

## 2012 WH&B Expo Rules & Regulations

### A. ATTIRE

- a. In Western Classes, contestants must wear a western hat or helmet.
- b. In English classes, contestants must wear a helmet.

### B. POINTS

- a. Classes are placed 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> place. First place wins 6 points, second wins 5 points, third wins 4 points, fourth wins 3 points, fifth wins 2 points, and sixth wins 1 point.
- b. In the case of a tie, points will be added together and divided between the tied contestants.
- c. Points are compiled by one contestant and one horse. A contestant may ride more than one horse but will accumulate a separate set of points for each horse ridden.
- d. If a contestant is accompanied by a helper in the show ring they cannot earn points for that event.

### C. CONDUCT

- a. The following actions may result in disqualification from a single event or all events.
  - i. Abuse of any animal. Refer to Section D.
  - ii. Abuse of officials or other contestants by contestant, contestant's family, or contestant's friends.
  - iii. Cheating by contestant, contestant helper or member of contestant's family.
  - iv. Assistance to a contestant while inside the show ring from other contestants, contestant's family, or contestant's friends. This includes riding double.
  - v. Insistence of family members or friends upon assisting a contestant in the show ring.
  - vi. Unsportsmanlike conduct or any other form of misconduct that is irresponsible, illegal, indecent, profane, intimidating, threatening or abusive.
  - vii. Not being ready for an event when called. In all events, if the contestant is not ready to compete after being called for three times the contestant will be disqualified from that event.
  - viii. Use of or traffic in tobacco products, intoxicating beverages, or illegal drugs.

#### **D. ANIMAL WELFARE**

- a. All horses, burros, and any other animals present shall, at all times, be treated humanely, and with dignity, respect, and compassion.
- b. The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted equine care, training and exhibition procedures or veterinary standards, would determine to be cruel, abusive, or inhumane.
- c. Inhumane treatment which can cause disqualification includes, but is not limited to:
  - i. Placing an object in a horse's mouth so as to cause undue discomfort or distress;
  - ii. Leaving a bit in a horse's mouth for extended periods of time so as to cause undue discomfort or distress;
  - iii. Tying a horse up or around in a stall in the manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress;
  - iv. Riding in manner as to cause undue discomfort or distress;
  - v. Tying or fastening any foreign object onto a horse, halter, bridle, and/or saddle in order to de-sensitize the horse;
  - vi. Use of prohibited equipment, including, but not limited to, sawtooth bits, hock hobbles, tack collars or tack hackamores;
  - vii. Use of any item or appliance that restricts movement of the tail;
  - viii. Exhibiting a horse which appears to be sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired; or
  - ix. Intentional or negligent treatment which results in any bleeding.
- d. The judge shall examine and check for lameness of all horses brought into any class. The judge has the authority to excuse any horse from the class, due to lameness, at any time while being judged. This is essential regardless of whether or not the competition indicates it is necessary.
  - i. Obvious lameness shall be cause for disqualification. Obvious lameness is:
    - 1. Consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances;
    - 2. Marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride;
    - 3. Minimal weight-bearing in motion and/or at rest and inability to move.

#### **E. GAITS**

- a. The following terminology shall apply in all western classes:

- i. The walk is a natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait. The horse must move straight and true at the walk. The walk must be alert, with a stride of reasonable length in keeping with the size of the horse.
  - ii. The jog is a smooth, ground-covering two-beat diagonal gait. The horse works from one pair of diagonals to the other pair. The jog should be square, balanced and with straight, forward movement of the feet. Horses walking with their back feet and trotting in the front are not considered performing the required gait. When asked to extend the jog, it moves out with the same smooth way of going.
  - iii. The lope is an easy, rhythmical three-beat gait. Horses moving to the left should lope on the left lead. Horses moving to the right should lope on the right lead. Horses traveling at a four-beat gait are not considered to be performing at a proper lope. The horse should lope with a natural stride and appear relaxed and smooth. It should be ridden at a speed that is a natural way of going. The head should be carried at an angle which is natural and suitable to the horse's conformation at all gaits.
- b. The following terminology is a description of western pleasure gaits:
- i. The Walk
    1. Poor walk- uneven pace and no cadence. Has no flow and may appear intimidated or appear to march.
    2. Average walk- has a four-beat gait, level top-line and is relaxed.
    3. Good walk- has a flowing four-beat gait, level top-line, relaxed and is bright and attentive.
  - ii. The Jog
    1. Extremely poor jog- cannot perform a two-beat gait and has no flow or balance in the motion.
    2. Very poor jog- hesitates in the motion. Does not keep an even and balanced motion or a level top-line. May appear to shuffle.
    3. Poor jog- average motion but has negative characteristics such as; walking with the hind legs, dragging the rear toes or taking an uneven length of stride with the front and rear legs.
    4. Correct or average jog- has a two-beat gait, a level top-line and a relaxed appearance.
    5. Good jog- has an average motion with positive characteristics such as balance and self-carriage while taking the same length of stride with the front and rear legs.

