

# 2010 WALKING/RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE DIVISION

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**General Division Rules:**

Horses are to be divided into three divisions: Walking, Racking, and Mountain Horse. The Walking Horse division includes: Plantation Pleasure, Trail Pleasure, Country Pleasure and Walking Seat Equitation classes.

**Walking Horse Classes (for calculation of High Point)-**

<u>Plantation Pleasure</u>	<b>OR</b>	<u>Country Pleasure</u>
English Plant. Pleasure Walking-Spec.		Western Country Pleasure Walking
Western Plant. Pleasure Walking-Spec.		English Country Pleasure Walking

Walking Horses may not cross enter into Plantation **and** Country Pleasure classes.

All Walking Horses may also enter any of the following: Jr. Trail Pleasure (if shoe size allows), Sr. Trail Pleasure (if shoe size allows), Jr. Walking Seat Equitation Specialty, Sr. Walking Seat Equitation Specialty, Jr. Stock Seat Equitation, Senior Stock Seat Equitation, Jr. Bareback Equitation and/or Sr. Bareback Equitation.

All Walking Horses may not cross enter into Racking Horse or Mountain Horse classes.

The Racking Horse division includes: Trail, Show, Style, Country Pleasure, and Racking Seat Equitation classes.

**Racking Horse Classes (for calculation of High Point)-**

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All Racking Horses may also enter any of the following: Jr. Racking/Mountain Seat Equitation, Sr. Racking/Mountain Seat Equitation, Jr. Stock Seat Equitation, Sr. Stock Seat Equitation, Jr. Bareback Equitation and/or Sr. Bareback Equitation.

All Racking Horses may not cross enter into Walking Horse or Mountain Horse classes.

The Mountain Horse classes are for those horses known as: Rocky Mountain Horses, Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horses, Mountain Pleasure Horses, Spotted Mountain Horses, and all other horses recognized as a smooth-gaited Mountain Pleasure-type horse. These include the following Mountain Horse type: Western, Trail, Classic, Country, Trail, and Equitation. Smooth gaited mules are allowed in either division and are expected to follow division rules.

**Mountain Horse Classes (for calculation of High Point)-**

- Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse
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- English Mountain Pleasure
- Western Mountain Pleasure

All Mountain Horses may also enter any of the following: Jr. Racking/Mountain Seat Equitation, Sr. Racking/Mountain Seat Equitation, Jr. Stock Seat Equitation, Sr. Stock Seat Equitation, Jr. Bareback Equitation and/or Sr. Bareback Equitation.

Mountain Horse Entries are not to cross enter into the Walking Classes or Racking Classes.

**All 4-Hers riding or driving horses at 4-H events or activities are required to wear an ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet at all times.**

## **WALKING/RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE DIVISION CLASSES**

### **Walking Horse Division Classes**

**ENGLISH COUNTRY PLEASURE WALKING** - Registered or grade mares and geldings of any size. This is an English tack and attire class for exhibitors in the Walking Horse division. The Country Pleasure Horse must display a walk and a smooth, easy, comfortable intermediate gait with excessive speed in the intermediate gait to be penalized. This is a two-gaited class in which the judge will call for a flat walk and running walk. The judge does have the option of calling for a third gait, the trail walk. Entries will work both ways of the ring. The horse should back readily upon command. Entries should be well mannered and manageable on a light rein. Manners are paramount in a country pleasure horse and should be given consideration in judging. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet is mandatory. This is a Country Pleasure shod class.

**WESTERN COUNTRY PLEASURE WALKING** - Registered or grade mares and geldings of any size. This is a Western tack and attire class for exhibitors in the Walking Horse division. The Country Pleasure Horse must display a walk and a smooth, easy comfortable intermediate gait with excessive speed in the intermediate gait to be penalized. This is a two-gaited class in which the judge will call for a flat walk and a running walk. The judge does have the option of calling for a third gait, the trail walk. Entries will work both ways of the ring. The horse should back readily on command and are to be well mannered and manageable on a light rein. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet, boots and long sleeved shirt or jacket is mandatory, while chaps and spurs may be worn at the option of the rider. The horse should wear a western bridle with cavessons optional. Manners are paramount for a pleasure horse and should be given consideration in judging. Silver mounted equipment shall not count over good working equipment. This is a Country Pleasure Shod class.

**ENGLISH PLANTATION PLEASURE WALKING SPECIALTY** -Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. This is an English tack and attire class for walking horse exhibitors. This is a two-gait class in which the judge shall call for a flat walk and a running walk. Horses shall be worked both ways of the ring. Entry is to be judged on true pleasure horse quality and performance of the horse and neatness and ability of the rider. Rider must ride with a light rein in both gaits. Judge must require entries to back. Excessive speed should be penalized. Horse should exhibit a four beat walking gait with pronounced and cadenced head motion (nod). ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet mandatory. This is a Flat Shod class.

**WESTERN PLANTATION PLEASURE WALKING SPECIALTY** - Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. This is a Western tack and attire class for walking

horse exhibitors. This is a two-gait class in which the judge shall call for a flat walk and a running walk. Horses shall be worked both ways of the ring. Entry shall neck rein and reflect suitability of the walking horse as a western working horse. The western plantation pleasure horse works quietly exhibiting an exceptionally smooth, comfortable ride without excessive action or animation. The horse should be ridden on a loose rein, and should exhibit a four beat walking gait with a cadenced head motion (nod). The head set should be natural, not high, neither excessively nosed out or over flexed at the poll. Horses are to be reversed away from the rail (to the inside of the ring). Reins must be held in one hand and cannot be changed during the performance. When using split reins, a hand around the reins or index finger between the reins is permitted, but the free hand is not allowed to touch the reins. Romal reins have an extension of reins attached to the closed reins. This extension is allowed to be carried in the free hand with approximately a 16 inch spacing between the reining hand and the free hand hold the Romal and it cannot be used forward of the cinch or used to signal or cue the horse in any way. When using the Romal, a hand should be around the reins, but a finger between the reins is not permitted. While the horse is in motion, the exhibitor's hands shall be clear of the horse and saddle at all times. The Judge may call for a halt on the rail. Horse must stand quietly on the rail and in the lineup, and back freely when asked. At the discretion of the judge, the horse may be asked to back clear of the line-up and do a 360-degree neck reined turn, either right or left, exhibitor's discretion. The horse should wear a western bridle with no cavesson or colored brow band. Western tack including ASTM SEI helmet, boots and long sleeved shirt or jacket is mandatory. Chaps, spurs and lariat may be used at the option of the exhibitor. This is a Flat Shod class.

**JUNIOR TRAIL PLEASURE WALKING-** Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9-13 years old as of January 1 of the current year (see General Rule #10). Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. Tack and attire for the Trail Pleasure Walking class may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. This class is to be judged: 45% Trail Flat Walk, 45% Trail Pleasure Running Walk, 10% Conformation/Manners. Horses will be required to back at the call of the judge. A Trail Pleasure Walking Horse shall not be required to have qualities such as high head or high front leg lift, but should be the ultimate of a trail type horse, and should be collected in his gaits. He shall stand quietly and back readily. A Trail Pleasure horse will be required to perform two gaits: Trail Pleasure Flat Walk and Trail Pleasure Running Walk. The Trail Flat Walk is a true walk in which the rider and his mount are at complete ease. The rein is light and there is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider. The Trail Pleasure Running Walk is considered to be a true four-beat gait. It is recognized as being the ultimate for a pleasure horse in which ease of riding and comfort are paramount. There is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider, and the reins are lightly held in two hands (or one if desired by riders with Western Attire). Speed shall not be a factor in judging. The Trail Pleasure Walking Horse shall enter the ring at a Trail Pleasure Running Walk prior to initial judging of the class. Two (2) gaits will be called for beginning with Trail Pleasure Flat Walk, after all entries have entered the ring.

Horses will work both ways of the ring. ASTM SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn. This is a Trail Pleasure Shod class.

**SENIOR TRAIL PLEASURE WALKING**- Exhibitors must be between the ages of 14-18 years old as of January 1 of the current year (see General Rule #10). Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. Tack and attire for the Trail Pleasure Walking class may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. This class is to be judged: 45% Trail Flat Walk, 45% Trail Pleasure Running Walk, 10% Conformation/Manners. Horses will be required to back at the call of the judge. A Trail Pleasure Walking Horse shall not be required to have qualities such as high head or high front leg lift, but should be the ultimate of a trail type horse, and should be collected in his gaits. He shall stand quietly and back readily. A Trail Pleasure horse will be required to perform two gaits: Trail Pleasure Flat Walk and Trail Pleasure Running Walk. The Trail Flat Walk is a true walk in which the rider and his mount are at complete ease. The rein is light and there is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider. The Trail Pleasure Running Walk is considered to be a true four-beat gait. It is recognized as being the ultimate for a pleasure horse in which ease of riding and comfort are paramount. There is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider, and the reins are lightly held in two hands (or one if desired by riders with Western Attire). Speed shall not be a factor in judging. The Trail Pleasure Walking Horse shall enter the ring at a Trail Pleasure Running Walk prior to initial judging of the class. Two (2) gaits will be called for beginning with Trail Pleasure Flat Walk, after all entries have entered the ring. Horses will work both ways of the ring. ASTM SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn. This is a Trail Pleasure Shod class.

