and controlled, straight and correct on both leads. Extreme speed must be penalized.
8. **Back** – Horses should back, on command, quietly, willingly and easily in a straight line without resistance. In the lineup horses may be asked to back individually or as a group.
9. The pattern or course for the jumping section shall be determined by the Competition management or the judge and will be posted at least one hour prior to the class. An entry level course should have jumps set at the minimum heights.
10. A warm up jump must be provided.

### Appointments

1. Bridles shall be the light show type. Either Snaffle, Pelham or Kimberwick bits are acceptable. Figure eight nose bands, drop or flash nosebands are not permitted.
2. Brow bands and cavesons other than Hunter type are not permitted. Colored brow bands and cavesons are not permitted.



3. Hunting style breastplates are allowed. However, martingales of any type are prohibited.
4. Draw reins, artificial appliances, boot and bandages are prohibited.
5. A judge may penalize a horse with a non-conventional type of bit or noseband.
6. English Hunt, all purpose or sidesaddles made of leather or synthetic materials are permitted. Saddle pads are required.
7. All tack should be clean, properly fitting and in good repair.
8. Manes and tails may be braided. Unbraided manes and tails are not to be penalized.

## Attire

1. Riders should wear traditional Hunt style coats made in a conservative color, i.e. black, navy, tweed, melton or plaid or other dark customary color and of a material appropriate for the area and season.
2. Shadbellies and top hats are not allowed.
3. Traditional breeches or jodhpurs in buff, grey, white or charcoal worn with black or brown hunt or field boots should be worn. Half chaps are permitted
4. ASTM/SEI approved protective helmets are required during the class and while jumping anywhere on the Competition grounds. Helmets must be worn in blue, black or brown.
5. Gloves, crops, bats and spurs are optional.

## Judging Criteria and Class Specifications

1. Horses will be judged 70% on the work over fences and 30% for flat work on the rail. If the horse is unable to complete the jumping section of the class he will be excused from the rail work and excused from the class.
2. At the judge's discretion, a horse may be excused after three refusals.

## WORKING HUNTER

### General

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section and Conformation sections.
2. **Youth may NOT show a stallion. No exceptions.**

### Course Work

1. Course Work - Judges are responsible for correctness of each course after it has been set and shall call the Competition committee's attention to any errors that would tend to result in unfair or inappropriate courses.
  - a. There will be a minimum of four obstacles with the horses required to jump a minimum of eight fences with one change of direction.
  - b. Fences shall simulate obstacles found in the hunting field such as natural looking post and rail, brush, wall, coops and ascending oxers (but not square oxers)
  - c. Triple bar and hogs back are prohibited.
  - d. Striped poles are not recommended
  - e. The top element of all fences must be securely placed so that a slight rub will not cause a knockdown.

- f. The distance between fences is recommended to be in 12' increments with the exception of some combinations; one stride in and out, 24'-26'; two strides in and out, 36'; three strides, 48', etc.... **A 60' distance between jumps is highly recommended.**
- g. Height of the obstacle must be a minimum of 2'6"
- h. A variation of 3 inches in fence height, lower than official heights listed, may be instituted if Competition management and judges feel circumstances warrant, e.g. footing , weather, etc.
- i. The use of wings on obstacles in hunter classes is recommended.
- j. Jump standards with heights at 3" intervals with jump cups are recommended.

## Appointments

1. Bridles shall be the light show type. Either Snaffle, Pelham or Kimberwick bits are acceptable. Figure eight nose bands drop or flash nosebands are not permitted.
2. Brow bands and cavesons other than Hunter type are not permitted. Colored brow bands and cavesons are not permitted.
3. Running or standing martingales, leg wraps and/or boots are permitted
4. Draw reins, artificial appliances and bandages are prohibited.
5. A judge may penalize a horse with a non-conventional type of bit or noseband.
6. English Hunt, all purpose or sidesaddles made of leather or synthetic materials are permitted. Saddle pads are required.
7. All tack should be clean, properly fitting and in good repair.
8. Manes and tails may be braided. Unbraided manes and tails are not to be penalized.

## Attire

1. Riders should wear traditional Hunt style coats made in a conservative color, i.e. black, navy, tweed, melton or plaid or other dark customary color and of a material appropriate for the area and season.
2. Shadbellys and top hats are not allowed.
3. Traditional breeches or jodhpurs in buff, grey, white or charcoal worn with black or brown hunt or field boots should be worn. Half chaps are permitted
4. ASTM/SEI approved protective helmets are required during the class and while jumping anywhere on the Competition grounds. Helmets must be worn in blue, black, or brown.
5. Gloves, crops, bats and spurs are optional.

## Judging Criteria and Class Specifications

1. Scoring – is to be judged on manners, way of going and style of jumping.
  - a. Maintaining an even hunting pace that covers the course with free flowing strides.
  - b. Preference will be given to horses with correct jumping style that meet fences squarely, jumping at the center of the fence
  - c. Judges will penalize the following:
    - i. Unsafe jumping and bad form over fences whether touched or untouched, including twisting
    - ii. Incorrect leads around the ends of the course or cross cantering
    - iii. Excessive use of a crop
    - iv. Incorrect number of strides taken on an In and Out

- v. Any error which endangers the horse and/or rider.
- vi. Refusals or knockdowns.
  - i. Scoring shall be on a basis of 0-100, with an approximate breakdown as follows:
    - a. 90-100; an excellent performer and good mover that jumps the entire course with cadence, balance and style
    - b. 80-89; a good performer that jumps all fences reasonably well, an excellent performer that commits one or two minor faults.
    - c. 70-79; the average, fair mover than makes no serious faults, but lacks the style, cadence and good balance, the good performer that makes a few minor faults.
    - d. 60-69; poor movers that make minor mistakes, fair to average movers that have one or two poor fences but no major faults or disobediences.
    - e. 50-59; a horse that commits one major fault such as a hind knockdown, refusal, trot, cross canter or drops a leg.
    - f. 40-49; a horse that commits two or more major faults, including front knockdowns and refusals or jumps in a manner that otherwise endangers the horse and/or rider.
    - g. 30-39; a horse that avoids elimination but jumps in an unsafe and dangerous manner.
  - ii. Elimination: is a total of three disobediences which can include any of the following in any combination:
    - a. Refusal, stop, run-out or extra circle
    - b. Jumping an obstacle before it is reset
    - c. Bolting from an area
    - d. Off-course
    - e. Deliberately addressing an obstacle
    - f. Horse and/or rider falling. A horse is considered to have fallen when shoulder and haunch on the same side touch the ground or the obstacle and the ground.
    - g. Failure to trot the horse in a small circle on a loose rein for soundness, after completing the course while still mounted and prior to leaving the area.
  - iii. General:
    - a. Circling once upon entering the ring in permissible
    - b. Circling once after all obstacles are complete is required
    - c. Horses shall not be requested to re-jump the course
    - d. When an obstacle is composed of several elements, any disturbance of these elements will be penalized; however, only a reduction in height of the top element shall be considered a knockdown.
    - e. In cases of broken equipment, the rider may either continue without penalty or stop and correct the difficulty and be penalized the same as any loss of forward impulsion.

- f. When an obstacle requires two or more fences (an In and Out), faults committed at each obstacle are considered separately. In the case of a refusal or run out at one element, entry must re-jump the previous element(s).

## JUMPING

### General

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section and Conformation sections.
2. Wherever possible a schooling area should be set up with at least one practice jump.
3. Schooling over obstacles in the ring or over any part of an outside course is permitted only at the time designated by Competition management
4. **Youth may NOT show a stallion. No exceptions.**

### Course Work

1. There will be a minimum of four obstacles; horses are to make a minimum of eight jumps.
2. A spread fence consisting of two or more elements will be mandatory.
3. It is recommended that the first obstacle be no more than minimum height.
4. Optional Obstacles may include any of the following:
  - a. Post and rail (at least two rails)
  - b. Coop
  - c. Stone Wall
  - d. Triple Bar
  - e. Brush Jump
5. Both a starting line at least 12 feet in front of the first obstacle and a finish line at least 24 feet beyond the last obstacle must be indicated by markers (at least 12 feet apart) at each end of the lines. Horses must start and finish by passing between markers.
6. Obstacles, except within combination, should be located a minimum distance of 48 feet apart, if the size of the arena permits it.
7. Height of the obstacle must be a minimum of 2'6".
8. Jump-offs will be held over the original course altered as outlined:
  - a. In a jump-off, the sequence of obstacles may be in any order as long as the original direction is maintained.
  - b. Only in the case of clean round ties for first place or when points are involved, the height and spread of at least 50% of the obstacles shall be increased not less than three inches and not more than six inches in height and a maximum spread of six feet.
  - c. In the case of ties involving faults rails shall not be raised, but courses may be shortened to less than 50% of the original obstacles and must include at least one vertical and one spread jump.
  - d. When a jump-off is required, the winner will be decided on the time only if faults are equal. If two or more horses are disqualified in the timed jump-off and tied for a point, they are not to be re-jumped. A coin toss will break the tie.
9. Time shall begin from the instant the horse's chest reaches the starting line until it reaches the finish line. Time shall be stopped while a knockdown jump is being replaced, this from the

moment the rider gets his mount in a position to retake the jump until the proper authority signals that the jump has been replaced. It shall be the rider's responsibility to be ready to continue the course when the signal is given.

### **Appointments**

1. Bridles shall be the light show type. Either Snaffle, Pelham or Kimberwick bits are acceptable. Figure eight nose bands drop or flash nosebands are not permitted.
2. Brow bands and cavesons other than Hunter type are not permitted. Colored brow bands and cavesons are not permitted.
3. Running or standing martingales, leg wraps and/or boots are permitted
4. Draw reins, artificial appliances and bandages are prohibited.
5. A judge may penalize a horse with a non-conventional type of bit or noseband.
6. English Hunt, all purpose or sidesaddles made of leather or synthetic material are permitted. Saddle pads are required.
7. All tack should be clean, properly fitting and in good repair.
8. Manes and tails may be braided. Unbraided manes and tails are not to be penalized.

### **Attire**

1. Riders should wear traditional Hunt style coats made in a conservative color, i.e. black, navy, tweed, melton or plaid or other dark customary color and of a material appropriate for the area and season.
2. Shadbellys and top hats are not allowed.
3. Traditional breeches or jodhpurs in buff, grey, white or charcoal worn with black or brown hunt or field boots should be worn. Half chaps are permitted
4. ASTM/SEI Protective helmets are required during the class and while jumping anywhere on the Competition grounds. Helmets must be worn in blue, black, or brown.
5. Gloves, crops, bats and spurs are optional.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Scoring – Jumpers are scored on a mathematical basis and penalty faults, which include knockdowns, disobediences and falls.
2. Knockdowns - An obstacle is considered knocked down and four (4) faults will be assessed, when a horse or rider, by contact:
  - a. Lowers any part which established the height of the obstacle or the height of any element of a spread obstacle even when the falling part is arrested in its fall by any portion of the obstacle.
  - b. Moves any part which establishes the height of the obstacle so it rests on a different support from the one on which it was originally placed.
  - c. Knocks down an obstacle, standard wing, automatic timing equipment or other designated markers on the start or finish lines.
  - d. If an obstacle falls after the horse leaves the ring it shall not be considered a knockdown.
3. Disobediences:
  - a. Refusal is when a horse stops in front of an obstacle (whether or not the obstacle is knocked down or altered). It is a refusal unless the horse then immediately jumps the obstacle.
  - b. If a horse takes one step backwards it is a refusal.

- c. After the refusal, if a horse is moved toward the obstacle but does not attempt to jump, it is considered another refusal.
  - d. In the case of a refusal on an In-and-Out jump, the horse must return to the start of the In-and-Out sequence and re-jump the previous elements as well as following elements.
  - e. Run-out occurs when the horse evades or passes the obstacle to be jumped, jumps an obstacle outside its limiting markers or when the horse and rider knocks down a flag, stand, wing or other element limiting the obstacle (all without the obstacle being jumped).
  - f. Loss of Forward Movement is failure to maintain a trot, canter or gallop after crossing the starting line, except when it is a refusal, a run-out or when due to uncontrollable circumstances, such as when an obstacle is being reset.
  - g. Unnecessary Circling on Course is any form of circle or circles whereby the horse crosses its original track between two consecutive obstacles anywhere on course, except to retake an obstacle after a refusal or a run-out.
  - h. Deliberately addressing an obstacle – penalized at any time the horse is in the ring.
  - i. First Disobedience anywhere on the course = 3 faults
  - j. Second cumulative disobedience anywhere on the course – 6 faults
4. Eliminations:
- a. Third cumulative disobedience anywhere on the course.
  - b. Fall of horse and/or rider after the starting line and before the finish line.
  - c. Jumping an obstacle before it is reset or without waiting for a signal to proceed.
  - d. Starting before the judge's signal to proceed.
  - e. Failure to cross the starting line within one minute after an audible or visible signal from an official to proceed.
  - f. Jumping an obstacle before crossing starting line unless said obstacle is designed as a practice obstacle or after crossing the finish line, whether forming part of the course or not.
  - g. Rider and/or horse leaving the arena before finishing the course
  - h. In cases of broken equipment the rider may either continue without penalty or stop and correct difficulty, in which case he will be penalized 3 faults.
  - i. In the case of a loss of shoe the rider may either continue without penalty or be eliminated

## **TRAIL DIVISION**

### **OBSTACLES IN HAND AND UNDER SADDLE**

#### **General**

The class conduct and scoring system procedures stated herein shall be used in adjudication of all Trail classes (Under Saddle and In-Hand Trail). Competition Management shall provide scribe(s) at judge(s) request.

A trail horse is one that can maneuver through a course of obstacles with physical skill, expression and a good mental attitude. It should travel through and between obstacles with an inquisitive desire to go forward without compromising its calm, relaxed attitude and way of going. It should approach each obstacle squarely with authority and correct form, with its own style, yet maintaining its willingness to be dictated to completely by the rider/handler with no apparent resistance.

Maximum credit should be given to the trail horse that negotiates its way through an entire course efficiently, in a timely manner, without excessive hesitation, with curiosity, expression, smoothness and style; in a manner that raises the degree of difficulty without sacrificing carefulness, control, and/ or attitude. Ultimately, the trail horse is skillful, eye appealing, confident and leaves one with the impression of being sure, safe and a pleasure to ride over a course of obstacles.

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section.
2. Horses are required to work over and through obstacles on a reasonably light contact without undue restraint or force.
3. No horse may enter the course area until the course and the judge are ready. Exhibitors will be permitted to inspect the course on foot with the judge prior to the start of the class. Amateur and Youth exhibitors may be accompanied by their trainer.
4. Care in preparing the course should be exercised to prevent a direct advantage to either a small or large horse.
5. The judge has a right to alter the course before the first horse begins.
6. Rail work is not required.
7. Two or more horses may be entered by the same exhibitor.
8. After enough horses have completed the course for the ribbons awarded, any horse with a major fault may be eliminated at the judge's discretion, without completing the course.
9. Obvious unsoundness must be disqualified with no prize awarded.
10. Competition management may include an introductory level Obstacle class for either In Hand or Ridden or both. A horse shown in an introductory level Obstacle class may not show in a regular Obstacle class during the same Competition.
11. The course must be posted at least twelve (12) hours before the scheduled starting time for the class.
12. **Youth may NOT show a stallion. No exceptions.**
13. (2019) Nine and Under Division entries must have an attendant who may lead, sidewalk or be present in the center of the arena. This attendant is not allowed to coach or aid the rider but is allowed to control the horse. This division is limited to walk/whoa and walk/trot/jog. Entrants may not cross enter in Youth Division unless there is not a Nine and Under class offered. The horse must be led by an adult 18 years of age or older. **The adult leading the youth must be knowledgeable and comfortable leading/working with equine.** This division will have only four obstacles, cones, ground poles, and boxes (made out of ground poles). No props/decorations.

### Qualifying Gaits and Obstacles

1. Obstacles which may be encountered include, but are not limited to; negotiation of a gate, carrying objects from one part of the arena to another, going through water, over logs or simulated brush, walking down into and up out of a ditch without lunging or jumping, crossing a bridge, backing through obstacles, side passing or performing over any reasonable condition encountered along the trail. However, **unnatural obstacles, such as fire extinguishers, perforated plywood, water boxes, live animals or unsafe elements such as hay bales, should be avoided.**
2. In any section requiring a trot, posting to the trot is optional.

3. The regular course will include a minimum of six obstacles and a maximum of ten obstacles except in the case of damaged obstacles
4. An introductory course will include a minimum of four obstacles and a maximum of six obstacles except in the case of damaged obstacles.
5. A maximum of two obstacles shall be selected from each of the following Sections.

#### **Section A**

- a. Walk-Over – An obstacle of at least four poles measuring 20" to 24" between poles either on the ground or raised with a maximum center height of 10". These can be in a straight line, curved, or zigzag.
- b. Trot-Over – An obstacle of at least four poles measuring 36" to 42" between poles either on the ground or raised with a maximum center height of 10". These can be in a straight line, curved, or zigzag.
- c. Lope –Over – An obstacle of at least four poles measuring 6 to 7 feet apart or multiples thereof. Six feet is preferable for most horses.
- d. Jump – An obstacle designed for a horse to be ridden over, either a Single Jump whose center height is not less than 14" or not more than 24" or a Multiple Jump whose maximum center height is 18". The saddle horn may be held during the execution of this obstacle only.

#### **Section B**

- e. Side Pass – an obstacle of such nature and length which is safe and may be used to demonstrate the responsiveness of the horse to leg signals. If raised, height may not exceed 12". The obstacle may be designed to require the horse to side pass either or both ways or in a pattern. Objects such as bales of hay that may become entangled in the horse's feet or legs will not be permitted.
- f. Lime Circle – Requiring either a turn on the forehand with front feet inside and back feet on outside of a circle or a turn on the haunches with hind feet inside and front feet outside of a circle.
- g. Square – is a minimum 6' sides. Ride into the square. While all four feet are confined in the square make a 360 degree turn and ride out.
- h. Gate – The gate must be set up so that it is a minimum of four feet in length and four feet in height and so that the exhibitor can open from his right or left side. It is permissible to change hands prior to opening the gate if the gate is in such a position as to justify the change of hands on the reins. Riders losing control of the gate while passing through shall be penalized and scored accordingly.

#### **Section C**

- i. Back Through – shall consist of Poles or a Straight L, double L, V, U or similar obstacles. On the ground 30" between minimum; elevated 32" between minimum elevated; height not to exceed 12"  
Back Through can also consist of Barrels or Cones – a minimum of three with at least 36" between  
A Back Through can also be a triangle with 36" between minimum at entry and 40" between minimum for sides. If guardrails are used with barrels, cones, or triangle they shall be 3-4' from the sides of the obstacle



- j. Bridge- with a wooden floor not to exceed 12' in height and with or without side rails not less than 36" apart will be used. A log placed under the bridge to create teeter-tooter effect is not prohibited so long as it is secured to the bridge.
- k. Water Hazard – a ditch or shallow pond of water may be used. A horse must pass through this obstacle which must be large enough so that to properly complete the obstacle all four feet of the horse must step in the water. Management may not place any item in the water. If a box is used, simulated water is permissible. If a water box is used preceeding and in combination with a bridge, simulated water must be used. Simulated water is a plastic sheet secured to the ground, so that it will not become affixed to the horse's foot when a horse passes over the simulated water.

#### Section D

- l. Carrying an Object – Any object, other than animal or fowl and of a reasonable size or weight may be carried to a specific point.
  - m. Drag or Pull – Any object other than animal or fowl which can reasonable be pulled or dragged without the exhibitor having to dally, may be used.
  - n. Slicker – When this obstacle is used it will be located so that the exhibitor can ride to the slicker, put it on and remove it and return it to a designated place. Reins may be held or dropped on the neck of the horse or over the saddle horn while doing so.
  - o. Mail Box – Remove and/or replace items. Side pass is optional.
  - p. Ground Tie – Ride or proceed to the designated place, dismount and drop reins on the withers in front of the saddle or ground tie the horse and move away from the horse a reasonable distance to clearly show the proper training of the horse. To ground tie the reins shall be as follows: Spilt – drop the reins. Romal – remove the reins over the head of horse, unclip off rein and drop. Hackamore – drop lead. A mounting box must be provided.
  - q. Serpentine –An obstacle consisting of four pylons, guardrails optional, through which a horse will maneuver at a walk or jog. Guardrails shall consist of poles places parallel and a minimum of 3' from the side of pylons; walk pylons, minimum 3' apart, base to base. Jog pylons minimum 6' apart, base to base.
  - r. Jog Around – Square consisting of 4 poles, minimum 12 feet long and a pylon placed in the center of the square. Exhibitor will enter over a designated pole, perform a minimum 90 degree jog around the pylon and exit over a designated pole.
  - s. Jog Through – Shall consist of poles L, double L, V, U or similar shaped obstacle. On ground 3' minimum and 4' maximum, elevated 3'3" between minimum and 4'3" maximum. Elevated height shall not exceed 12".
6. If at any time an obstacle is found to be unsafe, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all horses' scores. No horse shall be asked to repeat the course, except in the case of a tie.
  7. The class is to be shown at a walk and trot only. EXCEPTION: Show management may offer a walk, trot/jog, canter/lope Trail Under Saddle class. **The same horse/rider combination may NOT cross enter between the WT/WJ & WTC/WTL Under Saddle Trail classes.**
  8. If an obstacle requires a dismount, a mounting block must be available to remount.
  9. Horses shall be heavily penalized if Off Course. Off Course is defined as:
    - a. Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction
    - b. Negotiation of an obstacle from the wrong side

- c. Skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge
  - d. Negotiating the obstacles in the wrong sequence
  - e. Not following the correct line of travel
10. If a horse refuses to complete an obstacle three times it is considered a fault and the judge will ask the exhibitor to move to the next obstacle.

## Appointments

1. Horses may be shown in any discipline and appointments should reflect the chosen discipline.
  - a. For rules regarding correct Western Trail appointments, refer to Western Pleasure Appointments. The Western rider shall not change hands with the exception of working gates.
  - b. For rules regarding correct English Trail appointments refer to English Pleasure or Hunter Pleasure - Appointments.
  - c. In-Hand Tack - Suitable halter (Leather preferred) (with or without silver trim), leather, cotton or synthetic lead (with or without a chain) to be used. If a chain is used with the lead it must not be run through the horse's mouth or over the horse's nose.
2. Whips are prohibited.
3. **Knotted training type rope halters are not allowed.**

## Attire

1. Dress for handlers and riders should be appropriate for the purpose.
2. The exhibitor shall be dressed safe, neat and clean.
3. Attire may not display a farm or owner's name, horse's name or logo.
4. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.
5. No T-shirts, shorts, skirts, strapless tops or canvas/cloth shoes are allowed.
6. All Youth are required to wear ASTM/SEI certified equestrian safety helmets when riding or driving on show property.
7. Handler's attire may be Western, English or Sport type.
8. Rider's attire may be Western, English or Sport in type.
9. Western attire should consist of a sleeved shirt with collar, jeans or long pants with suitable boots and hat. Belts, gloves, ties, scarves, vests and jackets are optional.
10. English attire may be either breeches or jodhpurs with boots and a shirt with tie or choker. Jackets, vests, gloves, belts and hats are optional. Half chaps are permitted.
11. Sport attire should consist of slacks or khakis with either a shirt or tie or an appropriate shirt. Footwear may be boots, closed toe shoes, or running shoes.

