

SHOW RULES



governing the
AMERICAN HAFLINGER REGISTRY

PURPOSE

To provide written class standards, and give a written explanation as to the terms used in conjunction with the showing of Haflinger Horses at the American Haflinger Registry's National Show.

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. DEFINITIONS

1. **OWNER:** The individual, group or farm as it appears on the horse's AHR registration papers. The owner must be a current member in good standing with the AHR. If the owner is not a current AHR member, AHR registered horses may be shown by non-members for a fee of \$35, which will include AHR membership for the remainder of the year.
2. **EXHIBITOR/COMPETITOR:** The horse and rider/driver/handler entered in a particular class & may be the owner or associated with the owner of the horse.
3. **YOUTH COMPETITOR:** An individual, who has not reached their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current competition year. Riders/Driver's age is determined as of January 1 of the current year. Therefore, those 19 on or before January 1 are adults. Those 14-18 years of age on January 1 are senior youths. Those 13 and under on January 1 are junior youths. Youths may not show stallions. Youth must wear approved helmets in all riding and driving classes. Youths may not show in a class designated for adults. Riders in YOUTH walk/trot/jog classes are walk/trot/jog riders for the duration of the show and may not show in canter classes.
4. **SHOW STAFF:** Includes, but is not limited to the following persons: Gate attendants, ring crew, and other persons engaged by the show officials to help with the physical conduct of the show.
5. **SHOW OFFICIALS:** Includes, but is not limited to the following persons: Show Manager, Show Committee, Judges, Stewards, Veterinarians, Course Designers, Timekeepers, Announcer, Secretary, and Award Presenter.
 - a. **SHOW MANAGER:** The individual acting in this capacity is designated by the Board of Directors. No member of the Show Manager's family can officiate as a paid judge in the show. The Show Manager shall:
 - i. Be the person in charge of the show and may not serve in any other full job capacity at a show for which they are Show Manager; however, they may assist in a brief relief situation until adaptation is made.
 - ii. Have authority to enforce all rules referring to the show and he/she may excuse any exhibitor from the show at any time.
 - iii. Be present on the grounds for the duration of the show.
 - iv. Receive written complaints/protests from the Show Committee or from Exhibitors, etc. and convene a hearing to adjudicate the action.
 - b. **SHOW SECRETARY:** This individual is directed to perform duties as assigned by Directors, Show Manager or Show Committee Chairpersons. The regular duties consist of keeping records of all class entries, scratches, additions and placings.
 - c. **ANNOUNCER:** This individual announces classes, placings, and makes announcements as directed by Show Officials. He/she works directly with the Show Manager, Show Committee, Show Secretary and Ring Steward.
 - d. **RING STEWARD:** This individual is responsible for the conduct of each class as it is performed in the ring. Duties include but are not limited to:
 - i. Communicating with the announcer to ensure that all eligible entries are assembled before the judging begins.
 - ii. Relieve the Judge of unnecessary details: assemble the class promptly, keep the judging program on schedule, eliminate long delays between classes and helps control the conduct of the horses and exhibitors in the ring. The Ring Steward has the authority to excuse entries from any class if conditions warrant such action.
 - iii. Notify the Judge when all entries are present for each class.
 - iv. Assist the Judge, not advise him/her, and refrain from discussing, or seeming to discuss, the horses or exhibitors in the ring.
 - v. Have charge of activities of the ring or arena.
 - vi. Assure that all the Judge's directives are communicated and followed.
 - e. **JUDGES and JUDGING:** Judges are nominated from the National Show Committee. A contract will be drawn up and signed by both parties after a comprehensive appraisal of the Judge's areas of expertise. The Judge shall not be an exhibitor, driver, technical delegate or manager at any show at which they are officiating. The Judge shall not officiate at any show in which a member of his immediate family, clients, or trainers is competing. A Haflinger may not be shown in front of a judge that is owned by or sold by said judge within a period of ninety days prior to the event or currently leased from said judge. The judge must be clear and free from all Haflingers in the show, including boarding and training of the Haflinger, owner or exhibitor. The judge must maintain clean hands as to distance himself/herself from exhibitors.

- i. In any class, the Judge is the absolute authority. Once a class has been judged, it shall not be re-judged. Once the Judge has marked his/her card and places for awards are made, there shall be no changing of the Judge's record.
- ii. The Judge may order any person or horse from the competition for poor conduct of either and may disqualify any competitor for excessive abuse of the horse. The Judge may at his/her discretion refuse entry into the arena or remove an entry from a class for improper attire and/or equipment or for improper actions, which may include being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- iii. During the class, excessive use of the voice, shouting, whipping or whistling to the horse may be penalized at the Judge's discretion. In any driving class, the driver should strive to control the horse's movement with discreet use of vocal aids.
- iv. Any request to speak to a Judge during the show must be made through the Show Manager. When an exhibitor makes a request through a Show Manager for the Judge's opinion concerning that exhibitor's horse, it is urged that the Judge will give his/her opinion courteously and sincerely in the presence of the Manager. A good rule of thumb would be to always ask your question in a non-blaming, non-threatening way and then be silent and listen. If you feel the need to use words like "but", "if" and "how about", then you are crossing the line. Just listen and then thank the Judge for their time. A negative comment from your perception of the Judge's ability should only be stated on the evaluation questionnaire.
- v. The Judge must always be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect. No person, exhibitor, owner, parent, show official or otherwise, shall direct abuse, threatening conduct or intimidation toward the Judge or show committee, whether or not the conduct occurs during the show or on the show grounds. At the discretion of the show officials, a violation of this rule may result in disciplinary action up to and including removal of the exhibitor or competitor from the competition, show grounds or future shows. If actions or threats are unlawful, the affected should contact the appropriate legal authorities.
- vi. No exhibitor will visit or socialize with the Judge the day prior to or the day of the show. There will be no fraternization between an exhibitor and the Judge during the show.
- vii. To protest a Judge's decision, a formal protest must be filed as described below.

B. CONDUCT OF SHOWS

1. **ABUSE:** Cruelty to or the abuse of a horse by any person at a show is forbidden and renders the offender subject to penalty. The Show Committee must act on any report of cruelty or abuse and if determined to be valid, the violator may be barred from further participation in that show or future shows.
2. **SOUNDNESS:** The Judge shall watch for lameness in all horses brought into any class. Obvious lameness shall be cause for disqualification. Obvious lameness is:
 - a. Consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances.
 - b. Marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride.
 - c. Minimal weight-bearing in motion and/or at rest or an inability to move.
3. **SHOW SCHEDULE:** Classes will be called in the order they appear in the show program. If it becomes necessary to cancel or reschedule any class, the change must be announced at least thirty minutes prior to the affected class to allow adequate preparation time for the next scheduled class.
4. **DELAY OF CLASSES:** When the start of any class requiring horses to be shown individually or collectively is delayed by horses not ready to perform, the class may be closed at the order of the Judge or Ring Steward provided a warning is issued and the competitor/s is/are given five minutes to appear at the in-gate ready to participate. The Ring Steward will give the warning to the announcer as to when the gates will be closed for the class. Tack changes should be built into the schedule but if necessary a five minute tack hold will be permitted upon previous arrangement with the Ring Steward or Show Secretary. If a class is in progress and must be stopped due to an accident or other emergency, the Show Manager will decide whether to recommence the class. If it becomes necessary to interrupt a dressage competition for any reason, the unfinished portion may be rescheduled and resumed on the same or following day at the option of the Show Manager with the Judge's consent. All scores recorded before the interruption will stand.
5. **DIVISION OF LARGE CLASSES:** The Judge or management may split large classes if conditions warrant. The size of the ring and the number of entries will determine when a class should be split. In a small ring, classes may be split at a lower number. The Judge or management has the discretion as to how the division is to be made, keeping in mind the safety of competitors. Final placing can be determined by working off selected entries from each section. Class splits, if any, will be determined ahead of time and will be posted at least 2 hours before the start of the class.

