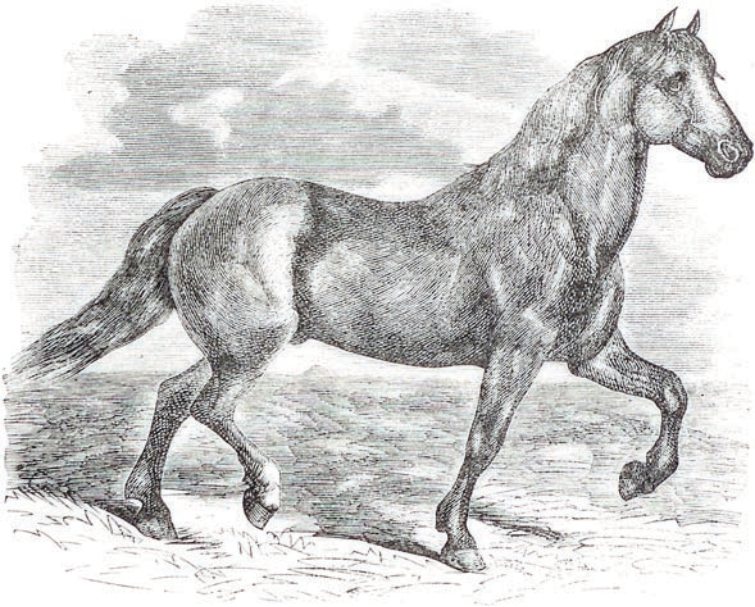


**CANADIAN HORSE  
BREEDERS  
ASSOCIATION**



**SHOW RULEBOOK**

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# **Section A**

## **General Regulations**

## GOALS:

- To provide written show rules and regulations
- To provide definitions of the terms used, in conjunction with the showing of Canadian Horses at a CHBA sanctioned Canadian Horse Show.

### I. **Definitions:**

1. **EXHIBITOR:** The owner or lessee of a horse entered in the show. The exhibitor must be a member in good standing of CHBA.
2. **COMPETITOR:** The horse and rider/driver/handler entered in a particular class.
3. **YOUTH COMPETITOR:** An individual, who has not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of January 1 of the current competition year. Riders/Driver's age as is determined as of January 1 of the current year. Therefore, those 18 on or before January 1 are adults. Those 15 to 17 years of age on January 1 are senior youth. Those 14 and under on January 1 are junior youth. Youths are not allowed to show stallions. Approved helmets with retention harness securely fastened must be worn at all times in all performance classes.
4. **HORSE:** All Canadian Horses shown must be properly registered with Canadian Livestock Records Corporation. All Canadian Horses of members not in good standing with CHBA or CLRC will be refused entry. Unregistered weanlings may be shown provided proof of pending registration is provided. Lease arrangements must be in accordance with the CHBA & a copy of the approved forms must be provided to the show secretary.
5. **SHOW STAFF:** Includes, but is not limited to the following persons: Gates attendants, ring crews and other persons engaged by the show officials to help with the physical conduct of the show.
6. **SHOW OFFICIALS:** Includes, but not limited to the following persons: Show manager, Show Committee, Judges, Stewards, Veterinarians, Course designers, Timekeepers, Announcer, Ring Master, Secretary and Award Presenter. A list of show organizers and officials shall be submitted to the CHBA prior to the granting of sanctioned status.

- a. **SHOW MANAGER:** The individual acting in this capacity is required to be familiar with the CHBA sanctioned show rules. No member of the Show Manager's family may officiate as a paid judge in the show.

The Show Manager:

- Be the person in charge of the show and should not serve in any other full job capacity at a show for which they may assist in a brief relief situation until alternate arrangements are made.
  - Have authority to enforce all rules referring to the show and he/she may excuse any exhibitor from the show prior to or during the judging.
  - Be present on the ground for the duration of the show.
  - Receive written complains/protests from the Show Committee or from Exhibitors, etc.
- b. **SHOW SECRETARY:** This individual is directed to perform duties as assigned by Directors, Show Manager or Show Committee Chairpersons. The regular duties consist of keeping records off all class entries, scratches, additions and placements and payment of fees.
- c. **ANNOUNCER:** This individual announces classes, placing and makes announcements as directed by Show Officials. He/she works directly with the Show Manager, Show Committee, Show Secretary and Ring Master.
- d. **RING MASTER:** This individual is responsible for the conduct of each class as it is performed in the ring. Duties include but are not limited to:
- Communicating with the announcer to insure that all eligible entries are assembled before the judging begins.
  - Relieve the Judge of unnecessary details: assemble the class promptly, keep the judging program on schedule, eliminate long delays between classes and helps control the conduct of the horses and exhibitors in the ring. The Ring Master has the authority to excuse entries from any class if conditions warrant such action.
  - Notify the Judge when all entries are present for each class.
  - Assist the Judge, not advise him/her, and refrain from discussing, or seeming to discuss, the horses or exhibitors in the ring.
  - Be in charge of all activities in the ring or arena.

- Assure that all the Judge's directives are communicated and followed.
- e. JUDGES and JUDGING: Judges are nominated by the Board of Directors of CHBA or by the Show Committee. Until such time as an accreditation process is in place for CHBA approved judges, EC judges can be used. A contract will be drawn up and signed by the show committee and the judge. The Judge shall not be an exhibitor, driver, technical delegate or manager at any show at which they are officiating. The Judge shall not officiate at any show in which a member of his immediate family is competing. The Judge must be clear and free from all Canadian Horses in the show, including boarding and training of the Canadian Horse, owner or exhibitor. The Judge must distance himself/herself from exhibitors.
- In any class, the Judge is the absolute authority. Once a class has been judged, it shall not be re-judged. Once the Judge has marked his/her card and places for awards are made, there shall be no changing of the Judge's record.
  - The Judge may excuse any horse or competitor from the competition for poor conduct of either and may disqualify any competitor for excessive abuse of the horse. The Judge may at his/her discretion refuse entry into the arena or remove an entry from a class for improper attire and/or equipment or for improper actions, which may include being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
  - During the class, excessive use of the voice, shouting, whipping or whistling to the horse may be penalized at the Judge's discretion. In any driving class, the driver should control the horse's movement with discreet use of vocal aids.
  - Any request to speak to a Judge during the show must be made through the Ring Master. When an exhibitor makes a request through a Show Steward for the Judge's opinion concerning that exhibitor's horse, it is urged that the Judge will give his/her opinion in the presence of the Show Steward. Any negative comment regarding the exhibitor's perception of the Judges ability should only be stated on the evaluation questionnaire
  - The Judge must always be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect. No person, exhibitor, owner, parent, show official or otherwise, shall direct abuse, threatening conduct or intimidation toward the Judge

or show committee, whether or not the conduct occurs during the show or on the show grounds. At the discretion of the show officials, a violation of this rule may result in disciplinary action up to and including removal of the exhibitor or competitor from the competition, show grounds or future shows. If actions or threats are unlawful, the affected should contact the appropriate legal authorities.

- No exhibitor will visit or socialize with the Judge prior to or during the show.
  - To protest a Judge's decision, a formal protest must be filed as described in these rules.
7. **PROHIBITED:** Forbidden by rule. The competitor will be excused from the competition if in violation.
  8. **MANDATORY:** Required by administrative rule. The competitor may be excused from the competition if in violation.
  9. **RECOMMENDED:** It is suggested to the competitor. The competitor can lose or gain points at the judge's discretion
  10. **OPTIONAL:** left to the choice of the competitor. The competitor will not loose or gain points

## **II. Conduct of shows:**

1. **ABUSE:** Cruelty to or the abuse of a horse by any person at a show is forbidden and renders the offender subject to penalty. The Show Committee must act on any report of cruelty or abuse and it determined to be valid, the violator may be barred from further participation in that show or future shows.
2. **SOUNDNESS:** The Judge shall watch for unsoundness in all horses brought into any class. Obvious lameness shall be cause for disqualification. Obvious lameness being:
  - a. Consistently observable at a trot under any circumstances.
  - b. Marked nodding, hitching or shortened strike.
  - c. Minimal weight-bearing in motion and/or at rest or an inability to move.
3. **SHOW SCHEDULE:** Classes will be called in the order they appear in the show program. If it becomes necessary to cancel or reschedule any classes, unless otherwise agreed upon by all affected competitors, the change must be

announced at least thirty minutes prior to the affected class to allow adequate preparation time for the next scheduled class. An official board, posted in a convenient and visible area, should be used to post any class changes.