6. Very good jog- is comfortable to ride while having a consistent two-beat gait. The horse guides well, appears relaxed and has a level top-line.
7. Excellent jog- effortless and very efficient motion. Swing the legs yet touches the ground softly. Confident, yet soft with its motion while being balanced and under control. Moves flat with the knee and hock and has some cushion in the pastern. Has a bright and alert expression and exhibits more lift and self-carriage than the "very good jog."

iii. Moderate Extended Jog

1. Poor extended jog- never lengthens the stride and may appear rough to ride.
2. Average extended jog- moves up in its pace and appears smooth to ride.
3. Good extended jog- has an obvious lengthening of stride with a slight increase in pace while exerting less effort and appears smooth to ride.

iv. The Lope

1. Extremely poor lope- does not have a three-beat gait. Has no flow, rhythm or balance. Uncomfortable to ride.
2. Very poor lope- appears to have a three-beat lope but has no lift or self-carriage. The horse shuffles, has no flow and bobs his head, giving the appearance of exerting a great deal of effort to perform the gait. Also may appear uncomfortable to ride.
3. Poor lope- has an average motion but exhibits negative characteristics like head bobbing, not completing the stride with the front leg and leaving outside hock well behind the horse's buttocks.
4. Average lope- has a true three-beat gait with a level top-line and very little head and neck motion. He is relatively straight (not over-canted), guides well and has a relaxed appearance.
5. Good lope- has an average motion but exhibits positive characteristics in his performance like self-carriage, a steady top-line, relaxed appearance and is responsive to the rider's aids.
6. Very good lope- has more lift and flow than the average horse. He has a strong but smooth drive from behind. He may bend his knee slightly yet still has a level top-line while exhibiting self-carriage with a relaxed appearance. Appears comfortable to ride.

7. Excellent lope- has a round back with an effortless strong, deep stride with the rear legs and a flat swing with the front legs. He keeps a level top-line, a relaxed yet alert and confident appearance and is correct but soft. A special horse with a great degree of lift and self-carriage.
- v. The Back-Up
    1. Poor back-up- is resistant and heavy in front. May gap the mouth and throw his head or back crooked.
    2. Average back-up- backs straight and quietly with light contact and without hesitation.
    3. Good back-up- displays balanced and smooth flowing movements. Back straight with self-carriage without gapping the mouth with light contact and without hesitation.

## **F. HALTER CLASSES**

- a. A halter class is defined as a class where the horse is judged based upon its conformation.
- b. Rating conformation depends upon objective evaluation of the following four traits: balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics, and degree of muscling. Of the four, balance is the single most important, and refers to the structural and aesthetic balance of body parts. Balance is influenced almost entirely by skeletal structure.
- c. Halter Equipment
  - i. Lip chains: The following horses may not be shown with any chain through the mouth including but not limited to lip chains:
    1. Mares
    2. Geldings
    3. Weanling stallions
- d. Procedure for judging the class:
  - i. Horses will walk to the judge one at a time. As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the right (left of the horse) to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed 50 feet (15 meters) away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and trot toward the left wall or fence of the arena. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear.
    1. Any horse that becomes detached from its handler and is no longer under control by the handler will automatically be disqualified and excused. If the initial horse exhibiting poor

mannerisms (i.e. rearing, backing or falling into others, etc.) causes other exhibitor(s) to lose their horse(s), only the initiating horse will be disqualified and excused. The decision of the judge will be final.

2. The fall of a horse being judged in halter shall be cause for disqualification. A horse is considered having fallen when he or she is on their side with all four feet extended in the same direction.

#### **G. TRAIL**

- a. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles.
- b. Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles. Horses with artificial appearance over obstacles should be penalized.
- c. Horses must not be required to work on the rail. The course must be designed, however, to require each horse to show the three gaits (walk, jog, lope) somewhere between obstacles as a part of its work, and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the maneuver score. While on the line of travel between obstacles, the horse shall be balanced, carrying his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with or slightly above the withers. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. Gait between obstacles shall be at the discretion of the judge.
- d. The course to be used must be posted at least one hour before scheduled starting time of the class.

