



SECTION P

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P. WESTERN RIDING DIVISION

(WESTERN RIDING FOR SADDLEBREDS)

To broaden the showing of American Saddlebred Horses into the popular western style of riding.

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). Horses of all breeds may show in this Division at Regional and Club Shows and the class should be offered as an Open Class. At National Championship level, only Registered Saddlebreds may participate in this division.

Ladies are allowed to show a stallion in this division. In Ladies only and Children classes, stallions will not be allowed.

These horses may enter the Pleasure, Country Pleasure, and Show Hack Divisions. Stallions, mares, and geldings may compete. These horses can enter the Pleasure Horse Equitation divisions but must be shod as in the Western 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 Western Division should have quality, style, and presence. The horse should be comfortable and suitable to ride both in the show ring and on the trail. 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

Western Horses – Horses are judged 50% on manners, quality, presence and turnout of horse, exhibitor and tack; 25% performance and 25% conformation.

2. TACK REQUIREMENTS AND RULES

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

Boots - Quarter or bell boots are not permitted. Brushing boots and knee boots are prohibited. Taped hooves are prohibited.

Bridles - Any standard type Western bridle without a noseband and any standard Western bit will be allowed. A single rein with a romal is required and must be held in one hand. Without romal, riders may use both hands. Hackamore bridles are not allowed. Snaffle Bridles - Standard snaffle bridles are permitted for horses younger than 4 years. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a centre jointed single, mouthpiece. When using a Snaffle Bridle, riders may use both hands.

Saddle –Any standard type of Western saddle is required but silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. A saddle blanket is required. Breast collar is optional.

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 is 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 should be natural. Tails must not be put in any device which alters their carriage. Switches are allowed. The fact that the horse's tail has once been set does not exclude participation in the Western Division.

4. DRESS REQUIREMENTS OF RIDERS

Attire - Riders shall wear long sleeved shirt and/or western jacket with a collar and a necktie, kerchief or bolo tie, bow tie, peddle-tie, rosette-tie, or pin used as a tie; Kentucky style Jodhpur in solid colour are required. Chaps, shotgun chaps or chinks are optional. A vest, coat or sweater is optional.

Boots – Western Boots or Riding boots (short) are required.

Hat – Riders shall wear a western style hat.

Gloves, Spurs and Crops – Gloves and western spurs are optional. Crops are not permitted.

5. CLASSES

Classes available in the Western Riding Division are:

* 3 Gaited Western Riding Division

* Walk and Trot Western Riding Division

6. CLASS ROUTINE

Entrance – Horses enter the arena at a jogtrot moving in a counter clockwise direction or the right hand direction through the gate.

Order of gaits (3 Gaited Division) – Horses enter at a jogtrot and will be asked to do a flat-footed walk and lope (slow canter) followed by a walk with a momentary halt on the rail before changing direction and repeating the same order of gaits. After the second halt horses are called to line up. Horses are expected to stand quietly and back readily in the line-up.

Order of gaits (Walk and Trot Division) – Horses enter at a jogtrot and will be asked to do a flat-footed walk followed by a momentary halt on the rail before changing direction and repeating the same order of gaits. After the second halt horses are called to line up. Horses are expected to stand quietly and back readily in the line-up.

7. BASIC GAITES AND COMMON FAULTS

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

Jogtrot - A two-beat gait, straight and regular. The trot should be mannerly, cadenced and balanced. A jogtrot is very smooth, relaxed, and slightly faster than a walk. The jog is useful for following herds of cattle. Riders sit a jogtrot and do not post. When the horse cannot sustain a jogtrot and falls into a shuffling, four beat gait described as “trotting in front and walking behind”, it is to be penalized in the show ring.

Lope (Slow Canter) - A three-beat gait, even, smooth, unhurried, correct and straight on both leads. Also described as a relaxed canter.

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.

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

Back- up - The back is to be given equal weight to the other required 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.

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