- 4. DELAY OF CLASSES:** When the start of any class requiring horses to be shown individually or collectively is delayed by horses not ready to perform, the class may be closed at the order of the judge or Show Manager provided a warning is issued and the competitor(s) is given five minutes to appear at the gate ready to participate. The Ring Master will give the warning to the announcer as to when the gates will be closed for the class. Tack changes should be built into the schedule but if necessary a five minute tack hold will be permitted upon previous arrangement with the Ring Master or Show Secretary. If a class is in progress and must be stopped due to an accident or other emergency, the Show Manager will decide whether to recommence the class. If it becomes necessary to interrupt a dressage competition for any reason, the unfinished portion may be rescheduled and resumed on the same or following day at the option of the Show Manager with the Judge's consent. All scores recorded before the interruption will stand.
- 5. COMBINING/SPLITTING CLASSES:** The Judge or management may split large classes or combine small classes if conditions warrant. The size of the ring and the number of entries will determine when the class should be split. In a small ring, classes may be split at a lower number. The Judge or management has the discretion as to how the division is to be made, keeping in mind the safety of the competitors. Final placings will be determined by working off selected entries from each section.
- 6. PROTESTS:** A protest may be made to the Show Manager or any member of the Show Committee by a rider, driver, handler, exhibitor, parent or guardian of a youth competitor. It must be in writing, addressed to the Show Committee, signed by the protester, and accompanied by a cheque for \$50.00 payable to the Show's name. A protest and charge must state the full name and address of the accused and contain a complete and definite statement of the acts that constitute the alleged violation. Precise details regarding a violation of rules are necessary. The Show Committee Chairman must hold a hearing within 48 hours and all accused; accusing persons, witnesses and other persons directly concerned

must be given advance notice and be given the opportunity to appear at the hearing. The Show Committee must then adjudicate the issues impartially and make effective its decision upon the parties. If the protest is sustained, the deposit must be returned to the protester. If un-sustained, the deposit is be forfeited to the competition. Decisions that cannot be protested are:

- a. The soundness of a horse, when determined by a Show Official or by the Judge.
  - b. A Judge's decision, representing his/her individual preference unless it is alleged to be a violation of show rules. The protester is to refrain from approaching any show officials except for the Show Manager.
7. **ENTRIES:** Canadian Horses owners/exhibitors must be a current CHBA member. Late (post) entries are permitted at double the entry fee and must be entered before 1.5 hour prior the beginning time of classes. Payment is required at the time of entry. Competitors exhibiting to a class in which they have not been officially entered will result in the competitor's immediate removal from the ring.
8. **CLASSES:** Will be placed up to sixth place. The exhibitor must check in with the Ring Master, positioned at the entry gate, before entering the ring. The exhibitor will, at this time, give the correct number to the Ring Master and line up at the Ring Master's instruction. After waiting three minutes for any late arriving entries after the final class call, the announcer will announce "this is your class", then the gates will be closed and the class will be judged.

### **III. Attire:**

All Exhibitors, Competitors, Technical Delegates and show officials in the show ring will wear clothing appropriate to the class or duties performed. Exhibitors and Competitors should read the rules in next paragraphs for proper dress associated with their class. Show staff, as defined above, should keep in mind that they represent the Breed and wear clothing appropriate to their duties and responsibilities.

### **IV. Responsibilities:**

1. **GENERAL:** All participants and organizers of CHBA recognized shows are required to have liability insurance coverage in accordance with regulations applicable to the Province in which the show is being held.

- 2. EXHIBITOR/COMPETITOR:** The exhibitor is solely responsible for the completeness and correctness of all entry information as well as with the compliance of all rules of the show. The Exhibitor's responsibilities also include:
- a. **ENTRY NUMBERS:** All entries must have a number before entering any class. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to display the proper number for the correct entry in each class. No award will be given to any competitor while displaying an incorrect number or not displaying number.
  - b. Responsibility for all attendants, grooms and passengers, as well as the appropriateness of dress, attire, conduct and completeness of turnout and its presentation.
  - c. Disclosing all medication given to a competing horse to the Show Manager or assistant and making the horse available to the veterinarian if requested. This notification must occur before the class is called. Tranquilizers or pain medications are not allowed. Failure to disclose and then show will result in disqualification from any prize and being dismissed from the show at that point. Dismissal from the show will be immediate and includes all persons associated with the entry being dismissed from the remainder of the show and removal from the grounds. The Show Manager will direct a recommendation for exclusion from future shows to the Board of Directors for action.
  - d. The exhibitor will provide the show office with an emergency card, to be kept on file in the office, detailing all phone numbers and room locations of persons to be contacted in case of an emergency.
  - e. To make all entries on time.
  - f. Tack changes will be permitted for those who notify the Ring Master prior to the class. If entries are delayed, the Ring Master must be notified immediately or they will be considered a scratch from the class. Tack changes will be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes, unless an exception is allowed by the Judge or Show Manager. After the allotted time the gates will be closed and the class will be judged. No time is to be allowed for the warm-up of horses involved in tack changes.

**Section B**  
**Conformation classes**  
**Regulations**

## **I. General regulations:**

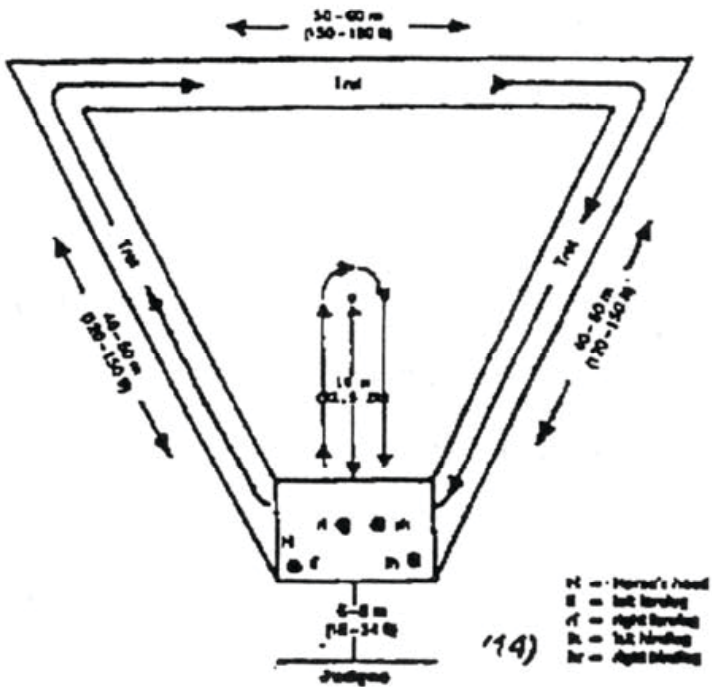
1. An exhibitor may have more than one horse per class. Each horse must have its own exhibitor number
2. There is no dialogue between the Judge and the Handler or any other person permitted in the ring unless specifically initiated by the Judge.
3. Unruly horses may be excused from the ring at the request of the Judge.
4. Horses two years old and older can be shown with or without shoes. Weanlings and yearling must be shown unshod.
5. Horses will be shown with natural full mane and tail.
6. Horses must be appropriately groomed, in show condition.
7. Horses must have their head and bridle path clipped. Clipping of the ears and legs is optional. Hoof paint may be used with clear or black on black feet and clear on white feet.
8. Horses will be shown with a leather halter for weanlings and yearlings and with either a leather halter or snaffle bridle for horses two years old and older.
9. If the horse is shown in a halter, matching leather lead must be used. If the horse is shown in a bridle, matching leather lead must be used either attached directly to the halter or with the chain going under the chin and attaching to the top ring. A leather lead or reins can be used in the case the horse is shown in a bridle.
10. It is strongly recommended to show stallions 2 yrs old and older in a bridle.
11. Handler must be 18 years old and over to present a stallion
12. Handlers to be attired either in dress attire with dark dress pants, long sleeve shirt / blouse (preferably the CHBA blue shirt) in English or western attire. The latter two as specified in performance guidelines. Jacket, vest, hat and gloves are optional. The entire look must be cohesive: e.g. A western style attire with western style halter, or a English style with bridle or plain leather halter. No mixing or different style. Blue jeans and nylon halter are prohibited.
13. Handler may carry a crop or a whip of a maximum of 6'.
14. All entries will be judged according to the breed standard for the ideal Canadian Horse type and conformation

15. Classes will be judged on conformation and way of going. The horses will be judged and scored with the association score sheet (annexe ???)
16. Blemishes derived from an injury which will not affect soundness may be overlooked by the Judge.
17. An unsound horse must be excused by the Judge, at the time than he sees it, from the ring without any score or placing.
18. Horses placing first and second will move to their respective championship: Horses 2 year old and younger to the JR championship and horses 3 years and over to the SR Championship. The JR champion and reserve champion will be presented against the SR champion and reserve champion to determine the GRAND Champion and Grand Reserve Champion. Geldings will be excused from the Championships.
19. It will be at the discretion of the show committee to have a Championship class for geldings

## **II. Ring procedure**

1. If possible, horses will be shown on the triangle. If the ring doesn't permit showing on the triangle the horse may be shown in a pattern as specified by the judge.
2. Horses are to enter the ring at the walk counter clockwise.
3. The ring master will indicate to the handlers where to line up their horses
4. Each horse will be called individually at the base of the triangle for conformation evaluation. Horses must stand squarely on all four feet with the legs perpendicular to the ground.
5. The horses will be evaluated at the walk either by walking a smaller triangle or they will be asked to walk away from the judge for 10 meters and then back to the base of the triangle turning away from the Judge.
6. The Handlers will then be asked to trot the triangle showing a free, extended trot.
7. At both the walk and the trot, horses should be given the opportunity to move as freely as possible.