#### **H. BARREL RACING**

- a. 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.
- b. The contestant is allowed a running start. At a signal from the starter, the contestant will run to barrel number 1, pass to the left of it, and complete an approximately 360 degree turn around it; then go to barrel number 2, pass to the right of it, and complete a slightly more than 360 degree turn around it; then go to barrel number 3, pass to the right of it, and do another approximately 360

degree turn around it; then sprint to the finish line, passing between barrel number 1 and 2. This barrel course may also be run to the left. For example, the contestants will start to barrel number 2, turning left around this barrel, then to barrel number 1, turning to the right, then to barrel number 3, turning again to the right, followed by the final sprint to the finish line.

- c. Knocking over a barrel carries a five-second penalty. Failure to follow the course shall cause disqualification. A contestant may touch the barrel with his or her hands in barrel racing.
- d. The judge must disqualify any contestant for excessive use of a whip, rope, crop, bat or reins anywhere on the horse.
- e. If a tie occurs where points are involved, placing will be worked off if all tied exhibitors agree to participate in run-off, if not, a coin toss will be used to separate the ties. The horse declared the winner in the runoff must rerun the pattern within two seconds of its original time or the runoff must be held again. Penalty time will not apply to the two-second rule but will apply to the final runoff time.

#### **I. POLE BENDING**

- a. Each contestant will begin from a running start, and time shall begin and end as the horse's nose crosses the line. A clearly visible starting line must be provided. An electric timer or at least two watches shall be used, with the time indicated by the electric timer or the average time of the watches used by official timers to be the official time.
- b. The pole bending pattern is to be run around six poles. Each pole is to be 21 feet (6.4 meters) apart, and the first pole is to be 21 feet (6.4 meters) from the starting line. Poles shall be set on top of the ground, six feet (1.8 meters) in height, with no base more than 14 inches (35 cm) in diameter.
- c. A horse may start either to the right or to the left of the first pole and then run the remainder of the pattern accordingly.
- d. Knocking over a pole shall carry a five-second penalty. Failure to follow the course shall cause disqualification. A contestant may touch a pole with his or her hand in pole bending. If the original course is altered by a rider intentionally grasping a pole, a five second penalty for each pole grasped will be assessed.
- e. The judge must disqualify any contestant for excessive use of a whip, rope, crop, bat or reins anywhere on the horse.
- f. If a tie occurs where points are involved, placing will be worked off if all tied exhibitors agree to participate in run-off, if not, a coin toss will be used to separate the ties. The horse declared the winner in the runoff must rerun the pattern within two seconds of its original time or the runoff must be held again.

Penalty time will not apply to the two-second rule but will apply to the final runoff time.

#### **J. WESTERN PLEASURE**

- a. This class will be judged on the performance, condition and conformation of the horse.
- b. Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads. Passing is permissible and should not be penalized as long as the horse maintains a proper and even cadence and rhythm.
- c. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or jog at the discretion of the judge, but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope.
- d. Judge may ask for additional work of the same nature from any horse.
- e. Rider shall not be required to dismount except in the event the judge wishes to check the equipment.
- f. Horses to be shown at a walk, jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein or light contact without undue restraint.
- g. Faults to be scored according to severity:
  - i. Excessive speed (any gait)
  - ii. Being on the wrong lead
  - iii. Breaking gait (including not walking when called for)
  - iv. Excessive slowness in any gait, loss of forward momentum (resulting in an animated and/or artificial gait at the lope)
  - v. Failure to take the appropriate gait when called for (during transitions, excessive delay will be penalized)
  - vi. Touching horse or saddle with free hand
  - vii. Head carried too high
  - viii. Head carried too low (tip of ear below withers)
  - ix. Overflexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind to vertical
  - x. Excessive nosing out
  - xi. Opening mouth excessively
  - xii. Stumbling
  - xiii. Use of spurs forward of the cinch
  - xiv. If a horse appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired
  - xv. Quick, choppy, or pony-strided
  - xvi. If reins are drawn to the point that light contact is not maintained
  - xvii. Overly canted at the lope (when the outside hind foot is further to the inside of the arena than then inside front foot).