## Judging Criteria and Class Specifications

1. The In Hand exhibitor should attempt to move the horse through the course with a minimal amount of touching. The horse that completes the obstacles with less physical manipulation should be rewarded over one that uses more physical force. Judges should also consider the overall appearance of the horse, conditioning, grooming and the equipment in the overall score. Also to be considered is the correctness of the horse while being led. For safety reasons, those handlers continuously holding the chain on the lead, tightly coiling the lead shank around the hand, or dragging the lead shank must be penalized.

2. Speed will not be rewarded. EXCEPTION: Show management may offer a speed trail or trail challenge class that will be a timed event; however, safety, over speed shall take precedence.
3. Entries will be evaluated on skill, responsiveness, willingness and general attitude.
4. Horses are to be judged on performance, obedience, willingness and manners.
5. Horses are to be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching an obstacle.
6. Judges are encouraged to ask any horse that is taking an excessive amount of time at an obstacle to advance on to the next obstacle.
7. Judges will assign a point value to each obstacle and points will be added to or subtracted from this score based on the horse's performance over that obstacle.

## **PLEASE SEE APPENDIX "A" FOR ADDITIONAL SCORING DETAILS**

### **TRAIL DEFINITIONS**

1. **Knockdown** - When any component, element, or portion of an obstacle is displaced from its original position-by horse or rider/handler.
2. **Refusal** - Any action taken by the horse to avoid performing an obstacle, part of a combination of obstacles or portion of a trail course. These actions may include, but are not limited to the following:
  - a. Balking: (Any action that results in a horse blatantly and continuously refusing a rider's/handler's command).
  - b. Evading or running past an obstacle to be negotiated.
  - c. Each complete loss of the gate determined by the entry letting go of gate or dropping a rope gate.
  - d. Any blatant action by the horse that demonstrates an unwillingness to approach, negotiate and/or complete an obstacle.
3. At the judge's discretion or when a judge has deemed three (3) refusals have occurred at an obstacle the exhibitor will proceed to the next obstacle. (In multiple judging situations the call judge will determine when to instruct the exhibitor to proceed to the next obstacle).
4. Any time a judge instructs an exhibitor to proceed to the next obstacle, a five (5) point penalty will apply for being asked to move to another obstacle and as such is not in accordance with course direction. This penalty is in addition to the two (2) five (5) point penalties received for refusals or blatant disobedience for a total of three (3) five (5) point penalties.
5. **Off Course:**
  - a. Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.
  - b. Deliberately failing to enter, exit or work an obstacle from correct side or direction.
  - c. Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence including skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge.
  - d. Not following the correct line of travel (i.e. the drawn pattern and/or Judge's instruction/direction).
  - e. Pulling the gate when designated to push in course directions (or visa versa) or when using a rope gate, walking through gate when designated to back through (or visa versa).
  - f. Side passing the wrong end of a horse in a slot.
  - g. Riding or leading outside the designated boundary marker of the course.

## WALK/TROT OR WALK/JOG OVER GROUND POLES

### General

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section.
2. Horses are required to work over the ground poles on a reasonably light contact without undue restraint or force.
3. No horse may enter the course area until the course and the judge are ready.
4. The course shall be 5 poles measuring 36" to 42" between poles on the ground with 36" being the recommended height.
5. Rail work is not required.
6. Only one horse may be entered by the same exhibitor.
7. After enough horses have completed the course for the ribbons awarded, any horse with a major fault may be eliminated at the judge's discretion, without completing the course.
8. Obvious unsoundness must be disqualified with no prize awarded.
9. A horse and rider that are off course will be scored a zero.
10. **A Youth may NOT show a stallion. No exceptions.**
11. **Any Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any performance class that includes a lineup** to act as a header at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. The headers will be allowed into the ring at the judge's direction upon completion of all rail work and once the horses/riders have all come into the lineup. Attendants acting as headers must stand back from the horse's head 3-4 feet, must not interfere with the judge(s) and may not touch the horse except in an emergency situation. Headers are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class.

### Appointments

Horses may be shown in either English or Western discipline and appointments should reflect the chosen discipline.

- a. For rules regarding correct Western appointments, refer to Western Pleasure Appointments.
- b. For rules regarding correct English appointments refer to English Pleasure or Hunter Pleasure - Appointments.

### Attire

1. Dress for riders should be appropriate for the purpose.
2. The exhibitor shall be dressed safe, neat and clean.
3. Attire may not display a farm or owner's name, horse's name or logo.
4. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.
5. No T-shirts, shorts, skirts, strapless tops or canvas/cloth shoes are allowed.
6. **All Youth are required to wear ASTM/SEI certified equestrian safety helmets when riding or driving on show property.**
7. Rider's attire may be Western or English.
8. Western attire should consist of a sleeved shirt with collar, jeans or long pants with suitable boots and hat. Belts, gloves, ties, scarves, vests and jackets are optional.
9. English attire may be either breeches or jodhpurs with boots and a shirt with tie or choker.

Jackets, vests, gloves, belts and hats are optional. Half chaps are permitted.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Speed will not be rewarded.
2. Entries will be evaluated on skill, responsiveness, willingness, form, cadence and general attitude.
3. Horses are also to be judged on performance, obedience, willingness and manners.
4. Each entry will begin with a score of 70. The judge will assess penalty points for such things as ticks, hits, moving a pole, double striding, etc... and add or subtract maneuver points as warranted. Bonus points may be given for above average performance.

### **Procedure**

1. All riders shall enter the ring and line up on the rail.
2. At the judge's signal, the first horse shall leave the lineup and approach the Jog/Trot Over Poles at either a jog or trot depending on the discipline being ridden.
3. The entry shall trot/jog the first way over the poles, continue at a jog/trot and make a circle to turn back and trot/jog back over the poles.
4. Once the rider completes the course, they shall return to the lineup until all entries have been through the course.
5. In the event of a tie, the judge may request a tie-breaker ride over the same course.

## **WESTERN DIVISION**

### **WESTERN PLEASURE**

#### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section.
  2. A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for elimination from the class.
  3. **Youth may NOT show a stallion. NO exceptions.**
  4. Any Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any performance class that includes a lineup to act as a header at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. The headers will be allowed into the ring at the judge's direction upon completion of all rail work and once the horses/riders have all come into the lineup. Attendants acting as headers must stand back from the horse's head 3-4 feet, must not interfere with the judge(s) and may not touch the horse except in an emergency situation. Headers are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class.
- 
1. **Nine and Under Division entries must have an attendant who may lead, sidewalk or be present in the center of the arena. This attendant is not allowed to coach or aid the rider but is allowed to control the horse. This division is limited to walk/whoa and walk/trot/jog. Entrants may not cross enter in Youth Division unless there is not a Nine and Under class offered. The horse must be led by an adult 18 years of age or older. The adult leading the youth must be knowledgeable and comfortable leading/working with equine.**

## Qualifying Gaits

1. It is imperative that the horse give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride. A quiet, responsive mouth is paramount. All gaits must be performed with willingness and obvious ease, cadence, balance and smoothness.
2. Exhibitors shall enter the ring at the jog. Horses shall be worked at all gaits including walk, jog and lope with forward propulsion both ways of the ring. Exception: no lope will be required in a Walk Jog Class. **The same horse/rider combination may NOT cross enter between a Walk Jog class and a Walk Jog Lope class at the same Competition in all divisions.**
3. At the judge's discretion, horses may be asked to extend any gait except in Youth Exhibitor classes.
4. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail) and will not be asked to reverse at a lope.
5. In the lineup, horses must stand quietly **and will** be asked to back individually.
6. Light hand contact with the horse's mouth must be maintained at all gaits without undue restraint.
7. A snaffle bit may be used on a horse of any age. The rider must use two hands with a snaffle bit.
8. Standard Western Curb bits are allowed. Riders must use one hand with a curb bit. Reins must be attached to each shank. Split reins or romal reins are allowed.
9. A natural head position is desired. A vertical head carriage is not to be penalized.
10. Unnatural low head position (poll below the withers) will be penalized.

## Appointments

1. Western style saddles, including side saddles (with proper attire), with either square or round skirt with the appropriate western saddle pad. Western style bridle with split reins or closed reins with romal reins are equally acceptable. Breast collars are optional.
2. Stallions must be shown in a bitted bridle, with either smooth snaffle or a Western curb bit. Hackamores and Mechanical Hackamores are not permitted.
3. All tack should be clean, properly fitted and in good repair. Either leather or synthetic is permissible. Silver not to count over clean workmanship style tack.
4. Bits may be smooth snaffle or Western curb. If a curb bit is used, a flat curb chain/strap must also be used. Hackamores with a round, flexible bosal may also be used. Mechanical hackamores are not allowed. **BITLESS BRIDLES ARE NOT PERMITTED.**
5. A standard Western bit is one that has a shank with a maximum overall length of 8 ½ inches. The mouthpiece shall consist of a metal bar which is from 3/8" to 3/4" in diameter, varying from the straight bar to a full spade. Jointed mouthpieces are permitted. Flat leather chinstrap, other than the buckle(s), must be at least ½" in width. Any device made of wire, metal, or rawhide used in conjunction with or as part of leather chinstrap is prohibited. Curb chains are allowed and must be at least ½" in width and lie flat against the jaw. Hackamore or snaffle bits (smooth mouth) will also be permitted. A hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible non-metallic core attached to a suitable headstall. Riders using snaffle bits or hackamores must use two hands.
6. Once a horse is shown in a standard Western bit, it may not go back and be shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore in the Western Division at the same Competition.

7. Split reins or closed reins with romal are equally acceptable. When split reins are used and the ends fall on the side of the reining hand, one finger between the reins is permitted. If the split reins fall on the opposite side of the reining hand, no finger is allowed in between the reins, and the ends must be held at least 16 inches from the reining hand. When closed reins with romal are use, the end may be held by the rider provided it is held at least 16 inches from the reining hand. When a hackamore is used, attached reins may be of hair, rope, or leather.
8. Only one hand must be used around the reins with a horse being shown in a standard Western bit and hands must not be changed during the class. Two hands must be used when a horse is being shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore. See #2 above for bits that are permitted.
9. Martingales or tie downs are prohibited.
10. Whips are not allowed; exception for a side saddle.

### **Attire**

1. Rider's attire must include a long sleeved shirt with collar, jeans or long pants, belt, boots and hat. Optional attire to include tie, scarf, gloves vest, jacket and chaps and spurs.
2. **Protective headgear may be worn by any exhibitor without penalty.**
3. All Youth are required to wear ASTM/SEI certified equestrian safety helmets when riding or driving on show property.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Horses should display a pleasant and natural way of going with an emphasis placed on a pleasurable ride and purity of gaits.
2. Excessive speed or slowness to be severely penalized.
3. Horses will be judged 70% on performance and manners, 20% on condition and 10% on turn out.

### **Horsemanship**

#### **Western Walk Jog Lope Horsemanship**

##### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section.
2. Position and appointments as appropriate to Western Seat 3. **Youth may NOT show a stallion. No exceptions.**
4. Any Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any performance class that includes a lineup to act as a header at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. The headers will be allowed into the ring at the judge's direction upon completion of all rail work and once the horses/riders have all come into the lineup. Attendants acting as headers must stand back from the horse's head 3-4 feet, must not interfere with the judge(s) and may not touch the horse except in an emergency situation. Headers are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class.
5. **Nine and Under Division entries must have an attendant who may lead, sidewalk or be present in the center of the arena. This attendant is not allowed to coach or aid the rider but is allowed to control the horse. This division is limited to walk/whoa and walk/trot/jog. Entrants may not cross enter in Youth Division unless there is not a Nine and Under class offered. The**

horse must be led by an adult 18 years of age or older. **The adult leading the youth must be knowledgeable and comfortable leading/working with equine.**

6. The rider's position, seat, hands, and the correct use of the aids are to be judged. 6. A lack of required tack, equipment or appointments shall result in immediate disqualification.
7. Position and appointments as appropriate to Western Seat.
8. Riders showing with a snaffle bit must use two hands. Riders using a standard Western bit must use one hand on the reins. **BITLESS BRIDLES ARE NOT PERMITTED.**
9. Exhibitors may enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction at the jog.
10. At the judge's discretion, individual work may be required. Instructions must be announced to all exhibitors.
11. If a pattern is used, it must be posted at least 1 hour before the class. A pattern is defined as two or more testes to be ridden concurrently.
12. Tests from which a judge may choose may include the following:
  - a. Back
  - b. Figure eight at the jog or trot
  - c. Figure eight at the lope, with a simple change of lead. This is a change whereby the horse is brought back into a walk or jog trot and restarted into a lope on the opposite lead
  - d. Figures to be commenced in center of two circles so that one change of lead is shown
  - e. Jog or trot and stop, either on or off the rail
  - f. Lope and stop, either on or off the rail, the judge must specify which lead to start on.
  - g. Change leads down center of ring, demonstrating simple change of lead
  - h. Ride a serpentine, demonstrating a simple change of leads at a lope
  - i. Execute a 360 degree turn on the haunches.

## Western Walk Jog Horsemanship

### General

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section.
2. Position and appointments as appropriate to Western Seat 3. **Youth may NOT show a stallion. No exceptions.**
3. Any Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any performance class that includes a lineup to act as a header at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. The headers will be allowed into the ring at the judge's direction upon completion of all rail work and once the horses/riders have all come into the lineup. Attendants acting as headers must stand back from the horse's head 3-4 feet, must not interfere with the judge(s) and may not touch the horse except in an emergency situation. Headers are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class.
4. **Nine and Under Division entries must have an attendant who may lead, sidewalk or be present in the center of the arena. This attendant is not allowed to coach or aid the rider but is allowed to control the horse. This division is limited to walk/whoa and walk/trot/jog. Entrants may not cross**



enter in Youth Division unless there is not a Nine and Under class offered. The horse must be led by an adult 18 years of age or older. **The adult leading the youth must be knowledgeable and comfortable leading/working with equine.**

4. The rider's position, seat, hands, and the correct use of the aids are to be judged.
5. A lack of required tack, equipment or appointments shall result in immediate disqualification.
6. Position and appointments as appropriate to Western Seat.
7. Riders showing with a snaffle bit must use two hands. Riders using a standard Western bit must use one hand on the reins. **BITLESS BRIDLES ARE NOT PERMITTED.**
8. Exhibitors may enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction at the jog.
9. At the judge's discretion, individual work may be required. Instructions must be announced to all exhibitors.
10. If a pattern is used, it must be posted at least 1 hour before the class. A pattern is defined as two or more testes to be ridden concurrently.
11. Tests from which a judge may choose may include the following:
  - a. Back
  - b. Figure eight at the jog or trot
  - c. Jog or trot and stop, either on or off the rail.
  - d. Ride a serpentine at a jog or trot.
  - e. Execute a 360 degree turn on the haunches.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, performance of the horse, appointments of the horse and rider and suitability of the horse to the rider. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are NOT to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them.
2. Equitation is also judged on the ability of the rider to perform on the rail and/or individual pattern work with correct riding position and gaits. Although the horse is only considered a prop in equitation, soundness is a consideration. Obvious lameness will be cause for disqualification.

### **RANCH RIDING**

The purpose of the ranch riding class is to show a working horse's versatility, attitude and movement. The class is also used to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits.

The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins.

The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait.

## General

The primary considerations are the horse's quality of movement and overall manners and responsiveness while performing the required maneuvers. The class should allow the horse to show its ability to work at a forward working speed while under the control of the rider. A horse being shown with light contact should be rewarded.

- a. **No horse younger than 3 years of age can compete in this class.**
- b. **Youth may NOT show a stallion. No exceptions.**
- c. Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers.
- d. Required Maneuvers walk, jog, lope both directions and the extended jog and lope in at least one direction as well as stops, turn to change directions and back. **(Walk Jog classes disregard any Loping details)**
- e. Optional maneuvers: side pass, turn of 360 degree or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, jog or lope over a pole(s) or some reasonable combination for a ranch horse to perform.
- f. The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.
- g. The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as described above with emphasis on forward, free-flowing and ground-covering movements at all gaits. Transitions where designated should be smooth and responsive.
- h. There is no time limit.
- i. A horse that fails to perform a required maneuver will be placed below all other horses that perform all maneuvers.

## Appointments

1. No braided or banded manes.
2. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.
3. It is suggested competitors use a breast collar and a rear cinch.

## Qualifying Gaits

In all gaits, movement of the ranch riding horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. The following terminology shall apply:

1. **Walk** -The walk is a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground-covering. As in all gaits, the horse should display a level or slightly above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.
2. **Trot** - The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.
3. **Extended Trot** - The extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The horse should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with an above level topline.
4. **Lope** - The lope is a three-beat gait. The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.
5. **Extended Lope** - The extended lope is not a run or a race but should be an obvious lengthening of the stride, demonstrating a forward, working speed. The horse should display an above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

## SCORING

Scoring is on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will receive a score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each maneuver will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 1/2 to minus 1 1/2.: -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 good, + 1 very good, + 1 1/2 excellent.

Maneuver scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points.

## PENALTIES

**One point penalties:** Too slow/per gait, Over-bridled, Out of Frame, Break of gait at walk or jog for two strides or less, Split log at lope.

**Three point penalties:** Break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides, break of gait at lope, wrong lead or out of lead, draped reins.

**Five point penalties:** Blatant disobedience (kicking, biting, bucking, rearing etc.)

**Zero Score:** Illegal equipment: hoof black, braided or banded manes, tail extensions, willful abuse, major disobedience or schooling.

No specific penalties will be incurred for nicks/hits on logs or over/under spins, but deduction may be made in the maneuver score.

**Please see Appendix "B" for sample Ranch Riding Patterns**

## LEAD LINE 9 AND UNDER

### General

2. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section and Conformation sections.
3. Rider must be nine years old or younger.
4. The rider may not show in any other riding class in that Competition except in Costume Class, but only if being lead in the Costume Class. The horse can be used in other classes.
5. The horse must be led by an adult 18 years of age or older. **The adult leading the youth must be knowledgeable and comfortable leading/working with equine.**
6. **No stallions are permitted in the class.**
7. The rider must have control of the reins and the horse. Handler must have a lead shank or lead rein connected to a halter and must be able to immediately take control of the horse if required for safety reasons.

### Gaits

1. The horse is to be shown at the walk both directions of the arena and then lined up as directed by the judge or ringmaster.
2. Horses should stand quietly in the lineup and will not be asked to back.

## Appointments

1. Horses may be shown in any discipline and appointments should reflect the chosen discipline
2. **The saddle must be adjusted so that the exhibitor's feet are placed properly in the stirrups.**

## Attire

1. The attire should reflect the chosen seat.
2. **The Rider must wear properly fitting ASTM/SEI protective headgear. The harness must be secured and properly fit.**

## Judging Criteria and Class Specifications

1. The class will be judged and placed as an equitation class. The exhibitor will be judged on his or her basic position in the saddle.
2. The exhibitor will be judged on his or her ability to govern, control and properly exhibit the horse.
3. The rider must be in control of the reins and horse at all times. If needed, the handler should take control of the horse to prevent an accident or loss of control by the exhibitor.
4. At any time during the class, unruly or disruptive horses must be excused from the class at the judge's discretion.
5. All riders in Lead Line 9 and Under will receive a ribbon.

## SPECIALTY CLASSES

### CONCOURS d'ÉLÉGANCE - RIDING

1. The sole criterion for this class is the elegance of the picture presented by horse and rider.
2. Attention must be paid to the rider's personal appearance, but detailed inspection of rider or tack is not required.
3. **Fancy dress or period costume is not permitted.**
4. Competitors are required to walk and job/trot.
5. Silk hats are permitted to be worn by Adults in this class AT ANY TIME OF DAY. Top hats and correct Victorian or Edwardian era hats are encouraged.
6. **Youth may NOT show a stallion. No exceptions.**
7. Any Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any performance class that includes a lineup to act as a header at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. The headers will be allowed into the ring at the judge's direction upon completion of all rail work and once the horses/riders have all come into the lineup. Attendants acting as headers must stand back from the horse's head 3-4 feet, must not interfere with the judge(s) and may not touch the horse except in an emergency situation. Headers are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class.
8. **Youth must wear an ASTM/SEI certified equestrian riding helmet in this class.**
9. Gentlemen may enter this class but must be in correct Victorian or Edwardian attire.

10. This class is inspired by a time when the place to be seen and to show off one's prized horse or elaborate attire was in the park. Horse and rider should give the impression of being elaborately turned out in one's best dress attire for the purpose of making an impression.

### General

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section.
2. This class may be open to include Gypsy Crosses at the discretion of show management.
3. This is not a costume class.

### Gaits

1. Exhibitors shall enter the ring at the jog/trot and shall show on the rail at the walk and jog/trot, working both directions.
2. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail).
3. In the lineup, horses must stand quietly and will be asked to back individually.
4. Light hand contact with the horse's mouth must be maintained at all gaits without undue restraint.

### Appointments

1. Tack may be from any period or region but must meet the safety requirements set forth by show management.
2. Western, Hunt Seat, Dressage or Side Saddles are acceptable with a bridle suitable to the chosen style.
3. Horses may be shown in a snaffle bit, western curb bit or hackamore. Horses may not be shown using a twisted wire, gag bit, mechanical hackamore or halter. Show management reserves the right to dismiss a rider found to be using a bit deemed to be unsafe or cruel to the horse.
4. Horse and tack should not be decorated or costumed.

### Attire

1. Attire must be from the Victorian or Edwardian period.
2. **Protective headgear may be worn by any exhibitor without penalty.**
3. It will be at the Judge's discretion to decide if attire is unsafe or creates an unsafe atmosphere in which case it will be cause for elimination and dismissal from the ring.

### Judging Criteria

1. Class to be judged 75% on rider's attire, 15% on manners and 10% on movement & overall appearance.
2. At any time during the class, unruly or disruptive horses must be excused from the class at the judge's discretion.

### CONCOURS d'ÉLÉGANCE – DRIVING

1. The essence of the competition is the word "Elegance". The winner will be the turnout which presents the most elegant effect as it pertains to the Victorian or Edwardian era. This will include vehicle, harness, appointments, horses, driver, passengers, grooms, etc., but above all, general impression is most important.

2. Attention will be paid to the personal appearance of the driver, grooms and passengers as it contributes to the overall picture.
3. **Fancy dress or period costume is not permitted.**
4. Performance will not be judged unless it detracts from the elegance of the turnout.
5. This class is inspired by a time when the place to be seen and to show off one's prized horse(s) and elaborate attire was in the park. Horse and driver should give the impression of being elaborately turned out in one's best dress attire for the purpose of making an impression.
6. This class is open to singles or multiples.
7. Concours d'Elegance class is not judged as a show or turnout class in the accepted sense. It is more a parade of beautifully presented turnouts, with the awards going to the most elegant and appealing. The judge/s should be looking at the overall picture, rather than fine detail.

## General

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section.
2. This class may be open to include Gypsy Crosses at the discretion of show management.
3. This is not a costume class.
4. Refer to Pleasure Driving section for additional General, Responsibility and Turnout rules.
5. **Youth may NOT show a stallion. No exceptions (added 3/12/17).**
6. **Youth must wear an ASTM/SEI certified equestrian riding helmet in this class.**
7. **Youth must have an experienced adult horseman accompany them at all times while driving and must have a header while in the lineup.**

## Gaits

1. **Walk** is a free walk, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate extension is ideal. The horse should walk energetically, but calmly, with even and determined pace. The walk is a four beat gait.
2. The **Trot** is a two beat gait.
  - a. **Slow Trot:** the horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The trot is slower and more collected, but not to the degree required in the dressage collected trot. The horse should indicate willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence.
  - b. **Working Trot:** this is the pace between strong and slow trot and more round than the strong trot. The horse goes forward freely and straight; engaging the hind legs with good hock action; on a taut, but light rein; the position being balanced and unconstrained. The steps should be as even as possible. The hind feet should touch the ground in the foot prints of the fore feet. The degree of energy and impulsion displayed at the working trot denotes clearly the degree of suppleness and balance of the horse.
  - c. **Strong Trot:** this is a clear, but not excessive, increase in pace and lengthening of stride while remaining well balanced and showing appropriate lateral flexion on turns. Light contact to be maintained. Excessive speed will be penalized.
3. **Halt** – Horses and vehicle should be brought to a complete and square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt, the horses should stand attentive, motionless and straight with the

weight evenly distributed over all four legs and be ready to move off at the slightest indication from the driver.