(Size: 20-25 m. long on the side)



### III. Suggested classes

1. Weanling fillies
2. Weanling colts/geldings
3. Yearling fillies
4. Yearling colts
5. Yearling geldings
6. 2 yr old fillies
7. 2 yr old colts
8. 2 yr old geldings
9. 3 yr old mares
10. 3 yr old stallions
11. 3 yr old geldings
12. Broodmares

13. Yeld mares 4 years old and over
14. Mature stallions 4 years old and over
15. Geldings 4 years old and over
16. Progeny of dam (2 or more offspring from the same dam)
17. Get of Sire ( 2 or more offspring from the same stallion)
18. Breeder's herd (3 horses or more wearing the exhibitor's name)

#### **IV. Showmanship classes**

1. Description: The showmanship class shall be judged strictly on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse at halter. The horse is merely a prop to demonstrate the ability and preparation of the exhibitor. The ideal showmanship performance consists of a poised, confident, neatly attired exhibitor, leading a well-groomed and conditioned horse that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern with promptness, smoothness, and precision. The showmanship class is not a halter class and should not be judged as such.
2. To be judged 50% on the overall appearance of exhibitor and horse and 50% allocated toward the performance.
3. All horses are to be led with a halter and lead shank.
4. Exhibitor can be attired in either English or Western style.
5. It is mandatory that the showmanship pattern be posted at least one hour prior to the commencement of the class.
6. Judges are responsible to approve all patterns and courses prior to posting.
7. The Judge will determine if all exhibitors will enter the ring and then work individually or each Exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually
8. The following maneuvers may be requested: lead the horse at a walk, jog, trot or extended trot, or back in a straight or curved line, or a combination of straight and curved lines, stop and turn 90 (1/4), 180 (1/2), 270 (3/4), 360 (full turn) degrees or any combination or multiple of these turns. The Judge must have Exhibitors set the horse up squarely for inspection during the class.
9. The Exhibitor must lead on the horse's left side holding the lead shank in the right hand near the halter with the tail of

the lead loosely coiled in the left hand. It is preferable that the exhibitor's hand not be on the snap or chain portion of the lead continuously. The excess lead should not be tightly coiled, rolled, or folded.

- 10.** When leading, the Exhibitor should be positioned between the eye and the midpoint of the horse's neck, referred to as the leading position.
- 11.** When setting the horse up for inspection, the Exhibitor should stand angled toward the horse in a position between the horse's eye and muzzle, and should never leave the head of the horse.
- 12.** It is recommended, but not mandatory that the Exhibitors use the "Quarter Method" when presenting the horse.
- 13.** The Exhibitor should maintain a position that is safe for themselves and the Judge. The position of the Exhibitor should not obstruct the Judge's view of the horse and should allow the Exhibitor to maintain awareness of the Judge's position at all times. The Exhibitor should not crowd other Exhibitors when setting up side-by-side or head to tail. When moving around the horse, the Exhibitor should change sides in front of the horse with minimal steps and should assume the same position on the right side of the horse that they had on the left side.

**Section C**  
**Under saddle**  
**Regulations**

## **I. General Performance Rules**

1. Performance classes are open to all horses which are sound and in good condition.
2. Competition management may divide performance classes to hold junior or senior horse divisions for all performance classes listed.
3. No horses under three-year old will be shown under
4. The judge(s) may excuse a horse at any time while in the arena for unsafe conditions or improper exhibition, pertaining to both the horse and/or rider.
5. At all times (whether competing or not), exhibitors are expected to act in a respectful, safe, proactive manner when on the show grounds. Not doing so may result in dismissal from the show.
6. Show numbers must be worn by all riders, handlers, exhibitors or horses at all time.
7. Youth exhibitors are prohibited from showing or riding stallions.
8. All exhibitors are strongly encouraged to wear protective headgear passing or surpassing current applicable ASTM standards with harness secured while riding anywhere on the competition grounds. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor, or parent or guardian or agent or trainer of the junior exhibitor to see that the headgear worn by the junior exhibitor complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use, and is properly fitted and in good condition. , Show Committees, and Licensed Officials are not responsible for checking headgear worn by the junior exhibitor for compliance with these rules.
9. All youth competitors must wear properly fitted, approved protective headgear, with the safety harness correctly secured at all times while mounted on the competition or event grounds. Approved headgear must be certified by SEI or another testing body that it meets the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) standard or the British Standards Institution (BSI) standard.
10. Show committees and Licensed Officials makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, about any

protective headgear, and cautions exhibitors that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear as all equestrian sports involve inherent dangerous risks and as no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries.

- 11.** Any competitor may wear protective headgear in any division or class without penalty from the judge.
- 12.** All exhibitors (including adults) are strongly encouraged to wear approved headgear at all times while mounted. It will be the show committee's discretion whether this will be a mandatory requirement for a particular show or not.
- 13.** All persons riding over fences anywhere on the competition grounds must wear protective headgear secured with a safety harness permanently affixed to the helmet. Harnesses must be secured and properly fitted.
- 14.** Riders/Drivers will not be penalized for wearing safety vests.
- 15.** An exhibitor must be correctly dressed, and have the correct appointments for the class entered. A lack of required tack, equipment or appointments may result in immediate disqualification. Attendants must also be neatly dressed. The management may at its discretion bar any entry or person from entering the ring if not suitably presented.
- 16.** If a rider falls off of his/her horse during a class, the rider will be excused.
- 17.** Excessive use of a whip or other actions, either by the handler or from anyone else present, that may disturb other entries shall be penalized. Individual show management may preclude the use of whips at any show.
- 18.** Exhibitors are expected to be familiar with their class lists, rule books and patterns. When entering a class, they should know what is required of them, and be prepared to the best of their ability.
- 19.** The horse should be in good body condition and demonstrate overall fitness,
- 20.** The hair coat should be clean, well brushed, and in good condition.
- 21.** The mane, tail, and forelock should preferably be left natural but may be braided, banded or pulled for English or Western. The mane and tail should be neat, clean, and free of tangles.

22. The bridle path, eyebrows, and excessively long hair on the head and legs should be clipped or trimmed.
23. Hooves should be properly trimmed and if shod, the shoes should fit correctly and clinches should be neat. Hooves must be clean and may be painted with hoof dressing (black or clear on black and clear on white) or shown naturally.
24. Hors Concours entry. If one does not qualify or is ineligible to enter a certain class, the class may still be entered as an HC entry. This enables someone to be able to compete, however they are not judged nor are they eligible to win a prize, however it is a good way to gain competition experience. The judge may also, at their discretion, provide suggestions for improvement. Exhibitors should demonstrate good ring etiquette:
  - a. Keep at least one horse length between your horse and any other horse in front, behind, or beside you.
  - b. Don't crowd other riders and do not ride up the back of another horse. Leave enough passing room so that your horse isn't able to bite or kick at (or be kicked by) a nearby horse.
25. If a stallion is in the class, watch where they are, and be sure to give them ample room.
26. Slower horses should keep to the inside of the ring.
27. Keep your horse under control. If this is not possible, ask to be excused from the ring.

## **II. English Performance Rules**

### **1. English Attire:**

- a. All exhibitors are considered to be breed ambassadors, and should make every effort to present the breed in its best light. Accordingly, it is important for each exhibitor to make a concerted effort to look as presentable as possible. Tidy, clean, coordinated dress in good condition should be evident at all times when showing. Dirty, faded or ripped attire is considered unacceptable and will be penalized.
- b. Non-English or untidy dress may cause elimination, at the Judge's discretion.

- c. Any competitor may wear protective headgear in any division or class without penalty from the judge.
- d. All persons riding over fences anywhere on the competition grounds must wear protective headgear secured with a safety harness permanently affixed to the helmet. Harnesses must be secured and properly fitted.
- e. English attire:
  - jacket in a conservative color
  - jodhpurs or breeches
  - tie, stock or choker
  - dark-color approved headgear
  - English style riding boots. Black or brown half chaps with paddock boots are permissible providing they match the boot.
- f. Hair must be neat and securely fastened if long so as not to cover rider's number.
- g. Judges, at their discretion, may authorize adjustment to attire due to weather related conditions.

