

Saddle Seat

RING GENERALSHIP

Ring Generalship, or the awareness and command of what is happening in the arena, is paramount in all equitation seats. It is even more important in saddle seat, however, simply because the pace and tempo of a saddle seat class is quicker and bolder than that of the other seats. In order to achieve the best advantage, a rider must maintain a good forward motion and an uninhibited path for that motion. This means knowing where other horses, crowded or trouble spots, and the judge(s) are located at any given time. Circling or cutting across the arena to achieve better positioning is acceptable as an indication of good ring generalship but should never be used to excess.

Executing the command to reverse: Riders may turn into or away from the rail when asked to reverse and, generally speaking, turning into the rail shows more polish and precise execution. However, either way is equally acceptable and no penalties should be assessed for either choice unless the rider demonstrates unsympathetic hands or ineffective leg aids while attempting to reverse.

The only equitation classes in the Arabian Saddle Seat division, which require that a pattern be performed, are AHA Medal classes, United Professional Horsemen's Association (UPHA) Challenge Cup Qualifying classes, Regional Championship classes, National Championship classes and UPHA Challenge Cup Championship Phase I. In all of these classes, all riders are required to perform the pattern. The pattern for AHA Medal classes must be posted at least ONE HOUR PRIOR to an AHA Medal Class. For Regional and National Championship classes, the pattern for the first section of the elimination must be posted 24 hours in advance, and subsequent patterns are to be available immediately following the last working section of each phase.

Patterns are not required in age group or championship classes; except in Saddle Seat Championships where at least the top four (4) riders must be worked individually from any of the Saddle Seat Equitation Tests appropriate for the class. However, in any class in which a pattern is used, it must be written, posted, and publicly announced prior to being performed. Additional tests such as backing and addressing reins are not considered patterns and are not required to be posted. As stated earlier, judges should tailor the degree of difficulty in their patterns to the level of ability of the riders if possible. Judges should find out if there is a center ring judge box and where the in-gate and out-gates are located before choosing an appropriate pattern.

Exhibitors are reminded to always refer to current USEF/EC Rule Books for specific rules. Exhibitors are reminded to refer to the current AHA Handbook for procedures.

The Little Things That Make a Difference