4. **Rein Back** – is the backward movement in which the legs are raised and set down simultaneously in diagonal pairs with the hind legs remaining well in line. To be performed in two parts:
  - a. The horse must move backward at least four steps in an unhurried manner, with head flexed and straight, pushing the carriage back evenly in a straight line.
  - b. Move forward willingly to original position using the same quiet aids.

### **Judging Criteria**

1. Class to be judged 75% on driver's attire, 15% on manners and 10% on movement & overall appearance.
2. At any time during the class, unruly or disruptive horses must be excused from the class at the judge's discretion.

### **RIDE AND DRIVE**

1. Horse to be worked first in harness as a pleasure driving class. There will then be a gear change in the ring for the ridden section with attention being paid to safety. For safety reasons a groom must be present and hold the horse with a lead throughout the gear change. A few minutes should be allowed for the riders to warm up their mounts.
2. The ridden section will be judged as an English or Western Pleasure class. The driver of the horse does not necessarily have to be the rider.
3. All riders must wear safety helmets and suitable attire. One judge may judge the entire class, or two judges, one covering the driven work and the other the ridden section. The point system for Ride & Drive Class is:
  - Horse in Harness - 50%
  - Hack - 50%
4. The driven section shall always be judged first as a normal show driving class. In the event of a tie after both sections have been judged, the competitor with the highest points in the driven section will be the winner.
5. The horse needs to work in good outline, showing nice ground covering stride, rhythm and tempo.
6. Manners are of particular importance in this event.
7. The rider need not be the driver and can be in the vehicle or waiting in the ring.
8. In the ridden section, the Judge will be looking for a horse with style and manners that goes kindly.
9. The horse to be ridden in a bridle with bit (snaffle or double bridle). Please refer to the English or Western Pleasure rules for appointments and attire.
10. The class may be Walk/Trot – Walk/Jog or Walk/Trot/Canter – Walk/Jog/Lope. In a three-gate class, the horse will be required to walk, trot and canter on both leads, rein back and stand quietly. The ridden work may be judged as an individual work-out or altogether on the rail.
11. The horse should portray an image of going kindly with the style of a show horse, a pleasure to drive and ride.
12. **Youth may NOT show a stallion. No exceptions.**

13. **Youth must wear an ASTM/SEI certified equestrian riding helmet in this class.**
14. **All Youth must have an experienced adult with them at all times while driving and must have a header present during the lineup.**

## Costume

### General

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section.
2. Exhibitor is to give free expression to the imagination and creativity of the presentation.
3. Exhibitors may show individually or as pairs.
4. Horses may be ridden or lead.
5. Ridden horses may have an assistant handler leading them if that attendant is also in costume.
6. Youths may not show in classes with any authentic weaponry, only with "stunt props" made of rubber or other non-metal materials.
7. **Youths may not ride, lead or otherwise handle a stallion in this class.**
8. **Youth that ride or drive a horse in a Costume class are required to wear ASTM/SEI certified equestrian safety helmets.**

### Gaits

1. Exhibitors shall enter in the ring at a walk in a counterclockwise direction.
2. Exhibitors may be asked to halt & stand quietly.
3. Light hand contact must be maintained.
4. Entries are to be shown at the walk both ways of the ring.
5. A ridden/driven division will be shown at a walk and trot in both directions. All gaits should be natural and in conformance with the costume.
6. Horses may not be asked to back.
7. Horses must be under control of the rider (or handler) at all times.
8. Line up position is at the discretion of the Judge.

### Appointments and Attire

1. It will be at the Judge's discretion to decide if a costume is unsafe or creates an unsafe atmosphere in which case it will be cause for elimination.
2. Costumes should be made of durable material and securely attached, such that no part of costume falls off during the class.
3. Regarding appointments, exhibitor safety should be the primary consideration.
4. Horses must be shown with an "approved" bit. Twisted, burr, wire gag bits of any type are not permitted. Curb chains are also allowed and must be at least 1/2 inch in width and lie flat against the jaw. Mechanical Hackamores are prohibited. Ornamental bridles are permitted.  
Running martingales are permitted. Military martingales are permitted on military presentations only. Standing martingales or tie downs are prohibited.
5. All Saddles, Sidesaddles and girths are permissible, as well as "period" or "fantasy" saddles that are deemed safe.



6. Swords and daggers are permitted provided they have a sheath with a secondary guard and remain sheathed at all times. Any other weaponry such as an ax or mace, must be sheathed to prevent injury to exhibitors.
7. Drawing or brandishing swords, daggers or any other weaponry on Competition grounds is not permitted.
8. Lances may not exceed 6 feet in length and must have a blunted point and be carried in the upright position only.
9. Weaponry appointments that cannot be secured by sheath and a secondary guard are to be inspected during the warm up by a technical official prior to class commencement.
10. Articles that are perceived to be important to the overall presentation, which are not permitted due to safety issues, may be substituted with “stunt props” made of rubber or other non-metal materials.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Classes are to be judged on creativity, originality, dramatic and or humorous value and authenticity to period, suitability of costume to horse and handler and manners.
2. Competition management may split the costume class into divisions with one being a ridden/driven division and one being an in-hand division.
3. Manners are paramount.
4. Excessive speed or unsafe conduct is to be severely penalized or disqualified.

## **Liberty**

### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section and Conformation sections.
2. The Liberty class designed to demonstrate the natural beauty, quality of gaits and personality when the horse is free of any restraints. Liberty is not training-intensive; it is more based on natural behavior. The horse is judged on its trot and canter in both directions, using the whole arena. The horse is judged by its natural style and movement, quality of type, grace, action, spirit and ease of catching. Consideration to be given to how the horse performed during his exhibition. Horses willing to “show off” and keep moving with moderate encouragement from the exhibitor and helper are preferred over those that need constant pushing from the exhibitor and helper. The horse should give the impression that he/she is enjoying their Liberty class time and be moving willingly with exuberance and enthusiasm; not so much that he/she is being forced to perform. Personal expression and bucking adds to the performance.
3. Horses must be at least two years old to compete.
4. **Youth exhibitors may not present a stallion.**
5. The presentation must be exactly one and ½ minutes.
6. Music should be included with the entry. Exhibitor is to give free expression to the imagination and creativity of the music and music should be chosen to best represent the horse’s personality.
7. Competitors will compete individually and then leave the ring.
8. The exhibitor and helper, if applicable, enter the arena with the horse. The handler will indicate that he/she is ready for the music to start by raising their hand. At the first sound of music, the

bridle or halter is removed and the horse runs “free” in the arena demonstrating various gaits, along with the music. The music should be timed to exactly one and ½ minutes. Once the music stops, the exhibitor has exactly two minutes to catch and replace the bridle or halter on the horse. A helper may assist in the arena to keep the horse in motion but may not catch the horse or touch the horse at any point in time. Neither the exhibitor nor the helper may touch the horse in any way during the performance. Spectators may not touch the horse in any way during the performance or during the catch period. Standard size lunge whips or shorter are allowed, but must not in any way touch the horse. Bull whips, shakers, flags or noise makers are not allowed. It is recommended that the horse is conditioned to come to the handler by a gesture or cue; however, baiting to catch the horse is not permitted.

9. The exhibitor is responsible for turning the music in to the competition management in a timely manner as stated in the prize list. It is the exhibitor’s responsibility to have the music in an acceptable media form as per management’s requirements, which is stated in the prize list.

## Freestyle Liberty

### General

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section.
2. Exhibitor is to give free expression to the imagination and creativity of the presentation.
3. Exhibitors show individually
4. The presentation must be a minimum of one and a half minutes and a maximum of three minutes.
5. Music and commentary (if applicable) should be included with the entry.
6. This is not a ridden class; performers are allowed to have no more than 3 props and 2 whips. Costumes for the rider or horse are allowed. If it is safe and humane.
7. **Youth exhibitors may not ride a stallion.**
8. **All Youth are required to wear ASTM/SEI certified equestrian safety helmets.**
9. Competitors will compete individually and then leave the ring.
10. Excessive and over-repetitive “trick” training is not allowed.

### Gaits

1. Horses must always be under control of the handler .
2. Horse and handler must work as a partnership moving and following cues willingly.

## Appointments and Attire

1. It will be at the Judge's discretion to decide if a competitor is unsafe or creates an unsafe atmosphere in which case it will be cause for elimination.
2. Exhibitor safety should be a primary consideration.

## Judging Criteria and Class Specifications

1. Classes are to be judged on creativity, originality, dramatic and or humorous value and willingness to perform at liberty.
2. Excessive speed or unsafe conduct is to be severely penalized or disqualified.

## Musical Freestyle

### General

11. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section.
12. Exhibitor is to give free expression to the imagination and creativity of the presentation.
13. Exhibitors may show individually or as pairs.
14. The presentation must be a minimum of one and a half minutes and a maximum of three minutes.
15. Music and commentary (if applicable) should be included with the entry.
16. This is a riding class; however, performers are allowed to dismount as part of the routine. Tack and attire should not interfere with the rider's ability to control the horse at all times. **Costumes for the rider or horse are not allowed.**
17. **Youth exhibitors may not ride a stallion.**
18. **All Youth are required to wear ASTM/SEI certified equestrian safety helmets.**
19. Competitors will compete individually and then leave the ring.
20. Before planning to perform a bridleless freestyle, the exhibitor must contact the show manager to be sure the arena is safe enough and permitted by management.
21. A stallion can be shown bridleless in freestyle riding if the stallion is the only horse in the arena, the ring is fully enclosed, and bridleless freestyle is approved per item 10.
22. Excessive and over-repetitive "trick" training is not allowed.

### Gaits

3. Horses must be under control of the rider (or handler) at all times.
4. Line up position is at the discretion of the Judge.

## Appointments and Attire

3. It will be at the Judge's discretion to decide if a competitor is unsafe or creates an unsafe atmosphere in which case it will be cause for elimination.
4. Exhibitor safety should be a primary consideration.

5. Horses must be shown with an “approved” bit. Twisted, burr, wire gag bits of any type are not permitted. Curb chains are also allowed and must be at least 1/2 inch in width and lie flat against the jaw. Mechanical Hackamores are prohibited. Ornamental bridles are permitted. Running martingales are permitted. Military martingales are permitted on military presentations only. Standing martingales or tie downs are prohibited.
6. All Saddles, Sidesaddles and girths are permissible, as well as “period” or “fantasy” saddles that are deemed safe.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

3. Classes are to be judged on creativity, originality, dramatic and or humorous value and manners.
4. Excessive speed or unsafe conduct is to be severely penalized or disqualified.

### **Command Class – Walk/Trot/Canter and Walk/Jog/Lope**

#### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing and Hoof Section.
2. Horse must be ridden in the discipline specified in the class listing.
3. A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for elimination from the class.
4. **Youth exhibitors may NOT ride a stallion.** All Youth are required to wear ASTM/SEI certified equestrian safety helmets.
5. Any Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any performance class that includes a lineup to act as a header at the discretion of the Youth’s parent(s) or trainer. The headers will be allowed into the ring at the judge’s direction upon completion of all rail work and once the horses/riders have all come into the lineup. Attendants acting as headers must stand back from the horse’s head 3-4 feet, must not interfere with the judge(s) and may not touch the horse except in an emergency situation. Headers are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class.

#### **Gaits**

1. Horses must be under control of the rider at all times.
2. Horses enter the ring counter clockwise at the trot.
3. The judge gives “Commands” and the horse/rider have 3 strides to perform the transition or the command. Any horse/rider that does not is pulled into the center of the ring and is “out”.
4. The judge can ask for walk, trot or jog and canter/lope, reverse, halt, backup. If the judge calls for a ride without stirrups in an English class, riders must be allowed the option to cross stirrups. Other commands may include:
  - a. Turn on the forehand from the walk
  - b. Turn on the haunches from the walk
  - c. Two track
  - d. Work on a loose rein
  - e. When the judge gets down to the final competitors without cause for elimination, they may get creative and call for a counter canter, side pass facing the rail, the center or side

pass to the rail or to the center or other more difficult tasks. Requested work shall be appropriate for walk/trot/canter and walk/jog/lope classes. Safety is paramount and no unsafe commands shall be given.

### **Appointments and Attire**

5. It will be at the Judge's discretion to decide if a competitor is unsafe or creates an unsafe atmosphere in which case it will be cause for elimination.
6. Exhibitor safety should be a primary consideration.
7. Tack and attire must be appropriate to the discipline ridden by the competitor.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

Placements are based on order of elimination (last to be eliminated is 1st place, next is 2<sup>nd</sup>, etc...)

Placements are strictly based on order of elimination due to performing the command, without regard to quality of gait or transitions.

### **Command Class – Walk/Trot and Walk/Jog**

#### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing and Hoof Section.
2. Horse must be ridden in the discipline specified in the class listing.
3. A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for elimination from the class.
5. **Youth exhibitors may not ride a stallion.** All Youth are required to wear ASTM/SEI certified equestrian safety helmets.
6. Any Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any performance class that includes a lineup to act as a header at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. The headers will be allowed into the ring at the judge's direction upon completion of all rail work and once the horses/riders have all come into the lineup. Attendants acting as headers must stand back from the horse's head 3-4 feet, must not interfere with the judge(s) and may not touch the horse except in an emergency situation. Headers are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class.

#### **Gaits**

1. Horses must be under control of the rider at all times.
2. Horses enter the ring counter clockwise at the trot.
3. The judge gives "Commands" and the horse/rider have 3 strides to perform the transition or the command. Any horse/rider that does not is pulled into the center of the ring and is "out".
4. The judge can ask for walk, trot or jog, reverse, halt, backup. If the judge calls for a ride without stirrups in an English class, riders must be allowed the option to cross stirrups. Other commands may include:
  - a. Turn on the forehand from the walk
  - b. Turn on the haunches from the walk
  - c. Two track

- d. Work on a loose rein
- e. When the judge gets down to the final competitors without cause for elimination, they may get creative and call for a side pass facing the rail, the center or side pass to the rail or to the center or other more difficult tasks. Requested work shall be appropriate for walk/trot and walk/jog/ classes. Safety is paramount and no unsafe commands shall be given.

### **Appointments and Attire**

1. It will be at the Judge's discretion to decide if a competitor is unsafe or creates an unsafe atmosphere in which case it will be cause for elimination.
2. Exhibitor safety should be a primary consideration.
3. Tack and attire must be appropriate to the discipline ridden by the competitor.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Placements are based on order of elimination (last to be eliminated is 1st place, next is 2<sup>nd</sup>, etc...)
2. Placements are strictly based on order of elimination due to performing the command, without regard to quality of gait or transitions.

## **FAVORITE GATE – ENGLISH AND WESTERN**

### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, Shoeing and Hoof Section.
2. Horse must be ridden in the discipline specified in the class listing.
3. A lack of required tack, equipment, appointments or attire shall be grounds for elimination from the class.
4. **Youth exhibitors may not ride a stallion.** All Youth are required to wear ASTM/SEI certified equestrian safety helmets.
6. Any Youth, of any age, may have an attendant in any performance class that includes a lineup to act as a header at the discretion of the Youth's parent(s) or trainer. The headers will be allowed into the ring at the judge's direction upon completion of all rail work and once the horses/riders have all come into the lineup. Attendants acting as headers must stand back from the horse's head 3-4 feet, must not interfere with the judge(s) and may not touch the horse except in an emergency situation. Headers are present only for the safety of the Youth showing and may not coach any Youth while in the ring. Any coaching by an attendant will result in the horse/rider being disqualified from that class.

### **Gaits**

1. Horses must be under control of the rider at all times.
2. Horses enter the ring counter clockwise at the walk.
3. At the judge's direction, the horse/rider may be asked to trot or jog and/or then go into the rider's favorite gate.
4. Riders will work both ways of the ring (with the reverse being to the inside of the arena) showing the same favorite gate both ways of the ring.

5. The choice of favorite gate is the rider's and may be any desired gate including extension of any gate. Safety is paramount and any horse/rider that the judge feels is being a danger to themselves and others, will be excused and disqualified from the class. This decision may not be protested.
6. Riders will be asked to line up but will not be asked to back in the lineup.

### **Appointments and Attire**

1. It will be at the Judge's discretion to decide if a competitor is unsafe or creates an unsafe atmosphere in which case it will be cause for elimination.
2. Exhibitor safety should be a primary consideration.
3. Tack and attire must be appropriate to the discipline ridden by the competitor and as specified in the prize list.

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. Unsafe conduct is to be severely penalized or disqualified.
2. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the favorite gait is a major consideration.
3. The favorite gait is also to be evaluated in terms of purity, quality and correctness.
4. Excessive speed, excessive slowness or loss of forward momentum will be penalized.

## **DRIVING DIVISION**

### **PLEASURE DRIVING**

#### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section and Conformation sections.
2. Driving rules are derived from and used with the permission of the American Driving Society. In the case of conflicts, the current Rules of the American Driving Society shall be applied. 3. [https://americandrivingsociety.org/portals/ads/Rulebook/2015\\_clean.pdf](https://americandrivingsociety.org/portals/ads/Rulebook/2015_clean.pdf)
4. **Youth may NOT drive a stallion in this class. No exceptions.**

#### **Definitions**

1. Driver is the person controlling the reins and whip and brake.
2. Groom is the person capable of assisting in the event of difficulty.
3. Turnout refers to the combination of driver, horse(s), groom(s) and vehicle exhibiting in classes.

#### **Responsibilities**

1. It is the responsibility of each driver to ensure that harness and vehicle are in good repair and structurally sound.
2. The driver should always be the first person to enter the vehicle and the last to leave. Passengers must never be left on the vehicle while the driver is dismounted unless the passenger has taken control of the reins.

3. Drivers should maintain a safe distance from other vehicles during the competition and in the warm-up and parking areas.
4. **All Youth in all driving competitions, whether driver, groom, or passenger, must wear properly fastened protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM/SEI standards for equestrian use. It must be properly fitted with harness secured. Failure to comply will result in elimination. All competitors are strongly encouraged to wear ASTM/SEI approved protective headgear, and no participant will be penalized for wearing protective headgear.**
5. **All youth MUST have an adult with driving experience riding with them in the cart at all times.**
6. Whenever fully harnessed to a vehicle and while being harnessed to a vehicle, a horse must wear a bridle with reins attached and passed through the saddle terrets. Exceptions: a. Once a horse is fully harnessed to a vehicle, one rein at a time may be adjusted  
b. Horses in multiple hitches must have at least one rein attached to the bridle while being harnessed to a vehicle.
7. The horse must never be left unattended while put to a vehicle 8. No change of driver is permitted except where specified.
9. It is preferred the driver sit on the right-hand side of the vehicle.
10. The driver should be seated comfortably on the box so as to be relaxed and effective. Either the one or two handed method of driving is acceptable. Common to methods, the elbows and arms should be close to the body with an allowing but steady hand enabling a consistent "feel" of the horse's mouth. Drivers should not be penalized or rewarded for using one style over another.
11. An appropriate whip shall be carried in hand at all times while driving. The thong on the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the farthest horse. A driver not in compliance will be severely penalized.
12. The driver should perform whip salute in one of two ways:
  - a. By moving the whip, held in the right hand, to a vertical position, the butt end even with the face.
  - b. By moving the whip, held in the right hand, to a position parallel with the ground, the handle before the face.

The whip salute is appropriate at the start and finish of an individual test or at the beginning and end of a dressage test.
13. A gentleman may place the whip in his left hand and remove his hat.
14. A groom is optional for a single horse turnout.
15. One groom is required for a pair or tandem to assist in the event of difficulty.
16. Two grooms are required for four –in-hands or unicorns to assist in the event of difficulty.
17. Passengers are permitted in vehicles, but must be appropriately dressed and must wear a hat.  
**Youth must wear properly fastened protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM/SEI standards for equestrian use.**
18. Headers are permitted in driving classes. Headers must position themselves squarely two to three feet in front of the horses head. Headers shall stand still with hands behind their back. Should it become necessary to restrain a horse prior to the completion of judging, the judge shall penalize that entry. Judges shall also penalize any entry whose header disturbs or distracts any horse. Headers shall be neatly dressed in English, Western or Traditional attire, whichever is appropriate for the class. **All Youth drivers must have a header.**



## Attire-Drivers

1. Drivers and passengers should be dressed conservatively according to the style of the present day. Exception: when showing traditional Gypsy vehicles, drivers and passengers may dress accordingly.
2. Gentlemen must wear a coat or jacket while appearing in any class unless excused from doing so by the judge or competition management.
3. Gentlemen are requested to remove hats while accepting awards.
4. Ladies must wear a conservative dress, tailored suit, or slacks. Floppy hats are discouraged.
5. Drivers must wear a hat and gloves. Apron or Knee rug is optional.
6. **Protective head gear is acceptable in all classes.**

## Attire-Grooms

1. Grooms of either sex may wear stable livery in any but the more formal vehicles where full livery is appropriate. Where it is specifically allowed in the Prize List, less formal attire may be appropriate, but it should always be neat and clean. In all classes grooms shall wear a hat or protective headgear.
2. Stable Livery consists of one of the following;
  - a. A conservative suit, white shirt, dark tie, derby, dark shoes and leather gloves.
  - b. A conservative jacket, jodhpurs or drill trousers, jodhpur or paddock boots, white shirt, stock or four-in-hand tie, leather gloves, derby or conservative cap.
  - c. Hunting attire with hunting derby or bowler.
  - d. **Protective headgear is acceptable in all classes.**

## Turn Out for the Horse

1. Braiding of the mane is optional.
2. Tails are not braided
3. It is prohibited to tie a tail to a vehicle or harness
4. The application of supplemental hair to mane or tail is prohibited.
5. Use of any foreign substance to induce a high tail carriage is prohibited.
6. Bridles should fit snugly.
7. Throatlatch and noseband are mandatory.
8. Both leather and synthetic harness are equally acceptable.
9. Black Harness is considered appropriate with painted vehicles, with the shafts or pole trimmed in black.
10. Black Harness is considered appropriate with natural wood vehicle with iron parts painted any color except brown, shaft and pole trimmings, dash and fenders are done in black.
11. Russet harness is considered appropriate with a natural wood vehicle with brown or black trim.
12. Russet harness is considered appropriate with a painted vehicle with natural wood panels with any color iron or with a vehicle painted brown with brown iron.
13. Shaft and pole trimmings should match the harness.
14. All metal furnishings should match, be secure, and polished.
15. Breast collars are appropriate with lightweight vehicles.
16. Full collars are suggested for heavy vehicles such as bow-tops, coaches, brakes, dog carts, etc.
17. A wide saddle is suggested for a two wheeled vehicle as more weight rests on the horse's back.
18. Narrower saddles are more appropriate for four wheeled vehicles.