## **2. English Tack**

- a. English bridle with cavesson nose band and brow band must be used. Bridles must be correctly fitted, and reins must be only black or brown. Reins must be made entirely of leather.
- b. Permitted bits:
  - All bits must be humane in nature. Snaffle bits may be with or without cheeks.
  - English snaffle (no shank), kimberwick or full double bridle
  - Pelham with two reins attached to each side only. No bit converter straps enabling only one rein to be attached per side are permitted
  - For dressage tests or dressage suitability, only the following type of bits are permitted:
  - Regular snaffle bits: Loose ring snaffle. snaffle with jointed mouthpiece where middle piece should be rounded, egg-butt snaffle, racing snaffle D-ring, egg-butt snaffle with cheeks (fulmer), loose ring snaffle with cheeks, snaffle with upper cheeks only, hanging cheek snaffle, straight bar snaffle permitted also with mullen mouth and with eggbutt rings, snaffle with

rotating mouthpiece, double jointed with roller in the centre section.

- Double bridle bits: loose ring bridoon bit, bridoon bit with jointed mouthpiece where the middle piece should be rounded, egg-butt bridoon bit, Bridoon bit with hanging cheeks. half-moon curb bits, curb bit with straight cheeks and port, curb bit with port and sliding mouthpiece (Weymouth), curb bit with rotating lever arm, curb bit with S-curved cheeks
- All metal bits must be smooth.
- The maximum inside diameter of the snaffle ring must be no larger than 10.16cm (4") or smaller than 3.5 cm (1.38").
- Where the mouthpiece connects to the cheek or ring, the diameter of the snaffle mouthpiece must be such as not to hurt the horse.
- Kimberwick and Pelham bits are not permitted.
- Prohibited bits:
  - Twisted wire (either single or double)
  - Gag bits
  - Wrapped of bits
  - Excessively long shanks

- c. A judge at his/her own discretion may penalize a horse with non-conventional types of bits or nose bands.
- d. Saddles should be black and/or brown. Any type of English saddle is all permitted.
  - Saddle pads to be of classic English style and composition.

### **3. Optional:**

- a. Spurs. If worn, spurs must be unrowelled and made of metal. Sharp spurs are prohibited.
- b. Whip, crops or bats. Not to exceed 30" in all classes except dressage classes/tests in which case not to exceed 43" or 110 cm. Whips are not permitted in hack (except hunter hack equitation), equitation, and pleasure classes. Whips can only be used in Dressage, Hunter Hack, and over fences classes.
- c. Gloves
- d. English breast plate
- e. Standing or running martingales in working hunter

- f. Running martingales in jumper classes
- g. Boots of any description only in jumper classes
- h. Breastplates, foregirths, girth covers and cruppers
- i. Braiding of mane and/or tail

**4. Prohibited equipment:**

- a. Whip/crops in hack, equitation or pleasure classes (exception Hunter Hack)
- b. Draw reins
- c. Bit converter straps (strap connecting upper and lower rings on Pelham type bit)
- d. Rowelled spurs
- e. Running martingale in any class except jumpers.
- f. Standing martingales in any flat or jumper classes Boots of any description in any classes except for jumper classes
- g. Leg wraps or bandages
- h. Figure eight except in jumper classes.
- i. Dropped or flash nosebands except in dressage classes.

**III. Western Performance Rules**

- 1. For western riding, one hand may be used around the reins, and hands must not be changed. Two hands may be used when horse is being shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore/bosal.
- 2. In all western classes, the horse must be ridden with the horse's eyes generally at or above the withers in all gaits.
- 3. **Gaits:**
  - a. The walk is a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The horse must move straight and true at the walk. The walk must be alert, with a stride of reasonable length in keeping with the size of the horse.
  - b. The jog is a smooth, ground covering two-beat diagonal gait. The horse works from one pair of diagonals to the other pair. The jog should be square, balanced and with straight, forward movement of the feet. Horses walking with their back feet and trotting on the front are not

considered to be performing the required gait. When asked to extend the jog, the horse moves out with the same smooth way of going.

- c. The lope is an easy, rhythmical three-beat gait. Horses moving to the left should lope on the left lead. Horses moving to the right should lope on the right lead. Horses traveling at a four-beat gait are not considered to be performing at the proper lope. The horse should lope with a natural stride and appear relaxed and smooth. The horse should be ridden at a speed in keeping with his natural way of going. Excessive speed will be penalized.

#### **4. Western Attire:**

- a. Any competitor may wear protective headgear with harness in any division or class without penalty from the judge. It is not required to be of Western style.
- b. All exhibitors are considered to breed ambassadors, and should make every effort to present the breed in its best light. Accordingly, it is important for each exhibitor to make a concerted effort to look as presentable as possible. Tidy, clean, coordinated dress in good condition should be evident at all times when showing. Dirty, faded or ripped attire is considered unacceptable and will be penalized.
- c. Consists of:
  - western hat or protective headgear
  - suitable western style shirt with long sleeves and a collar
  - necktie, kerchief, neck scarf, string or bolo tie or brooch
  - western trousers or pants
  - western riding boots
  - vest, jacket, and/or coat may also be worn
  - Spurs and chaps are optional
- d. The hat must be on the rider's head when the exhibitor enters the arena.
- e. Hair must be neat and securely fastened if long so as not to cover rider's number.
- f. Non-Western or untidy dress may cause elimination, at the Judge's discretion.
- g. Judges, at their discretion, may authorize adjustment to attire due to weather related conditions.

## **5. Tack**

- a. All equipment must be non-abusive and humane.
- b. Entries shall be shown with any type of western saddle. Side saddles are also permitted with proper attire. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit.
- c. Any Western type headstall without a nose band in conjunction with any standard Western bit shall be allowed.
- d. When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required. A flat leather chin strap or curb chain must be at least 1/2 inch in width, and must lay flat against the jaw. Any curb strap made of wire, metal or rawhide is prohibited.
- e. Split reins or closed reins with romal are equally acceptable. When a hackamore is used, attached reins may be of hair, rope or leather.

## **6. Permitted Bits:**

- a. A standard Western bit or curb bit is one which has a solid or broken mouthpiece, is free of mechanical device, has shanks and acts as leverage. The shank can have a maximum overall length of 8 1/2 inches. The mouthpiece shall consist of a metal bar which is from 3/8 inch to 3/4 inch in diameter, varying from the straight bar to a full spade.
- b. Jointed mouth pieces are permitted. Snaffle bits (smooth mouth) will be permitted and riders may use two hands.
- c. A Hackamore/bosal can be used in all western classes except for western equitation. When permitted, a hackamore may be used and riders may use two hands. A hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible non-metallic core attached to a suitable headstall. Mechanical hackamores are prohibited.
- d. Horses five years and under may be shown in a snaffle bit, or curb bit. Horses over 5 years of age should be shown in a curb bit, however enforcement of this rule will be at the discretion of the show committee.
- e. Prohibited bits:
  - Wire snaffle bits, either single or double

- Wire on bits
- Gag bits
- Bosal/hackamore in western equitation.
- Mechanical hackamore

## **7. Optional**

- a. Spurs
- b. Chaps

## **8. Prohibited Equipment:**

- a. Bosal/hackamore in western equitation.
- b. Mechanical hackamore
- c. Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are prohibited in western pleasure, western equitation, trail, halter, western riding, and showmanship. Only allowed in reining.
- d. Any chinstrap narrower than one half inch
- e. Cavessons, nosebands, tie-downs, martingales and draw reins
- f. Whips are not allowed other than with a side saddle.
- g. Illegal or inhumane equipment, including wire on bits, bosals or curb chains

# **IV. Individual Class Rules & Descriptions**

## **1. English Pleasure**

- a. To be shown at a flat-footed walk, normal trot and easy canter; not to gallop; light contact to be maintained.
- b. Gaits:
  - The walk: straight, four beat and flat-footed with medium contact.
  - The trot: straight and true; may be required as follows:
    - normal on light to medium contact
    - strong trot
  - The canter: normal on light to medium contact
- c. To be judged on 45% performance, 40% manners and 15% conformation.
- d. Attire and Tack: see English Performance Rules

- e. Optional:
  - Braiding of mane and tail
  - Spurs
- f. Recommended:
  - Protective head gear with harness
- g. Prohibited:
  - Whip/crop

## **2. English equitation**

- a. Only the rider is being judged in equitation classes.
- b. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, performance of horse, appointments of horse and rider, and suitability of horse to rider.
- c. Any riders not having their mount under sufficient control shall be dismissed from the ring and eliminated from that class.
- d. The class will proceed at least once around the ring at each gait: walk, trot, and canter, and on command, reverse and repeat.
- e. Exhibitors may be requested to line up on command and execute individual tests at the judge's discretion.
- f. The judge may ask questions concerning horsemanship, anatomy of the horse, tack, stable management and any others.
- g. Attire and Tack: see English Performance Rules
- h. Optional:
  - Braiding of mane and tail
  - spurs
- i. Recommended:
  - Protective head gear with harness
- j. Prohibited:
  - Whip/crop

## **3. C. Show Hack**

- a. Horses to enter ring at a walk. To be shown at a walk, trot, canter and hand gallop; collected and extended gaits to be called for. Horse expected to stand quietly

- b. Gaits:
  - The walk: straight, four beat and flat-footed
  - The trot: free, light and crisp, may be required as follows:
    - On contact in a more upright frame
    - Collected with rider sitting
    - Extended - on contact - medium speed with legs moving forward with impulsion and the rider posting or sitting.
  - The canter may be required as follows:
    - Collected
    - Normal
    - Extended
  - Hand gallop under control. Only 8 horses to hand gallop at one time.
- c. To be judged on 55% performance, 20% quality, 15% conformation and 10% manners.
- d. Attire and Tack: see English Performance Rules
- e. Optional:
  - Braiding of mane and tail
  - Spurs
- f. Recommended:
  - Protective head gear with harness
- g. Prohibited:
  - Horses traveling at excessive or unsafe speeds
  - Whip/crop

#### **4. Road Hack**

- a. Horses to enter ring at a walk. To be shown at a flat-footed walk with a reasonably loose rein, trot, strong trot, easy canter and hand gallop. Only 8 horses to hand gallop at one time.
- b. Gaits:
  - The walk: straight, four beat and flat-footed with medium contact.
  - The trot: straight and true; may be required as follows:
    - normal on light to medium contact
    - strong trot
  - The canter: normal on light to medium contact
  - Hand gallop under control
- c. To be judged on 55% performance, 20% substance, 15% conformation and 10% manners.

