



SECTION N

COUNTRY PLEASURE DIVISION

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N. COUNTRY PLEASURE DIVISION

THE INTENT

To broaden the showing of American Saddlebred Horses. The class is open for any rider and age – including professional trainers. Horses shown in any class of this division are ineligible to show in the Saddlebred Performance Division (i.e., Three-Gaited, Five-Gaited, Fine Harness, and Park Horse) or the Saddlebred Pleasure and Natural Main and Tail divisions at the same show, except they may show in In-Hand classes.

Ladies are allowed to show a stallion in this division.

These horses can enter the Show Hack and Western Riding divisions and stallions, mares and geldings may compete. These horses can enter the Pleasure Horse Equitation divisions but must be shod as in the Country Pleasure division. Rules for clothing will be according to each division.

There is an exception to the 3 class Entry Limitation rule for Regional Shows as per Section C for horses showing in the combination of the County Pleasure Riding, Country Pleasure Driving, Western Riding, Show Hack, and Walk and Trot All Ages Division. Horses will be permitted to show in all 4 of these classes at a single show but may not compete in any other division in such a show.

The Walk Trot All Ages and Walk Trot Western Riding division classes will count as ½ a class each for purposes of the Section C General Showing Rules Entry Limitations.

1. BRIEF “TYPE” STANDARD AND COMMON FAULTS

The Saddle Horse selected for the Country Pleasure Division should have quality, style and presence. The horse should be comfortable and suitable to ride both in the show ring and on outrides. An easy, ground-covering action is required, and emphasis is placed on good manners at all times.

Horses are judged on:

- Manners
- Performance
- Presence
- Quality
- Conformation

Country Pleasure Horses – Horses are judged 75% on manners, performance, presence, and quality, 25% on total conformation.

2. TACK REQUIREMENTS AND RULES

Appliances – Training appliances such as chains, stretchers and draw reins, tie downs and martingales in the saddle classes are prohibited. Inappropriate bridles such as a hackamore are prohibited. Leg bandages are not allowed unless application has been made to the show committee because of wet conditions.

Boots, Country Pleasure Driving: Quarter or bell boots are required. Brushing boots and knee boots are prohibited. Taped hooves are prohibited.

Boots, Country Pleasure Riding: Quarter or bell boots are not used in the Three-Gaited division. Brushing boots and knee boots are prohibited. Taped hooves are prohibited.

Bridles, Country Pleasure Riding - A double reined bridle is required. A full bridle consists of a curb bit and a small snaffle known as a bridoon. A combination bit with a broken mouthpiece or solid mouthpiece with single shanks where double reins are attached is acceptable. The bridle and bits must suit each horse and martingales are not allowed. Coloured brow-bands and nosebands or plain leather nosebands are allowed.

Buggy, Country Pleasure Driving - An appropriate, light, two wheeled show buggy with either large wooden wheels or bicycle type wheels. A seat cushion, classy splashboard and covered basket for legs of the driver are compulsory. Regular training two-wheel buggies are only permitted if they have been neatly turned out and converted to meet the above requirements. In order to maintain show standards, incorrect or poorly turned-out buggies will not be acceptable.

Harness, County Pleasure Driving – A light harness with a stainless steel, half spoon cheek, jointed mouth driving snaffle and overcheck bit are required. A harness must be complete with blinkers, martingale, check rein, traces, and low tail crupper. Traces should not be wound around shafts. Handholds are optional on reins although ladies and children must use handholds.

Saddle, Country Pleasure Riding – An English type of saddle with a cutback head is required. Western saddles, Side saddles or Australian Stock saddles are prohibited. The use of Saddlecloths or Numnahs are optional with the understanding that it will be well concealed when used.

3. TURN-OUT OF HORSE, INCLUDING SHOES

Cleanliness and neatness are the foremost requirements regarding the turn-out of a horse.

Mane - Shown with a natural full mane and tail.

Ribbons - Horses will be shown with ribbons in their manes. Ribbons in the forelock or attached to the bridle are optional. (*AGM decision 2022*)

Shoes - Horses are to be plain shod; that may include a shoe (inclusive of caulks), which may be thicker at the heel and may include toe clips and side clips and the hoof must be a maximum of 12.5 cm in length. No bands, bars, wedges, lead, springs, any attachment that extends below the bottom of the shoe, and any foreign substance not specified as allowed. A single leather pad will be permissible.