**JR. WALKING SEAT EQUITATION SPECIALTY** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9 – 13 years old as of January 1 of the current year. This is an English tack and attire class for exhibitors in the Walking Horse division. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine (see Equitation for Walking Horses below).

**SR. WALKING SEAT EQUITATION SPECIALTY** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 14 –18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. This is an English tack and attire class for exhibitors in the Walking Horse division. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine (see Equitation for Walking Horses below).

### **WALKING DIVISION GENERAL CLASS RULES**

The Walking Horse rules conform as closely as possible to the Rules and Regulations of S.H.O.W. Any instance not covered in the 4-H rules will be referred to the official rulebook of the S.H.O.W. Rulebooks may be obtained from:

**S.H.O.W**

WRM-6

Post Office Box 167  
Shelbyville, TN 37162  
Phone: 931/684-9506 Fax: 931/684-9538  
Web: [www.showhio.com](http://www.showhio.com)

Mules (Smooth Gaited - Walking, Mountain or Racking) are allowed to show in the Walking Horse Division and are expected to follow the division rules.

No horse shall be allowed to show if that horse has been administered any forbidden substance by any means. A forbidden substance is any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer or local anesthetic. Also prohibited is the use of "ginger" and any drugs regardless of how harmless or innocuous they might be, which by their very nature mask or screen the presence of the prohibited drugs, or prevent or delay testing procedures.

Full use of modern therapeutic measures for the improvement and protection of the health of the horse including phenylbutazone is permitted, unless the drug given also stimulates or depresses the circulatory respiratory or central nervous system.

### **SHOEING REQUIREMENTS**

**All Shoes should be either Plantation Shod, Trail Pleasure Shod or Country Pleasure Shod**  
The Plantation Shod, Trail Pleasure Shod, or Country Pleasure Shod horses perform the specific required gaits without the use of lubricants, artificial appliances, boots, bands, pads or action devices. For regulations and rules in this instance, please obtain the information directly from the S.H.O.W. rulebook.

Barefooted horses may be shown; however judges must disqualify lame or tender footed horses.

#### **Shoeing Requirements for the Trail Pleasure Horse**

Shoes for a Trail Pleasure Shod horse should be cold or hot roll steel or aluminum no wider than 3/4 inch and no thicker than 3/8 inch. Heel caulks are optional. Borium is allowed on the caulks of the shoe but the thickness of the shoe, caulk and borium must not exceed 7/8 inch. No bands are permitted. A 1 1/2 inch turnback is allowed and the shoe must not extend more than 1/4 inch beyond the hoof at the toe. The heel of the shoe must not exceed beyond the bulb of the horse's heel to the ground.

#### **Shoeing Requirements for the Country Pleasure Horse**

Country Pleasure Horses must wear a maximum 3/8 inch by 3/4 inch factory-stamped or aluminum keg shoe. These are the same factory-stamped shoes that other breeds use. Heel caulks are optional. No bands are permitted. Borium is allowed on the toe with a maximum of 1/2 inch in length and small spots on the heels. Poured heels are allowed.

### **Shoeing Requirements for the Plantation Shod Horse**

Shoes for a Plantation Shod horse should be a maximum ½ inch by ¾ inch shoe that is open to any steel. The caulk must not exceed a 1½ inch turnback and the shoe must not extend more than ¼ inch beyond the hoof at the toe. The heel of the shoe must not extend beyond the bulb of the horse's heel when a perpendicular line is drawn from the bulb of the horse's heel to the ground. The use of borium is permitted on the caulks of the shoe, but the thickness of the shoe and caulk with the borium must not exceed 1 1/8 inch.

### **Other Shoeing Rules-NEW AS OF 2/19/2010 FOR ALL WALKING HORSE CLASSES**

Bands are optional in all divisions. Metal hoof bands, such as used to anchor or strengthen pads and shoes are permitted so long as they are placed at least ½ inch below the bottom of the cornet band.

Clips are optional in all divisions when drawn from the original steel or poured.

The shoe is not to extend more than ¼ inch beyond the hoof at the toe.

Turn back will be measured from the front to rear of the caulk.

Acrylic can be used to repair and mend a foot where the shoe has been thrown and the foot has been damaged. Acrylic or any other material cannot be used for the purpose of extending the length of the natural hoof in any manner on both feet, which includes the toes or heels. Acrylic can be used to fill in around the nail holes or cracks on the sides of the hoof.

No additional weight shall be allowed on or in the hoof, other than the shoe, nails, and bands.

### **TACK AND ATTIRE**

#### **Tack Requirements for Walking Horses**

- All entries shall be clean, neatly trimmed in good flesh presenting a healthy appearance, and outfitted in clean and appropriate tack.
- All horses must use an English Saddle in English Classes (Western tack is addressed in the class description for Western classes).
- Exhibitor's equipment (& apparel) shall either be English or Western, but not a combination of both.
- Standard Walking Horse Single Rein Bridle and Bit. While any standard Walking Horse Bit may be used, a gag bit with no shanks is not considered a standard Walking Horse Show Bit. Severe bits are discouraged and bleeding of the mouth or muzzle must be penalized in the final judging.
  - Shanks in excess of 9 & ½ inches are prohibited in the Walking Horse Division. Shanks are measured from the very top of the metal to the very bottom of the metal, including the rings to which the cheeks and reins are attached.
  - Quick change bridles and reins are not permitted.

- Full blinders of any type are not permitted on the show grounds at any time.
- Action devices of any kind and tail braces are prohibited on the show grounds or in the show ring on all Walking Horses.
- Bosals or ordinary ring snaffles may be used on four-year old or younger western flat-shod pleasure horses. When using a bosal or a snaffle, the rider may use two hands on the reins. The ordinary ring snaffle has a broken mouth piece with conventional O-rings, egg-butt, or D-rings, and the ring must be no larger than 4 inches in diameter. Optional loose chin strap of leather or nylon is permitted. Reins should be attached above the chin strap.
- An Australian stock saddle is not approved as either English or Western Tack.
- Side Saddles are approved for use in Lite Shod pleasure classes.
- Braids shall be worn in English classes, but not in Western classes. Braids shall be attached neatly to the forelock and at the top of the mane next to the bridle path.
- Rhinestone or sequined brow bands and cavesson fronts are prohibited, except in Country Pleasure classes where cavessons only are optional.
- Curb chains or straps must be flat against the jaw and be at least ½ inches wide. Cross chain cavessons are prohibited.
- Martingales and tie downs are prohibited.
- In Western Classes, silver mounted equipment shall not count over good working equipment.
- The use of Vet Wrap will be allowed in the cannon bone area on the front legs, and on the cannon bone down onto the ankles on the rear legs. The color is to blend in reasonable with the color of the horse.
- Any change in color of markings other than the mane, tail or hoof is prohibited. Only clear grooming materials are allowed on the hide and hair. Materials may be used to remove stains.

### **Attire**

It is the tradition of the show ring that riders, drivers and handlers be correctly attired for the classes in which they compete. Correct attire for Walking Horse presentation consists of the following, unless otherwise noted:

- English Riding Habit (Saddle Suit) in English Classes. Western attire is addressed in the class description for Western Classes (button down shirt and tie).
- English Spurs (Use of spurs is optional.)
- Riding Boots
- Pant's tie downs, or underpasses.
- Gloves (Optional)
- Whips of four feet or less are allowed in any class where English attire and equipment is used.
- The exhibitor's hair must be neat and groomed. Long hair should be styled so the back number can be easily seen.
- ASTM-SEI Approved Equestrian Helmet must be worn for all driving & riding classes.

### **Equitation for Walking Horses**

The Walking Horse's unique center of gravity and gaits require an equitation seat of its own. Referred to as Walking Seat, it is characterized by balance, grace, and ease as the exhibitor sits well back on the horse with legs directly under the body to facilitate the extreme collection of the Walking Horse. The term "Equitation" specifically means, "The art or act of riding horseback".