- d. Attire and Tack: see English Performance Rules
- e. Optional:
  - Braiding of mane and tail
  - Spurs
- f. Recommended:
  - Protective head gear with harness
- g. Prohibited:
  - Horses traveling at excessive or unsafe speeds
  - Whip/crop

## **5. Hunter Hack**

- a. The class will proceed at least once around the ring at each gait - walk, trot, sitting trot and canter, and on command, reverse and repeat.
- b. They shall then line up on command and execute individual tests at the judge's discretion.
- c. The judge may ask questions concerning horsemanship, anatomy of the horse, tack, stable management and any others.
- d. Horses will jump two reasonable hunter fences, maximum 2'6», individually after group workout.
- e. The fall of horse and rider and/or three disobediences shall cause the entry to be eliminated from the class.
- f. Judged 75% on performance, manners and way of going; 25% on conformation and substance.
- g. Attire and Tack: see English Performance Rules
- h. Mandatory:
  - Protective head gear with harness
- i. Optional:
  - Braiding of mane and tail
  - Whip/crop less than 30" in length
  - Spurs

## **6. Cross Rail Jumping**

- a. For novice horses or riders.
- b. To consist of a minimum of four - six jumps.
- c. Fence height not to exceed 18" at the center.
- d. May walk, trot or canter.

- e. Depending on experience of participants, may be timed with time penalties for knockdowns, or else judged on solely style, horse's willingness to jump, and best round (as per judge's discretion).
- f. Attire and Tack: see English Performance Rules
- g. Mandatory:
  - Protective head gear with harness
  - English saddle, preferably jumping type
- h. Optional:
  - Braiding of mane and tail
  - Whip/crop less than 30" in length
  - Spurs

## **7. Gamblers Choice jumping**

- a. In this competition, a certain number of obstacles are set up in the arena. Each obstacle carries from 10 to 120 points according to its difficulty.
- b. Combination obstacles are not allowed.
- c. The obstacles must be built so that they can be jumped in both directions.
- d. The points allocated to the obstacles may be repeated at the discretion of the Course Designer.
- e. The competitor is credited with the number of points carried by each obstacle that he has jumped correctly.
- f. No points are awarded for an obstacle knocked down.
- g. may jump all the obstacles he wishes in any order and in any direction. He may cross the starting line in either direction. The starting line must be provided with four flags; a red and a white flag at each end of the line.
- h. Ringing the bell declares the end of the round. The competitor must then cross the finish line in one direction or the other to allow his time to be recorded. If he does not cross the finish line, he is placed last of the competitors with the same number of points. The finish line must be provided with four flags; a red and a white flag at each end of the line.
- i. If the fixed time is reached at the moment when the horse is already taking off, this obstacle counts if it is correctly jumped.

- j. Any obstacle knocked down during a round will not be rebuilt; if it is jumped again, no points will be credited to the competitor. The same applies for knocking down an obstacle in disobedience or for displacing a lower part positioned in the same vertical plane. In the case of a disobedience without a knock-down, the competitor may jump that obstacle or continue to the next obstacle.
- k. Each obstacle may be jumped twice. The act, voluntarily or not, of jumping an obstacle for the third time or of passing between the flags of an obstacle already knocked down does not incur elimination. However, the competitor does not score the points allotted to this obstacle.
- l. All disobediences are penalized by the time lost by the competitor. The competitor must stop after a fall. Nevertheless he is placed according to the points obtained up to the moment of his fall disregarding the time.
- m. The competitor who has obtained the highest number of points will be declared the winner. In the event of equality of points, the fastest time taken between the starting line and the finishing line will decide. In the event of equality of points and time for first place, there will be a jump-off according to the same formula with a fixed time of 40 seconds.
- n. There are two options for using a joker:
  - An obstacle may be provided in the course duly marked by flags and titled “Joker”. The Joker may be jumped twice; 200 points are awarded each time this obstacle is jumped correctly, but if it is knocked down, 200 points must be deducted from the total points obtained so far by the competitor.
  - The Joker is not part of the main course. After the fixed time has expired, the bell is rung to end the competitors round. The competitor must cross the finishing line to have his time recorded he then has 20 seconds in which to attempt the Joker once. Two-hundred points are awarded if this obstacle is jumped correctly, but if it is knocked down two-hundred points must be deducted from the total points obtained by competitor. In this scenario, the Joker is required to be jumped within twenty seconds after the fixed time has expired and after the competitor has crossed the finishing line, and only one attempt is allowed.
- o. Attire and Tack: see English Performance Rules

- p. Mandatory:
  - Protective head gear with harness
  - English saddle, preferably jumping type
- q. Optional:
  - Braiding of mane and tail
  - Whip/crop less than 30" in length
  - Spurs

## **8. Dressage Suitability**

- a. Horses to be shown at a flat-footed walk, working trot and working canter both ways of the ring.
- b. Horse must exhibit the ability to perform a ground covering free walk on a loose rein.
- c. Collected and lengthened gaits may be called for, at the judges discretion.
- d. Horse should be supple and move in a clear and steady rhythm, accepting contact with the bit.
- e. All three gaits to be demonstrated. The walk is regular, free and unconstrained. The trot is free, supple, regular, and active. The canter is united, light and balanced.
- f. Attire and Tack: see English Performance Rules
- g. Optional:
  - Braiding of mane and tail
  - Spurs
  - Whip/crop no longer than 43" (110cm) in length
- h. Recommended:
  - Protective head gear with harness

## **9. Dressage test of choice**

- a. Individually judged ridden dressage Tests
- b. Horse should be supple and move in a clear and steady rhythm, accepting contact with the bit.
- c. All three gaits to be demonstrated. The walk is regular, free and unconstrained. The trot is free, supple, regular, and active. The canter is united, light and balanced.
- d. Test to be ridden in 20x40 m ring.
- e. Competitors to declare test to be ridden, 1 week prior to show date.

- f. Attire and Tack: see English Performance Rules
- g. Optional:
  - Braiding of mane and tail
  - Spurs
  - Whip/crop no longer than 43" (110cm) in length
- h. Recommended:
  - Protective head gear with harness

## **10. Western Pleasure**

- a. A good pleasure horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with his conformation. He should cover a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. Ideally, he should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gaits is a major consideration. He should carry his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with his poll level with or slightly above the level of the withers. He should not carry his head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. His head should be level with his nose slightly in front of the vertical having a bright expression with his ears alert. He should be shown on a reasonably loose rein, but with light contact and control. He should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions when called for. When asked to extend, he should move out with the same flowing motion. Maximum credit should be given to the flowing, balanced and willing horse that gives the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride. This class will be judged on the performance, condition and conformation of the horse; however, a minimum of 20% of the judging shall be placed on condition and conformation.
- b. Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads. At the option of the judge, horses may be asked to extend the walk, jog, or lope, one or both ways of the ring. The exception is a walk/jog class, in which only these two gaits will be asked for.
- c. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly.
- d. Attire and Tack: see Western Performance Rules

- e. Optional:
  - Chaps
  - Spurs
- f. Protective head gear with Harness
- g. Prohibited:
  - Whip/crop

## **11. Western Equitation**

- a. Only the rider is being judged in equitation classes
- b. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, performance of horse, appointments of horse and rider, and suitability of horse to rider
- c. Riders enter the ring at a walk or jog and are judged at a flat-footed four-beat walk, two-beat jog and a three-beat lope both ways of the ring. If class is designated “walk/jog”, class will be judged only at these two gaits.
- d. All competitors will be required to back in a straight line during the line up.
- e. Attire and Tack: see Western Performance Rules
- f. Optional:
  - Chaps
  - Spurs
  - Protective head gear with Harness
- g. Prohibited:
  - Whip/crop

## **12. Trail**

- a. Description
- b. The Trail Horse Class is the performance of a safe, sensible, well-mannered horse over a course of obstacles. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over the obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and attitude.
- c. Western or English tack will be permitted.
- d. Two hands on the reins permitted for English horses and Western horses in hackamores, snaffle bridles or bosals.