## **K. SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER**

- a. The showmanship class shall be judged strictly on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse at halter. The horse is merely a prop to demonstrate the ability and preparation of the exhibitor. The ideal showmanship performance consists of a posed, confident, neatly attired exhibitor leading a well groomed and conditioned horse that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern with promptness, smoothness and precision. The showmanship class is not another halter class and should not be judged as such.
- b. It is mandatory that the judge post any pattern(s) to be worked at least one hour prior to the commencement of the class.
- c. Class Procedures: All exhibitors may enter the ring and then work individually or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When exhibitors are worked individually from the gate, a working order is required. The following maneuvers are considered acceptable: lead the horse at a walk, jog, trot or extended trot, or back in a straight or curved line, or a combination of straight and curved lines; stop; and turn 90 (1/4), 180 (1/2), 270 (3/4), 360 (full turn) degrees or any combination or multiple of these. The judge must have exhibitors set the horse up squarely for inspection sometime during the class.
- d. Faults in the overall presentation of exhibitor and horse include:
  - i. Poorly groomed, conditioned or trimmed horse
  - ii. Dirty, ragged, or poorly or ill-fitted halter or lead
  - iii. Poor or improper position of exhibitor
  - iv. Excessively stiff, artificial, or unnatural movement around horse or when leading
  - v. Continuous holding of the chain portion of the lead, or lead shank tightly coiled around hand or dragging the ground
  - vi. Changing hands or placing both hands on the lead, except when preparing to show the horse's teeth
- e. Faults of the performance include:
  - i. Drifting of the horse while being led
  - ii. Backing, leading, or turning sluggishly or crooked
  - iii. Horse not set up squarely or excessive time required to set up
  - iv. Failure to maintain a pivot foot during turns or stepping behind right front leg with left front leg when turning to the right
  - v. Failure to perform maneuvers at designated markers
  - vi. Severe disobedience including rearing or pawing; horse kicking at other horses, exhibitors or judge; or horse continuously circling the exhibitor

## **L. WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP**

- a. The western horsemanship class is designed to evaluate the rider's ability to execute, in concert with their horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position. The ideal horsemanship pattern is extremely precise with the rider and horse working in complete unison, executing each maneuver with subtle aids and cues. The horse's head and neck should be carried in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with or slightly above the withers. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance.
- b. It is mandatory that the judge post any pattern(s) to be worked at least one hour prior to the commencement of the class.
- c. Class Procedures: All exhibitors must enter the ring and then work individually, or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When exhibitors are worked individually from the gate, a working order is required. Exhibitors should be instructed to either leave the arena, fall into line, or fall into place on the rail after their work. The whole class, or just the finalists, must work at all three gaits at least one direction of the arena. The following maneuvers are acceptable in a pattern: walk, jog, trot, extended trot, lope or extended lope in a straight line, curved line, serpentine, circle or figure 8, or combination of these gaits and maneuvers; stop; back in a straight or curved line; turn or pivot, including spins and rollbacks on the haunches and/or on the forehand; sidepass; two-track or leg-yield; flying or simple change of lead; counter-canter; or any other maneuver; or ride without stirrups. A back should be asked for at sometime during the class. Judges should not ask exhibitors to mount or dismount.
- d. Faults in the overall presentation of exhibitor and horse include:
  - i. Loose, sloppy, dirty or poor fitting clothing or hat; or loss of hat
  - ii. Over-cueing with reins and/or legs
  - iii. Poorly groomed, conditioned or trimmed horse; or poorly or ill fitted equipment
  - iv. Stiff, artificial or unnatural body, leg, arm, and/or head position
  - v. Reins too long or short, or uneven
  - vi. Loose legs with open knee, or toes pointed down
  - vii. Exhibitor looking down to check leads or falling forward when stopping
  - viii. Poor position of exhibitor in saddle, legs too forward or back
  - ix. Grabbing saddle horn or any other part of the saddle
  - x. Spurring in front of the shoulder

- e. Faults of the performance include:
  - i. Wrong lead or break of gait for a few strides
  - ii. Stopping rough, crooked, or dropping a hip out when stopping
  - iii. Backing sluggishly or crooked
  - iv. Failure to maintain a pivot foot or stepping behind with the front legs when turning, or failure to complete entire 90, 180, 270, or 360 degree turn
  - v. Horse holding the head and/or neck excessively crooked when moving in straight lines or when stopping or backing
  - vi. Showing resistance or disobedience by horse including, but not limited to rearing, bucking, or pawing
  - vii. Hesitation during any maneuver unless specified
  - viii. Failure of horse to stand still in pattern
  - ix. Imprecise pattern work or rough transitions
  - x. Failure to exhibit change of speed when requested
  - xi. Head carried too high
  - xii. Head carried too low (tip of ear below withers)
  - xiii. Over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical
  - xiv. Excessive nosing out
  - xv. Kicking at other horses, exhibitors or judge