19. Tying of tongues is prohibited.
20. Each horse requires a bridle with a bit. Burr, gag, and twisted wire bits of any type are not permitted in competition.
21. Drivers should strive to present an appropriate turnout. "Appropriate" indicates a balance and pleasing appearance of the combination of horse and vehicle.
22. Show management can specify that wire wheels and pneumatic tire type carts are acceptable. The exhibitor must check in advance with show management.
23. False martingales are permitted in all classes. Standing martingales are allowed for Stanhope type or Park Gate Gig vehicles.

## Gaits

5. **Walk** is a free walk, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate extension is ideal. The horse should walk energetically, but calmly, with even and determined pace. The walk is a four beat gait.
6. The **Trot** is a two beat gait.
  - d. **Slow Trot:** the horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The trot is slower and more collected, but not to the degree required in the dressage collected trot. The horse should indicate willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence.
  - e. **Working Trot:** this is the pace between strong and slow trot and more round than the strong trot. The horse goes forward freely and straight; engaging the hind legs with good hock action; on a taut, but light rein; the position being balanced and unconstrained. The steps should be as even as possible. The hind feet should touch the ground in the foot prints of the fore feet. The degree of energy and impulsion displayed at the working trot denotes clearly the degree of suppleness and balance of the horse.
  - f. **Strong Trot:** this is a clear, but not excessive, increase in pace and lengthening of stride while remaining well balanced and showing appropriate lateral flexion on turns. Light contact to be maintained. Excessive speed will be penalized.
7. **Halt** – Horses and vehicle should be brought to a complete and square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt, the horses should stand attentive, motionless and straight with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs and be ready to move off at the slightest indication from the driver.
8. **Rein Back** – is the backward movement in which the legs are raised and set down simultaneously in diagonal pairs with the hind legs remaining well in line. To be performed in two parts:
  - a. The horse must move backward at least four steps in an unhurried manner, with head flexed and straight, pushing the carriage back evenly in a straight line.
  - b. Move forward willingly to original position using the same quiet aids.

## Judging Criteria and Class Specifications

1. Large classes may be split by the judge or competition management into more manageable groups.
2. The judge or competition management has discretion as to how the division is made, keeping the following in mind, when applicable;
  - a. Separation of multiple and single entries
  - b. Separation of 2 and 4 wheeled vehicles

- c. Traditional gypsy vehicles to include Vardo (either wood sided or canvas bow-top), Dray, Pot Cart, Flat Cart, or Whoopi Cart can only be shown in a separate Traditional Vehicle class.
  - d. Ladies to Drive
  - e. Gentlemen to Drive
  - f. Amateur to Drive
  - g. Youth to Drive **(may not drive stallions and must be accompanied by a knowledgeable adult horseman at all times. All Youth in all competitions must wear properly fastened protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM/SEI standards for equestrian use. It must be properly fitted with harness secured.) All Youth drivers must have a header.**
  - h. Stallion/Gelding
  - i. Mare
3. Management has the option to have final placing determined by working off the leaders of each section or by awarding duplicate ribbons and/or awards for each section as if they were a separate class.
  4. A pleasure driving competition is judged primarily on the performance and quality of each turnout.
  5. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot and working trot.
  6. A break in gait shall incur a penalty.
  7. Any outside assistance incurs elimination.
  8. No entry may leave the ring after judging has begun without permission from the judge.
  9. Entries chosen for a work off may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a figure eight and/or perform other appropriate tests.
  10. Management may restrict Combined Driving marathon vehicles from participation in Pleasure Driving competitions.
  11. Wire-wheel and pneumatic-tired vehicles may be permitted only at management's discretion and must be specified in the Omnibus/Prize List: Exceptions: antique vehicles with long wire spokes and hard rubber tires are allowed in this class.

### Turnout Class

1. A Pleasure Driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the performance and quality of each turnout.
2. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. To stand quietly and to rein back.
3. To be judged: 70% on the condition, fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle, spares and appointments, neatness and appropriateness of attire and overall impression. 30% on performance, manners and way of going.

### Working Class

4. A Pleasure Driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the suitability of the horse to provide a pleasant drive.
5. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. To stand quietly, both on the rail and while lined up and to rein back.
6. All entries chosen for a workout may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute appropriate tests.

7. To be judged: 70% on performance, manners and way of going of the horse(s). 20% on the condition and fit of harness and vehicle. 10% on neatness of attire.

### Reinsmanship

1. A Pleasure Driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the ability and skill of the driver.
2. To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. Drivers shall be required to rein back.
3. All drivers chosen for a workout may be worked at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute appropriate tests.
4. The driver should be seated comfortably on the box so as to be relaxed and effective.
5. Either the one- or two-handed method of driving is acceptable. Common to both methods, the elbows and arms should be close to the body with an allowing but steady hand enabling a consistent "feel" with the horse's mouth. Drivers should not be penalized or rewarded for using one general style over another.
6. To be judged: 75% on handling of reins and whip, control, posture, and overall impression of driver and 25% on the condition of harness and vehicle and neatness of attire

### Cones and Obstacles Classes

Please refer to the ADS (American Driving Society) rules at:

[https://americandrivingsociety.org/portals/ads/Rulebook/2015\\_clean.pdf](https://americandrivingsociety.org/portals/ads/Rulebook/2015_clean.pdf)

## GROUND DRIVING IN HARNESS

### General

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Qualifications section, Shoeing, Hoof Section and Conformation sections.
2. Driving rules are derived from and used with the permission of the American Driving Society. In the case of conflicts, the current Rules of the American Driving Society shall be applied.

### Definitions

1. Driver is the person controlling the reins and whip.
2. Turnout refers to the combination of driver and a horse exhibiting in the class.

### Responsibilities

1. It is the responsibility of each driver to ensure that the harness is in good repair.
2. Drivers should maintain a safe distance from other vehicle and ground driven horses and drivers during the competition and in the warm-up and parking areas.
3. **Youth may NOT show a stallion in this class. No exceptions.**
4. **All Youths in all competitions must wear property fastened protective headgear which meets or exceeds current ASTM/SEI standards for equestrian use. It must be properly fitted with harness secured. Failure to comply will result in elimination. All Youth drivers must have a header.**

5. **All competitors are strongly encouraged to wear ASTM/SEI approved protective headgear, and no participant will be penalized for wearing protective headgear.**
6. A horse must wear a bridle with reins attached and passed through the saddle terrets.
7. No change of driver is permitted except where specified.
8. An appropriate whip shall be carried in hand at all times while driving. The thong on the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the farthest horse. A driver not in compliance will be severely penalized.
9. A gentleman may place the whip in his left hand and remove his hat.

### Attire-Drivers

1. Drivers should be dressed conservatively according to the style of the present day.
2. Gentlemen must wear a coat or jacket while appearing in any class unless excused from doing so by the judge or competition management.
3. Gloves are required.

### Turn Out for the Horse

1. Braiding of the mane is optional.
2. Tails are not braided.
3. It is prohibited to tie a tail to a harness
4. The application of supplemental hair to mane or tail is prohibited.
5. Use of any foreign substance to induce a high tail carriage is prohibited.
6. Bridles should fit snugly.
7. Throatlatch and cavesson are mandatory.
8. Black Harness or russet harness is considered appropriate.
9. Tying of tongues is prohibited.
10. Each horse requires a bridle with a bit. Burr, gag, and twisted wire bits of any type are not permitted in competition.
11. Drivers should strive to present an appropriate turnout. "Appropriate" indicates a balance and pleasing appearance of the combination of horse and driver.
12. False martingales are permitted in all classes.

### Gaits

1. **Walk** is a free walk, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate extension is ideal. The horse should walk energetically, but calmly, with even and determined pace. The walk is a four beat gait.
2. The **Trot** is a two beat gait
  - a. **Slow Trot:** the horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The trot is slower and more collected, but not to the degree required in the dressage collected trot. The horse should indicate willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence.
3. **Halt** – Horses and vehicle should be brought to a complete and square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt, the horses should stand attentive, motionless and straight with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs and be ready to move off at the slightest indication from the driver.

## **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. To be shown both ways of the arena in the pattern posted at a walk and slow trot or jog
2. Entries chosen for a work off may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the judge, and may be asked to execute a figure eight and/or perform other appropriate tests.
3. Scoring shall be 70% on performance, quality of horse, and manners; 20% on condition of the horse and fit of the harness 10% on neatness of attire.

## **APPENDIX "A"**

# **TRAIL HORSE UNDER SADDLE AND IN-HAND TRAIL**

## **SCORING PROCEDURES**

1. The class conduct and scoring system procedures stated herein shall be used in adjudication of all Trail classes. Competition Management shall provide scribe(s) at judge(s) request.
2. When a judge is adjudicating in a multiple judge system, the scores should be transferred to the ring steward or clerk in a manner that the other judges do not hear their score.
3. The prescribed score sheet may be used. Obstacle scores and any penalties will be totaled to arrive at a final score.
4. Score sheets must be posted.
5. Judge(s) may review official video (if available) on no score, zero, 10 point, or 5 point penalties only.

### **TRAIL SCORING - General**

All horses enter the arena with a score of 70. With each obstacle, the judge will instruct a scribe to assign a score as well as any appropriate penalties if one or more occurs. At the end of the work, obstacle scores will be totaled. Any penalties will then be subtracted to arrive at a final score. All horses are judged from the time they enter the arena until the completion of the last obstacle.

Each obstacle will be scored as follows; half point increments can be used from +3 to -3:

**+3 EXCELLENT:** The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form with definite style. The horse performs in an efficient manner with curiosity and athleticism, while maintaining the qualities of an ideal trail horse. The horse's performance over the obstacle is **VISUALLY IMPRESSIVE**.

**+2 VERY GOOD:** The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form with noticeable style. This horse definitely displays many qualities of the ideal trail horse. The horse's performance over the obstacle is **VISUALLY ATTRACTIVE**.

**+1 GOOD:** The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form with some degree of style. This horse may display some qualities of the ideal trail horse, but lacks those qualities to the degree they are exhibited by the Very Good or Excellent performer. The horse's performance over the obstacle is **VISUALLY PLEASING**.

**0 AVERAGE:** For the most part, horse approaches and negotiates obstacle in correct form. Minimal style is exhibited. If the horse's performance displays any qualities of the ideal trail horse they are negated by slight errors in form. The horse's performance over the obstacle leaves a visually **NEUTRAL IMPRESSION**.

**-1 POOR:** The horse fails in some way to approach and/or negotiate obstacle in correct form. There is a noticeable void in some of the qualities of the ideal trail horse. Willingness to guide or control may have been compromised but not safety.

**-2 VERY POOR:** The horse approaches and negotiates obstacle, but noticeably fails to do so in correct form. There is a definite deficiency in the qualities of the ideal trail horse. Safety may have been compromised. The horse exhibits noticeable resistance.

**-3 EXTREMELY POOR:** The horse approaches and/or negotiates obstacle in unacceptable form, but avoids elimination. This horse's performance is probably reckless, careless, and/or dangerous. The horse exhibits significant resistance towards the rider's commands.

## **SCORING PENALTIES**

In addition to the obstacle score, each entry may incur penalties for the following infractions:

### **NO SCORE**

- a. Illegal equipment. This includes any attachment which alters the movement of or circulation to the tail.
- b. Abuse to the animal inside or outside the competition arena and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred. This includes lameness and/or fresh blood in the mouth, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank or hip areas.
- c. Disrespect or misconduct by exhibitor.
- d. No whips allowed in In-Hand Trail.

### **ZERO SCORE**

- a. Off course including:
  1. Pulling gate when designated to push in course directions (or vice versa) or when using a rope gate, walking through the gate when designated to back through (or vice versa)
  2. Side passing the wrong end of horse in slot
  3. Working obstacles out of sequence
  4. Deliberately failing to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction
  5. Riding/leading outside designated boundary marker of the course

- b. Fall of horse or rider.
- c. Equipment failure or loss of shoe that delays completion of course.
- d. Dropping a rein or the lead that contacts the ground while the horse is in motion.
- e. Two hands on reins (Exception: Snaffles or Hackamore) or changing hands on reins; only one hand may be used on the reins, except that it is permissible to change hands to work obstacle. **Exception: Does not apply for English Riders or In-Hand Trail.**
- f. More than one finger between split reins. **Exception: Does not apply for English Riders or In-Hand Trail.**
- g. Fingers between closed reins. **Exception: Does not apply for English Riders or In-Hand Trail.**
- h. Failure to maintain 16 inches of rein between hands when using romal reins except to work an obstacle. **Exception: Does not apply for English Riders or In-Hand Trail.**
- i. Baiting is not allowed in In-Hand Trail.

**Note:** Neither a “no score” nor a “zero score” penalty may receive an award in that class. A “zero” score may advance in a multiple-go event.

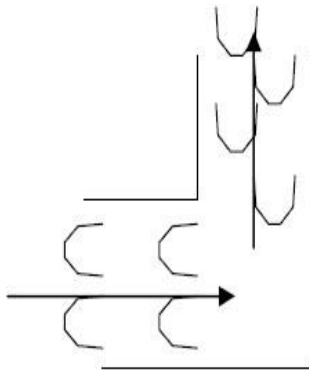
#### **10-POINT PENALTIES**

- a. Temporary loss of control, stampeding, running through or jumping over entire obstacle when jump is not called for. This penalty can be awarded when an entry has completed an obstacle and has sufficiently destroyed the obstacle or where it is impossible to ascertain if the obstacle has been completed in any manner.
- b. Blatant disobedience (kicking, bucking, rearing, biting, striking, horse leaving designated ground tie area).

#### **5-POINT PENALTIES**

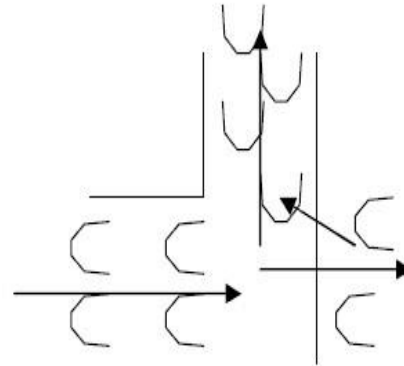
- a. Each refusal. Refusals are cumulative. After three (3) refusals at a single obstacle or when deemed necessary by the judge, the judge will ask the contestant to proceed to the next obstacle for a total of 15 penalty points. When the refusal is the result of a complete loss of the gate the entry may retrieve the gate and continue. If they are unable to retrieve the gate and the judge asks them to move on they will have been deemed to have earned three refusals for a total of three (3) five (5) point penalties.
- b. Horse places two or more hooves outside of a confining element.





CORRECT

EXAMPLE # 1:  
Backing an "L"  
configuration.

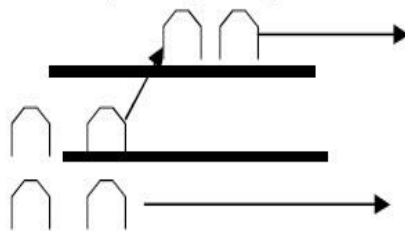


5 POINT PENALTY



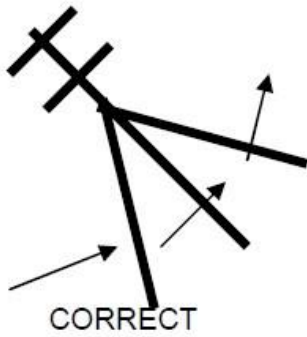
CORRECT

EXAMPLE # 2:  
Sidepassing to Right

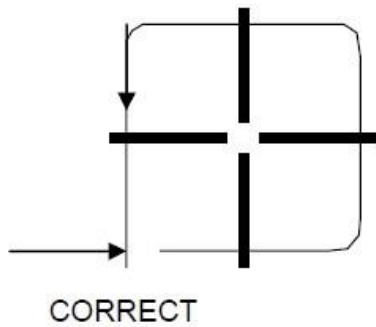
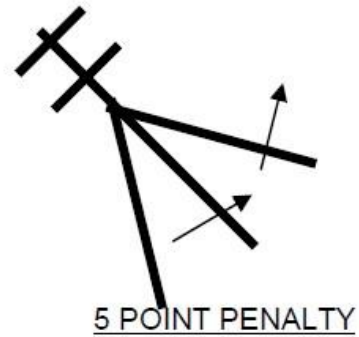


5 POINT PENALTY

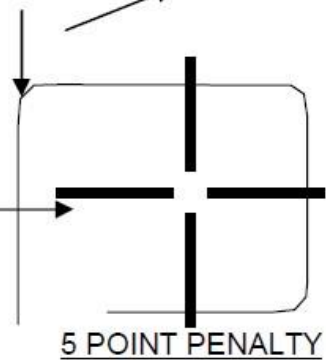
- c. Horse misses/evades an element/component of an obstacle that is part of a series.



EXAMPLE # 1:  
Walk/Overs



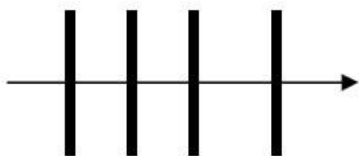
EXAMPLE # 2:  
Lope/Over Spoke



- d. Rider/handler loses drag or object being carried.
- e. Horse places one hoof off side of bridge or falling off side of bridge.
- f. Horse performs obstacle at the wrong gait or lead.
- g. Rider spurring or obvious cueing or touching of horse in front of forward cinch.
- h. Handler touching the horse with either hand in In-hand unless instructed by the judge or performing a side pass.

**2 POINT PENALTIES**

- a. Horse/handler knockdowns or obviously displacing the original configuration of an obstacle.



Horse A completes obstacle with no more than Light ticks. NO PENALTY

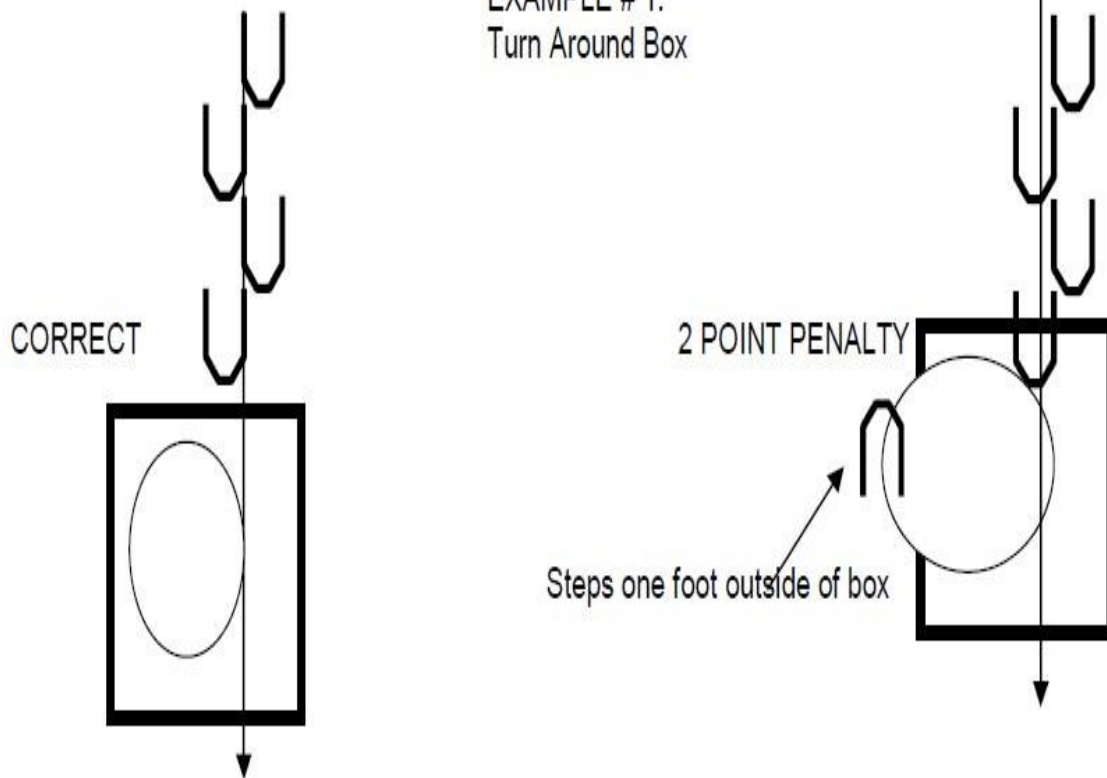
EXAMPLE:  
Lope/Overs



Horse B noticeably displaces original configuration of poles. 2 POINT PENALTY

- b. Horse places one hoof outside of a confining element.

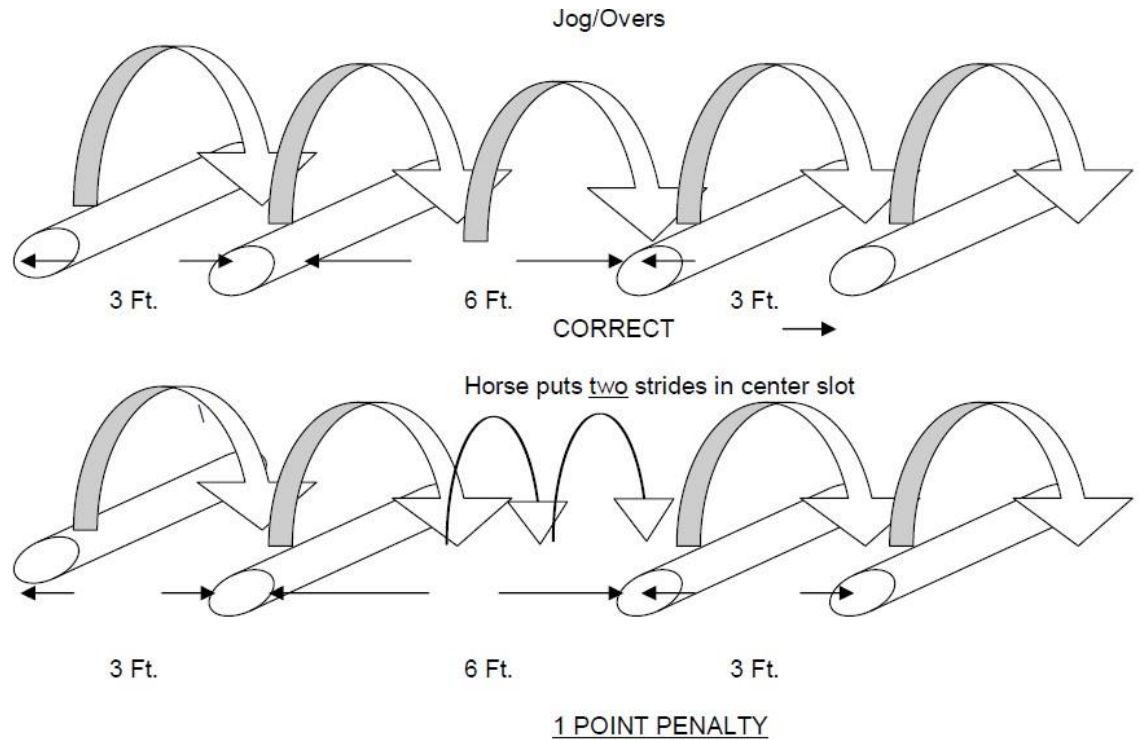
EXAMPLE # 1:  
Turn Around Box



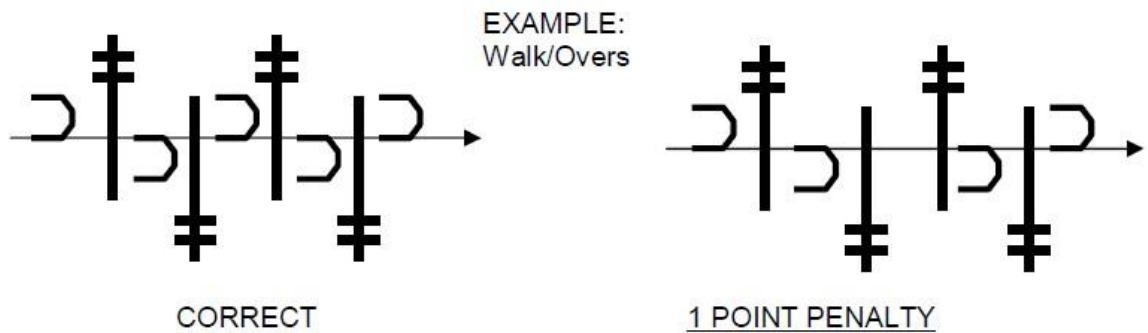
- c. Horse breaks gait for more than two strides. When an entry is transitioning down from a lope to a walk, a couple of steps of jog is acceptable and will not result in a penalty; however, the judge may take that transition into consideration in the maneuver score. The same would be for when a horse momentarily hesitates before undertaking a series of walkovers, working the bridge or any other maneuver from the walk. A momentary halt is not considered a break of gait and in fact is desired. If the entry takes two or more steps back it would be considered a refusal and be subject to a five (5) point penalty.
- d. Rider holds saddle with free hand. (Exception: over a jump, elevated jog over(s) or elevated lope over(s).
- e. Horse approaches obstacle at wrong gait or lead. During transition areas between obstacles, if horse is, for instance, loping where a jog is called for, or jogging where a walk is called for, a two point penalty has occurred.