Otherwise only one hand may be used on the reins, except that it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle.

- e. Class may be offered as under saddle (regular "Trail" class) and/or in hand ("Leadline Trail"). The course is done while the horse is mounted in the former, and lead in hand in the latter. No cross entries between the two.
- f. Credit will be given to those horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing carefulness is not sacrificed and to horses showing the capability of picking their own way through course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to rider cues on more difficult obstacles.
- g. Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching obstacles.
- h. For ridden trail, the horse will be shown at three gaits (walk, trot, lope). For leadline trail, at the walk and trot/jog only. A minimum space of 20 feet for the trot/jog and 50 feet for the lope to be shown is recommended. A flying lead change is not required.
- i. The trail course should consist of a minimum of six mandatory, and at least three optional obstacles, and
- j. The course must be posted at least one hour before scheduled time of the class
- k. Failure to follow course shall cause elimination. Failure to complete obstacle shall not constitute elimination, but is to be severely penalized.
- l. The judge must walk the course prior to the start of the class and has the right to alter the course or remove any obstacles they deem unsafe.
- m. Mandatory obstacles
  - Gate. Open, pass through and close. Loosing control of gate is to be penalized.
  - Ride over at least four logs or poles which must be secured so they cannot roll. These can be in a straight line, curved, zigzag or raised. They should be spaced as follows:
    - Walkovers shall be 15 to 24 inches and may be elevated to 12 inches. Elevated walkovers should be set at least 22 inches apart.

- Trotovers shall be 36 to 41 inches and may be elevated to 8 inches.
  - Lope overs shall be 1.8 – 2.1 meters or in increments thereof, and may be elevated to 8 inches.
  - Backing obstacle to be spaced a minimum of 28 inches or if elevated, 30 inches apart, OR back through and around three markers OR back through L, or V which can be elevated no more than 24 inches.
- n. Optional obstacles
- Water hazard (ditch or small pond). No metal or slick bottom-boxes will be used.
  - Serpentine obstacles at walk or jog. Spacing to be minimum of 6' for jog.
  - Carry object from one part of arena to another.
  - Ride over wooden bridge. Bridge should be sturdy and safe. Suggested minimum width shall be 36» wide and at least six feet long.
  - Put on and remove slicker.
  - remove and replace materials from mailbox.
  - Side pass (may be elevated to 12» maximum).
  - An obstacle consisting of four logs or rails, each 5 to 7' long, laid in a square. Each contestant will enter the square by riding over log or rail as designated. When all four feet are inside the square, rider should execute a turn, as indicated, and depart.
  - Any other safe and negotiable obstacle that may be reasonably expected to be encountered on a trail ride and meets the approval of the judge may be used.
  - A combination of two or more of any obstacle is acceptable.
- o. Prohibited obstacles
- Tires, animals, hides, PVC pipe, dismounting, jumps, rocking or moving bridges, water box with floating or moving parts, flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll, tarps.
- p. Attire and Tack: see General English and Western Performance Rules
- q. Optional:
- Chaps
  - Spurs

- r. Recommended:
  - Protective head gear with harness
- s. Prohibited:
  - Whip/crop

### 13. Reining

- a. Reining maneuvers originated from moves that a cow horse must use in performing its duties and have been refined to the high level of competition existing today.
- b. To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of/or temporary loss of control and therefore a fault that must be marked down according to severity of deviation. After deducting all faults, set here within, against execution of the pattern and the horse's overall performance, credit should be given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers, while using controlled speed which raises the difficulty level and makes him more exciting and pleasing to watch to an audience.
- c. Reining patterns must be posted a minimum of one hour before the class begins.
- d. Patterns
  - Pattern chosen will be at the discretion of the show committee.
  - Patterns are to be worked as stated, not as drawn. The drawn pattern is just to give the general idea of what the pattern will look like in the arena.
  - Markers will be placed on the wall or fence of the arena as follows:
    - at the center of the arena
    - at least 50' (15 meters) from each end wall
  - Where designated in the pattern for stops to be beyond a marker, the horse should begin his stop after he passes the specified marker.
  - Each pattern is drawn so that the bottom of the page represents the end of the arena entered by contestants and must be run as such. In the event

- that an arena has only one gate and it be in the exact middle of the side, that side shall represent the right side of the page the pattern is drawn on.
- All horses will be judged immediately upon entering the arena and judging will cease after the last maneuver. Any fault incurred prior to the commencement of a pattern will be scored according to the rules for judging.
- e. Maneuvers requested and pattern to be performed will be at the discretion of the show committee. The following maneuvers may be required:
- A minimum of 4 consecutive spins to the right
  - A minimum of 4 consecutive spins to the left
  - A minimum of 3 stops
  - A minimum of 1 lead change at the canter from right to left
  - A minimum of 1 lead change at the canter from right to left
- f. Failure to perform all of the required maneuvers or failure to complete the performance within the time allowed, will result in a score of 0.
- g. The following will result in no score:
- Except when snaffle bit or bosal/hackamore used, only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand must not be changed.
  - Failure to dismount and/or present horse and equipment to the appropriate judge for inspection
  - Excess rein may only be straightened at any place a horse is allowed to be completely stopped during a pattern.
  - Failure to complete pattern as written;
  - Equipment failure that delays the completion of pattern
  - Failure to wear appropriate western attire
- h. Attire and Tack
- As per Western Performance Rules
- i. Optional:
- Spurs
  - Chaps
- j. Recommended:
- Protective head gear with harness

- k. Prohibited:
- Illegal or inhumane equipment, including wire on bits, bosals or curb chains
  - Tack collars, tie downs or nose bands
  - Whips/crops

#### **14. Command class**

- a. The command class is neither a race nor is it a gymkhana event. It is a competition that exhibits the abilities of a well trained, responsive performance horse.
- b. Can be done in either English or Western tack and attire. Refer to General English and Western Performance rules for specifications.
- c. Entries are eliminated, one at a time at the discretion of the judge as commands are not executed correctly. At no time are horses to be judged individually or one at a time to decide the class. At no time are ring stewards allowed to partake in the judging or placing of the class. The command to stop from the lope or hand gallop can be given only once in each direction.
- d. Specific commands and degree of difficulty will be at the discretion of the show committee and judge. Suggested commands are as follows: stop, jog, lope, reverse (at any gait), backup, 360 turn on the haunches, 180 turn on the forehand, side pass (left and right, counter canter, dismount, mount, reverse, flying change of leads (no more than 8 horses), reverse simple change of leads (no more than 8 horses), roll back, walk, etc.
- e. Examples of elimination are as follows: failure to execute the command correctly, wrong leads, disunited, excessive speed, breaking gait, hanging up or turning sideways at the back up, circling for better position without being commanded to do so, moving when stopped, moving when mounting or dismounting, etc. At the judge's discretion, entries may be eliminated for poor execution of the command, i.e. taking too long to execute transition from one gait to another, horse opening mouth excessively at the back up, etc.
- f. Attire and Tack: see General Western and English Performance Rules

- g. Optional:
  - Braiding of mane and tail
  - Spurs
- h. Recommended:
  - Protective head gear with harness
- i. Prohibited:
  - Whip/crop

## **15. Heritage Costume class**

- a. Any acceptable bit/hackamore (as per Western/English Performance rules) may be used. Headstall must allow rider/handler to have full control of the horse.
- b. Horses may be shown in hand, under saddle or in harness.
- c. Type of costume or theme can be specified by the show committee. Eg Prize list may specify that exhibitors shall show in period costume depicting a role of the Canadian Horse in history.
- d. Exhibitor may be expected to provide a short commentary to show organizers or to describe to the judge their particular costume and what it exemplifies.
- e. To be judged on the authenticity of any costume, attire of the handler, overall picture and presentation.

**Section D**  
**Pleasure driving**  
**Regulations**

## **I. General Regulations:**

1. The term “DRIVER” used herein refers to the person controlling the reins and whip and brake. The term GROOM used herein refers to the person capable of assisting in the event of difficulty.
2. The Judge must excuse from the competition any unsafe vehicle, harness, unsafe horse or driver clearly out of control.
3. It is the responsibility of each driver to insure that harness and vehicle are in good repair and structurally sound.
4. In the case of an accident, the judge or management may require a safety inspection of the vehicle and/or harness involved before allowing either to be used in succeeding classes.
5. It is the responsibility of each driver to ensure that his horse or horses are physically fit to do the tasks required of them.
6. Junior drivers under 18 years of age must be accompanied in the carriage by a knowledgeable adult horseman. Failure to comply will incur elimination.
7. The driver should always be the first person to enter the vehicle and the last to leave. Passengers must never be left on the vehicle while the driver is dismounted unless the passenger has taken control of the reins. Grooms are the last person to enter the vehicle and the first to leave.
8. Drivers should maintain a safe distance from other vehicles both during the competition and in the warm-up and parking areas.
9. Bridles should be adjusted to fit snugly to prevent catching on a vehicle or other pieces of harness. A throatlatch and a noseband are mandatory.
10. Anyone removing a bridle and reins from a horse while put to a vehicle shall be disqualified. Leaving an entry unattended by a capable and responsible adult, anywhere on the show grounds, while hitched will result in immediate disqualification from the entire competition.
11. “Protective headgear” refers to good condition; properly fitted ASTM/SEI or BSI approved helmet/protective headgear which must be worn by all Juniors while on a carriage or horse anytime and anywhere on competition grounds, and

by all persons riding on a vehicle during any type of hazard, speed, or obstacle driving.