- Horses used in this class should be well groomed and properly tacked.
- All exhibitors in Equitation classes must conform to the rules for personal appointments or be severely penalized.
- Fall of the exhibitor will eliminate the entry.
- Any exhibitor not having his mount under sufficient control shall be dismissed from the ring.
- Exhibitors should be familiar with various parts of the horse, tack, and rules on Equitation.
- Judges should penalize those exhibitors who do not conform to proper appointments. Appointment requirements are based on good taste, which is always in style and always correct.
- Patterns will be posted at least one hour before the class.
- Riders will not be asked to canter or to mount and dismount.
- Riders will be asked to address their reins and work a pattern.

### **Appointments-Personal**

- The exhibitor is to be judged on his or her skill and form on a horse. Horse and exhibitor should be groomed to meticulous perfection. The exhibitor should exercise good taste right down to the smallest, most minute detail. The exhibitor is required to choose a neat, well-fitted habit with accompanying accessories within the guidelines based on tradition and present-day customs.
- A saddle suit/habit of a solid color or conservative pinstripe is correct. Suggested colors include black, blue, grey, green, beige, or brown with coordinated accessories. Vests should be worn and may either match or contrast with the saddle suit/habit color. Careful attention should be given to the fit of the habit. The coat length should be at least 3 inches below the fingertips when standing. The jodhpurs should be long enough to rest on the exhibitor's boot top and the bottom of the boot heel showing only the toe of the boot when mounted. A moderate fullness is better than a suit that fits too snugly. Underpasses must always be worn snugly against the boot. Small post earrings can be worn to add to the look
- A four-in-hand tie matching or coordinating with the suit color should be worn with a man's style white or pastel shirt.
- Boots should be of the English type in either calf or patent leather.
- Gloves shall be worn and should match the suit.
- English type slip on spurs and a short riding whip are optional

- The exhibitor's hair must be neat and well groomed. Long hair must be styled above the collar.
- ASTM-SEI equestrian approved helmet is required.

### ***Appointments-Tack***

- All tack should be clean and well kept with shining bits and stirrup irons.
- Standard English Walking Horse bridle with a single rein must be used. Colored brow bands are appropriate; however, rhinestones, etc., are not acceptable
- Cavessons must be of brown or black leather.
- Breast straps of brown or black leather are optional.
- English saddles with a four inch cutback are to be used. Whether of the flat or deep seat variety, the saddle should be the correct size for the exhibitor. Dressage or forward seat saddles are prohibited.
- Only white leather girths are to be used.
- Braids should be of the straight plaited variety with no butterflies or other ornaments.

### ***Position in the Saddle***

The general appearance of the Walking Seat Equitation exhibitor should be one of calm, supple workmanship, in perfect balance with effective and easy control of him or herself and mount. The exhibitor should show his horse well and should exercise good ring showmanship.

The basic position should be as follows:

- Head held high looking forward.
- Shoulders square with rib cage drawn up out of the belt.
- Waist should be very supple.
- Buttocks should be neatly tucked (avoid sway back).
- Seat deep, close, in deepest part of the saddle.
- Thighs and knees should be in close contact, with toes pointed forward.
- With foot out of the stirrup, the iron should strike the exhibitor just below the ankle.
- Ball of foot should rest squarely on the stirrup iron with the weight of the leg lowering the heel below the toe.
- Arm should fall naturally from the shoulder with the elbow on the vertical or slightly forward.
- Forearm parallel to the ground or angling up slightly.
- Hands and forearms should form a "V" when viewed from above. They should be held well over the withers and far enough apart so that the thumbs almost touch when extended. The hands should be light and in unison with the horse, showing adaptability as well as control.
- Rein should be held between the thumb and index finger with the rest of the fingers closing gently around the rein. Closed (or crossed) reins shall be used with both hands on the reins, and the bight of the rein should be on the right side.
- One should be able to draw a vertical line through the ear, shoulder, hip, and heel.

The position in motion should be as follows:

- **Start:** Should be gradual, smooth. Use necessary leg aids with slight release or rein pressure.
- **Flat Walk:** Should be square flatfooted walk with head motion. Use light bit pressure, with required leg aids and correct speed. Close seat with very little motion in saddle. Hands flexible, but showing no obvious movements.
- **Running Walk:** A smooth gliding, overstepping, four-cornered gait with head motion and stride. Reins adjusted for proper bit pressure for individual mount. A close, steady seat with required leg aids. Exhibitor should be supple and alert.
- **Stop:** To be gradual and easy with no jerking. Increase rein pressure evenly, keeping weight well down in saddle, with yielding legs, and light foot pressure applied to irons.
- **Park or Square:** Horse to stand on all four feet with head up, neck crested, jaw flexible. Feet even front and rear. Light pressure on bit.
- **Reverses:** Toward the rail. Well collected reins so as not to lose mouth contact. Light pressure applied with legs when turning. Even rein pressure after turn, setting head in correct position for gait requested.

#### **Criteria for Judging Lite Shod Walking Classes:**

The Lite Shod Horses should perform the four beat walking gaits in a relaxed fashion with an alert and willing attitude. Any tendency to pace, rack, or trot should be penalized. They display pleasure qualities necessary for road and trail riding, such as good manners, responsiveness, manageability on a light rein, etc. They must stand quietly and back readily on command.

#### **Criteria for Judging Country Pleasure Walking Classes:**

The Country Pleasure horse should combine the smooth and stylish walk in its most basic form with a relaxed and willing attitude. Judging parameters include: the overall balance between horse and rider, correct gaits, smoothness, and “economy of motion” (the ability to cover a lot of ground for an extended period of time). In addition, the Country Pleasure horse shall break less than 45 degrees with the knees and lack the lift of the shoulders. The overstride naturally may be shorter in this division, but should never appear “trotty” or stiff. The head nod must truly be an up and down nod (never side to side), but may lack some of the depth needed in the other classes. This is a no-canter class. The Country Pleasure horse must be alert and well-behaved, stand quietly and back readily. The trail walk may be asked for at the Judges’ discretion.

#### **Criteria for Judging Flat Shod Walking Classes:**

The Plantation Pleasure Horse should display brilliance and show presence while performing the four beat walking gaits. Any tendency to rack, pace or trot should be penalized. Form is not to be sacrificed for speed. The horse is to be well mannered and manageable on a light rein. Manners are paramount for a pleasure horse and should be given serious consideration in judging. The horse should be well balanced, both front and rear. He must back readily on command, and respond to exhibitor signals to perform all gaits without necessity for bumping and pumping of the reins.



## **Racking Horse Division Classes**

**ENGLISH COUNTRY PLEASURE RACKING** - Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. The Country Pleasure horse shall be shown with a light rein; both the horse and rider must be relaxed and comfortable. He shall not be required to maintain a high head, but should be alert in the bridle. He shall not be required to maintain a high front leg lift, but should exhibit a smooth stride behind. The Country Pleasure Horse will be required to perform three gaits: Country Pleasure Show Walk, Country Pleasure Slow Rack, and Country Pleasure Fast Rack. Country Pleasure Horses shall stand quietly and must back readily. Horses will work both ways of the ring. The Show Walk shall be a slow, true four beat gait. There shall be a smooth stride behind with a natural rolling motion in the front. The Show Walk will not have the speed or animation of the Slow Rack. The Slow Rack shall be a true four-beat gait, distinguished from the Show Walk. The reins shall be held lightly. The Fast Rack shall be a comfortable, easy-going rack in which speed is not a factor, but easily distinguished from the other two gaits required in this division. Any indication of strain on the part of the horse or rider will be penalized. The Country Pleasure Racking Horse shall enter the ring at a Show Walk prior to the initial judging of the class. ASTM-SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn. This is a Light Shod class.

**WESTERN COUNTRY PLEASURE RACKING** - Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. The Country Pleasure horse shall be shown with a light rein; both the horse and rider must be relaxed and comfortable. He shall not be required to maintain a high head, but should be alert in the bridle. He shall not be required to maintain a high front leg lift, but should exhibit a smooth stride behind. The Country Pleasure Horse will be required to perform three gaits: Country Pleasure Show Walk, Country Pleasure Slow Rack, and Country Pleasure Fast Rack. Country Pleasure Horses shall stand quietly and must back readily. Horses will work both ways of the ring. The Show Walk shall be a slow, true four beat gait. There shall be a smooth stride behind with a natural rolling motion in the front. The Show Walk will not have the speed or animation of the Slow Rack. The Slow Rack shall be a true four-beat gait, distinguished from the Show Walk. The reins shall be held lightly. The Fast Rack shall be a comfortable, easy-going rack in which speed is not a factor, but easily distinguished from the other two gaits required in this division. Any indication of strain on the part of the horse or rider will be penalized. The Country Pleasure Racking Horse shall enter the ring at a Show Walk prior to the initial judging of the class. Western attire including ASTM-SEI Helmet, boots, long sleeved shirt or jacket is mandatory. Chaps and spurs are optional. Since this is a Country Pleasure Racking Class, riders do have the option of riding with one or two hands on the reins. ASTM-SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn. This is a Light Shod class.