**1 POINT PENALTIES**

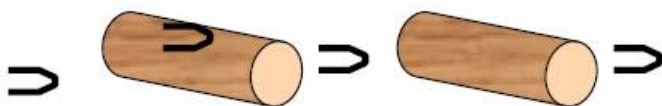
- f. Horse double strides or adds strides or adds steps. (Walk overs, jog overs, lope overs, tires).



g.  
Horse skips slot (walk overs, jog overs, lope overs, or tires).



- c. Major hit or stepping on an element of an obstacle, log, pole, cone or obstacle by horse/handler.



- d. Each time horse switches leads where not called for, picking up wrong leads or cross cantering. NOTE: If a horse switches leads and must be broken down to correct the lead, then two penalties have been incurred (The first for switching leads (1 point) and the

second for breaking of gait (1 or a two point penalty depending on the number of strides)

- e. Horse breaks gait for two strides or less. When an entry is transitioning down from a lope to a walk, a couple of steps of jog is acceptable and will not result in a penalty however the judge may take that transition into consideration in the maneuver score. The same would be for when a horse momentarily hesitates before undertaking a series of walkovers, working the bridge or any other maneuver from the walk. A momentary halt is not considered a break of gait and in fact is desired. If the entry takes two or more steps back it would be considered a refusal and be subject to a five (5) point penalty.

### **QUALITIES OF AN IDEAL TRAIL HORSE**

- 1. Form and Style - Form** is performing an obstacle in the correct standard method appropriate for that obstacle. **Style** is the unique manner in which a horse demonstrates its ability to perform a course.
- 2. Attention and Alertness - Attention** is willingly approaching an obstacle without disinterest or indifference. **Alertness** is the exhibition of being bright and inquisitive up to and through the obstacles.
- 3. Smoothness - Smoothness** is traversing between and through obstacles on a trail course in an even, uninterrupted movement and/or flow.
- 4. Good Attitude/Disposition - A good attitude/disposition** is the expressing a desire by the horse to negotiate obstacles and respond to the rider. Furthermore, it is the manner in which the horse demonstrates its good manners and temperament.
- 5. Authority and Courage - Authority and courage** is expressed by approaching a formidable obstacle without hesitation and negotiating said obstacle without incident or reversal of good attitude.
- 6. Willingness and Control - Absolute willingness** is being dictated to completely by the rider without any signs of resistance. The horse must exhibit a high degree of obedience to the rider's cues and/or commands.
- 7. Clean** - The horse/rider is said to be 'clean' by negotiating an obstacle without coming in contact with any part of portion of said obstacle.
- 8. Degree of Difficulty** - The amount of skill necessary to negotiate an obstacle, whether it is in the components of the obstacle or in the selection of approaches and/or angles in which an obstacle is taken.
- 9. Athleticism** - The ability to negotiate an obstacle, or series of obstacles in a fashion that raises the degree of difficulty without compromising style/form, smoothness, attitude/disposition, authority/courage, willingness/control or cleanness.

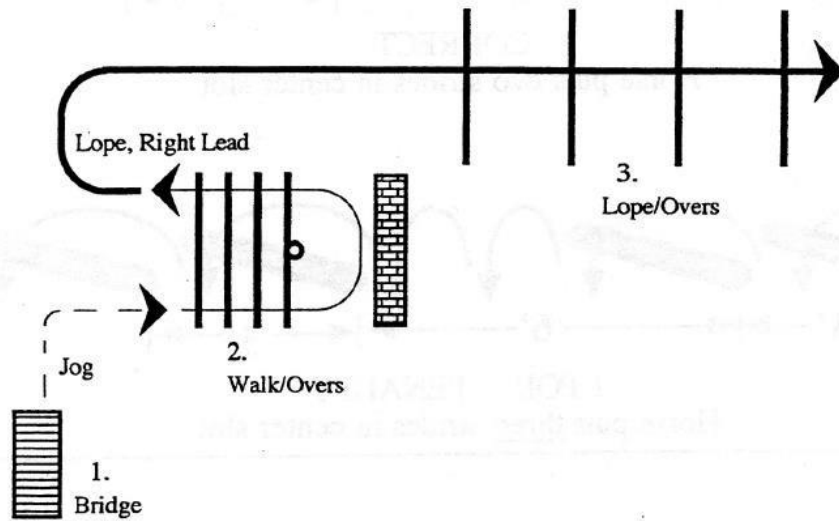
### **THINGS FOR THE JUDGE TO CONSIDER BEFORE THE CLASS STARTS**

1. Obtain a copy of the course(s), request a scribe (if desired) in advance of classes, set up a score sheet.
3. Walk the course and make sure you know it and that you will be able to answer any questions from exhibitors when they walk it.
4. When you walk the course, inspect the course. Although the judge may or may not be the course designer he/she is ultimately responsible for the course.
5. Make sure someone is available to reset obstacles after each work and that they have a copy of the course with dimensions.
6. Inform gate person and exhibitors where you expect each entry to be in the arena when it is that entry's turn in the work order.
7. Course and work order (if used) must be posted 12 hours prior to class.

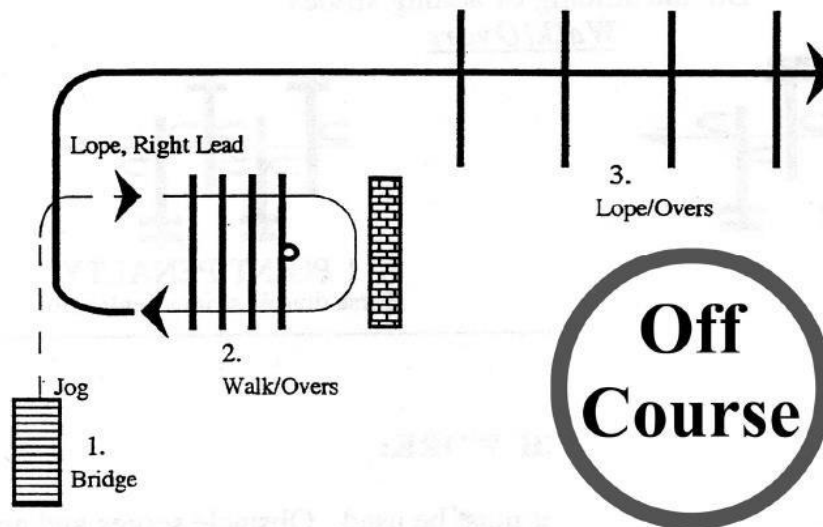
# Off Course?

## EXAMPLE #1: Taking An Obstacle From The Wrong Direction.

*The course directions are as follows:*



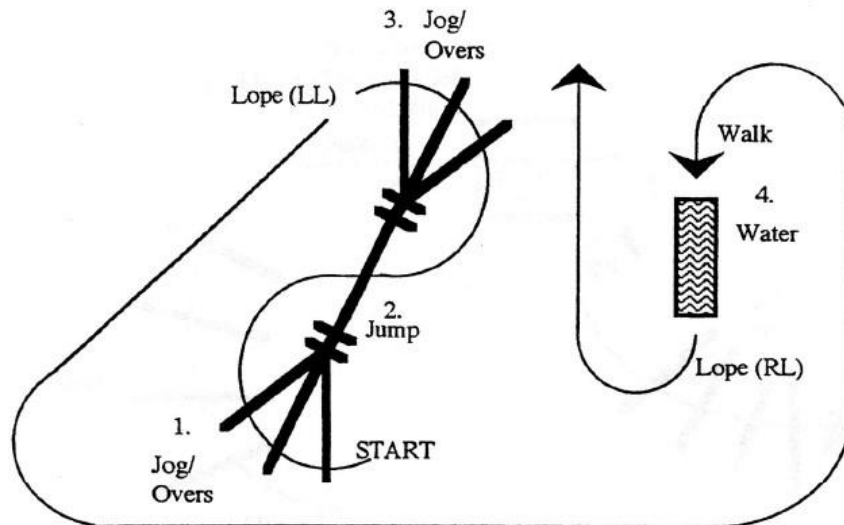
*Instead, you did this:*



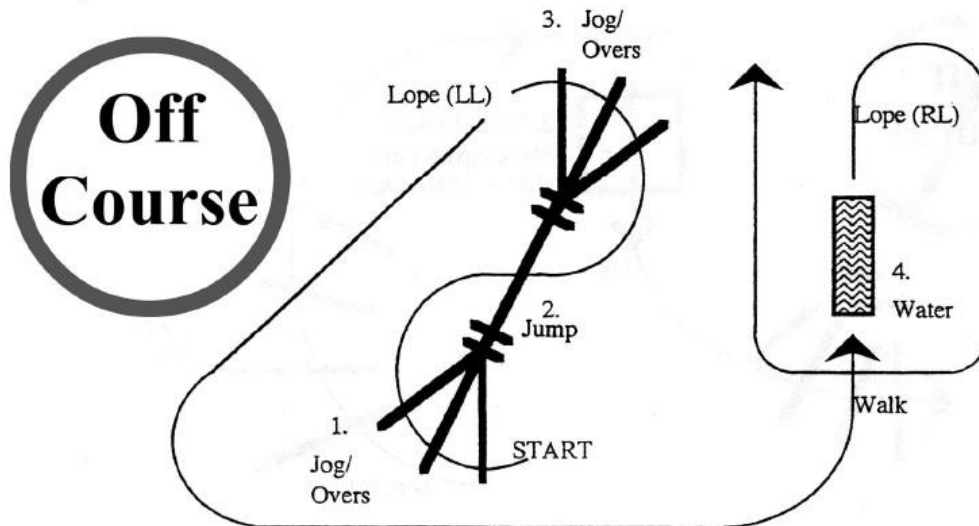
## Off Course?

### EXAMPLE #2: Negotiating An Obstacle From The Wrong Side.

*The course directions are as follows:*



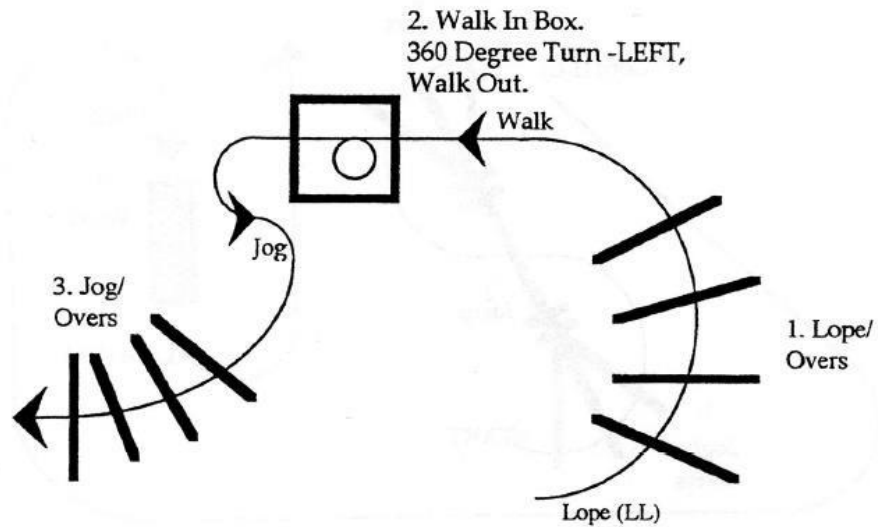
*Instead, you did this:*



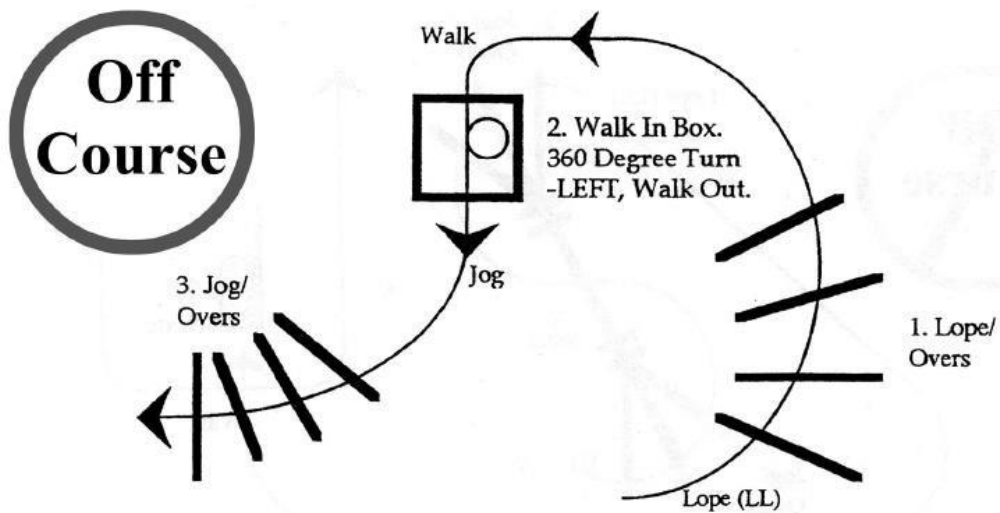
## Off Course?

### EXAMPLE #2a: Negotiating An Obstacle From The Wrong Side.

*The course directions are as follows:*



*Instead, you did this:*

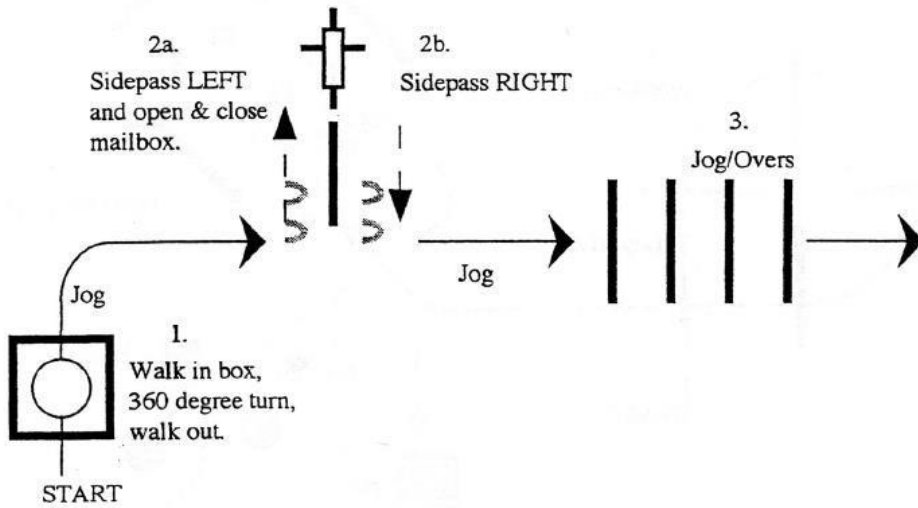




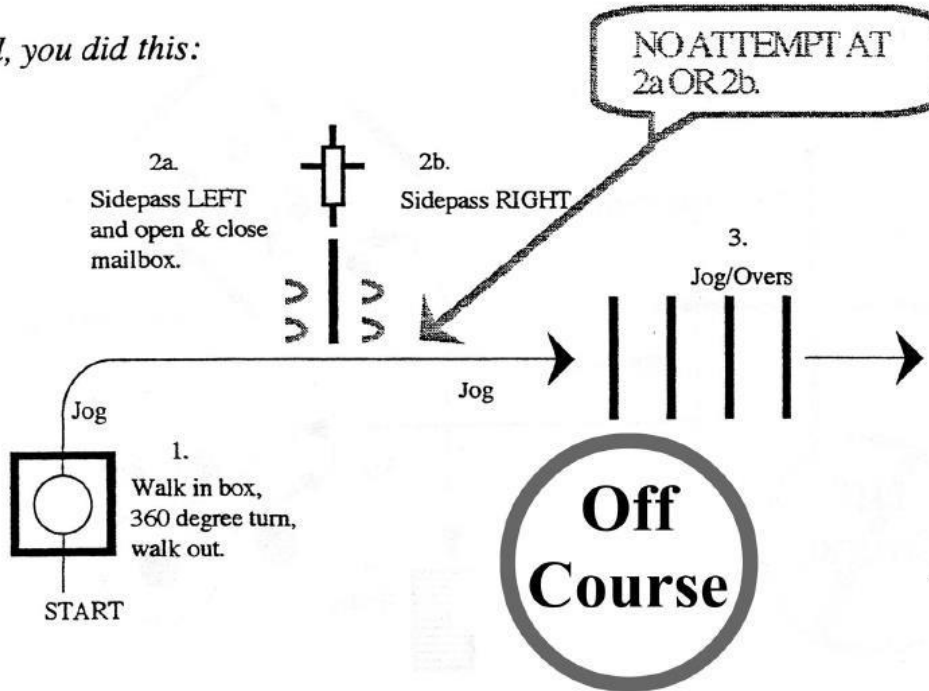
# Off Course?

## EXAMPLE #3: Skipping An Obstacle, Unless Directed By Judge.

*The course directions are as follows:*



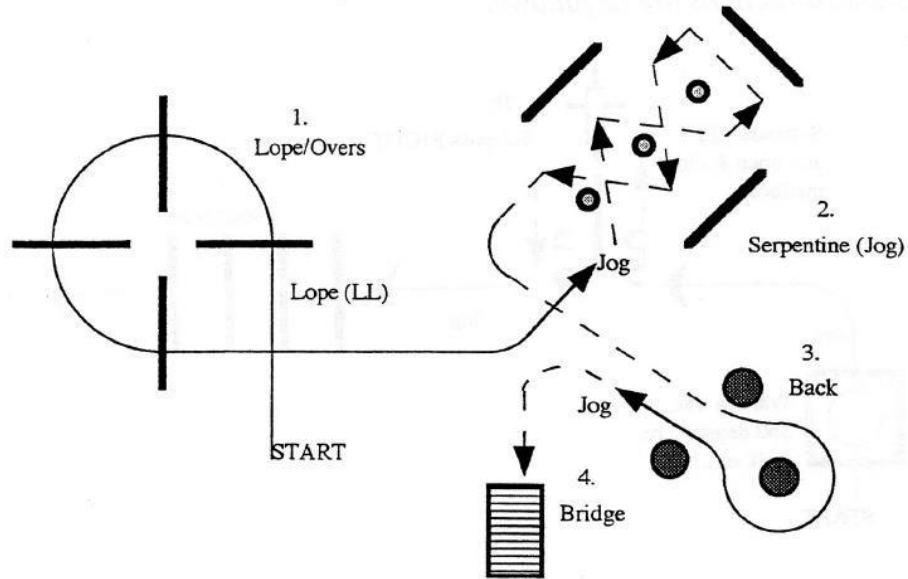
*Instead, you did this:*



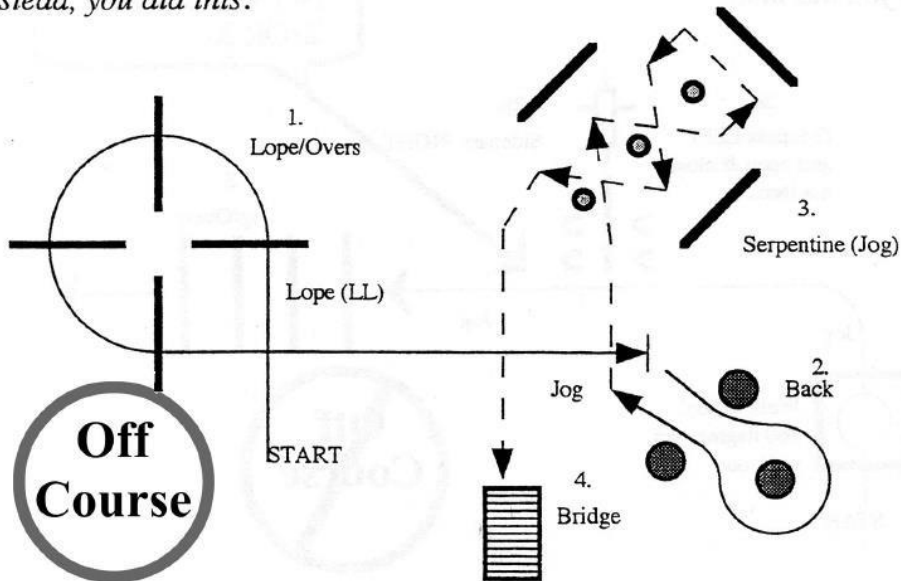
# Off Course?

## EXAMPLE #4: Negotiating Obstacles In The Wrong Sequence.

*The course directions are as follows:*



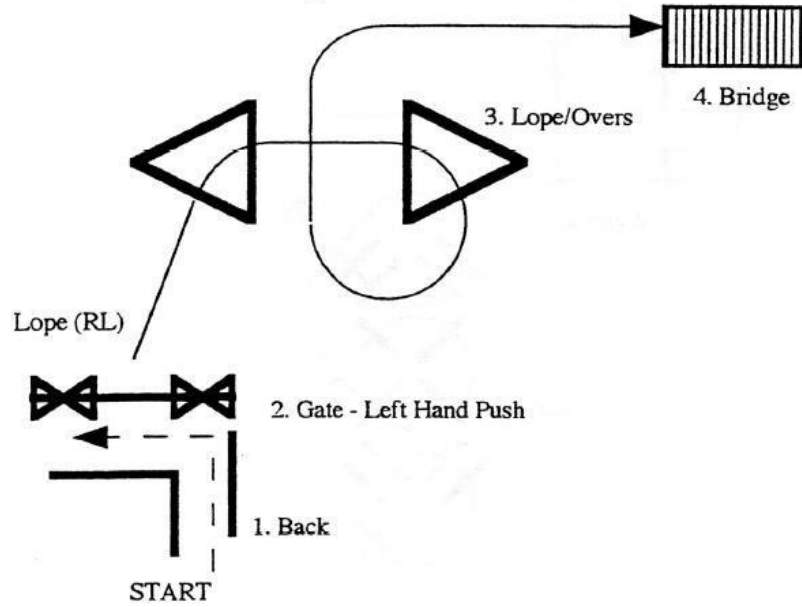
*Instead, you did this:*



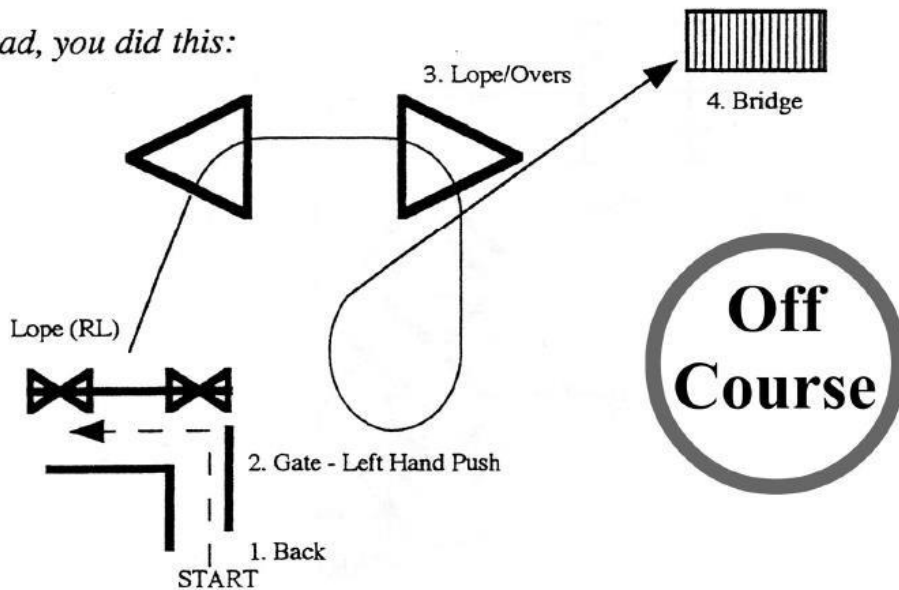
# Off Course?