12. The use of protective headgear is recommended for everyone participating in all forms of driving including: training, recreation and competition. Protective headgear may be worn in all competitions without penalty.
13. Excessive use of the voice, shouting or whistling to the horse may be penalized at the judge's discretion. The driver should strive to control the horse's movements with discreet use of vocal aids.

## **II. The Driver:**

1. The driver should be seated comfortably on the box so as to be relaxed and effective. Either the one or two-handed method of driving is acceptable. Drivers should not be penalized or rewarded for using one style over another. However, in a reinsmanship class, in order to evaluate a driver's versatility the Judge may request an appropriate test involving driving with one hand. When there are passengers, the driver must sit on the right side of the vehicle.
2. An appropriate whip shall be carried in hand at all times while driving. The lash on the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the farthest horse.
3. The whip salute is not required in Pleasure driving except as directed in driven tests.
4. The whip salute is used to acknowledge the Judge at the start and finish of an individual driven test, or at the beginning and end of the dressage test or at the final inspection on the line-up. The salute performed in one of the following way:
  - a. A lady: by moving the whip, held in the right hand, to a vertical position, the butt end even with the face; or
  - b. By moving the whip, held in the right hand, to a position parallel with the ground, the handle before the face.
  - c. A gentleman may place the whip in the left hand and remove his hat.
  - d. Youth's and other competitors wearing protective headgear may use the lady's manner of salute (#1) so that headgear does not require removal.

5. Only the driver may handle the reins, whip or brakes during a competition. Failure to comply will incur elimination.
6. The rider, driver or handler must be specified by the horses' owner when he is doing the registration. Any modification of rider/driver/handler must be completed with the Show Committee a minimum of 1 hour before the class. Failure to complete this task can result in elimination.

### **III. Grooms:**

1. Two grooms are required for four-in-hand or unicorns to assist in the event of difficulty.
2. One groom is required for a pair or tandem to assist in the event of difficulty.
3. A groom is optional but encouraged for a single turnout.
4. Junior drivers under 18 years of age must be accompanied in the carriage by a knowledgeable adult horseman. Failure to comply will incur elimination.
5. Where grooms or passengers are required, failure to comply incurs elimination.
6. Grooms assisting a turnout must be on the vehicle and attired properly. Grooms are not allowed to indicate the way to go. Failure to this rule will incur elimination.

### **IV. Dress of Driver and Passengers**

1. Protective headgear is acceptable in all classes.
2. Drivers and passengers should be dressed conservatively and according to the style of the present day and type of turnout (i.e., Formal, Park, Country, Sporting).
3. Informal dress may be acceptable for cones/hazards competition however, it should always be neat and clean.
4. Gentlemen must wear a coat or jacket while appearing in any class unless excused from doing so by the judge and/or show management. When accepting awards, gentlemen are requested to remove their hats. Protective headgear with harness attached need not be removed.
5. Ladies must wear a jacket, conservative dress, tailored suit, or slacks. Floppy hats are discouraged. "Shorts" are not permitted.

6. Unless otherwise specified, the driver shall wear a hat, an apron or knee rug and gloves.
7. Long sleeves and brown leather gloves are suggested for all drivers, passengers and grooms in a Pleasure Driving class.

## **V. The Horse:**

1. The horse should be suitably shod for pleasure driving.
2. Tails tied to vehicles, traces or breeching are prohibited.
3. In pleasure driving classes, bell boots, shin boots and wraps are prohibited.
4. Application of any substance or device or attachment to the pole or traces which may cause irritation to the horse is forbidden.
5. Tongues may not be tied in any manner.

## **VI. The Harness:**

1. Black harness is considered appropriate for painted vehicles and natural wood having black trim (i.e. shaft covering, ironwork, dash or upholstery). Brown or russet harness is considered appropriate with natural wood finished vehicles trimmed in brown.
2. All metal furnishing should match, be secure and polished.
3. Breast collars are appropriate with lightweight vehicles. Full collars are suggested for heavy vehicles such as Gig, Delivery Express, Phaetons, etc. For in pair and in Four-in-Hand, full collars are recommended.
4. A correctly fitting harness saddle is important for the comfort of the horse. A wide saddle is suggested for two wheeled vehicle as more weight rests on the horse's back. Narrow saddles are more appropriate for four wheeled vehicles.
5. Over checks are prohibited in any classes. Side reins are optional for pair, tandem and four-in-hand.
6. The use of kicking straps is permissible in Pleasure Driving classes, but should match the harness being used.
7. Snaffle bits and other types of traditional driving bits are allowed. Bits may be covered with rubber or leather. Bitless bridles (hackamores) or their use in conjunction with a bit is not permitted.

8. Flash nosebands are prohibited in pleasure driving classes

## **VII. The vehicle:**

1. Drivers should strive to present an appropriate turnout. Appropriate indicates the balance and pleasing appearance of the combination of horse and vehicle.
  - a. Single: a cart (any kind of 2 wheeled cart) or a buggy (four wheeled 2 places carriage) can be used in Fine Vehicle Division.
  - b. Pair: buggy (4 wheeled 2 places carriage) can be used in Fine Vehicle Pair Class.
  - c. Single, pair, unicorn or four-in-hand: delivery wagon (express wagon), carriage with more than 1 seat, original wagnonette can be used in Heavy Vehicle Division.
  - d. Tandem class: acceptable vehicles include Village Cart, Gig, Dog Cart or heavy carriage.
  - e. NB: vehicles with car tires or bike tires and marathon carriages are prohibited. A Sulky is not considered a cart and therefore is prohibited.

## **VIII. Description of Gaits:**

1. The following descriptions constitute approved standard for performance of each of the required gaits in a pleasure driving competition.
2. **WALK:** A free, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate extension is required. The horse should walk energetically, but calmly, with even and determined pace.
3. **SLOW TROT:** The horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The trot is slower and more collected but not to the degree required in the dressage. The horse should indicate willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence.
4. **WORKING TROT:** A forward, active trot with the horse on the bit, carrying himself in balance and rhythm with even, elastic steps and good hock action. The hind feet touch the ground in the footprints of the fore feet. This pace is more rounded with the horse moving freely, on a light rein. The steps should be as even as possible.
5. **STRONG TROT:** This is clear, but not excessive, increase in

pace and lengthening of stride while remaining well balanced and showing appropriate lateral flexion on turns. Light contact to be maintained. Excessive speed will be penalized. The term “strong trot” should be used to call for the gait.

6. **HALT:** The horse(s) and vehicle should come to a complete square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt, horses should stand attentive, motionless, and square with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs and be ready to move off at the indication from the driver.
7. **REIN BACK:** Rein back is defined as a backward movement in which the legs are raised and set down simultaneously in diagonal pairs with the hind legs remaining well in line. To be performed in two parts:
  - a. The horse must move backward at least four steps in an unhurried manner with head flexed and straight, pushing the carriage back evenly in a straight line. The driver must be use quiet aids with light contact.
  - b. Move forward willingly to the former position using the same quiet aids.

NB: Canter is prohibited in driving. Cantering in a driven class will be strongly penalized.

## **DRIVING CLASSES**

### **IX. Working Class: for single, pair, tandem, unicorn and four-in-hand**

A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the suitability of a horse to provide a pleasant drive.

1. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and a strong trot. To stand quietly, both on the rail and while lined up and to rein back. All entries chosen for a work-off may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the Judge and be asked to execute a figure and/or perform other appropriate tests.
2. To be judged:
  - a. 70% on performance, manners and way of going.
  - b. 20% on the condition and fit of the harness and vehicle.
  - c. 10% on the neatness of attire.

**X. Turnout Class: for single, pair, tandem, unicorn and four-in-hand**

A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the performance and quality of each turnout.

1. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. To stand quietly and rein back. All drivers chosen for a workout may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the Judge and may be asked to execute any appropriate tests.
2. To be judged:
  - a. 40% on performance, manners and way of going.
  - b. 30% on the condition, fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle.
  - c. 15% on neatness and appropriateness of attire.
  - d. 15% on overall impression.