**TRAIL PLEASURE RACKING** - Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. Tack and attire for the Trail Pleasure Racking class may be English or Western, but not a

combination of both. A Trail Pleasure Racking Horse shall not be required nor expected to maintain qualities such as a high head or high front leg lift, but should be the ultimate of a trail type horse, and should show evidence of being collected in his gaits. He shall stand quietly and back readily. A Trail Pleasure horse will be required to perform two gaits: Trail Pleasure Walk and Trail Pleasure Rack. The Trail Pleasure Walk is a true walk in which the rider and his mount are at complete ease. The rein is light and there is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider. The Trail Pleasure Rack is considered to be a true four-beat gait. It is recognized as being the ultimate for a pleasure horse in which ease of riding and comfort are paramount. There is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider, and the reins are lightly held in two hands (or one if desired by riders with Western Attire). Speed shall not be a factor in judging. The Trail Pleasure Racking Horse shall enter the ring at a Trail Pleasure Rack prior to initial judging of the class. Horses will work both ways of the ring. ASTM-SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn. This is a Flat Shod class.

**SHOW PLEASURE RACKING** - Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. English tack and attire is required. A Show Pleasure horse shall be dependable and pleasurable to ride. In the execution of its three gaits, the Show Pleasure horse should exhibit smoothness of ride required of the true natural Racking Horse, exhibiting a higher head than the Trail Pleasure horse without the look of an Open Show horse and exhibit more animation than the Trail Pleasure mount. Front lift must not exceed the height of level and is generally accepted as having lift somewhat below level and less than the Style Pleasure mount. A Show Pleasure Horse shall be shown with a light rein, but not loose, both horse and rider must be relaxed and comfortable. Any indication of strain on the part of the horse or rider will be penalized. A Show Pleasure Racking Horse will be shown at three gaits: Show Pleasure Walk, Show Pleasure Slow Rack and Show Pleasure Fast Rack. The Show Pleasure Walk will be a snappy type walk, but will not have the speed or animation of a Slow Rack. The Show Pleasure Slow Rack will be executed at a distinct gait from the Show Pleasure Walk, and will again lack the animation of a Slow Rack when compared to the Open division of Racking. The Show Pleasure Fast Rack will be a comfortable easy going rack in which speed is not a factor, but should be easily identifiable from the other two gaits required in this division. The Show Pleasure Racking Horse shall enter the ring at a Show Pleasure Walk prior to initial judging of the class. Horse will work both ways of the ring. ASTM SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn. This is an Open Shod class.

**STYLE PLEASURE RACKING** - Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. English tack and attire is required. The Style Pleasure Racking Horse shall be dependable to ride, shown with a light rein, but not loose, shall be more reasonably mounted in the bridle than the Show Pleasure horse displaying style over animation. The front lift must not exceed the height of level, yet is generally accepted to have more lift than the Show Pleasure mount with a more striding back end. Both horse and rider must be relaxed and comfortable, exhibiting a smooth ride. Any indication of strain on the part

of the horse or rider will be penalized. A Style Pleasure Racking Horse will be shown at two gaits: Show Walk and Style Rack. The Show Walk will be a true stylish walk, but will not have the speed or animation of an Open Show Walk. The Style Rack will be a comfortable easy going rack in which speed is not a factor in judging. The Style Pleasure Racking Horse shall enter the ring at a Style Rack, prior to initial judging of the class. Horses will be worked both ways of the ring. ASTM SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn. This is an Open Shod class.

**JR. RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE SEAT EQUITATION**-Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9 – 13 years old as of January 1 of the current year. This is an English tack and attire class for exhibitors in the Racking and Mountain Horse divisions. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine (see Equitation for Racking Horses below).

**SR. RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE SEAT EQUITATION** Exhibitors must be between the ages of 14 – 18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. This is an English tack and attire class for exhibitors in the Racking and Mountain Horse divisions. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine (see Equitation for Racking Horses below).

### **RACKING DIVISION GENERAL CLASS RULES**

The Racking Horse rules conform as closely as possible to the Rules and Regulations of the Racking Horse Breeders' Association of America (RHBA). Any instance not covered in the 4-H rules will be referred to the official Rulebook of the Racking Horse Breeders' Association of America. Rulebooks may be obtained from:

**Racking Horse Breeders' Association of America**

67 Horse Center Road  
Decatur, Alabama 35603

Phone: 256/353-7225

FAX: 256/353-7266

Mules (Smooth Gaited) are allowed to show in the Racking Horse Division and are expected to follow division rules. Racking Horse entries are not to cross enter into the Walking or Mountain Horse Classes and vice versa.

### **SHOEING REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Light Shod**

Light Shod shall be construed as being hoof-to-shoe with no pad being used for any purpose, which shall include corrective shoeing. Weighted shoes are allowed. Shoe must not exceed 3/8 inch in thickness and 3/4 inch in width. The caulk must not exceed 3/4 inch in thickness. Shoeing bands are not allowed in all light shod classes. The use of welded clips is prohibited in

all classes. However, clips that are drawn from the shoe itself are allowed. No additional weights shall be allowed in or on the hoof other than shoe and nails.

### **Flat Shod**

Flat shod shall be constructed as being hoof-to-shoe with no pad being used for any purpose, which shall include corrective shoeing. Weighted shoes are allowed. Shoe must not exceed ½ inch in thickness and 1½ inches in width with no bare plates or other weight inside the shoe. The caulk must not exceed 1 inch and the shoe must not extend more than ¼ inch beyond the hoof at the toe. Shoeing bands are allowed in all flat shod classes including Pleasure classes. The uses of welded clips are prohibited in all classes. However, clips that are drawn from the shoe itself are allowed. No additional weights shall be allowed in or on the hoof other than shoe and nails.

### **Open Shod**

Open Shod shall be construed as having pads which can be flat pads or wedge pads. Weighted shoes are allowed.

- **Heel/Toe Measurement:** Toe length must exceed the height of the heel by one (1) inch or more. The length of the toe shall be measure from the coronet band, at the center of the front pastern along the front of the hoof wall, to the ground. The heel shall be measured from the coronet band, at the most lateral portion of the rear pastern, at a 90-degree angle to the ground, not including normal caulks at the rear of the horseshoe that do not exceed an inch in length. The portion of caulk at the rear of the horseshoe in excess of an inch shall be added to the height of the heel in determining the heel to toe ratio.
- **Pad Measurement:** The amount of pad or artificial extension permitted on any horse two years of age or older will be determined by the natural hoof length. The amount of artificial extension, whether accomplished with pads, acrylics or any other material or combination thereof, must not exceed 50 percent of the natural hoof length. The natural hoof length is measured from the coronet band at the center of the front pastern along the front of the hoof wall, to the distal portion of the hoof wall at the tip of the toe. The thickness of the pad, or artificial extension, shall be measured from the distal portion of the hoof wall at the tip of the toe at a 90-degree angle to the proximal (foot/hoof) surface of the shoe.
- **Pads:** Pads shall be made of leather, plastic or similar pliant material.
- **Shoe Size:** The maximum shoe size is 1½ inches wide and ½ inch thick with a turnback for a caulk not to exceed 1 inch. The turnback is measure from the inside of the fold.
- **Rubber Foundation:** A rubber foundation used in lieu of a shoe cannot be more than ½ inch in thickness.
- **Half-Rubber Foundation:** A half-rubber foundation used in lieu of half a shoe cannot be thicker than the corresponding half-shoe. Example: with a 3/8-inch thick shoe, rubber cannot be more than 3/8 inch thick. With a ½ inch thick shoe, rubber cannot be more than ½ inch thick.
- **Half-Metal Shoe:** A half-metal shoe in front with rubber on the rear half used for the

- foundation must be in apposition (there can be no gap between the metal shoe and the rubber).
- **Weight Bearing Surface:** The weight bearing surface of the shoe must be level.
  - **Rockback Pads:** Rockback pads cannot extend below the weight-bearing surface (bottom of the shoe).
  - **Lead and Other Weights:** Lead or other weights cannot be attached to the outside of the hoof wall, the outside of the horseshoe, or any portion of the pad except the bottom surface within the horseshoe. Pads may not be hollowed out for the purpose of inserting or affixing weights, and weights may not extend below the weight-bearing surface of the shoe. Hollow shoes or artificial extensions filled with mercury or similar substances are prohibited.
  - **Breakover:** The breakover point of the shoe cannot be any further back than the tip of the toe on the natural hoof.