6. **PROTESTS:** A protest may be made to the Show Manager or any member of the Show Committee by a rider, driver, handler, exhibitor, parent or guardian of a youth competitor. It must be in writing, addressed to the Show Committee, signed by the protester, and accompanied by a check for \$100 payable to AHR. A protest and charge must state the full name of the accused and contain a complete and definite statement of the acts that constitute the alleged violation. Precise details regarding a violation of rules are necessary. The Show Committee Chairmen must hold a hearing within 48 hours and all accused, accusing persons, witnesses, and other persons directly concerned must be given advance notice and be given the opportunity to appear at the hearing. The Show Committee must then adjudicate the issues impartially and make effective its decision upon the parties. If the protest is sustained, the deposit must be returned to the protester. If not sustained, the deposit must be forfeited to the competition. Decisions that cannot be protested are:
 - a. The soundness of a horse, when determined by a Show Official or by the Judge.
 - b. A Judge's decision, representing his/her individual preference unless it is alleged to be in violation of show rules. The protester is to hold all approach (verbal or personal) to show officials except for the Show Manager.
7. **ENTRIES:** All Haflingers shown must be properly registered with AHR. Late entries are permitted with penalty at the discretion of the Show Secretary/Show Manager (see show Prize List for entry deadlines). **Payment is required at the time of entry.** Competitors exhibiting in a class in which they have not been officially entered will result in being charged double the entry rate, no exceptions.
8. **ENTRY NUMBERS:** All entries must have a number before entering any class. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to display the proper number for the correct entry in each class. It is not unusual for exhibitors to have more than one number for a show, due to the fact that they may have more than one entry in a class and each entry will have a separate number. An exhibitor displaying an incorrect number or failing to display any number at all will result in a disqualification from that class.
9. **CLASSES:** Prizes may be awarded up to 10 places in each class. The exhibitor must check in with the Paddock Master, positioned at the entry gate, before entering the ring. The exhibitor will at this time give the correct number to the Paddock Master and line up at the Ring Steward's instruction. After waiting three minutes for any late arriving entries after the final class call, the announcer will announce "this is your class", then the gates will be closed and the class judged.

C. ATTIRE

All Exhibitors/Competitors/Technical delegates and show officials in the show ring will wear clothing appropriate to the class or duties performed. Exhibitors/Competitors should see the rules in subsequent paragraphs for proper dress associated with their class. Show staff, as defined above, should keep in mind that they represent AHR and wear clothing appropriate to their duties and responsibilities. No blue jeans permitted in show ring during classes.

D. RESPONSIBILITIES

EXHIBITORS/COMPETITORS: The Exhibitor is solely responsible for the completeness and correctness of all entry information as well as with the compliance of all rules of the show. It is the Exhibitor's/Competitor's responsibility to have the correct entry at the ring gate at the time the class is called and that the competitor, wearing the correct number for the entry & check in with the Paddock Master. The Exhibitor's responsibilities also include:

1. Responsibility for all attendants and passengers, as well as the appropriateness of dress, attire, conduct and completeness of turnout and its presentation.
2. Disclosing all performance enhancing medication given to a competing horse to the Show Manager or assistant and making the horse available to the veterinarian if requested. This notification must occur before the class is called. Failure to disclose and then show will result in disqualification from any prize and being dismissed from the show at that point. Dismissal from the show will be immediate and includes all persons associated with the entry being dismissed from the remainder of the show and removal from the grounds. The Show Manager will direct a recommendation for exclusion from future shows to the Board of Directors for action.
3. The exhibitor is responsible for posting emergency contact information detailing all phone numbers and room locations of persons to be contacted in case of an emergency.
4. ALL exhibitors and competitors must sign a Liability Disclaimer Form which is available either from the show committee or at the show office. No competitor will be allowed to enter the ring without a release being signed and on file in the show office. Parent or legal guardian must sign the form for competitors under age 18. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
5. To make all entries on time.
6. Tack changes are permitted for those who notify the Ring Steward or Show Secretary prior to the class. If entries are having trouble, word must be sent to the Ring Steward immediately or they will be considered a scratch from the class. If tack changes are necessary, they will be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes, unless an exception is allowed by the Judge or Show Manager. After that time, the gates will be closed and the class will be judged. No time is to be allowed for the warm-up of horses involved in tack changes.

2. HALTER (IN-HAND) CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

A. GENERAL RULES

1. On entering the ring, competitors are to line up in the location indicated by the Ring Steward and after being examined by the Judge are to be worked as the Judge requests, usually at a walk and trot.
2. Haflingers are not required to be shod. Weanlings and yearlings will not be shod.
3. Classes will be judged on conformation and way of going. Manners are judged at the Judge's discretion. In breeding classes, the horses may have their teeth checked along with other parts of the anatomy in regards to breeding. Checking of teeth for correct bite will not apply to geldings.
4. Group classes (Get of Sire, Produce of Dam, and Best Three Haflingers) are judged on conformation and are not required to be shown moving. Each Haflinger in a group class should be shown without ribbons unless otherwise announced.
5. Champions are selected from the first or second place winner of each class under consideration. Horses may be worked again at the discretion of the judge. Horses should wear their ribbons from previous halter classes.
6. Haflingers may be shown in an appropriate show halter, or a bridle if age two or older.

B. SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES

1. To be judged on "turn out" of horse and handler and handler's ability to present his/her animals. If showing English, horse must be presented in an English bridle or plain leather halter, and handler must be completely dressed in English attire. If showing Western, horse must be presented in a Western style halter and handler must be completely dressed in Western attire. THIS IS NOT A CONFORMATION CLASS.
2. Handler must be able to walk, trot, turn or pivot, stop and back the horse as directed by the judge.

3. PLEASURE DRIVING CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

A. GENERAL RULES

1. The Judge must excuse from competition any unsafe vehicle, harness, unruly horse or driver clearly out of control.
2. It is the responsibility of each driver to ensure that harness and vehicle are in good repair and structurally sound.
3. It is the responsibility of each driver to ensure that his horse or horses are physically fit to fulfill the tasks required of them.
4. 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.
5. Drivers should strive to maintain a safe distance from other vehicles both during the competition and in the warm-up and parking areas.
6. Bridles should be adjusted to fit snugly to prevent catching on a vehicle or other pieces of harness. A throatlatch and a nose band or cavesson is mandatory. Under no conditions shall a bridle be removed from a horse while it is still put to a vehicle. The horse must never be left unattended while put to a vehicle. Failure to comply will incur elimination.
7. Unless otherwise stated, ADS rules will be applied to Pleasure Driving Classes.