Tails – Tails are not set and should be clean, long, healthy, and picked. Crooked tails do not make a good impression and every effort should be made to correct them. Pleasure horses must not wear tail sets, bustles or braces. Switches are allowed. The fact that a horse’s tail has once been set does not exclude participation in the Country Pleasure division.

Tail Sets - Permanently set tails are strictly forbidden in the Country Pleasure Horse Division. Tails must not be put in any device which alters their carriage.

4. DRESS REQUIREMENTS OF RIDERS

Country Pleasure Riding

Dress Requirement for riders – Riders will wear informal riding wear. A Kentucky riding suit of matching jacket and flared Jodhpur pants with a waistcoat. The waistcoat may be either matching or of a tasteful contrast. The suit must be of conservative colour with any pattern being of small design, giving the appearance of a solid colour, (herringbone, pin stripe, conservative plaid). A shirt with a collar and tie is used. A tasteful hat is worn, a bowler (derby), snap-brim, (felt or straw) or homburg variety.

Boots - Riding boots (long or short)

Hat - Hard hat or derby.

Gloves, Spurs of unrolled type and crops are optional.

Country Pleasure Driving

Dress Requirement for drivers - Smart “Sunday morning” type outfit – driving whips optional. Gentlemen should wear a tasteful hat, snap-brim, (felt or straw) or homburg variety. Ladies may wear hats that match their attire when driving. Gloves may be worn.

Dress Requirement for handlers and attendants - shall be neatly dressed, men in neat shirts, tie and long pants, women in neat clothing of good taste. There will be no stud names displayed on clothing.

5. CLASS ROUTINE

Country Pleasure Riding

Entrance – All divisions enter the arena at a trot moving in a counter clockwise direction or the right hand directions through the gate.

Order of gaits – Horses enter at a trot and will be asked to do a flat-footed walk and canter both ways of the arena. Horses are expected to stand quietly and back readily in the line-up.

Line-up - Horses are expected to stand quietly and back readily in the line-up.

Country Pleasure Driving

Entrance at trot in a counter clockwise direction or the right hand direction through the gate, following with a flat foot walk in the same direction.

Horses are then asked to halt for a moment on the rail before being requested to do a neat change of direction to clockwise at a flat foot walk to be followed by a trot. The horses will be asked to walk again followed by a halt for a moment on the rail before they are called to line up.

Line up - Horses are expected to stand quietly in the line-up.

6. BASIC GAITES AND COMMON FAULTS

Country Pleasure Riding

Walk –A four beat gait, straight, true, and flat-footed is required.

Trot - A two-beat gait, straight and regular. The trot should be mannerly, cadenced and balanced. It is to be performed at medium speed, with a free moving, ground covering stride, with the rider posting.

Canter - A three-beat gait, even, smooth, unhurried, correct and straight on both leads

Back-up - **Is to be treated as carrying as much weight as any of the other 3 gaits. The horse must complete the movement with his neck flexed and chin in and should take a minimum of 3 steps back in a diagonal line followed by a brief halt and then 3 steps forward.**

Setting – Light contact with the horse’s mouth is required. The horse should wear his head in a relaxed, natural manner.

Transitions - The horse must be obedient with smooth prompt transitions.

Country Pleasure Driving

Walk – A flat-footed, relaxed walk maintaining a proper form and consistency in stride, displaying the horse's good manners, is required. The tendency towards and animated walk, amble or jog is not acceptable.

Trot- an easy going two beat gait with elasticity and freedom of movement. The trot to be balanced, featuring coordinated motion with straight, true shoulder motion of front legs, with flexing hocks carried close together.

Halt - **The Halt is to be given equal weight to the other required gaits. The horse should stand on all four feet squarely with a collected frame and should not fidget with the bridle. A halt of 3 to 8 seconds is sufficient.**

Mixing gaits will be discriminated against.

Setting – A Country Pleasure Horse must have the ability to wear an overcheck and perform with a good head setting at all times.

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