## EXAMPLE #5: Not Following The Correct Line Of Travel

*The course directions are as follows:*



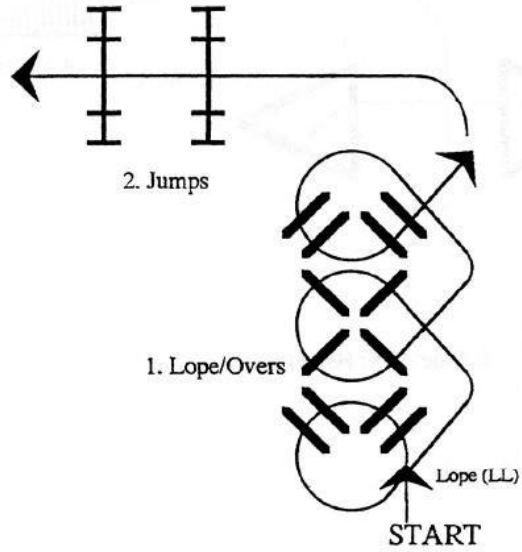
*Instead, you did this:*



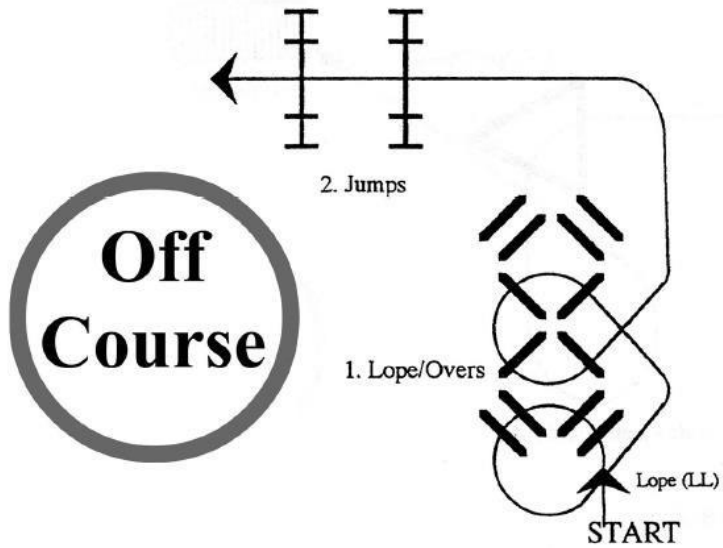
# Off Course?

## EXAMPLE #5a: Not Following The Correct Line Of Travel

*The course directions are as follows:*

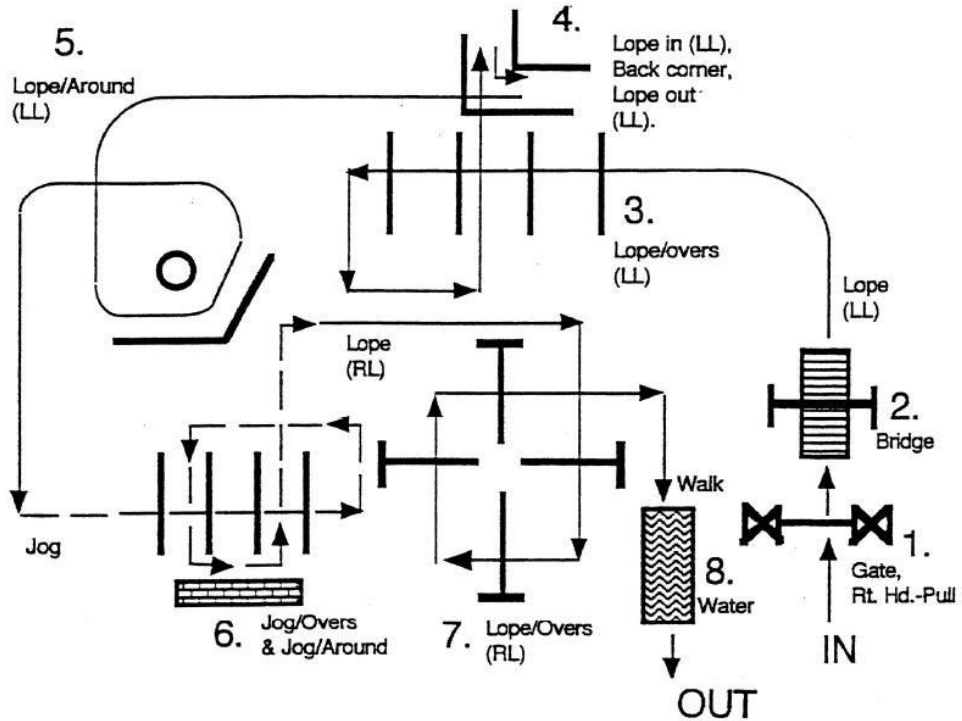


*Instead, you did this:*



# SCORING EXAMPLES:

## COURSE:



### Example 1:

1st Obstacle: Poor  
 2nd Obstacle: Average  
 3rd Obstacle: Average  
 PENALTY: Stepping 2 Feet Outside  
 Confining Element.  
 4th Obstacle: Good  
 5th Obstacle: Good  
 6th Obstacle: Good  
 7th Obstacle: Average  
 PENALTY: Knockdown  
 8th Obstacle: Very Poor

Draw	Entry #	Penalty	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Penalties	SCORE
1	101	Score	-1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	0	-2					7	63
		Sub T	69	69	64	65	66	67	65	63						

## Example 2:

1st Obstacle: Average  
 2nd Obstacle: Average  
 3rd Obstacle: Poor  
 PENALTY: Picked up wrong lead  
 PENALTY: Broke down to trot to correct lead. (Break of gait)  
 4th Obstacle: Very Poor

5th Obstacle: Poor  
 6th Obstacle: Poor  
 7th Obstacle: Average  
 8th Obstacle: Very Poor  
 PENALTY: 2 Refusals

Draw	Entry #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Penalties	SCORE
2	202			2-2					10						50
		0	0	-1	-2	-1	-1	0	-1					14	
		70	70	65	63	62	61	61	50						

## Example 3:

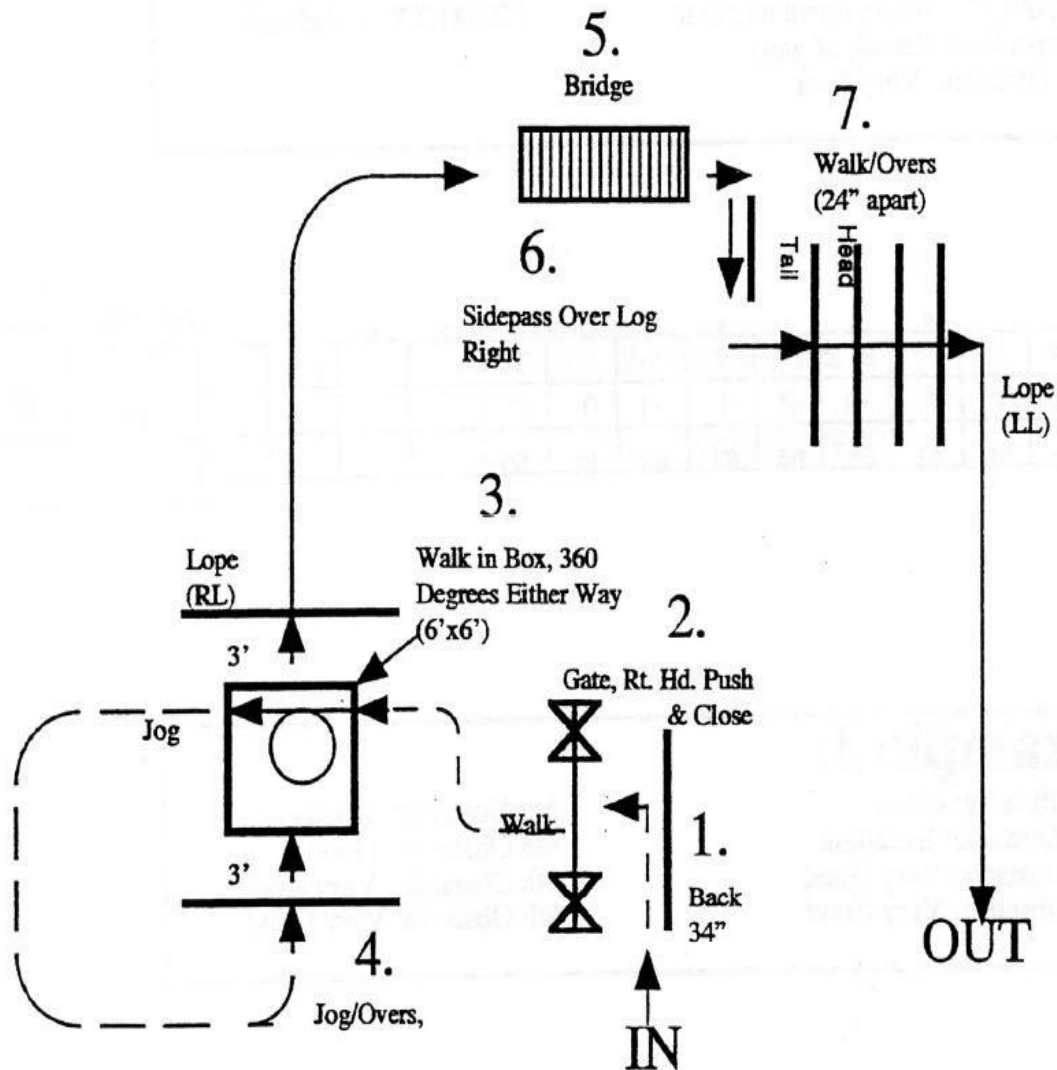
1st Obstacle: Good  
 2nd Obstacle: Excellent  
 3rd Obstacle: Very Good  
 4th Obstacle: Very Good

5th Obstacle: Good  
 6th Obstacle: Good  
 7th Obstacle: Very Good  
 8th Obstacle: Very Good

Draw	Entry #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Penalties	SCORE
3	303														84
		+1	+3	+2	+2	+1	+1	+2	+2						
		71	74	76	78	79	80	82	84						

# SAMPLE TRAIL COURSE

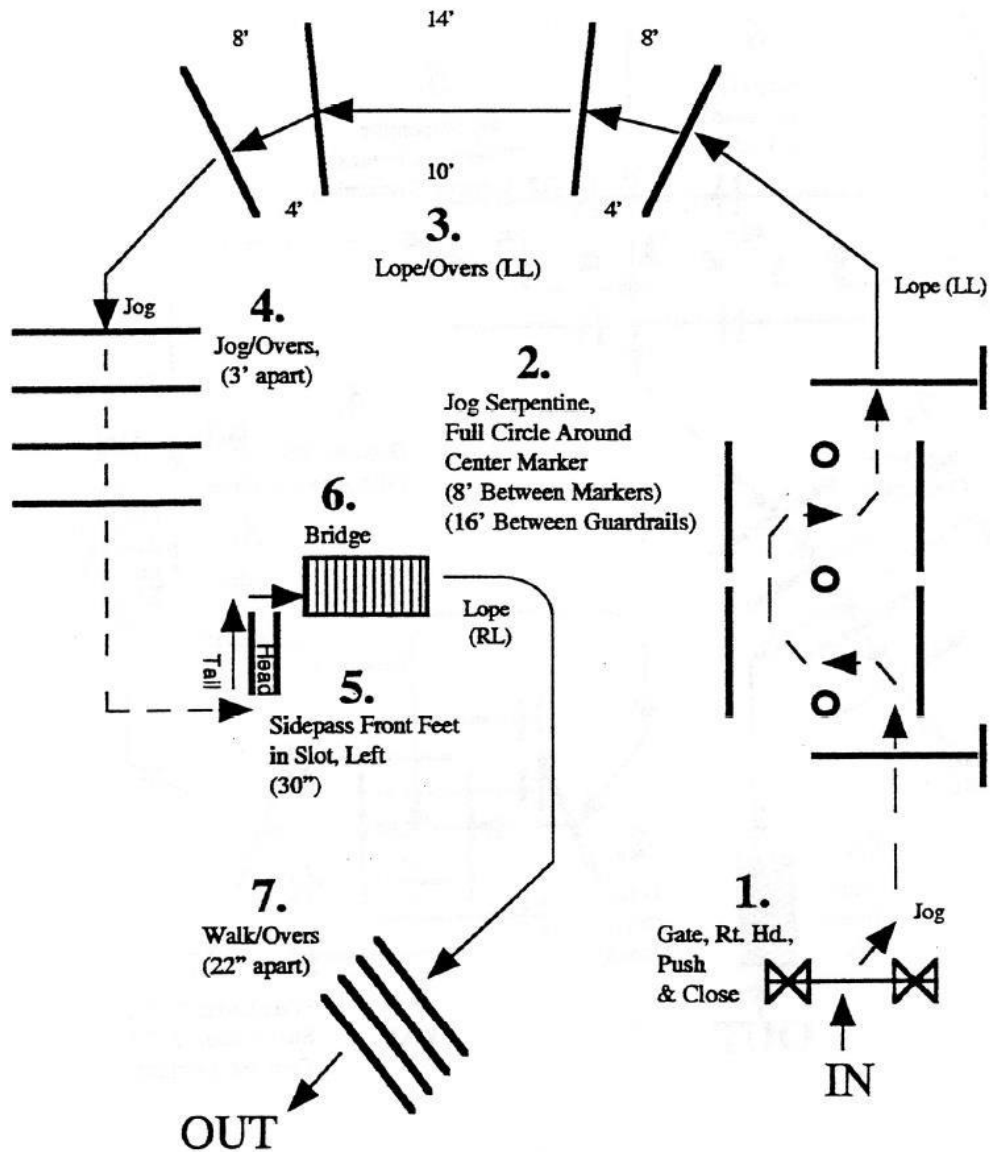
## BASIC LEVEL



**\*NOTE:** Dimensions may require adjustment depending on arena conditions, size of equipment, caliber of competition, etc. Use these dimensions as guidelines.

# SAMPLE TRAIL COURSE

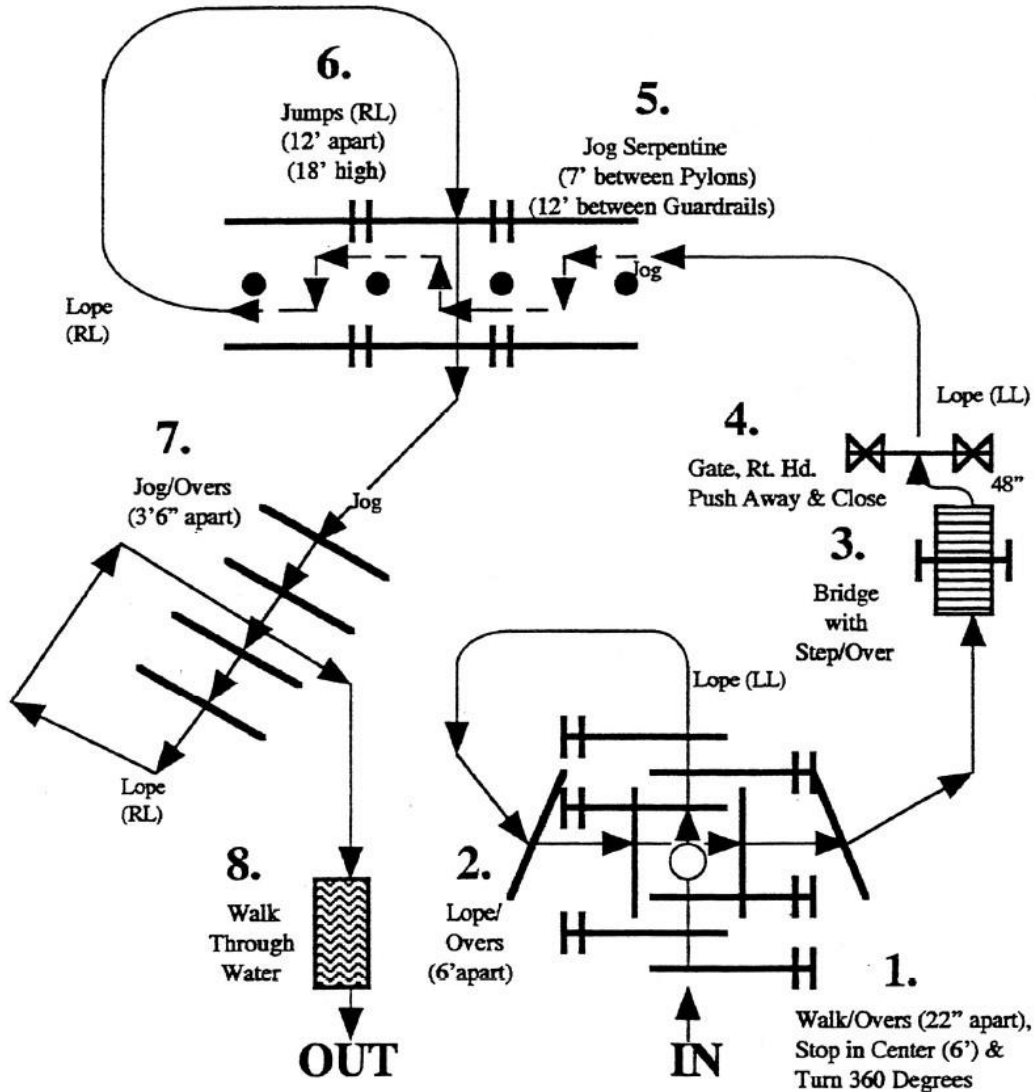
## PRELIMINARY LEVEL



**\*NOTE:** Dimensions may require adjustment depending on arena conditions, size of equipment, caliber of competition, etc. Use these dimensions as guidelines.

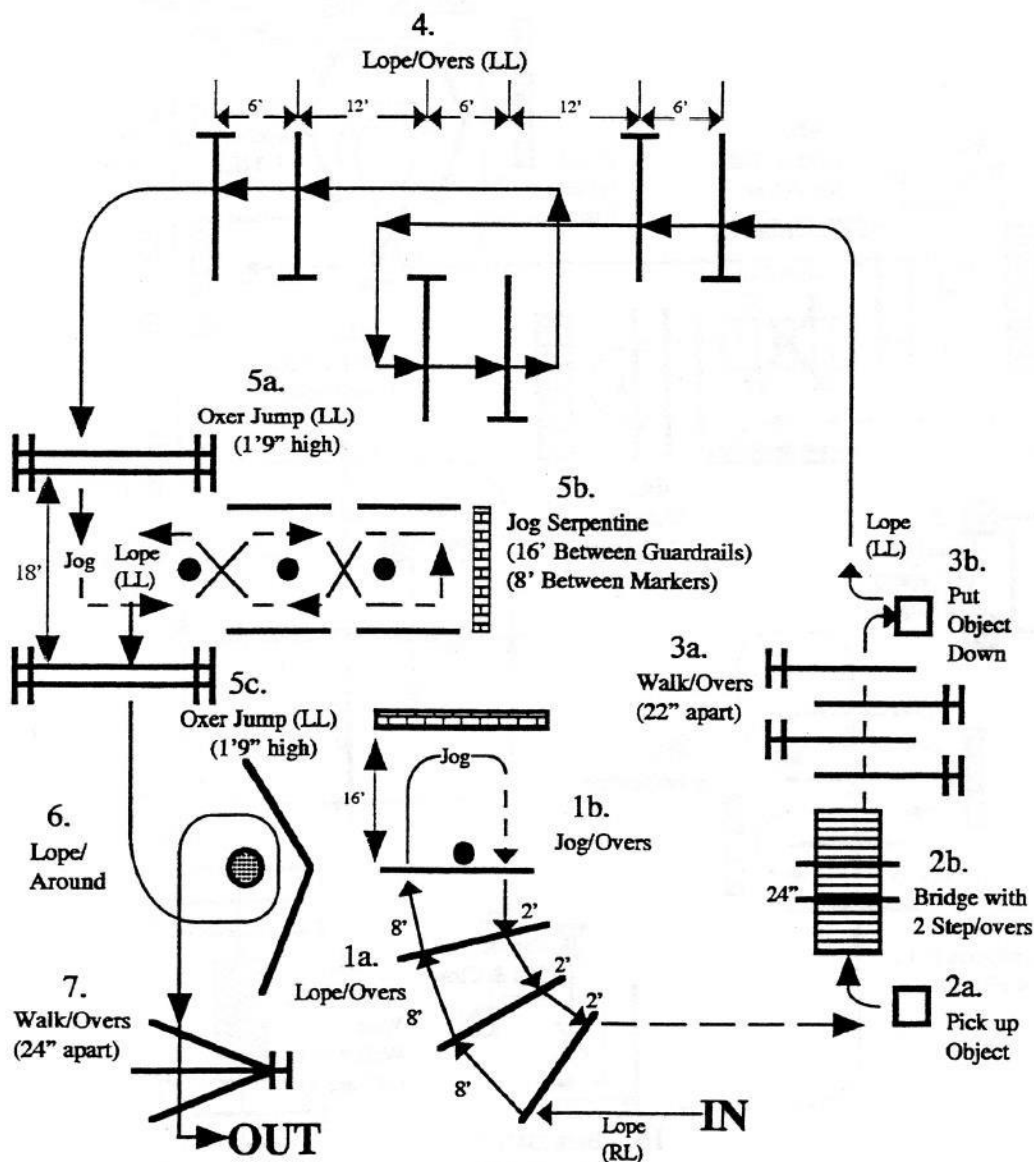


# SAMPLE TRAIL COURSE INTERMEDIATE LEVEL



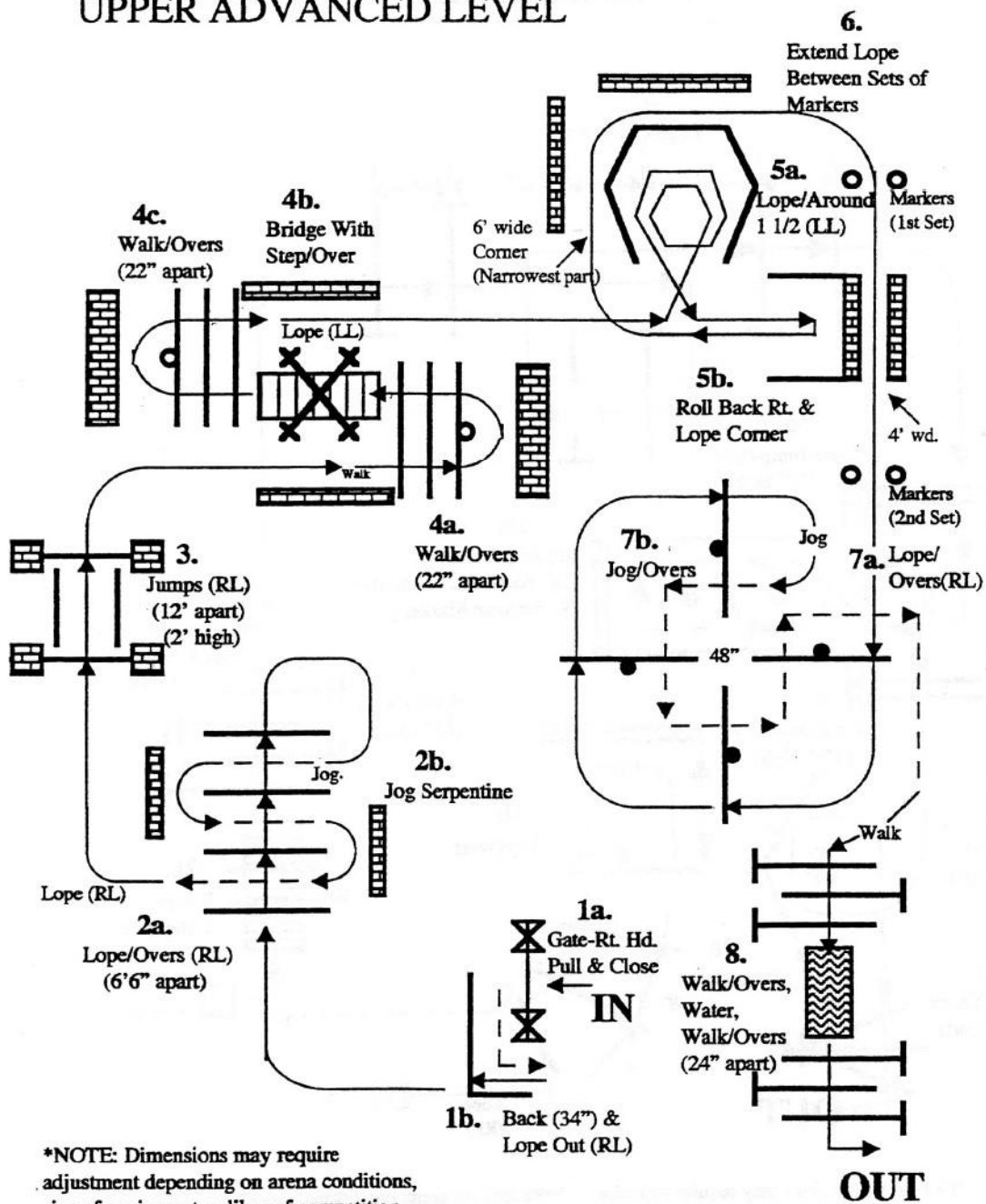
\*NOTE: Dimensions may require adjustment depending on arena conditions, size of equipment, caliber of competition, etc. Use these dimensions as guidelines.