B. THE DRIVER

1. 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. Drivers should not be penalized or rewarded for using one style over another. However, in a reinsmanship class, in order to evaluate a driver's versatility the Judge may request an appropriate test involving driving with one hand. When there are passengers, the driver should sit on the off (right-hand) side of the vehicle.
2. An appropriate whip shall be carried in and at all times while driving. The thong on the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the farthest horse.
3. The whip salute is performed in one of the following ways:
 - a. A lady: by moving the whip, held in the right hand, to a vertical position, the butt end even with the face, or
 - b. By moving the whip, held in the right hand, to a position parallel with the ground, the handle before the face.
 - c. A gentleman may place the whip in his left hand and remove his hat.
4. Only the driver may handle the reins, whip, or brake during a competition. Failure to comply will incur elimination.

C. GROOMS

1. Two grooms or passengers are required for four-in-hand or unicorns to assist in the event of difficulty.
2. One groom or passenger is required for a pair or tandem to assist in the event of difficulty.
3. A groom is optional for a single horse turnout.
4. Where grooms or passengers are required, failure to comply incurs elimination.
5. Grooms assisting a turnout must be on the vehicle and attired properly.

D. THE HORSE

1. If shod, the horse should be suitably shod for pleasure driving.
2. Tails tied to vehicles or traces are prohibited.
3. In Pleasure driving classes, bell boots, shin boots and wraps are prohibited.

E. THE HARNESS

1. Breast collars are appropriate with lightweight vehicles. Full collars are suggested for heavy vehicles such as coaches, brakes, phaetons, dogcarts, etc.
2. A correctly fitting harness saddle is important for the comfort of the horse. A wide saddle is suggested for two wheeled vehicles as more weight rests on the horse's back. Narrow saddles are more appropriate for four wheeled vehicles.
3. Martingales and overchecks are prohibited in driving classes for all vehicles. Sidechecks are optional.
4. Snaffle bits and other types of traditional driving bits are allowed. Bits may be covered with rubber or leather.

F. THE VEHICLE

Drivers should strive to present an appropriate turnout. Appropriate indicates the balance and pleasing appearance of the combination of horse and vehicle. Factors determining the above include compatible size, type, and weight of horse and vehicle.

G. WORKING CLASS

A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the suitability of a horse to provide a pleasant drive.

1. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and a strong trot. To stand quietly, both on the rail and while lined up, and to rein back. All entries chosen for a work-off may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the judge.
2. To be Judged:
 - a. 70% on performance, manners and way of going.
 - b. 20% on the condition and fit of the harness and vehicle.
 - c. 10% on neatness of attire.

H. TURNOUT CLASS

A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the performance and quality of each turnout.

1. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. To stand quietly and rein back. All drivers 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.
2. To be judged:
 - a. 40% on performance, manners and way of going.
 - b. 30% on the condition, fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle.
 - c. 15% on neatness and appropriateness of attire.
 - d. 15% on overall impression.

I. REINSMANSHIP CLASS

A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the ability and skill of the driver.

1. To be shown at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. Drivers shall be required to rein back. All drivers chosen for a work-off may be worked at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a figure eight and/or perform other appropriate tests. In order to evaluate a driver's skill set, the judge may request a test involving driving with one hand.
2. To be judged:
 - a. 75% on the handling of reins and whip, control, posture, and overall appearance of driver.
 - b. 25% on the condition of harness and vehicle and neatness of attire.

J. DESCRIPTION OF GAITS

The following descriptions constitute approved standard for performance of each of the required gaits in a pleasure driving competition.

1. Walk: A free, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate extension is required. The horse should walk energetically but calmly with evenly and determined pace.
2. 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. Working Trot: This is the pace between the strong and slow trot and more rounded 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 touch the ground in the print 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.

4. Strong Trot (Trot On): 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. The term "Trot - On" should be used to call for the gait.
5. Halt: The horse(s) and vehicle should come to a complete square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt, 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.
6. Rein Back: Rein back is defined as a 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 fixed and straight, pushing the carriage back evenly in a straight line. The driver must use quiet aids with light contact.
 - b. Move forward willingly to the former position using the same quiet aids.

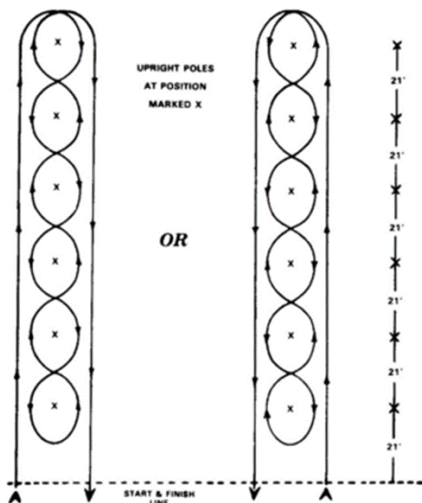
4. GYMKHANA CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

A. GENERAL

1. These classes are timed events. The exhibitors will enter the arena and the gate will be closed before starting their run. Exhibitors will compete in order listed in show book unless other arrangements are made with the Ring Steward prior to the class.
2. Late entries will be placed at the front of the order and are the first to compete. Once the starting line is crossed, broken equipment will not be a reason for a re-run. Malfunction of the timer will entitle the exhibitor to a rerun.
3. Gymkhana class attire may be western (no blue jeans) or English (breeches and polo shirts acceptable). All shirts must be tucked into pants/breeches regardless of attire. Heeled boots appropriate to attire must also be worn. Protective helmets meeting ASTM-1163 minimum must be worn by all youth and are encouraged for all competitors.
4. Dress must be appropriate with the style of saddle. Proper riding boots are required.
5. Tiedowns, hackamores, martingales, splint boots, polo wraps, and bell boots are allowed.
6. Prohibited equipment includes: wire curb straps, twisted wire mouthpiece bits, and wire nosebands.
7. A rider may bump or hit an obstacle without penalty if it remains standing & does not fall over. Touching an obstacle to hold it up or try to reset will result in a disqualification.

B. POLE BENDING

1. Patterns:

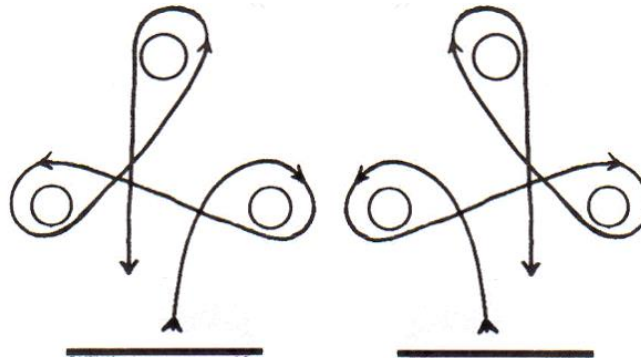


2. Time shall begin and end as the horse's nose crosses the line. An electric timer or at least two stop watches shall be used. The time indicated by the electric timer or the average time of the watches used by official timers will be the official time.
3. The pole bending pattern is to be run around six poles. Each pole is to be 21 feet apart, and the first pole is to be 21 feet from the starting line. Poles shall be set on top of the ground and approximately six feet in height.
4. A horse may start either to the right or to the left of the first pole and then run the remainder of the poles accordingly.
5. Knocking over a pole shall carry a five second penalty. Failure to follow the course will result in disqualification.

6. The judge, at his/her discretion, may disqualify a competitor for excessive use of a bat, crop, whip or rope, especially in front of the cinch.