## **TACK AND ATTIRE**

### **Tack**

- All tack must be neat and clean and fit the horse correctly.
- Horses may not be exhibited with tail braces, boots, chains or any other apparatus that would restrict the natural movement of the Racking Horse.
- **Bridles:** Hackamores, martingales and tie downs are prohibited. Bridles should be the type commonly used by Racking Horses with single reins.
  - Shanks over 9½ inches are prohibited. Shanks are measured from the top of the metal to the bottom of the metal, including the rings.
  - Gag bits without shanks are not allowed. Severe bits must be penalized in the final judging.
  - Cross chain cavessons are prohibited.
- **Saddles:** Should be the flat English types. Forward seat saddles are prohibited. Western saddles are prohibited except in designated classes where Western tack is permitted or required.
- **Breast Straps:** May be used, but must be free of any imprinting of names or symbols.
- **Braids:** Should be attached neatly at forelock and at the top of the mane next to the bridle path. Braids are not worn in classes with Western Tack & Attire.

### **Attire**

- **Dress:** Following the tradition of the show ring, it is necessary that the exhibitors be neatly attired for competition. Exhibitors will wear an English Riding Habit, with the exception of designated western attire in Western Country Pleasure and choice of tack/attire in the Trail Pleasure. All riding attire shall be neat and properly fitted. Rider's hair must not obstruct back number.
- ASTM-SEI Equestrian helmets are required whenever riding or driving.

## **EQUITATION FOR RACKING HORSES**

The term “equitation” specifically means “The act or art of riding horseback”. The general rules for Equitation include the following:

- Fall of the horse or rider will eliminate the exhibitor from the class.
- Any rider not having their mount under sufficient control shall be dismissed from the ring.
- Patterns will be posted at least one hour before the class.
- Riders will not be asked to mount or dismount.
- Riders will be asked to address their reins and work a pattern.

### ***Position in the saddle***

- **Feet:** The weight of the rider’s foot on the iron should be evenly distributed across the bend of the foot. The size of the stirrup should be ¼ inch wider than the widest part of the foot. The length of the leather should be according to the length and proportion of the rider’s thigh/calf ratio. Feet should be approaching parallel to the horse’s body. Foot placement should be slightly in front of the vertical (an imaginary line drawn from the shoulder through the hip to the rear of the heel)
- **Heel:** Down at all times, except when spurring a horse whose belly is above the foot of the rider. Ankle flexion should be inwards towards the horse.
- **Toes:** Neither in nor out, but conforming to the anatomy of the rider and his relationship to that individual horse.
- **Calf:** Resting lightly against the horse’s sides or if the legs are long, dropping straight from the knee perpendicular to the ground.
- **Knee and Thigh:** Resting light again the side of the horse. Knee is always bent. Stirrup leather at right to the ground. The angle of the thigh to the ground should be approaching 60 degrees.
- **The Seat Weight:** Should lie in the deepest part of the saddle. Weight should be evenly distributed between the front pelvic girdle bones and the rear ‘seat’ bones, equal pressure on the right and left.
- **The Back:** Should always be straight.
- **Chest and Shoulders:** Chest elevated in a proper breathing position. Shoulders back. Keep the shoulders square with the shoulders of the horse.
- **Head, Neck, Eyes:** Neck straight, head and chin up. Eyes forward with a focus approximately 20 feet in front of the horse. Pleasing look on face, not grinning or grimacing.
- **The Upper Arm:** Lie flat to the sides as naturally as possible, elbows in. Slightly in front of the vertical.
- **The Forearm:** Should be parallel to the ground, never above.
- **The Hands and Wrists:** Right hand on right rein, left hand on left rein. Three to 6 inches apart depending upon the anatomy of the horse and/or rider. Thumb up with hand angle to the ground approaching 80 to 90 degrees. Fingers closed around reins, dropping the little finger will be acceptable. Wrists elastic with bend to the outside

away from the horse.

- **Rein Contact:** Medium contact with mouth
- **Whip:** Should be carried down. Held in left hand when tracking left, and held in right hand when tracking right.

### ***Tack and Attire for Equitation***

- **Tack:** Bridles should be the type commonly used by Racking Horses with a single pair of reins. Colored brow bands are appropriate; however, rhinestones, etc. are not acceptable. Martingales or similar tie downs are prohibited. Saddles should be of the flat English type and the correct size for the rider. They should be clean and well kept with the white girth. Forward seat or Western saddles are prohibited. Braids should be neatly attached at the forelock and mane. Colors should blend well with the rider's habit, brow band and color of the horse. Braids should be of the straight plaited variety with no bows or ornaments.
- **Appointments:** The rider is to be judged on his/her skill and form on a horse. The horse and rider should be groomed to perfection. The rider should exercise good taste in choosing habit and accessories.
  - **Suit:** Should be three piece of a solid, conservative color. Solid colors include black, gray, green, beige or brown. The cut of the coat, one or two button front with conservative lapels, one vent, with the sleeves striking slightly below the wrist when the arms are brought forward with vigor. The coat tails should be 3 inches longer than fingertips for the female and at fingertips for the male. The jodhpurs should be long enough to rest on the rider's boot top and the bottom of the boot heel when mounted. A moderate fullness is better than a suit that fits snug.
  - **Gloves:** Leather, just coming to the wrist. Gloves are optional.
  - **Boots:** Zippered or side gore, dark color.
  - **Tie:** Conservative as possible, with tack.
  - **Jewelry:** Tiny earrings, no dangles.
  - **Spurs:** As small as possible with straps the color of boots.
  - **Shirt:** Long collar men's dress plain, preferable white.
  - **Foot Straps:** Should be the same color as suit, of same material as suit.
  - **Whip:** 30 inches or shorter.
  - **Belt:** Color of boots, small buckle, plain if needed.

### **CRITERIA FOR JUDGING RACKING HORSE CLASSES**

In some horses, the rack is considered to be an artificial gait, but to the true Racking Horse, this gait comes just as natural as walking or striking a bold trot for some horses.

The Racking horse requires no special training to perform this air-float, four-beat action which creates a comfortable shock-absorbed ride. The rack is often called the single-foot because a single foot strikes the ground at a time. At a rack, the horse should display style, speed and action.

The racking horse must not exhibit an exaggerated head nod in the Slow Rack or Fast Rack. The racking horse must not exhibit an exaggerated hock action with the rear legs, but its stride should be long and natural. The front leg action must exhibit a curved rolling motion rather than the legs following a straight line, commonly termed pitching or pointing. The racking horse must exhibit good conformation and be free of blemishes and unsoundness, other than healed permanent scars.

Gaits include the Show Walk, Slow Rack and Fast Rack.

- Show Walk – The show walk is a smooth collected, slow and easy gait. It is a distinctive four-beat gait displaying both style and grace. The horse is alert and mounted well in the bridle.
- Slow Rack – The slow rack is a relaxed four-beat gait with both style and action, neither a pace nor a trot. The neck is arched with head and ears alert. The gait should be straight, square and in form at all times.
- Fast Rack – The fast rack is the same in form as the slow rack, displaying style, speed and action. The fast rack is faster than either of the other gaits, but form may not be sacrificed for speed.

Exceptions to the three gaits are found in Trail Pleasure, Style Pleasure, and Country Pleasure Classes. In each of the three gaits the horse must be collected and presented well, and the rider must be relaxed and smooth in the saddle. At no time may the horse exemplify a gait with animated hock action. The Racking Horse must not exhibit an exaggerated head nod in the Slow Rack or Fast Rack. It must not exhibit an exaggerated hock action with the rear legs, but its stride should be long and natural. The front leg action must exhibit a curved rolling motion rather than the legs following a straight line, commonly termed “pitching” or “pointing”.

## **Mountain Horse Division Classes**

**ENGLISH MOUNTAIN PLEASURE** - Registered and grade mares and geldings. This is an English Tack and Attire class for those horses that are described as Mountain Pleasure-type horses. The horse should exhibit a true, four-beat gait. The horse's head should not be high, but should exhibit the type headset carriage of a Mountain horse. Reins should be held in both hands. The horses will be asked to perform the following gaits: Trail Walk, Show Gait and Pleasure Gait. The Mountain Pleasure horse will enter the ring at the Show Gait and then all three gaits shall be called for and the horse will work both ways of the ring. Horses will be asked to back and should do so readily, backing at least 3 steps. ASTM-SEI Helmets are mandatory.

