

## Paso Fino Horse Evaluation Rubric

### Purpose:

This rubric is designed to **standardize the evaluation process** for horses that are **bought, sold, or kept** at Happy Hollow Paso Horse Farm. Each horse will be scored on a scale of **1 to 5**, with **5 being the ideal standard** that aligns with our farm's breeding standards. The categories include: **temperament, conformation, smoothness of gait, and overall behavior.**

### Scoring System:

- **5 - Excellent:** Meets or exceeds the ideal standard
- **4 - Very Good:** Slight deviation but still highly desirable
- **3 - Acceptable:** Moderate deviation, could improve with training
- **2 - Needs Improvement:** Significant concerns, requires extensive training
- **1 - Unacceptable:** Does not meet the farm's standard

---

### Temperament Under Saddle

Criteria	1	2	3	4	5
Horse stands completely still when mounting and does not move until prompted by the rider	Moves excessively, difficult to mount	Moves slightly but stands within a few seconds	Stands still but may anticipate movement	Stands quietly with minor fidgeting	Completely still until cued to move
Horse is not spooky around bags and other everyday items	Extremely reactive	Spooky but manageable	Occasionally spooks but recovers quickly	Rarely spooks	No spook at all, calm and confident
Horse has controllable brio without fear or bolting, rearing, or bucking when asked to perform	Unpredictable, dangerous	Shows excessive energy but not dangerous	Occasionally strong but manageable	Energetic yet easily controlled	Perfectly balanced brio, controlled and responsive
Horse is not a danger to spook while riding	Prone to bolting/spooking	Spooks easily,	Spooks occasionally but recovers	Very minor spook,	No spooking, steady and reliable

Criteria	1	2	3	4	5
		requires strong rider		quick to settle	
<b>Horse can be handled by children without fear of injury</b>	Unsafe for children	Only for experienced handlers	Manageable for experienced kids	Safe with minor supervision	Exceptionally gentle, child-safe

## Ground Manners and Handling

Criteria	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Horse does not peel ears at handlers</b>	Consistently pins ears	Frequent ear pinning	Occasionally pins ears	Rarely pins ears	Always has ears up, friendly demeanor
<b>Horse is enjoyable to be around</b>	Aggressive/unpleasant	Tolerable but not affectionate	Neutral but willing	Enjoyable, friendly	Highly sociable, seeks human interaction
<b>Horse is friendly towards other horses</b>	Aggressive	Harmful to the herd	Neutral but not friendly	Gets along well	Exceptionally social and herd-friendly
<b>Horse does not bite or show aggression toward handlers</b>	Bites/kicks frequently	Shows occasional aggression	Minimal signs of aggression	Well-mannered	Completely docile and respectful
<b>Horse can stand in cross ties</b>	Unmanageable	Moves excessively	Stands but fidgets often	Stands with minor fidgeting	Perfectly still in cross ties
<b>Horse can be groomed and tacked by a child</b>	Unsafe, aggressive	Requires significant supervision	Manageable but requires patience	Mostly compliant	Exceptionally safe and cooperative

## Conformation & Smoothness of Gait

Criteria	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Paso Fino gait is smooth and even</b>	Unbalanced, rough	Gait inconsistencies	Moderately smooth, occasional roughness	Very smooth but slight imperfections	Ideal, effortless smooth gait
<b>Head shape and proportions</b>	Poorly proportioned, overly large or small	Noticeable deviations, lacks refinement	Moderately refined but lacks ideal convex profile	Close to ideal with minor imperfections	Refined, slightly convex, expressive eyes, proportionate muzzle
<b>Neck length and arch</b>	Short, thick, lacks flexibility	Moderate length but lacks arch	Acceptable but lacks full natural carriage	Well-arched with minor inconsistencies	Medium to long, well-arched, smoothly transitions into withers
<b>Shoulder angle and musculature</b>	Upright, steep angle, poor musculature	Slightly steep, limited flexibility	Moderately sloped but needs improvement	Well-sloped with good muscle definition	Ideal 45-degree angle, strong musculature, natural flexibility
<b>Back length and strength</b>	Long and weak, prone to strain	Slightly long or weak	Moderately strong, minor deviations	Short to medium with good muscle support	Compact, strong, well-developed for weight distribution
<b>Leg alignment and durability</b>	Crooked, prone to lameness	Noticeable structural flaws	Functional but moderate deviations	Strong structure, minor imperfections	Straight, clean joints, solid tendons, proper pastern angles (45-50 degrees)
<b>Hoof formation and strength</b>	Poorly formed, weak, prone to cracking	Noticeable flaws, soft hoof walls	Acceptable but may require maintenance	Strong, well-formed with minor flaws	Ideal structure, well-formed, strong, proper angles
<b>Croup shape and muscling</b>	Steep, weak hind end	Moderately sloped, lacks muscle	Acceptable but could be stronger	Well-muscled with minor imperfections	Slightly sloped, well-rounded, strong hind-end engagement

<b>Tail set and carriage</b>	Low-set, lacks movement	Moderate set but lacks elegance	Acceptable but inconsistent carriage	High-set with minor imperfections	High, gracefully carried, naturally balanced
------------------------------	-------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--

---

Final Score:

Gait Characteristics:

Trail/Western Pleasure/ Country Pleasure/ Pleasure/Performance/Classic Fino

Notes:

---

### Total Score Ranking:

- **90-100: Meets and Exceeds Standard** - Ideal for keeping or selling as premium stock.
- **75-89: Meets Standard** - Desirable but may require minor improvements.
- **60-74: Moderate Potential** - Some weaknesses, but trainable with effort.
- **50-59: Below Standard** - Requires significant training and evaluation.
- **Below 50: Does Not Meet Standard** - Not suitable for the breeding, sales, or riding program.