C. BARREL RACING

1. Competition pattern will be in the show book or posted one hour before event. Order of competition will be listed in the show book, with late entries being added to the front of this order.
2. An electric timer or at least two stop watches shall be used. The time indicated by the electric timer or average time of the watches used by official timers will be the official time.
3. Timing shall begin as soon as the horse's nose reaches the starting line and will be stopped when the horse's nose passes over the finish line.
4. Three barrels will be set in a triangular (or cloverleaf) pattern, exhibitors may choose which direction to start, right or left. See figure below:



5. Knocking over a barrel carries a five second penalty. Failure to follow the course will result in disqualification.
6. The judge, at his/her discretion, may disqualify a competitor for excessive use of a bat, crop, whip or rope, especially in front of the cinch.

D. EGG AND SPOON

No foreign matter may be used to aid the egg staying in the spoon, this includes your thumb. Exhibitors are worked on the rail. Judge calls the direction and gaits. Entries are disqualified if change in gait is not initiated within three (3) strides after request. When the egg falls from the spoon, the horse should immediately be moved to the center of the ring to avoid interfering with the other riders. Those in the center should line up in order of elimination. Last egg on spoon wins.

E. OPEN OBSTACLE DRIVING

1. The course will be in show book or posted at least one hour before start of event. Order of competition will be listed in show book with late entries being added to the front of this order. An electric timer or at least two stop watches shall be used. The time indicated by the electric timer or average time of the watches used by official timers will be the official time.
2. To be driven over a prescribed course of numbered obstacles consisting of pairs of cones and balls, or the equivalent, not to exceed ten obstacles.
3. After the competitor enters the arena, the gate will be closed. After passing through the start gate, the competitor will proceed through each pair of numbered cones in order, as numbered and shown on the course diagram.
4. Option to or not to canter will be in the entry book and the show program. Proper show attire is expected with exception of driving aprons and gloves, which are optional. Grooms are also optional. Course walk through is permitted. If a horse is driven in a manner deemed to be reckless or unsafe to either the horse or the driver, the judge will eliminate this horse and driver from the competition.

F. SCURRY OBSTACLE

1. To be driven over a course of unnumbered obstacles consisting of cones and balls, or the equivalent, not to exceed 10 obstacles.
2. After passing through the Start markers from any direction, the driver shall proceed through each obstacle from any direction, in any order. Each obstacle must be driven once. Upon completion of the course, the driver must pass through the Finish markers from any direction, where time will be taken.
3. Refusals, run-outs and circling will not be penalized.
4. Course faults will be scored as penalty seconds and added to the driver's elapsed time. Placings will be determined on a low total time basis. Ties for first place will be broken by a drive-off.

Penalties for Open Obstacle Driving and Scurry Obstacle

1. Knocked down ball – 3 second penalty

2. Knocked over cone – 10 second penalty
3. Missing gate/off course - elimination

5. HUNTER/JUMPER CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

A. OVER FENCES

1. A hunter is judged on manners, suitability, performance and soundness rather than how high the horse can jump. Refusals or knockdowns incur major penalties. There is a limit of three (3) refusals before elimination. Being off course results in elimination.
2. Proper English show attire and tack are compulsory. This would include: dark colored hunt jacket, hunt boots, conservative tailored blouse or shirt with choker, tie, or stock, hunt breeches and gloves. In extreme heat, management may allow jackets to be removed & if so, long-sleeved collared shirts are required. A transparent or conservative color raincoat may be worn in inclement weather.
3. All horses must be serviceably sound. All horses being considered for an award may be jogged for soundness with rider dismounted. Horses that are not serviceably sound are ineligible for an award.
4. Unpinned warm-up rounds will be offered prior to each division. Any horse/rider combination, except Novice exhibitors, may enter any warm-up round. Novice exhibitors may only enter the Novice warm-up class.
5. The same horse/rider combination, unless a Novice exhibitor, may enter two consecutive divisions. Novice exhibitors may only enter Division I (Novice Rider). Green horses may enter the Green Division and Division III (18"-2').
6. Unless otherwise stated, USEF rules for over fences will be applied.
7. Hunter classes will be offered as divisions consisting of one hunter over fence class, an equitation over fences class and one flat class. Division champion will be calculated from all three classes.
8. Jumper classes are open to any horse/rider combination other than Novice exhibitors. Green horses may enter jumper classes.
9. A courtesy circle should be ridden at the beginning and end of each course.

B. CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

1. Novice Rider Over Fences

- a. The Novice Rider Over Fences class is open to riders who have never competed in any class requiring jumps over 18".
- b. Riders competing in this class are not eligible for any other classes over fences.
- c. Jumps will be crossrails.
- d. Over fence portion is designated as a walk/trot class however canter is not penalized, as long as trot is resumed before the next fence.
- e. Flat class of Division will be walk/trot.
- f. Riders in this division retain eligibility for non over fences division canter classes.

2. Green Horse Over Fences

- a. The Green Horse Over Fences class is open to horses in their 1st or 2nd year of jumping.
- b. Horses entered in this class may cross-enter into Division III Hunter Over Fences and individual jumper classes only
- c. Jumps will be 18" verticals.
- d. Over fence portion may be completed at a trot or a canter. Rider must begin with and maintain either a trot or a canter (one or the other) throughout the course.
- e. Flat classes of Divisions will be walk/trot.
- f. Riders and horses in this division retain eligibility for non over fences division canter classes.

6. DRESSAGE CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

A. DRIVEN DRESSAGE

1. The driven dressage horse shall be judged according to the purpose and directives listed on each test.
2. **Attire**
 - a. Competitors are reminded that neatness should be the first requisite. The dress of the competitor and grooms must conform to the style of carriage and harness used. Period costumes, however, are not desirable.
 - b. Driving aprons, hats, gloves and whip in hand are obligatory. The whip must be of suitable style and adequate length to reach the shoulder of the farthest horse.
 - c. Grooms are subject to ADS rules.

3. **Harness and Vehicle**

- a. Martingales and overchecks are prohibited in dressage classes for all vehicles.
 - b. A throatlatch and a noseband or cavesson are mandatory.
 - c. Wire wheeled and pneumatic tire vehicles are not acceptable.
4. ADS rules will be applied unless otherwise stated. Drivers may use either the one or two handed method of driving without being penalized or rewarded for using one general style over another.
5. The arena should be on a level ground as possible. The small arena is 80 meters long and 40 meters wide. When available arena sizes differ from this, only ADT tests will be offered. The arena will be uniform in size for all competitors.

B. RIDDEN DRESSAGE

1. **Class Specifications**

- a. The dressage horse shall be judged according to the purpose and directives listed on each test.
- b. AHR reserves the right to limit the number of tests per day per horse.
- c. No changes may be made to the dressage show schedule unless authorized by the Show Manager.