**WESTERN MOUNTAIN PLEASURE** - Registered and grade mares and geldings. This is a Western Tack and Attire class for those horses that are Mountain Pleasure-type horses. The horse should exhibit a true, four-beat gait. The head should not be high, but should exhibit the type head carriage of a Mountain horse. The Western Pleasure horse works quietly exhibiting a smooth comfortable ride without excessive action or animation. Reins must be held in one hand and may either be around the reins or a single finger may be placed between the reins. It is optional to hold the remaining reins with the free hand. The horses will be asked to perform the following gaits: Trail Walk, Show Gait and Pleasure Gait. The Mountain Western Pleasure horse will enter the ring at the Show Gait and then all three gaits shall be called for and the horse will work both ways of the ring. Horses will be asked to back and should do so readily, backing at least 3 steps. Western tack includes a western saddle, any style (including Australian Stock Saddle) and a western bridle with no cavesson or colored brow band. Bits with shanks should not exceed 8 inches. Western attire includes: an ASTM SEI Equestrian helmet, boots and a long sleeved shirt (or jacket) and pants. Chaps and spurs are optional.

**TRAIL PLEASURE MOUNTAIN HORSE**-Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. Tack and attire for the Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse class may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. This class is to be judged: Show Gait, Pleasure Gait, Trail Walk, and Conformation/Manners. Horses will be required to back at the call of the judge. A Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse shall not be required to have qualities such as high head or high front leg lift, but should be the ultimate of a trail type horse, and should be collected in his gaits. He shall stand quietly and back readily. A Trail Pleasure horse will be required to perform three gaits: Trail Walk, Show Gait and Pleasure Gait. The judge may ask for a halt. The Trail Walk is a true walk in which the rider and his mount are at complete ease. The Show Gait and Pleasure Gait are considered to be a true four-beat gait. They are recognized as being the ultimate for a pleasure horse in which ease of riding and comfort are paramount. There is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider, and the reins are lightly held in two hands (or one if desired by riders with Western Attire). Speed shall not be a factor in judging. The Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse shall enter the ring at a Show Gait prior to initial judging of the class. Three (3) gaits will be called for beginning with Show Gait, after all entries have entered the ring. Horses will work both ways of the ring. ASTM SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn.

**COUNTRY TRAIL PLEASURE MOUNTAIN HORSE**-Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. Tack and attire for the Country Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse class may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. This class is to be judged: 45% Trail Walk, 45% Show Gait, 10% Conformation/Manners. Horses will be required to back at the call of the judge. A Country Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse shall not be required to have qualities such as high head or high front leg lift, but should be the ultimate of a trail type horse, and should be collected in his gaits. He shall stand quietly and back readily. A Country Trail Pleasure horse will be required to perform two gaits: Trail Walk and Show Gait. Horses will be called to a halt. The Trail Walk is a true walk in which the rider and his mount are at complete ease. The Show Gait is considered to be a true four-beat gait. It is recognized as being the ultimate for a pleasure horse in which ease of riding and comfort are paramount. There is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider, and the reins are lightly held in two hands (or one if desired by riders with Western Attire). Speed shall not be a factor in judging. The Country Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse shall enter the ring at a Show Gait prior to initial judging of the class. Two (2) Gaits will be called for beginning with Trail Walk, after all entries have entered the ring. Horses will work both ways of the ring. ASTM SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn.

**JR. RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE SEAT EQUITATION**-Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9 – 13 years old as of January 1 of the current year. This is an English tack and attire class for exhibitors in the Racking and Mountain Horse divisions. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine (see Equitation for Mountain Horses below).

**SR. RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE SEAT EQUITATION** Exhibitors must be between the ages of 14 – 18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. This is an English tack and attire class for exhibitors in the Racking and Mountain Horse divisions. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine (see Equitation for Mountain Horses below).

### **MOUNTAIN HORSES GENERAL CLASS RULES**

Registered or grade Rocky Mountain horses, Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horses and/or Kentucky Mountain Horses. Mountain horse information may be obtained from the following address or from your Kentucky Mountain Horse Association Board Member:

**Rocky Mountain Horse Association,**  
2805 Lancaster Road, Danville, KY 40422 (606) 238-7754

**Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse Association**  
P.O. Box 505, Irvine, KY 40336  
(606) 723-6551

### **SHOEING REQUIREMENTS**

- Shoes must be factory made keg shoes and all four feet, if shod, must be of the same shoe. Either all four feet should be shod, or all four feet should not be shod.
- Shoes must not be more than 7/8 inches wide and 3/8 inches thick, and may not weigh more than 20 ounces.
- Horses may wear a combination of flat and caulked shoes.
- Trailers (extensions of the heels) are permitted on hind shoes but may not exceed 3/4 inches in length.
- Clips drawn from the body of the shoe, or factory made clips on the shoe, are permitted. Welded on clips are prohibited, as is the addition of any other substance or device to add weight to the shoe.
- Drill tech, borium, and dowels are permitted.
- Dowels are limited to a total of 4 per shoe, two in front of the shoe and two in the rear of the shoe.
- Borium or drill tech is allowed on the caulks. Two or three dots of borium are permissible on the toes of the shoes but may not exceed a tot of 1/2 inch diameter.
- The thickness of the shoe or caulk, including the materials described above, may not exceed 7/8 of an inch, and any traction device or application may not exceed 1/2 inch in diameter.
- Caulks may not be made by turnback of the shoe.
- Acrylics or other types of bondable materials are prohibited for the artificial extension of the hoof as a means to enhance gait or breakover but may be used to fill in broken

sections of the natural hoof or to equalize toe length as long as toe length requirements are not exceeded.

- Bands are prohibited.

## **TACK AND ATTIRE**

### **Tack**

Entries and exhibitors in classes other than those specifically designated as “Western”, or other description denoting required tack, may be presented in either English or Western tack. Mixing of tack and attire is not permissible.

### ***Western Tack***

- Western tack includes: saddle with horn, silver, one-ear or brow band headstalls, closed reins with romal or Western-style split reins of leather or hair, saddle blanket and/or pad, cord, leather or neoprene girth, and breast collar.
- Spade bits or Western bits with rollers or crickets are permissible unless their use causes mouth discomfort.
- Running or standing martingales, tie downs, figure 8 or dropped nosebands are not allowed.
- Cavessons are not allowed Western classes.

### ***English Tack***

- English tack includes: Cutback, English all purpose, plantation, trooper or dressage style saddles of leather or synthetic materials, English style single rein bridles, stitched or buckled, with cavessons and brow bands, leather, cord, neoprene, webbing or fabric girth, black or white saddle pads, either square or shaped, and leather breast strap.
- Cruppers are allowed with English tack.
- Tradition fillis style (offset stirrups), including safety stirrups are acceptable.
- Metallic and rhinestone browbands are prohibited.
- Snaffle or shank style bits are allowed in English classes.

### ***Miscellaneous***

- Any noseband and/or curb chain may not be tightened whereby two fingers cannot be inserted between the jaw and curb chain or jaw and noseband.
- Curb straps or chains of less than ½ inches are not allowed. Curb chains should lie flat against the chin groove, and should be free of any wire, rawhide or other material used in conjunction with the approved curb strap or chain.
- Cross chain cavessons, bicycle chain and other severe mouthpieces, gag bits without shanks, shanks that exceed 9 inches when measured from the top of the bit attached to the bridle to the bottom of the shank including the rings are not allowed.
- Braids or ribbons in manes and tails are not permitted.
- Tail sets not allowed.

### **Attire**

### ***Western***

- Long-sleeved Western style shirt with color, completely buttoned or a turtleneck or slinky required.
- A tie, bolo or neck ornament is permissible.
- Western style boots or jodhpur boots when worn with chaps.
- Western style pants and a belt with buckle are required. Blue denim pants are not acceptable. Jodhpur breeches may be worn if covered by Western style chaps.
- Optional items include: jackets, vests, full suits, chaps, and gloves.
- Hair should be neatly restrained above the collar line and not cover the entry number.
- ASTM-SEI approved Equestrian helmet is required when riding.

### ***English***

- At a minimum, saddle seat attire includes a long-sleeved shirt (or short sleeve dress shirt covered by a coat) with a collar and tie, jodhpur breeches with tie-downs, and solid color boot with heels.
- English saddle seat suit or day coat and jodhpurs, are recommended in all classes, but not required.
- Gloves and vests are optional, but strongly encouraged.
- Long hair should be neatly confined and must be off the collar, not covering the entry number.
- ASTM-SEI approved Equestrian helmet is required when riding.

### **EQUITATION FOR MOUNTAIN HORSES**

Equitation is the art of horsemanship. Here the rider demonstrates skill and talent to control and guide a horse to achieve maximum performance. Although the horse is not judged in the division per se, the ability of the rider to influence the horse to smoothly execute gaits, commands and ring figures depends in large part on the training the horse has had by the rider. In addition to the functional skills the rider must demonstrate good riding form, to include an elegant and correct seat, proper use of hands, and overall balanced body position. Both horse and rider must be turned out to an exceptional standard in order to compete in the equitation division.