# SAMPLE TRAIL COURSE ADVANCED LEVEL



\*NOTE: Dimensions may require adjustment depending on arena conditions, size of equipment, caliber of competition, etc. Use these dimensions as guidelines.

# SAMPLE TRAIL COURSE UPPER ADVANCED LEVEL



\*NOTE: Dimensions may require adjustment depending on arena conditions, size of equipment, caliber of competition, etc. Use these dimensions as guidelines.

## USEF MANDATORY TRAIL OBSTACLE DIMENSIONS

**1. All elevated poles must be set in a standard jump cup or similar type bracket. The judge has the right to alter the course.**

### **2. Walk/Overs:**

**Single Poles: Maximum Height - 16"**

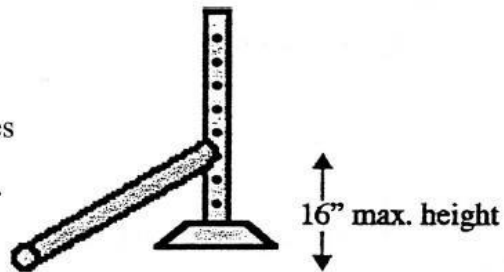
**Multiples: Maximum Height - 10"**

Minimum width between poles - 20"

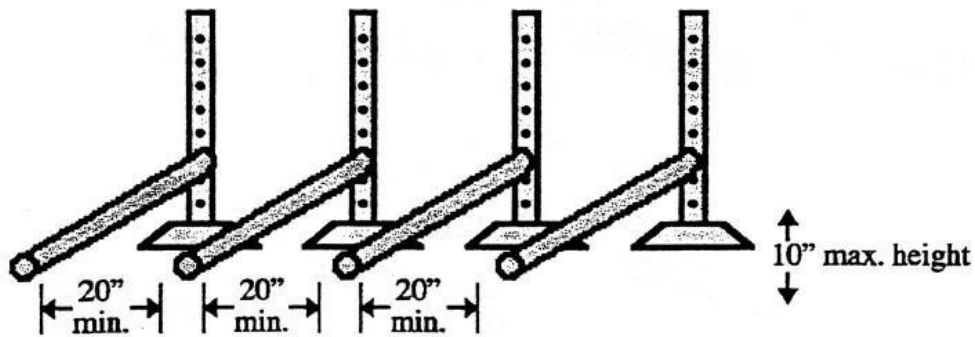
20" to 24," or multiples thereof, between poles is generally considered good spacing for walk/overs depending upon difficulty desired.

**NO ROLLING POLES**

**Single Poles**



**Multiple Poles**



### **3. Jumps:**

**Mounted :** Maximum Height - 24" In Amateur and Junior to ride classes, jumps mounted may not exceed 18"

**Lead Over: Maximum Height - 12"**

Minimum width between standards - 4'

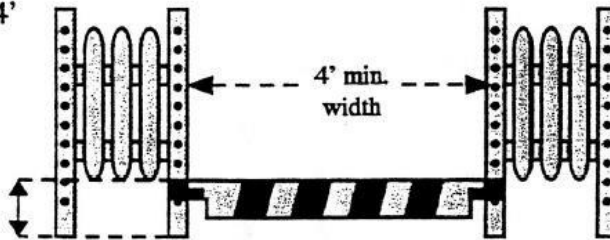
**Combinations :** 12' for a one stride

6' for a no stride

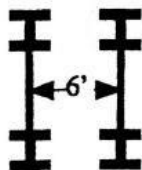
**Box Jumps and L Jumps:**

Poles must be 12' long.

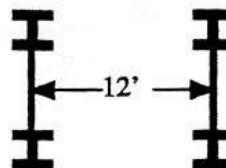
Max. Height  
24" mounted  
16" lead over



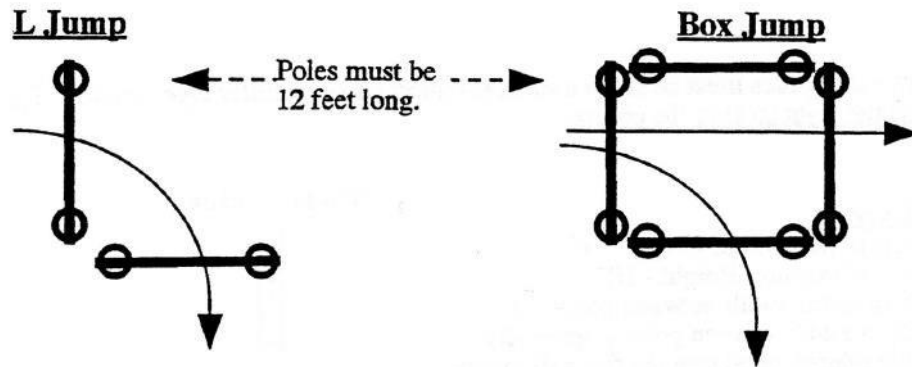
**No Stride Combination**



**One Stride Combination**

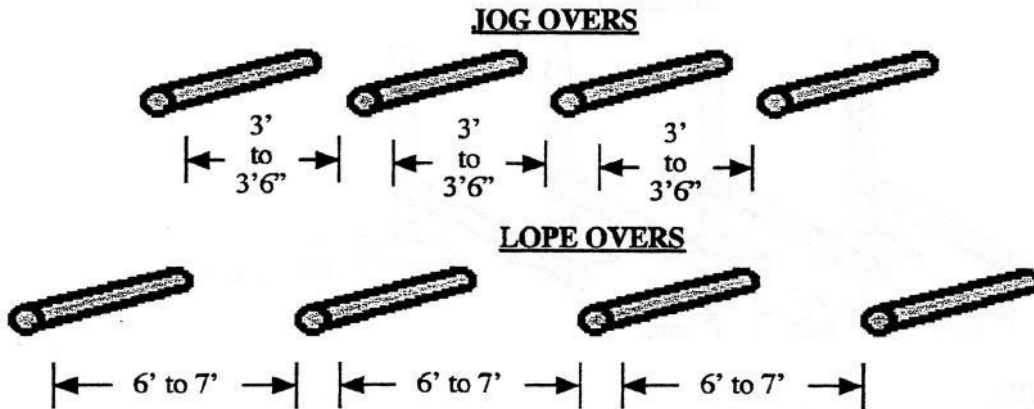


## Mandatory Trail Dimensions (Con't)



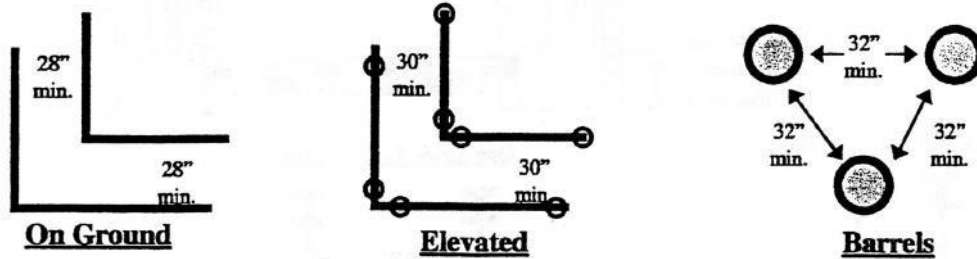
### 4. Cavaletti:

Jog/overs: 3' to 3'6" apart (between poles) or multiples thereof  
 Lope/overs: 6' to 6'6"



### 5. Back Throughs:

On ground: 28" minimum  
 Elevated: 30" minimum  
 Barrels: 32" minimum



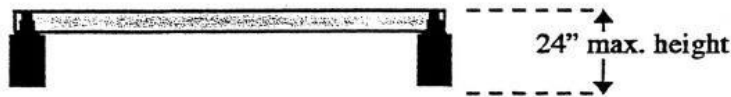
## Mandatory Trail Dimensions (Con't)

### 6. Sidepasses:

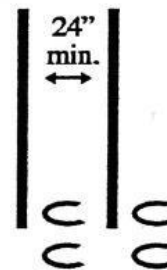
Single Pole: Up to 24" high.

Slots: Never closer than 24" wide. (between poles)

#### Single Poles

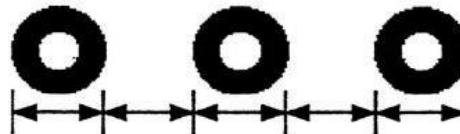


#### Slots



### 7. Tires:

If there is a space between tires, it should be equal to the outside diameter of the tire.



Spaces are equal to outside diameter of tires.

### 8. Serpentine:

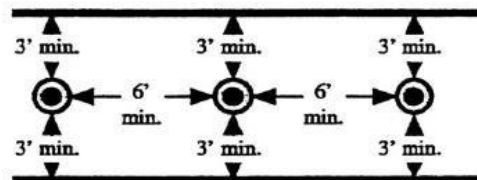
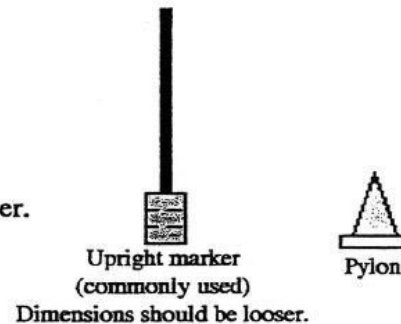
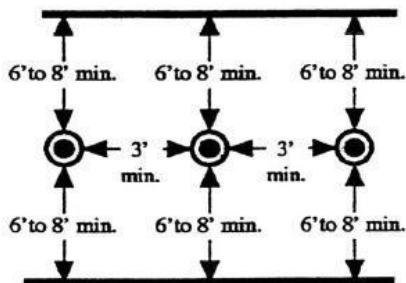
Pylons 6' apart (base to base) minimum.

Guardrails 3' to either side of pylons

Pylons 3' apart (base to base) minimum.

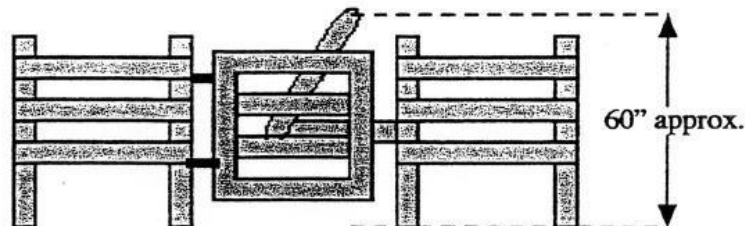
Guardrails 6' to 8' to either side of pylons.

If tall standards are used, dimensions can be looser.



### 9. Gate:

Approx. 60" high with latch available at that height.



### 10. Any Other Maneuvers:

Figure horse's wheelbase at 5', front hooves to back hooves.

*Bridges must be built of sturdy design with non-slip surface and a bridge should be approximately 3' wide and approximately 6' long. Any bridge deemed to be unsafe by the judge must be altered or removed.*

*Tarps are prohibited to be used within an obstacle defined as where the entry will be expected to walk, jog, lope or back. They can be used for decorative purposes but must be secured.*



## Trail Self-Test Practice on Penalties

Off course \_\_\_\_\_  
 Knockdown or displace obstacle \_\_\_\_\_  
 Double striding or adding steps/strides \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evading or skipping an obstacle \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fall off side of bridge \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deliberately failing to enter, exit, or work obstacle  
     from correct side or direction \_\_\_\_\_  
 Break of gait for more than 2 strides \_\_\_\_\_  
 Balking/continuous refusal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Two hands on reins or changing hands  
     when using curb bit \_\_\_\_\_  
 Abuse of animal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Two or more feet outside of confining  
     element \_\_\_\_\_  
 Blatant action demonstrating unwillingness  
     to approach obstacle \_\_\_\_\_  
 Losing drag or object carried \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pulling gate when told to push \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fingers between closed reins \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stepping on an element \_\_\_\_\_  
 Blatant disobedience \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evades or misses component of obst. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Skipping slot \_\_\_\_\_  
 Not following correct line of travel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fall of horse or rider \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spurring or obvious cueing or touching  
     in front of cinch \_\_\_\_\_  
 Performing obstacle at wrong gait/lead \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approaching obst. at wrong gait/lead \_\_\_\_\_  
 Temporary loss of control \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asking exhibitor to proceed without  
     completing the obstacle \_\_\_\_\_  
 Complete loss of the gate \_\_\_\_\_  
 One foot outside confining element \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holding saddle with free hand except  
     over a jump or elevated jog over \_\_\_\_\_  
 One foot off of side of bridge \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sidepass wrong end of horse \_\_\_\_\_  
 Failure to maintain 16" of rein between  
     hands when using romal reins \_\_\_\_\_  
 Disrespect or misconduct by exhibitor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Switching leads or wrong lead \_\_\_\_\_  
 Blatant action showing unwillingness  
     to complete or negotiate obstacle. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cross leading at lope \_\_\_\_\_  
 Negotiating obstacles out of sequence \_\_\_\_\_  
 Equipment failure/loss of shoe that delays  
     completion of course \_\_\_\_\_  
 Three refusals at one obstacle \_\_\_\_\_  
 Illegal equipment \_\_\_\_\_  
 More than one finger between  
     split reins \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stampede or run through obstacle \_\_\_\_\_  
 Each refusal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Break of gait for 2 strides or less \_\_\_\_\_  
 Riding outside designated boundary  
     markers of course \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dropping rein that contacts ground while  
     horse in motion \_\_\_\_\_

Off course \_\_\_\_\_  
 Knockdown or displace obstacle \_\_\_\_\_  
 Double striding or adding steps/strides \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evading or skipping an obstacle \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fall off side of bridge \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deliberately failing to enter, exit, or work obstacle  
     from correct side or direction \_\_\_\_\_  
 Break of gait for more than 2 strides \_\_\_\_\_  
 Balking/continuous refusal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Two hands on reins or changing hands  
     when using curb bit \_\_\_\_\_  
 Abuse of animal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Two or more feet outside of confining  
     element \_\_\_\_\_  
 Blatant action demonstrating unwillingness  
     to approach obstacle \_\_\_\_\_  
 Losing drag or object carried \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pulling gate when told to push \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fingers between closed reins \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stepping on an element \_\_\_\_\_  
 Blatant disobedience \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evades or misses component of obst. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Skipping slot \_\_\_\_\_  
 Not following correct line of travel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fall of horse or rider \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spurring or obvious cueing or touching  
     in front of cinch \_\_\_\_\_  
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     over a jump or elevated jog over \_\_\_\_\_  
 One foot off of side of bridge \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Failure to maintain 16" of rein between  
     hands when using romal reins \_\_\_\_\_  
 Disrespect or misconduct by exhibitor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Switching leads or wrong lead \_\_\_\_\_  
 Blatant action showing unwillingness  
     to complete or negotiate obstacle. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cross leading at lope \_\_\_\_\_  
 Negotiating obstacles out of sequence \_\_\_\_\_  
 Equipment failure/loss of shoe that delays  
     completion of course \_\_\_\_\_  
 Three refusals at one obstacle \_\_\_\_\_  
 Illegal equipment \_\_\_\_\_  
 More than one finger between  
     split reins \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stampede or run through obstacle \_\_\_\_\_  
 Each refusal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Break of gait for 2 strides or less \_\_\_\_\_  
 Riding outside designated boundary  
     markers of course \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dropping rein that contacts ground while  
     horse in motion \_\_\_\_\_

## TRAIL HORSE SCORE SHEET

SHOW \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 Scores +3=Excellent; +2=Very Good; +1=Good; 0=Average; -1=Poor; -2=Very Poor; -3=Extremely Poor

DRAW	ENTRY #	Penalties	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Penalties
			Score												
		Subtotal													

DRAW	ENTRY #	Penalties	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Penalties
			Score												
		Subtotal													

DRAW	ENTRY #	Penalties	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Penalties
			Score												
		Subtotal													

DRAW	ENTRY #	Penalties	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Penalties
			Score												
		Subtotal													

DRAW	ENTRY #	Penalties	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Penalties
			Score												
		Subtotal													

DRAW	ENTRY #	Penalties	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Penalties
			Score												
		Subtotal													

TRAIL HORSE SCORE SHEET.doc EEC 061504

Judge Signature \_\_\_\_\_

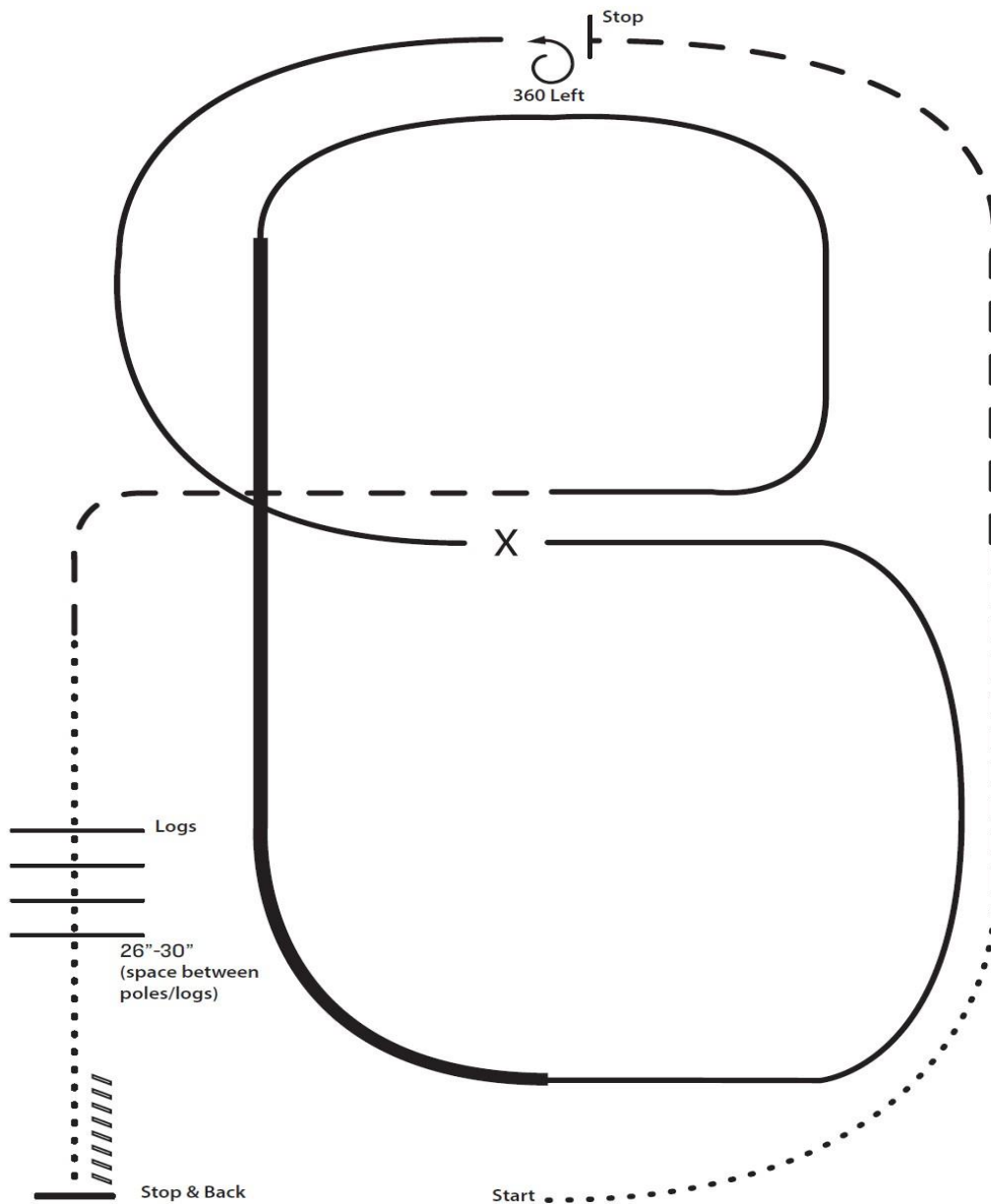
Page #



## Appendix "B" Sample Ranch Riding Patterns

Thank you to the American Quarter Horse Association for allowing us to reprint these Ranch Riding Patterns from the AQHA Rule Book.