2. **Judging**

- a. In all dressage classes, any circumstances not specifically covered by these rules, the USEF Rulebook, Dressage Division and Western Dressage Division shall serve as the reference for all other rules and requirements not covered in the AHR Handbook.
- b. A competitor failing to enter the arena within 60 seconds of the starting signal will be eliminated, at the discretion of the Ground Jury. The same applies to a competitor who enters the arena before the starting signal has been given.
- c. A test begins with the entry at A and ends after the salute at the end of the test, as soon as the horse moves forward. Any incidents before the beginning or after the end of the test have no effect on the marks.
- d. Competitors must take the reins in one hand at the salute. Gentlemen, may, but are not required to remove their hats at the salute. Ladies should not remove hats. Riders wearing protective head gear should not remove their helmets.
- e. When a movement must be carried out at a certain point of the arena, it should be done when the competitor's body is above the point.
- f. The use of the voice in any way whatsoever or clicking of the tongue once or repeatedly is a serious fault involving the deduction of at least two marks from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this occurred.
- g. In case of marked lameness, the judge at C, after consultation with the other judge(s) if Appropriate, will inform the competitor that he is eliminated. There is no appeal against this decision.
- h. A horse leaving the arena completely, with all four feet, between the time of entry and the final salute, will be eliminated.
- i. Any resistance that prevents the continuation of the test for more than 20 seconds will be punished by elimination.
- j. When a competitor makes an "error of course" (takes the wrong turn, omits a movement, etc.) the judge at C warns him by sounding a bell/whistle. The judge shows him, if necessary, the point at which he must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed, then leaves him to continue by himself. However, in some cases when, although the rider makes an "error of course," the sounding of the bell/whistle would unnecessarily impede the fluency of the performance (for instance if the competitor makes a transition at V instead of K), it is up to the judge at C to decide whether to sound the bell/whistle or not. However, if the bell/whistle is not sounded at an error of test in which the movement is repeated and the error occurs again, only one error is recorded.
- k. When a competitor makes an "error of the test" (trots rising instead of sitting, does not take the reins in one hand at the salute, etc.), he must be penalized as for an "error of course."
- l. In principle, a competitor is not allowed to repeat a movement of the test unless the judge at C decides on an error of course and sounds the bell/whistle. If the competitor has started the execution of a movement and tries to do the same movement again, the judge(s) must consider the first movement shown only and at the same time penalize for an error of course.
- m. If there is more than one judge, unless all judges are in agreement on an error, the competitor receives the benefit of the doubt.
- n. Any outside intervention by voice, signs, etc., is considered unauthorized assistance. A competitor receiving unauthorized assistance will be eliminated, at the discretion of the Ground Jury.
- o. When there are two or more judges, one horse and rider, taking no part in the competition, will perform the prescribed ride in order that the judges may confer before the competition begins.

3. Dressage

A. Attire

1. Short riding coat of conservative color, with tie, choker or stock tie, breeches or jodpurs, boots or jodpur boots. Riders may wear half-chaps, gaiters or leggings in solid black or brown, without fringe, matching the color of their boots, and made of smooth leather or leather-like material. Gloves of conservative color are recommended. Wearing a hardhat or appropriate dressage headgear is compulsory for anyone riding a Haflinger on the flat. AHR strongly encourages all competitors to wear protective headgear meeting or surpassing current American Society of Testing & Materials (ASTM) Standards.
2. In extreme heat and/or humidity, the Ground Jury has the option to allow competitors to compete without jackets. In such cases, competitors must wear either a long or short sleeved collared shirt of conservative color without neckwear.
3. Spurs are optional. Spurs capable of wounding a horse are forbidden. Spurs must be of smooth metal. There must be a shank pointing only towards the rear, which must be no more than 5.08 cm (2 inches) long. The end must be blunt in order to prevent wounding a horse. If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directed downwards, however, swan necked spurs are allowed. If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth and free to rotate

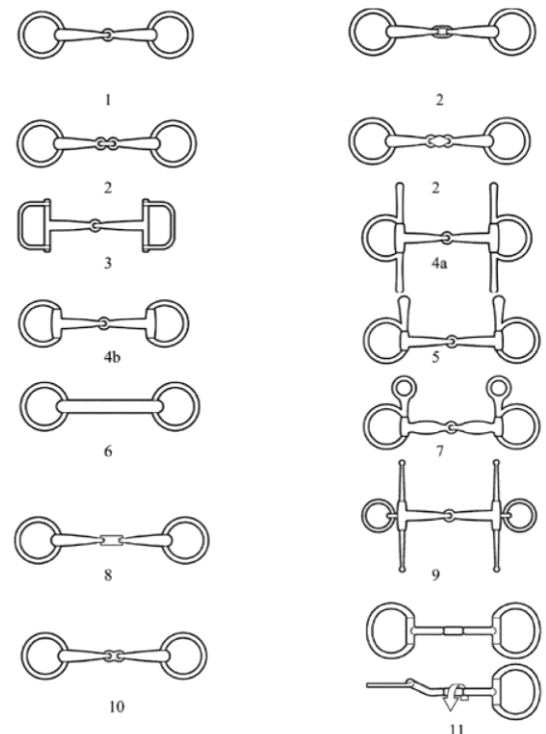
B. Saddlery & Equipment

1. An English type saddle with stirrups is compulsory for Federation and USDF tests. 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. Saddle pads are optional, but should be white or of a conservative color. No advertisement or publicity is permitted on saddle cloths or horses. English-style stirrups, without attachments, or safety stirrups are compulsory.
2. For Introductory, Training, First and Second Level tests, a snaffle bridle with plain, crossed, flash or dropped noseband. Only those bits listed with Figure 1 are allowed.
3. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm) including lash permitted.
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 "easyboots") or bandages (including tail bandages) and any form of blinkers, earmuffs or plugs, nose covers, seat covers, hoods are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden. Fly hoods (ear covers) made of a thin (single, unpadding) layer of material, are permitted for competitions held in open-sided covered rings or outdoor rings in order to protect horses from insects.

Figure 1. Bits Permitted in English Dressage. All bits (as shown below) must be smooth and with a solid surface. 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 center piece 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 (in manufactured state); flexible rubber bits are not permitted, except as noted below, under A. The diameter of the snaffle or bridoon mouthpiece must be minimum 10 mm diameter at rings or cheeks of the mouthpiece. Any bit combining any mouthpiece pictured in Figure 1 with any cheekpiece pictured in Figure 1 is permitted. Type of bit should not vary from those pictured below except where specified, and bits should be attached only as pictured in diagram.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Ordinary snaffle with single-jointed mouthpiece | 6. Unjointed snaffle (mullen-mouth) |
| 2. Ordinary snaffle with double-jointed mouthpiece | 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 |
| 3. Racing snaffle (D-ring) | 8. Dr. Bristol |
| 4. Snaffle | 9. Fulmer |
| a) with cheeks, with or without keepers | 10. French snaffle |
| b) without cheeks (egg-butt) | 11. Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece |
| 5. Snaffle with upper or lower cheeks | |

*Any of the above may be made with a rubber, plastic or leather 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.



4. Western Dressage

A. Attire

1. A long-sleeved shirt with any type of collar is required; short sleeves may be worn at the discretion of the judge. Trousers, pants should be worn with boots. Necktie, kerchief, bolo tie or pins are optional. Vests, coats, and chaps are also optional.
2. A suitable western hat or protective headgear must be worn.
3. Spurs are optional, and may be of Western style, with or without blunt tines, or English dressage style.