- Riders will not be asked to mount or dismount.
- Riders will be asked to address their reins and work a pattern.

### ***Attire***

- An informal saddle suit may be worn anytime of the day or night.
- The suit should be of a conservative color including black, blue, gray, dark burgundy, dark green, brown, beige or charcoal. Herringbone, pinstripes, tone-on-tone, and Glen plaids can be worn.
- The saddle suit coat and jodhpurs must be the same color, pattern, and hue.
- No satin or velvet contrasting colors or pocket flaps are proper. Linings should be the same or quiet contrasting color.
- Leather or ultra suede knee patches are allowed. Full seat is allowed.
- Gloves are mandatory.

### ***Tack***

In addition to the provisions below specific to equitation, all other rules and regulations regarding tack apply to equitation classes.

- **Saddle:** Standard cutback or straight head saddle with plain, straight front flaps, and spoon or square cantle. Trooper saddles and bounce pads are not allowed. Regular, Fillis, or safety stirrups are permitted. Standard leathers with ends pulled back behind the leg are proper. The girth should be leather, linen or patent. White is considered traditional, although other dark colors may be used.
- **Bridle and Reins:** Standard, simple English bridles fitted with hooks and studs or buckles is proper. Cavessons may be leather or match the browband, which may be leather or colored patent. Reins shall be single plain or simple laced rein connected at the end by buckle or stitching. The bight of the reins always falls on the right side.
- **Saddle Pads:** No pad is preferred, but if used pads should be dark and follow the form of the saddle. They should not protrude beyond the saddle so as not to detract from the rider.

### ***Basic Position***

The following elements are required of the rider in saddle seat equitation:

- Head high and looking forward.
- Shoulders even and square with ribcage drawn up and out of the belt area.
- Waist supple but not collapsed; back supple, neither collapsed nor rigid.
- Buttocks neatly tucked and seated on seat bones not rolled forward on the crotch.
- Deep seat, close and in contact with the horse, “perching” to be penalized.
- Thighs and knees in close contact but without gripping. Toes are pointed forward and heels carried down. Riding with “feet on the dashboard” or legs held straight out away from the horse will be penalized.
- The stirrup irons should touch the rider’s mid-ankle when the foot is removed from the stirrup.
- Forearms should be parallel to the ground. A slight angle when seen from above is acceptable. Wrists must be supple.
- Hands and forearms should form a “V” when viewed from above. Hands should be held over the withers, far enough apart that the thumbs almost touch when extended. Hands that are turned flat, in the position that would be seen while playing the piano, are to be penalized. The touch of the rider’s hands on the reins should be light, yet clearly in contact.
- The reins should be held between the thumb and index finger with the remainder of the fingers closed gently but firmly around the reins. The rider may also elect to run the bottom of the rein above the little finger before closing the hand. The bight of the rein shall fall to the right side. The hands may not cross the neck while the horse is in motion or riders will be penalized.
- An imaginary plumb line, drawn on the rider from a side view, would show a straight connection from the ear through the shoulder to the elbow, traveling down the body through the hip to the heel.

### ***Position in Motion***

- The start in forward motion should be smooth and gradual with the engagement of necessary leg and seat aids and a slight release of rein pressure.
- At all gaits, an even tempo must be maintained.
- The rider must always be supple, alert, and capable of maintaining the horse at gait, with invisible aids, on the straightaway and through the corners.
- Thumping or kicking of the horse will be penalized.
- The horse must be well collected with the rider's hands quiet and the body following the movement of the gait.
- All transitions must be gradual with no abruptness.
- At the halt, the rider's weight shall be well down in the saddle, rein pressure shall be even, and the horse ridden into a square halt.
- Reverses are ridden towards the rail.

### **CRITERIA FOR JUDGING MOUNTAIN HORSE CLASSES**

Gaits include the Trail Walk, Show Gait and Pleasure Gait.

- Trail Walk – The trail walk should be a calm, natural walk. The horse should have a headset that is natural and lower than the other gaits.
- Show Gait– The show gait is a four-beat gait that is performed at medium speed. The show walk is performed in a smooth rhythmic fashion. The head is carried proudly in the bridle and the feet should move forward in an even form. This gait has less speed and action than the mountain pleasure gait.
- Pleasure Gait – The pleasure gait is a four beat gait with increased speed and action. There is a distinct change in speed from the show walk to the mountain pleasure gait.

## *Classes Open to All Walking/Racking/Mountain Horses*

**SHOWMANSHIP I** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9-11 years old as of January 1 of the current year (see General Rules Page 5). Class judged on appointments, fitting, grooming and method of showing (See Standards for Showmanship in the General Rules).

**SHOWMANSHIP II** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 12-14 years old as of January 1 of the current year (see General Rules Page 5). Class judged on appointments, fitting, grooming and method of showing (See Standards for Showmanship in the General Rules).

**SHOWMANSHIP III** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 15-18 years old as of January 1 of the current year (see General Rules Page 5). Class judged on appointments, fitting, grooming and method of showing (See Standards for Showmanship in the General Rules).

## **STANDARDS FOR SHOWMANSHIP**

The real purpose of showmanship is to learn the best way to fit and train a horse or pony so that the best attributes of the horse/pony can be seen by the judge or potential buyer. Showmen are reminded that they are being judged on the fitting, training and showing of their horse/pony. The horse/pony's conformation is not to be considered in the judging of this class. Showmen must wear the appropriate attire for the division in which they are participating.

Showmanship classes will be given two sets of awards. The winner will be given an award and ribbon. Ribbons will also be given for 2nd through 10th place. In addition, youth will be given a Danish Ribbon. The Danish System allows for deserving youth to be recognized for their accomplishments and does not limit a judge to recognize only the top ten youth in a class.

The procedure for judging large classes and the pattern to be used will be left to the discretion of the judge.

## **SCORING FOR SHOWMANSHIP CLASS**

### **I. Appointments - 25%**

- **Personal Appearance:** Youth should be neat, clean, well groomed, attentive, courteous and wearing appropriate attire for the type of horse being shown.
- **Walking/Racking/Mountain:** Attire for this class may be either Saddleseat (English) or Western, but not a combination of both, and must be clean and neat.
- **Equipment:** Clean and properly adjusted equipment should be used.
- Whips are not permitted if showing with Western Attire. Youth may carry a whip or crop which is no more than thirty-six (36) inches in length. The use of the whip or crop

will only be as an extension of the showman's arm to alert, signal and/or direct the horse/pony. Youth are not permitted to touch any part of the horse/pony with the whip or the crop.

- Walking/Racking/Mountain division youth may use either an English bridle or an English halter and they must wear English attire. Western attire is worn if a western halter is used.
- When a double or full bridle is used, youth may show with either both reins down or with the snaffle rein secured at the withers and the curb rein down.

## **II. Horse and Pony (fitting and grooming) - 25%**

- The horse or pony should be clean and well groomed. Fitting for show is a year-round job. Daily grooming and good nutrition are very important to the hair coat and fitness of the horse/pony. Just before entering the ring, the showman should rub the horse/pony down with a grooming cloth to remove any dust which may have accumulated since brushing. Avoid using an oily grooming cloth since oil will attract dust. Wipe the ears, around the eyes, nostrils, lip, sheath and anus with a damp cloth or sponge; or with a cloth that has a small amount of baby oil or Vaseline on it to add luster to these areas.
- Horses and ponies should be clipped approximately one week before showing to allow for some regrowth to cover up any minor mistakes. The long hairs inside the ears, around the muzzle, under the chin and jaw, on the bridle path, fetlocks and lower legs should be clipped.
- Walking/Racking/Mountain Horse Division: Horses/ponies must be shown with a full mane that may or may not be braided. Horses/ponies may be braced, have artificial hair pieces applied and have their tails set according to recognized practices for that type of horse/pony.

## **III. Method of showing - 50%**

- **Leading:** Youth must be able to walk, trot, turn, stop and back as directed by the pattern or ring officials.
- Always lead from the left side at an alert walk following the judge's direction, never in front of the horse/pony. The horse/pony's head should be about even or slightly in front of your shoulder. The horse/pony should travel willingly with his body in a straight line in the same direction being traveled. Youth must have the right hand on the lead when leading their horse/pony. The left hand will contain the remainder of the reins or lead in a loosely coiled loop or in a figure eight. The youth should walk in a brisk, alert manner and give the appearance that you and your horse or pony are a team.
- Run by the left side of the horse/pony when you are showing him at trot. The horse/pony should be traveling alertly and willingly with his head up (not too high). The youth should run with good posture and vitality.
- The horse/pony should always be reversed by turning to the right. Turn in as small an area as possible and attempt to keep his hind legs in one place while turning (this allows

you to keep the horse/pony lined up with the judge). Any turn requiring more than 90 degrees should also, be made to the right.