### RANCH RIDING – PATTERN I



### Pattern 1 - Instructions

- X Lead Change
- • Walk
- — Trot
- — Ext Trot
- — Lope
- — Ext Lope
- //////// Back

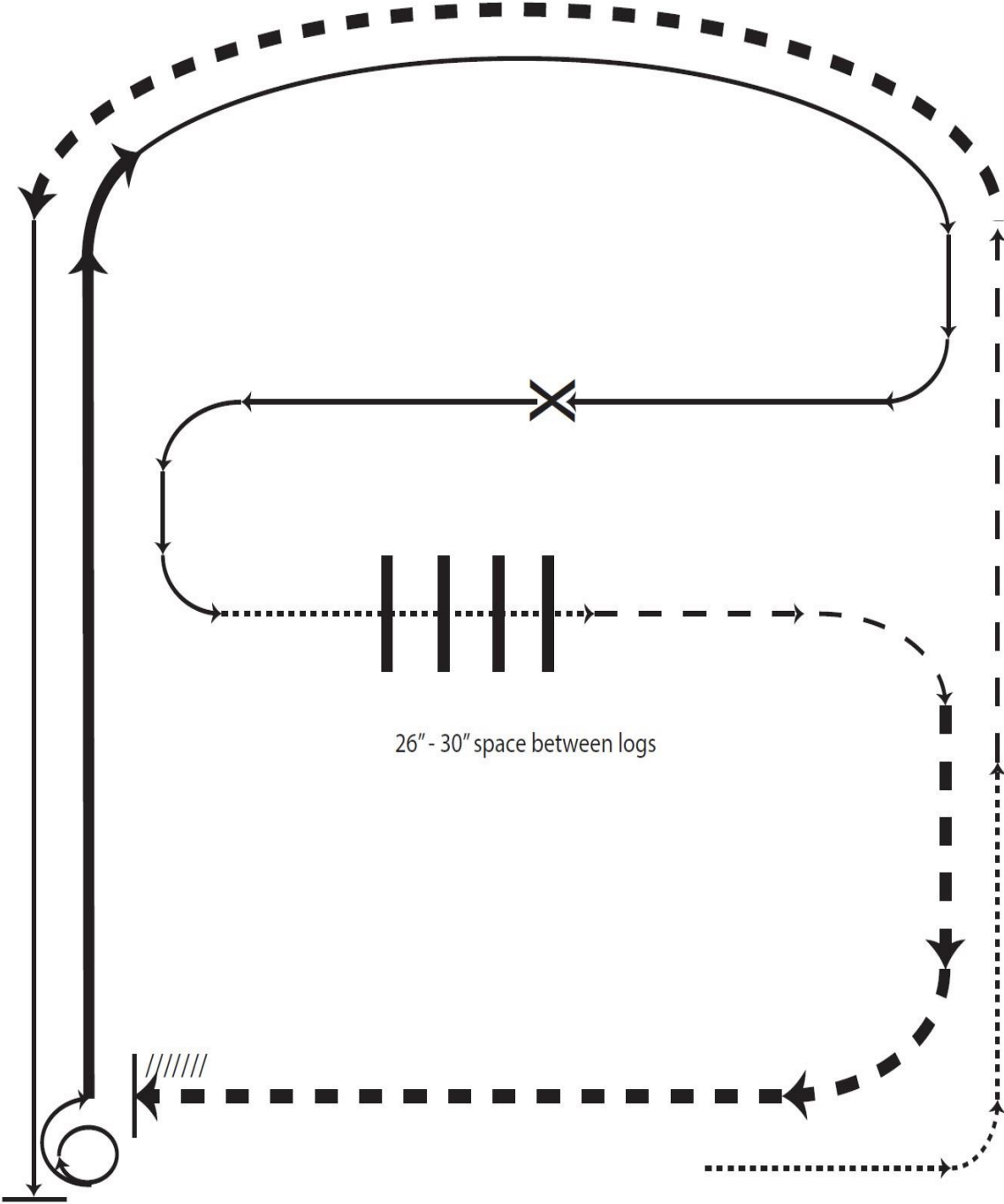
1. Walk
2. Trot
3. Extend the trot, at the top of the arena ,stop
4. 360 degree turn to the left
5. Left lead 1/2 circle, lope to the center
6. Change leads (simple or flying)
7. Right lead 1/2 circle
8. Extended lope up the long side of the arena (right lead)
9. Collect back to a lope around the top of the arena and back to center
10. Break down to an extended trot
11. Walk over logs
12. Stop and back

### Pattern 2 – Instructions

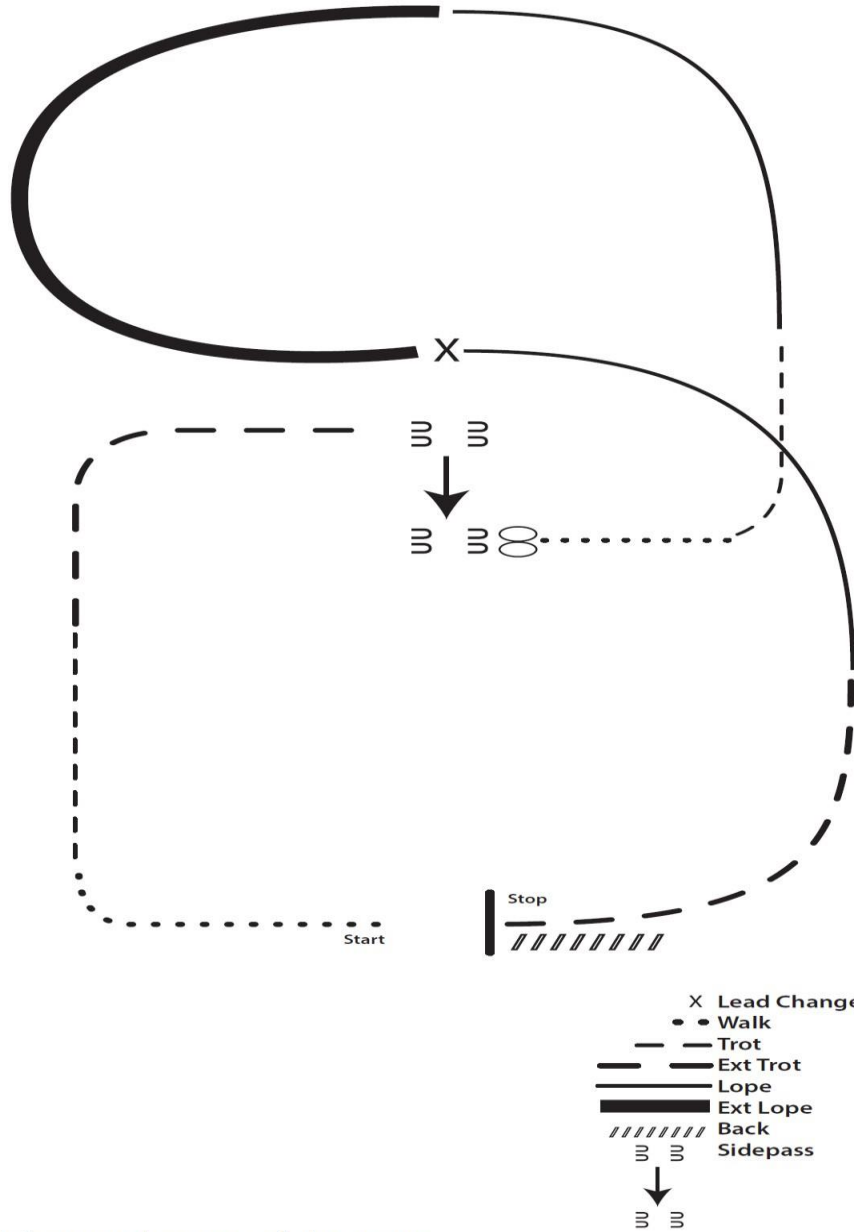
- X Lead Change
- • Walk
- — Trot
- — Ext Trot
- — Lope
- — Ext Lope
- //////// Back

1. Walk
2. Trot
3. Extended trot
4. Left lead lope
5. Stop, 1 1/2 turn right
6. Extended lope
7. Collect to working lope-right lead
8. Change leads (simple or flying)
9. Walk
10. Walk over logs
11. Trot
12. Extended trot
13. Stop and back

# RANCH RIDING - PATTERN 2

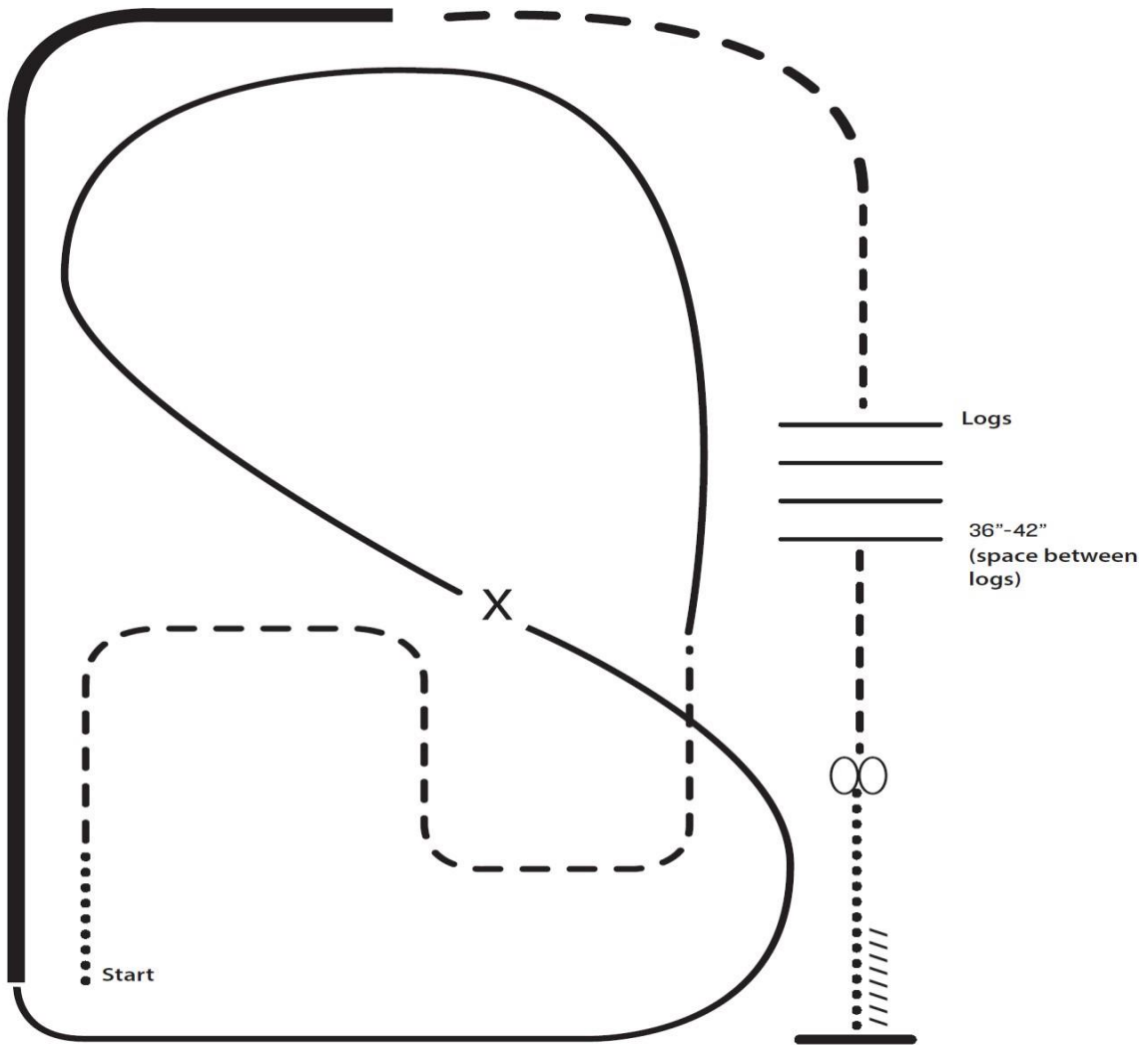


## RANCH RIDING – PATTERN 3



- 1.** Walk to the left around corner of the arena
- 2.** Trot
- 3.** Extend alongside of the arena and around the corner to center
- 4.** Stop, side pass right
- 5.** 360 degree turn each direction (either way 1st)
- 6.** Walk
- 7.** Trot
- 8.** Lope left lead
- 9.** Extend the lope
- 10.** Change leads (simple or flying)
- 11.** Collect to the lope
- 12.** Extend Trot
- 13.** Stop and back

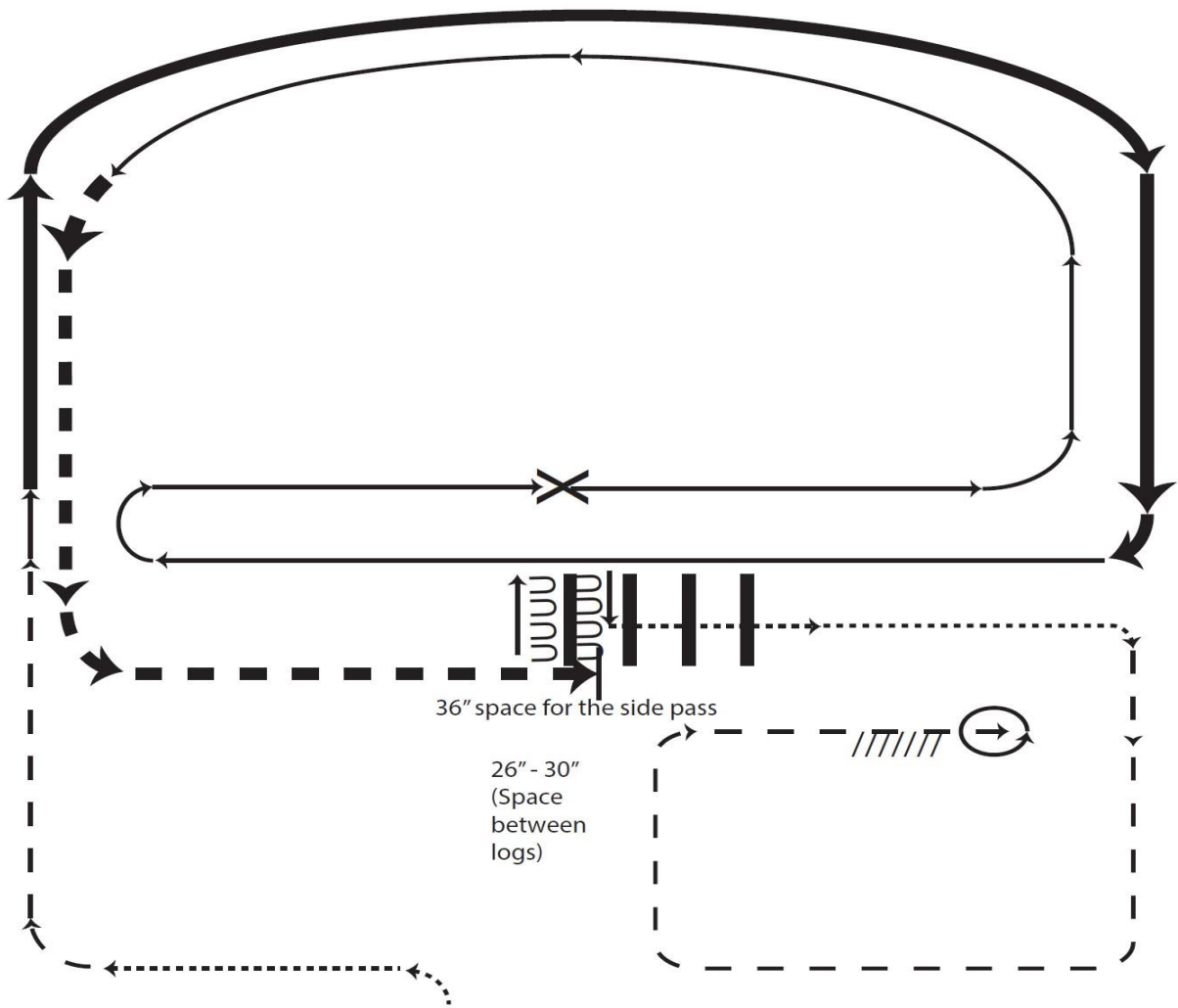
## RANCH RIDING - PATTERN 4



- X Lead Change
- Walk
- - - Trot
- — — Ext trot
- Lope
- Ext Lope
- /////// Back

1. Walk
2. Trot serpentine
3. Lope left lead around the end of the arena and then diagonally across the arena
4. Change leads (simple or flying) and
5. Lope on the right lead around end of the arena
6. Extend lope on the straight away and around corner to the center of the arena
7. Extend trot around corner of the arena
8. Collect to a trot
9. Trot over logs
10. Stop, do 360 degree turn each direction (either direction 1st) (L-R or R-L)
11. Walk, stop and back

# RANCH RIDING - PATTERN 5



- X Lead Change
- Walk
- - Trot
- - - Ext Trot
- Lope
- Ext Lope
- /////// Back

1. Walk
2. Trot
3. Extended lope-right lead
4. Lope-right lead
5. Change leads (simple or flying)
6. Lope left lead
7. Extended trot
8. Stop, side pass left, side pass right, 1/2 way
9. Walk over logs
10. Walk
11. Trot square
12. Stop, 360° turn left, back

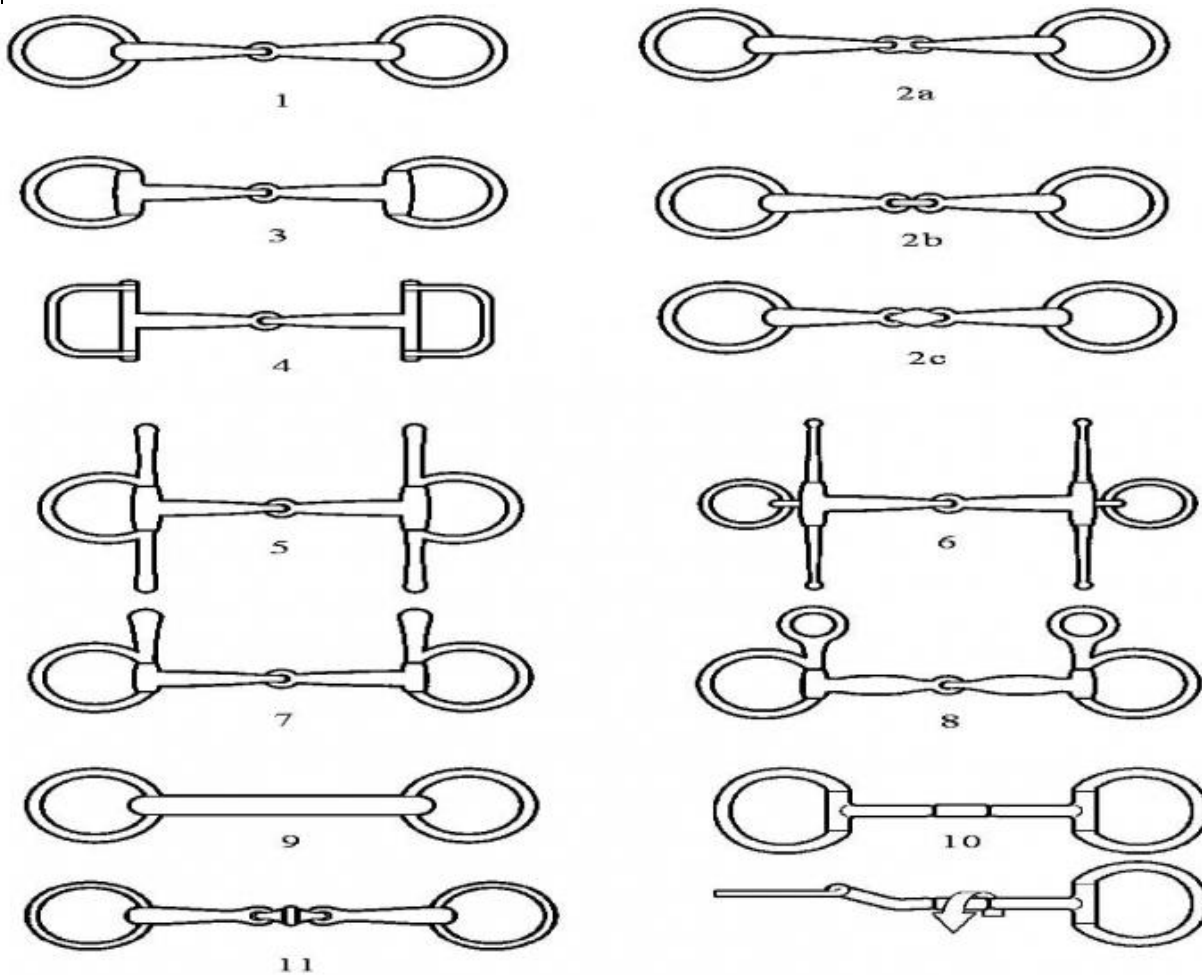
## 12 and Under Division Rules

12 and under exhibitors cannot cross enter into any 17 and under class.

12 and under, Walk, Whoa, Reverse, can have assistance in the arena or on a lead.

### Appendix C (2020)

Figure 1 A. PERMITTED SNAFFLES FOR ENGLISH PLEASURE AND HUNTER PLEASURE\* (Bits pictured and described below.)



1. Ordinary snaffle with single - jointed mouthpiece.

2. (a, b, c) Double-jointed snaffles.

3. Racing snaffle (D-ring).
4. Snaffle. a) with cheeks, with or without keepers. b) without cheeks (Egg-butt).
5. Snaffle with upper or lower cheeks.
6. Unjointed snaffle (Mullen - mouth).
7. Snaffle with cheeks. (Hanging or drop cheek; Baucher). This may be a D-ring or other ordinary snaffle as pictured in Nos. 1-6.
8. Fulmer.
9. French snaffle.
10. Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece.
11. Snaffle with rotating middle piece.
12. Happy Mouth with roller. \*Snaffle bits must be smooth with a solid surface. Twisted and wire bits are prohibited. A mouthpiece with more than one rolling part is prohibited. Bits may be made with a rubber or plastic covering, but the bit may not be modified by adding latex or other material. Bits with mouthpieces made of synthetic material are permitted, provided that the contours of the bit conform to the contours of one of the bits

pictured above. Flexible rubber or synthetic mouthpieces are permitted. Bits must not place mechanical restraint upon the tongue. A double jointed bit or snaffle with rotating mouthpiece may be shaped to allow tongue relief. The maximum height of the deviation is 30mm from the lower part of tongue side to the highest part of the deviation. The widest part of the deviation must be where the mouthpiece contacts the tongue and must have a minimum width of 30 mm. (See illustration below.) The mouthpiece of a jointed or unjointed snaffle may be shaped in a slight curve within the dimensions specified above, but other ported snaffles are prohibited. The mouthpiece of a snaffle may have up to two joints. A bushing, barrel, coupling or ball joint is permitted as the center link in a double jointed snaffle, however, the surface of the center piece must be solid with no moveable parts, other than a roller and except as pictured above. The center link may be tilted in a different orientation from the mouthpiece but must have rounded edges and may not have the effect of a tongue plate. The diameter of the snaffle mouthpiece must be minimum 10 mm diameter at rings or cheeks of the mouthpiece. Any bit combining a mouthpiece with any cheekpiece pictured above is permitted. The type of bit should not vary from those pictured above except where specified, and bits should be attached only as pictured in diagram. Effective 2/1/20

Correct measurement of tongue relief. A double jointed bit or snaffle with rotating mouthpiece may be shaped to allow tongue relief. The mouthpiece of a jointed or unjointed snaffle may be shaped in a slight curve with the minimum dimensions specified above, but other ported snaffles are prohibited.