B. Saddlery & Equipment

1. A standard stock saddle, national, working saddle, Aussie, native, or western side saddle is to be used. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. A horn is not required but western style fenders are required.
2. Any western type headstall must be used. A western cavesson is allowed. A rider can ride with two hands with only split reins, connected reins, or mecate type reins. Romal reins may only be used with a curb bit; the rider must use one hand with romal reins.
3. Any snaffle bit may be used on a horse of any age being ridden at any level. Hackamores are permitted on a horse of any age at any level. A hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible non-metallic core. A standard Western curb bit may be used on a horse of any age being ridden at any level. The maximum length of the shanks is 8.5 inches (21.59 cm). Shanks may be fixed or loose. Bars of the mouthpiece must be round, smooth and unwrapped (except with latex) metal of 5/16 inch (7.96 mm) to 3/4 inch (19.05 mm) in diameter measured one inch from the cheek. All curb bits must be free of mechanical devices; nothing such as extensions, rivets or prongs may protrude below the mouthpiece. The mouthpiece may have two or three pieces. A three piece connecting ring of 1 1/4 inch (31.7 mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8 inch to 3/4 inch (9.5-19.05 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2 inches (50 mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2 inches (8.89 cm). Rollers attached to the center of the bit and covers are acceptable. Curb chains, if used, and flat leather chin straps must be at least 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. No wire, rawhide, metal or other substance can be used in conjunction with or as part of the flat leather chin strap or curb chain.
4. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm) including lash permitted.
5. Use of 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 tail bandages and any form of blinkers, earmuffs or plugs, and nose covers, are cause for elimination. Protective manufactured leg wraps are permitted, with color matching natural color of the horse as much as possible. Fly hoods (ear covers) made of a thin (single, unpadded) layer of material, are permitted for competitions held in open-sided covered rings or outdoor rings in order to protect horses from insects.

5. Inspection of Equipment

A steward may be appointed to check the saddlery of each horse before it enters the arena or starts a test. In the Dressage Test, the checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution. If the competitor so requests, the bridle and bit may be checked immediately after the test has been completed. However, should the bridle or bit in such a case be found not to be permitted, the competitor shall be eliminated.

7. RIDDEN PLEASURE COMPETITION CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

A. DEFINITIONS

1. A "Green Horse" is defined as a horse in its first two years of showing.
2. A "Novice Rider" is defined as a rider in their first two years of showing.

B. ENGLISH PLEASURE

1. General

- a. **Tack:** Regulation snaffles, pelhams and full bridles, all with cavesson nosebands are recommended. A judge may penalize for non-conventional types of bits or nosebands. Martingales of any type are prohibited in under saddle classes. Boots, bandages and wraps are prohibited.

- b. **Attire:** Riders are required to wear hunt coats of traditional (dark) color, shirts with choker, tie or stock tie, white, or tan breeches or jodhpurs, tall boots or paddock boots with knee straps, helmet or protective headgear. Youth riders must wear protective headgear passing or surpassing ASTM standards. Riders of all ages and abilities are encouraged to wear ASTM approved helmets.
- c. **Soundness:** All horses must be serviceably sound. Horses that are not serviceably sound are ineligible for an award.

2. **Class Specifications:**

- a. Horses will enter the ring to the right (tracking left); and will reverse toward the inside of the arena. Horses may be asked to back, perform in groups on the rail or be asked to perform individual patterns at the judge's discretion. Large groups may be split with the top contenders of each split brought back into the ring to work off for the final selection.
- b. Horses are shown at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring, to back readily and stand quietly. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Horses should be obedient, alert, responsive and move freely. They should not be eliminated for slight errors. Judges may ask horses to extend the trot or hand gallop collectively, one way of the ring. No more than eight will be asked to hand gallop at one time. To be judged on performance, manners, soundness, way of going, and the ability to give a good pleasure ride 80%; type and confirmation 20%.

C. WESTERN PLEASURE

1. **Western Bits & Equipment**

- a. A western type headstall, without noseband, may be used with a western type bit.
- b. Curb chains or straps must be at least 1/2 inch wide and lie flat against the jaw. No wire, metal, rawhide or other substance may be used with or as part of the flat leather chin strap or curb chain.
- c. Hackamores (bosal) refer to a flexible, braided rawhide or leather, or rope bosal the core of which may be either rawhide or flexible cable; no rigid material permitted under the jaws. Hackamores or standard snaffle bits may be used on horses 5 years and under. Over the course of the show, a western horse shown in a snaffle or hackamore (bosal) may not show in any other western classes in a bridle with western curb bit. Snaffle bit may be O ring, D ring or egg butt with a ring no greater than 4 inches; the mouth piece should be smooth, round metal in two or three pieces. A three piece connecting ring of 1 1/4 inch or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar 3/8 to 3/4 (measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2 inches), which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable. Two hands may be used on snaffle and hackamore (bosal) reins.
- d. Split type reins or closed reins with romal are equally acceptable.
- e. Hackamore bits, martingales, tie downs, or cavesson nosebands are prohibited.
- f. A western curb bit refers to a bit that has a broken or solid mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. The bit should be considered a standard western bit and be free of mechanical device. Shanks may be loose or fixed with 8 1/2 inch maximum length. The bars should be smooth metal of 5/16 to 3/4 inches in diameter and may have 2 or 3 pieces. The port should be no higher than 3 1/2 inches maximum; rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, spades and half-breeds are acceptable. Slip or gag bits, flat polo mouthpieces and bits with prongs or extensions below the mouthpiece are not acceptable.
- g. With the exception of hackamore and snaffle bit bridles, only one hand is used on the reins; hands may not be changed. The hand may be around the reins, index finger only between split reins is permitted. When a romal is carried with closed reins the extension may be carried in the free hand with a 16 inch spacing between the rein hand and free hand. The romal may not be used in front of the cinch or to cue the horse in any way.
- h. Western classes will be shown in a western saddle. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit.
- i. Optional equipment includes: rope or riata coiled and attached to the saddle, hobbles attached to the saddle, tapaderos.
- j. Prohibited equipment includes: wire curb straps, nosebands, martingales and tie downs, twisted wire mouthpiece bits, protective boots or leg wraps.
- k. Appropriate western sidesaddles and attire are permitted.

2. **Acceptable Attire**

- a. Suitable western attire includes western style boots and hat. Shirts with long sleeves and a collar are required. Vests, sweaters and jackets are allowed. Colors and fabrics should be well-coordinated. Jeans (blue jeans not permitted) in good condition are appropriate. Chaps are optional.
- b. Helmets with chinstraps may be worn in western without penalty. Color or helmet cover coordinating with the outfit is recommended.
- c. Spurs are optional.

3. **Western Pleasure Class Specifications**

- a. Horses will enter and be asked to walk, jog, and lope both directions of the ring. Extensions of gait may be requested at judge's discretion. Riders will reverse toward the inside of the ring. Horses may be asked to halt or change gait from one other gait. Changes should be smooth, and made with light tactful use of the reins. Riders will not be asked to reverse from a lope. Horses should be shown on a reasonably loose rein or light contact without undue restraint.
- b. The walk should be a true four beat gait with a level topline, a balanced and relaxed appearance, and more forward than excessively slow. The jog is a 2 beat consistent gait in which the horse has level topline and relaxed appearance, while showing balance, self-carriage and driving from behind. The lope should be a true three beat gait, show strong self-carriage and driving from behind through the gait, and should be forward and ground covering without excessive speed. For all gaits, the head and neck of horse should be carried in a relaxed natural position with the nose neither behind the vertical or excessively nosed out. Poll must not be carried below the level of the withers. The horse should have a bright, alert expression, be responsive and smooth in transitions. Horse should have good quality movement that appears comfortable to ride. The horse should not be forced into the frame, and move naturally in a way that is pleasing to watch. The rider will have slight contact with the horse's mouth, showing that the horse can be willingly guided. Excessive slowness in any gait will be penalized at judge's discretion.
- c. To be judged on performance, manners, soundness and way of going with the ability to give a good pleasure ride 80%, confirmation and type 20%.
- d. A Junior horse is age five years and under and may be shown in a ring snaffle or hackamore with two hands (both hands must be visible to the judge) or may be shown in a bridle (one handed). Once an option is chosen, it must be continued for the duration of that show.