- Always move your horse/pony directly toward or away from the judge unless specific instructions are otherwise given by the judge.
- **Working the Judge:** When setting up your horse/pony, stand out diagonally from the horse/pony's shoulder but never directly in front of the horse/pony. Always be in a position where you can observe your horse/pony and the judge at the same time. As the judge moves around the horse, the youth must respond accordingly. When the judge is in front of the horse/pony the youth should be on the opposite side away from the judge, so as not to block the judge's view. When the judge moves down one side of the horse/pony and passes the middle of the withers the youth should cross over in front of the horse/pony so that he/she is now on the same side as the judge. This allows you to see your horse/pony and continue to have eye contact with the judge. As the judge passes behind the horse/pony and crosses over to the other side, the youth should cross in front of the horse/pony to remain on the same side with the judge. Once again when the judge approaches you and crosses the middle of the withers the youth should cross over to be on the opposite side from the judge, so as not to obstruct his/her vision of the horse/pony. This procedure allows the judge an unobstructed view of the horse/pony and allows the youth to show their horses/ponies to the best of their ability. It also will allow youth to keep an eye on their horse/pony and the judge without having to look through, under or over their horse/pony.
- **Stance of the horse/pony:** Horses/ponies in the Walking/Racking/Mountain Horse Division can be either parked or set up squarely. Parked horses/ponies may be either lead up or backed out of the stretch before being asked to move.

IV. Keep your position in line and allow reasonable space between your horse/pony and others. Never allow your horse/pony to interfere with other horses/ponies.

V. If asked to change positions in line, back your horse/pony out of line and approach the new position from the rear. Be careful when walking up behind other horses/ponies and allow yourself plenty of room to enter.

VI. Quickly recognize and correct any faults in your horse/pony. All communication between the youth and the horse/pony shall be through the lead shank or reins which may be accompanied by subtle voice commands. Youth can not directly touch any part of their horse/pony unless the judge touches (i.e. disturbs the mane or moves the halter or bridle) the horse in front of the shoulder. At such time, the youth should correct the disarray created by the judge.

VII. Remember - Move quickly, quietly and with confidence when showing your horse/pony. Be courteous, respond promptly to directions and display good horsemanship at all times.

**JR. BAREBACK EQUITATION** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9 -13 years old as of January 1 of the current year. Walking, Racking and Mountain Horse exhibitors may enter this class. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine. (See Standards for Bareback Equitation below).

**SR. BAREBACK EQUITATION** Exhibitors must be between the ages of 14 – 18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. Walking, Racking and Mountain Horse exhibitors may enter this class. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine. (See Standards for Bareback Equitation below).

### **STANDARDS FOR BAREBACK EQUITATION**

The term "Equitation" specifically means the act or art of riding horseback. The Junior & Senior Bareback Equitation classes are performed without the benefit of a saddle. Exhibitors will be expected to work an individual test (pattern) in the bareback equitation classes. Patterns will be posted no later than 1 hour prior to equitation class. A canter will not be required.

- **Tack and Attire:** Appointments, attention to detail and basic body position all apply to the bareback equitation class. In this class, riders may elect to wear English or Western tack and attire, but not a combination of both. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet is mandatory.
- **Gaits:** Walking, Mountain and Racking entries will both show together in the Jr. and Sr. Bareback Equitation Classes. Therefore, the judge will call for a Walk and a Favorite Gait.

**JR. STOCK SEAT EQUITATION** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9 – 13 years old as of the current year. Walking, Racking and Mountain Horse exhibitors may enter this class. This is a Western tack and attire equitation class that is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine. (See Standards for Stock Seat Equitation below).

**SR. STOCK SEAT EQUITATION**-Exhibitors must be between the ages of 14 – 18 years old as of the current year. Walking, Racking and Mountain Horse exhibitors may enter this class. This is a Western tack and attire equitation class that is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine. (See Equitation Class Standards) Since Mountain, Racking and Walking entries are allowed in this class, the gaits to be called by the judge will be Walk and Favorite Gait. A canter will not be required. Exhibitors will work a pattern.

### **STANDARDS FOR STOCK SEAT EQUITATION**

The term "Equitation" specifically means the act or art of riding horseback. Exhibitors will be expected to work an individual pattern in Stock Seat equitation classes. Since Mountain, Racking and Walking entries are allowed in this class, the gaits to be called by the judge will be Walk and Favorite Gait. A canter will not be required.

- **Personal Attire:** The horse and exhibitor should be groomed to meticulous perfection and should exercise good taste. Stock Seat Equitation Attire must include:

ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet, long sleeved shirt, western type tie, bolo or pin at the collar, gloves, western belt, long pants and boots. The total outfit should coordinate well together - both with the horse and the saddle blanket. Western chaps are quite acceptable although not mandatory. A coordinating vest and/or short western type jacket is optional. The exhibitor's hair must be neat and well groomed. Long hair must be styled above the collar.

- **Tack:** The tack should be very clean and well kept. No braids should be used in the horse's mane and forelock in stock seat equitation. A western bridle with no cavesson must be used. Either a split or Romal rein will be acceptable. The shanks of the bit must not exceed 9 & 1/2 inches (Walking/Racking horses) or 9 inches (Mountain Horses). The saddle should be of the western type and should be the correct size to fit the exhibitor (No Australian stock saddles are permitted). Saddle blanket under the saddle is mandatory. Consideration should be given to the saddle blanket. The colors should complete the overall look in coordination with the exhibitor's attire. Silver on the bridle and saddle are quite acceptable and should be well cleaned, but should not count over good working equipment.
- **Basic Position:** Head held high, looking forward. Shoulders square with rib cage drawn up out of the belt. Waist should be supple. Buttocks should be neatly tucked (no sway back). Seat deep, close, in deepest part of the saddle. Thighs and knees should be in close contact, with toes pointed forward. With the foot out of the stirrup, the stirrup should strike the exhibitor just below the ankle. Ball of foot should rest squarely on the stirrup with the weight of the leg lowering the heel below the toe. Elbows should be quiet, staying close to exhibitor's side. One should be able to draw a vertical line through the exhibitor's ear, shoulder, hip and heel.
- **Proper Split Rein Position:** Reins may be held in either the right or the left hand, but may not be switched during the class. With a split rein, the exhibitor may only place the index finger between the reins and the remainder of the rein must fall on the same side as the hand that the reins are in. The off hand during the class must never touch the remainder of the rein. The hand holding the rein should be placed slightly in front of the horn at about the level of the horn. The position of the hand not holding the rein is optional, but it should be kept free of the horse and equipment and held in a relaxed manner, with the exhibitor's body straight at all times.
- **Proper Romal Rein Position:** The right or left hand may hold the reins, with the remainder of the rein coiled neatly in the off hand. There should be approximately 16 inches between hands with the off hand behind the cinch. The rein hand can have no fingers between the reins and should be held in a fist position just in front of the horn.
- **Position in Motion:** This will be the same as the Walking/Racking/Mountain Seat Equitation with the exception of the horse being worked on a loose rein and reversing away from the rail. The judge may ask for a halt during any gait. The exhibitor should respond quickly without altering his or her basic position.

**WALKING/RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE YEARLING - OPEN**

**INVITATIONAL** - Registered and grade fillies and geldings foaled anytime during the previous year. No colts allowed. Tack and attire may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. This class is open to yearlings (including smooth gaited mules) that would be considered as Walking, Racking, Country Pleasure, Mountain Pleasure or Spotted Saddle Horses. A horse is considered one year old on the first day of January following the date of foaling. However, an S.H.O.W. exception occurs when a foal is born in October, November & December and therefore becomes eligible for this class along with foals born during the next year. Class judged on the horse's conformation, condition, soundness and way of going. A yearling's way of going should reflect horse's breed and those characteristics that are passed on through the breed as follows: Walking Horse yearlings should reflect a natural looseness with free-moving shoulders and ample overstride. Racking horse yearlings should be long, but collected, not awkward or clumsy. The head motion is synchronized with motion of the body. The head should be high & alert, but not stiff or restrained. Country Pleasure and Mountain yearlings should show according to natural gait and ability for that horse. Yearlings shall be shown in a show halter. Yearlings shall be permitted to be shod with a buildup not to exceed one inch excluding the shoe, which shall be no larger than 16 ounces. No lead can be added to the pads. In judging yearlings, strong emphasis should be placed on naturalness and those characteristics that are passed on through the breed. (Open Invitational).