D. WALK TROT CLASS

1. The intent of the walk trot class is to allow beginner riders the opportunity to show when they are not yet ready to canter in a show situation, and for Green horses not yet ready to canter in a show situation. The rider will be asked to enter the ring, demonstrate a controlled walk, trot or jog both directions of the ring. The riders will be asked to back. Horses should stand quietly and back readily. The horse should be well mannered and balanced.
2. Horses may be shown in appropriate English or Western tack; riders appropriately dressed as defined under the rules for English and Western pleasure.
3. Youth riders entering Youth walk/trot classes will be walk/trot ONLY on all horses for the duration of the show. Any horse and rider combination showing in Open walk/trot classes may not enter classes which require canter for the duration of the show.

E. BAREBACK CLASS

1. Horses and riders will show English or Western as defined by the rules of English or Western pleasure with the exception that there will be no saddle or pad.
2. Horses will be asked to perform in both directions of the ring and may be asked to back or perform patterns at the discretion of the judge.
3. To be judged 50% on the performance of the horse and 50% on the position and ability of the rider.

F. REINING CLASS

1. The reined work is a demonstration of both the rider's control of the horse and the horse's suitability as a cow horse as it circles, runs, stops and turns. The horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of/or temporary loss of control and therefore a fault that must be marked down according to the severity of the deviation.
2. Rider may use 2 hands
3. A simple lead change is defined as from the canter to the walk (NO trot stride) for a stride or 2, then back into the canter in the opposite lead.
4. Correct flying lead changes will be awarded more points than simple changes due to difficulty, but errors during flying lead changes will be penalized appropriately.
5. Horses work individually. Judging begins the moment the horse enters the arena. A reined work must consist of the following: circles, lead changes and runs terminating in well-balanced stops straight to the line of travel, turns and a back-up of a reasonable distance with slight hesitation denoting each maneuver. The judging ends when the rider indicates he is finished by coming to a complete stop.
6. Scoring will be based off of AQHA reining rules & scoresheet.

G. TRAIL OR OBSTACLE CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

1. General Info

- a. The purpose of the class is to send the horse through different obstacles. The horse may be shown from the ground (in-hand), ridden, or driven.
- b. The class is judged on manners, way of going, performance, obedience, and willingness of the horse. Also the exhibitor will be judged on how smoothly and efficiently he/she handles the horse while completing each obstacle.
- c. Course patterns should be posted at least one hour before the class is held.
- d. The judge should walk the course after the obstacles are set up in order to ensure correctness of the pattern and ensure safety.
- e. The judge or show committee may allow the exhibitors to walk the course at a designated time before the class is held. The horse is not allowed on the course during the exhibitor walk of the course.
- f. **JUDGING:** the scoring of the class is based on a point system for each obstacle. The judge will award credit to the handler/horse on how one performs at the obstacle. At the same time penalties will given for each obstacle. Exhibitors will be timed and have no more than 4 minutes to complete the prescribed pattern or will result in a disqualification.

2. In-Hand Trail or Obstacles

- a. Exhibitors should wear the appropriate attire as one would if entering a halter or showmanship class.
- b. The horse should be shown with a proper fitting halter (leather, nylon, or rope halter) and lead. A lead may be of any material. A chain lead is allowed over or under the nose of ONLY a leather or nylon type halter. The lead should be held in a safe manner.
- c. A whip or show stick is optional, the handler may change hands on the lead as necessary to perform an obstacle.
- d. The class may be conducted with divisions of youth, adult, or open. The class may also be conducted with divisions of horses age (i.e. any combination of weanlings, yearlings, two- to three-year-olds, four-year-olds and older).
- e. The class will consist of four to five obstacles.
- f. Obstacles simulate what may be encountered on the trail and can be but are not limited to: walk or trot over poles (set up in a straight line or arched with a spacing of 20 to 24 inches for walk and 36 to 42 inches for trot), mailbox, turn in a box, handler works with a slicker/jacket, bridge, sidepass (over a pole or between poles), back through (i.e. straight, L-shaped, U-shaped, or around cones), everyday activities around the barn (i.e. water spray bottle, pick-up horses front feet (may need someone to hold horse), use of a battery powered clippers, look at the teeth, touch the horses ears, use a measuring stick) or ground tie.
- g. **Scoring** for trail in-hand will be judged on a zero (0) to infinity basis with a score of 70, considered as an average score. Obstacle and penalty scores may be added or subtracted from the average score. Emphasis is put on manners, responsiveness and quality of movement.
 - i. Obstacle scores will range from -1 ½ to +1 ½ (-1 ½=extremely poor, -1=very poor, -1/2=poor, 0=correct, +1/2=good, +1=very good, +1 ½ = excellent). Additionally, penalty points will be assigned independently from the obstacle score.
 - ii. Penalty Scores:
 1. **5 Point Penalty:** Drop object; 1st refusal or evade; 2nd refusal; loss of control at gate, use of either hand to instill fear or praise; blatant disobedience; failure to complete obstacle.
 2. **3 Point Penalty:** Step out of or jump off obstacle; incorrect lead at lope; knockdown or severely disturbing an obstacle (elevated pole, cone, barrel, obstacle, etc.)
 3. **2 Point Penalty:** Touching horse with hand, whip, and lead to complete an obstacle every time it occurs.
 4. **1 Point Penalty (per occurrence):** both front & hind feet in single-stride space; skipping over or failing to step into space; each hit of or stepping on a log, pole, cone or other obstacle.
 5. **½ Point Penalty (per occurrence):** each tick of a log, pole, cone or other obstacle.
 6. **Zero (0) Score** will occur for entire class & not placed if: failure to complete at least three obstacles; three accumulative refusals; failure to enter, exit, or work obstacles from correct side or direction; performing obstacles out of specified order.

3. Ridden Trail or Obstacles

- a. The class is open to exhibitors riding Western or English.
- b. Exhibitor attire and horses tack to be the same as required as if one was to enter a Horsemanship or Equitation type class.
- c. The class may be conducted with divisions of youth, adult, or open.
- d. The class will consist of at least six obstacles. The obstacles should be set up to provide enough working space to work the obstacle or to conduct a gait (walk, trot, canter) between the obstacles.
- e. Obstacles simulate what may be encountered on a trail ride and can be but are not limited to: ride over at least four logs/poles (set up in a straight line, zigzag, arched, or raised with spacing of 20 to 24 inches for walk, 36 to 42 inches for trot, and 6 to 7 feet for canter), back through (i.e. straight, L-shaped, U-shaped, or around cones), mailbox, work/pass

through a gate, bridge, handler works with a slicker/jacket, jump (set up to be no more than 12 inches in height and recommended for advanced riders), sidepass (over a pole or between poles), pass through a narrow passage (set at least 48 inches in width) at any gait, turn in a box, ground tie, carry on object for a specified pattern/distance or ground tie.

- f. An obstacle can be set up with a combination of two or more of any of the obstacles listed.
- g. Rein hands may change only while maneuvering an obstacle or will be disqualified.
- h. **Scoring** for ridden trail will be based on the performance of the horse ridden over obstacles and judged on manners, responsiveness & quality of movement. Maximum credit will be given to entries that show style & reasonable degree of speed. Horses should appear alert and respond willingly to rider's cues and aids.
 - i. Obstacle scores will range from -1 ½ to +1 ½. (-1 ½=extremely poor, -1=very poor, -1/2=poor, 0=correct, +1/2=good, +1=very good, +1 ½ = excellent) Additionally, penalty points will be assigned independently from the obstacle score.
 - ii. Penalty Scores:
 - 1. **5 Point Penalty (per occurrence):** Drop object (i.e. dropping object to be carried or letting go of gate or dropping rope gate); each refusal, balk or attempt to evade obstacle or backing more than two strides; use of either hand to instill fear or praise; blatant disobedience; failure to complete obstacle, step outside of or jump off of an obstacle with more than one foot.
 - 2. **3 Point Penalty (per occurrence):** Step outside of or jump off obstacle with only one foot once foot has entered the obstacle; incorrect lead at lope; knockdown or severely disturbing an obstacle (elevated pole, cone, barrel, obstacle, etc.); incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for more than two strides.
 - 3. **1 Point Penalty (per occurrence):** hit or step on any component of obstacle; incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two strides or less; skipping over space or both feet in single stride space; splitting pole in a lope over.
 - 4. **½ Point Penalty:** each tick of a log, pole, cone or other obstacle.
 - 5. **Zero (0) Score** will occur for entire class & not placed if: failure to follow the correct line of travel within or between obstacles; use of more than 1 finger between reins; use of 2 hands when riding in a curb bit; performing obstacles incorrectly or other than specified order; no attempt to perform obstacle; equipment failure; excessively or repeatedly touching the horse on the neck to lower the head; fall to ground by horse or rider; failure to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction, including overturns of more than 1/4 turn; 3rd refusal; failure to demonstrate correct lead or gait.

4. **Driven Trail or Obstacles**

- a. The class is open to a single turnout.
- b. Exhibitor attire, harness, and vehicle must follow the rules as specified for their appropriate type. Either a two- or four-wheeled vehicle is acceptable.
- c. The class may be conducted with divisions of youth, adult, or open.
- d. The class will consist of five to six obstacles. The obstacles should be set up to provide enough working space to work the obstacle or to conduct a gait (walk or trot) between the obstacles.
- e. Obstacles simulate what may be encountered on a drive and can be but are not limited to: bridge, drive with a wheel between two poles, figure 8, serpentine between cones, mailbox, pass through a passage (set at least 84 inches in width) at any gait, back straight through between poles, back into a three sided box (can also be set up to allow for the vehicle to knock down the back pole), back through two cones, drive over markings on the ground (i.e. lines made by lime or spray paint), driver to use whip to knock off a canister(s) from atop a rail or barrel, fan the hitch either to left or right 90 degrees.

H. WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

1. **Class Specifications**

Class judged on execution of pattern, appointments and position. Pattern is required. At judge's discretion, only top riders may be asked to complete rail work. Incorrect execution of the pattern may lead to disqualification from the class at the judge's discretion. Riders should sit in a comfortable, balanced, relaxed and flexible manner in the middle of the saddle with their weight supported by the insides of the thighs and crotch. The rider's head should be up, with the shoulders even and square. The back should be straight with the upper arms parallel with the body. The reining hand should be carried just ahead and above the saddle horn with the reins gathered to permit light contact in the horse's mouth. The off hand may be carried either straight down to the side, across the belt buckle or on the thigh. One finger is permitted between split reins with the reins running down through the hand and falling on the same side as the reining hand. If a romal is used, no finger is permitted between the reins and the romal is held with the off hand with at least 16 inches of slack. The thigh, knee and upper calf should remain in contact with the horse with the knee slightly bent to allow a straight drop from the top of the calf to the heel. Heels should be carried down and toes forward with either the ball or arch of the foot resting in the stirrup. Riders may not switch hands on the reins and should maintain the basic horsemanship position at all times. Riders must sit the trot and maintain a

tight seat at the lope. All cues and aids should be applied as inconspicuously as possible. Entries will be scored on the cleanliness and neatness of horse, rider and equipment, the rider's basic position and the techniques used by the rider in executing maneuvers in order to obtain the desired performance. Overall, the horse and rider should work as a team in order to show the horse to its best advantage.

2. **Acceptable Attire**

Riders and horses should be neat, clean and well groomed. Riders must wear appropriate western attire including boots, long trousers, and a shirt with a collar of coordinating colors. Western hats of coordinating color or protective headgear must be worn. Chaps ARE permitted but optional. The use of spurs is also optional.

3. **Equipment**

Tack should be clean, well serviced and properly adjusted to fit the horse. Equipment will consist of a western saddle, bridle and blanket or pad. The bridle must have either split reins or a romal equipped with either a bosal, snaffle or curb bit. Curb chains or straps must be flat and at least ½ inch in width. Mechanical hackamores, tie downs, draw reins and/or martingales are prohibited. Carrying a rope, hobbles, slicker or similar equipment is optional. For additional details see western pleasure section #1.

I. ENGLISH EQUITATION

Riders shall enter the ring and proceed at least once around the ring at each gait and, on command, reverse and repeat. The order to reverse can be executed by turning away from the rail. Light contact with horse's mouth is required. Entries then line up on command. Any or all riders may be required to execute any appropriate tests/pattern at the judge's direction. Incorrect execution of the test/pattern may lead to disqualification from the class at the judge's discretion. All tests used must be on the flat. An English type saddle with stirrups is required. Appointments and dress must follow the requirements assigned to the specific English discipline being represented. See above English Pleasure information regarding tack and apparel.

J. VERSATILITY

1. Attire must appear to be in accordance with the rules of the event. Chaps are permitted for all western events.
2. One Horse/Rider/Driver combination. Each contestant and their horse must remain in the arena the entire time. Any entries that exit for any reason will be disqualified.
3. Each contestant will be permitted two grooms to assist in the ring at designated times. The purpose of the groom is to assist the contestant in changing tack and attire. Use of wheelbarrows is acceptable, motorized vehicles is not. Grooms may only enter the arena when instructed to do so by the announcer. Once all grooms enter the arena they must stand in front of their contestant they are helping, and once released have a 5 minute limit for changing tack and attire. Failure to change in that allotted time frame will result in a disqualification of that contestant.
4. A fall of the horse or rider will result in the disqualification of the entry.
5. Removing a driving bridle from a horse while put to a vehicle will result in a disqualification.
6. The event will feature four (4) individual classes that will rotate every year and rules will be followed in accordance with the AHR Rule Book.
 - a. Even Years: Pleasure Driving-English Pleasure-Western Horsemanship-Barrels
 - b. Odd Years: Pleasure Driving-English Equitation-Western Pleasure-Poles
7. Each class will be placed 1st-10th. Any exhibitors resulting in a no-score or no-time from any one event will result in 0 points or no placement in that event, but will not eliminate the entry from the entire competition. Points will be accumulated as follows: 1st Place-10pts. 2nd Place -9 Pts. 3rd Place- 8 Pts.10th Place- 1 Pt. etc.
8. In the event of a tie, the exhibitor who placed the highest in the Equitation/Horsemanship class will prevail.
9. Judges decisions are final!

Hitch exhibitors please refer to the current set of rules provided by the Indiana State Fair.