**XI. Reinsmanship Class: for single, pair, tandem, unicorn and four-in-hand**

A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the ability and skill of the driver.

1. To be shown at a walk, slow trot, working and strong trot. Drivers shall be required to rein back. All drivers chosen for work-off may be worked at any gait requested by the Judge and may be asked to execute a figure eight and/or perform other appropriate tests. In order to evaluate a driver's versatility, the Judge may request a test involving driving with one hand.
2. The driver should be seated comfortably on the box so as to be relaxed and effective. Either the one or two hand method of driving is acceptable. Common to both methods, the elbows and arms should be close to the body with an allowing but steady hand enabling a consistent "feel" with the horse's mouth. Drivers should not be penalized or rewarded for using one general style over the other.
3. To be judged:
  - a. 75% on the handling of reins and whip, control, posture and overall appearance of driver.

- b. 25% on the condition of harness and vehicle and neatness of attire.

## **XII. Cones Class:**

1. The Obstacle Cones course will be included in the show book or posted at least one hour before start of the event.
2. Order of go will be determined by the width of carriages from the narrowest to the widest.
3. Clock will start when the horse's nose crosses the line of starting gate and stops as the horse's nose crosses the finish line.
4. Drivers must be allowed time to walk the course prior to the start of a class and to inspect each obstacle. While walking the course, drivers shall not alter, adjust or in any way move an obstacle, or any part thereof. Should a competitor have any question regarding a specific obstacle, he/she should call it to the attention of the Technical Delegate (if available) or the whipper-in or ring steward for clarification and/or adjustment.
5. The Obstacle Cone course is to be driven over a prescribed course of numbered obstacles consisting of pairs of cones/balls (or the equivalent) or other type markers (rails, fence panels, barrels, etc.).
6. Each obstacle on a prescribed course must be numbered consecutively and marked red on the right, white on the left. Within courses that consist of numbered obstacles, if possible it is suggested the number of an obstacle should be visible from the obstacle before it.
7. The number of gates may range from ten and twenty gates depending of the size of the ring.
8. After the competitor enters the arena, the gate will be closed. The competitor must wait for the Judge to blow the whistle. After the whistle, the competitor has one minute to pass through the starting gate. The competitor will be eliminated if he does not meet this expectation. After passing the through the starting gate, the competitor will proceed through each pair of numbered cones in order, as numbered and shown on the course map.
9. Canter is not allowed and will be penalized. Elimination will occur after 3 times of canter. ( refer to penalties following)

10. Proper show attire is expected.
11. Grooms are mandatory depending of style of hitch.
12. If a horse is driven in a manner deemed to be unsafe to either the horse or the driver, the judge will eliminate the horse and driver from the competition.

Penalties:

1. Knocked down ball or cone and ball: .....3 seconds penalty
  2. Canter first time: .....5 seconds penalty
  3. Canter second time: ..... 10 seconds penalty
  4. Canter third time:.....Elimination
  5. Starting before the whistle:.....Elimination
  6. Wrong course: .....Elimination
- All penalty points are added to time.

13. Course walk is permitted by the drivers before the class.
14. Any intervention by a third party, either on or off the vehicle, whether solicited or not, with the object of facilitating the task of the Competitor or helping his horses, is considered to be Outside Assistance. The Judge may eliminate any competitor, who it judges to have received outside assistance.

15. Distance between cones:

Single: .....track of carriage + 30 cm  
 Pair: .....track of carriage + 40 cm  
 Tandem: .....track of carriage + 40 cm  
 4-in-hand: .....track of carriage + 60 cm

**NB: Measurement of Obstacles**



**For “Traffic Cones”, adjustment is made as follows:**

The tread width of each vehicle should be taken at the ground on the widest pair of wheels. The allowance is added and the cones aligned and adjusted from corner to corner (see Illustration

below). This allows the greatest distance between the corner of the base and the upright portion of the cone. The taper of the cone provides clearance for normal hubs or whiffle trees or splinter bars.

If a whiffle tree or splinter bar proves to be too wide for this arrangement, the cones may be adjusted using the whiffle tree's measurement plus the appropriate allowance, measured at a height on the cone at the same height.

### **XIII. Antique Carriage Class:**

This class is for original Antique Carriage. This class is primarily judged of suitability of horses, carriages, driver, grooms and passengers. This includes appropriate harness and costumes.

1. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot. To stand quietly and rein back (if necessary). All drivers chosen for a work-off may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the Judge and may be asked to execute any appropriate tests.
2. To be judged:
  - a. -80% on the entire turnout: fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle, costumes, grooms, passengers, driver and overall impression
  - b. -20% on performance, manners and way of going.

### **XIV. Tandem Class:**

This class is shown with two horses; a horse in front of the other one. The first one is called "leader horse" and the one between the shafts is called "wheeler horse". Normally the leader horse is a smaller than the wheeler and more agile. The wheeler is bigger and able to pull the carriage. The tandem class can be shown on a cart (Village cart, Gig, Dog Cart) or a heavy four wheels carriage (express, delivery wagon, wagnonette) . A groom is mandatory for this class.

1. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and a strong trot. To stand quietly, both on the rail and while lined up and to rein back. All entries chosen for a work-off may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait

requested by the Judge and be asked to execute a figure.

2. To be judged:
  - a. 70% on performance, manners and way of going.
  - b. 20% on the condition and fit of the harness and vehicle.
  - c. 10% on the neatness of attire.

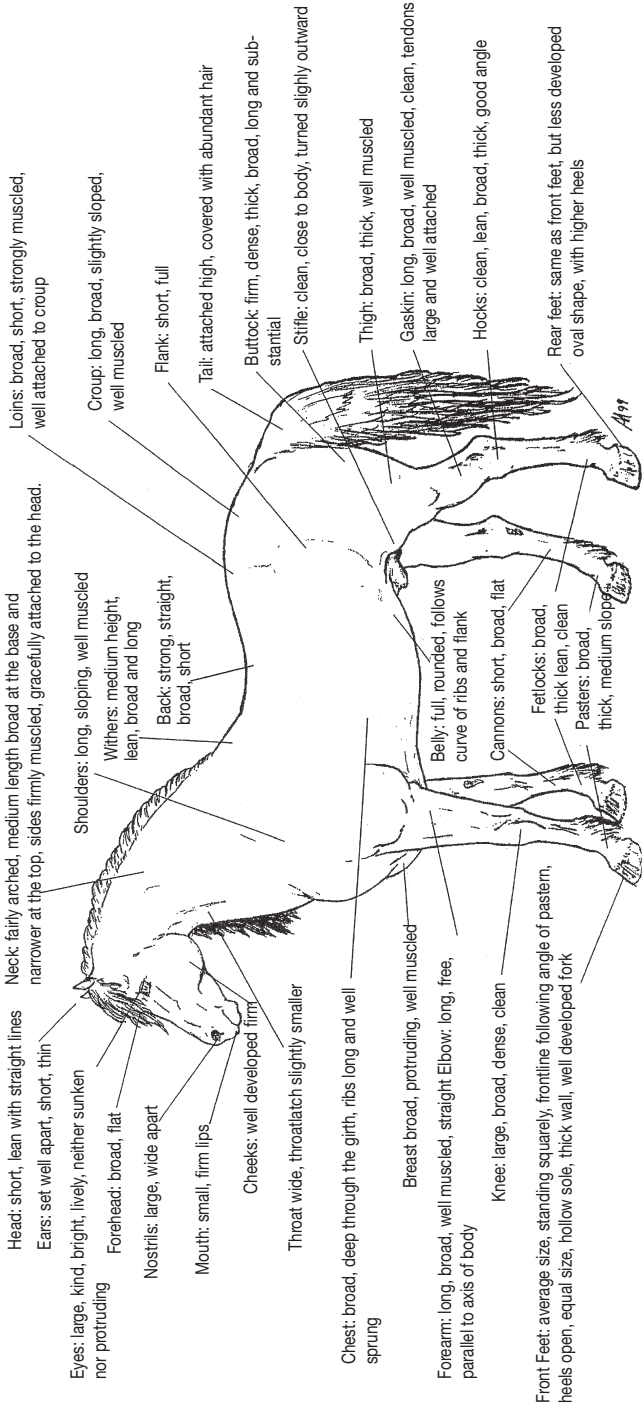
## **XV. Drive and Ride:**

Single horse to be shown in two concurrent sections:

1. In Harness: To be shown to a suitable pleasure driving vehicle, (cart or four wheeled carriage) both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot, and strong trot. To stand quietly and to rein back.
2. Under Saddle: To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, trot, and canter. To stand quietly and to rein back. Can be shown in either English or western tack.
3. To be judged:
  - a. 50% on performance, manners, way of going and suitability in harness
  - b. 50% on performance, manners, and way of going under saddle
    - The driver and the rider can be different.
    - During tack changes, only 2 people will work around the horse.
    - Outside assistance can help to bring the carriage out of the ring after than the rider will be on the horse.

# The CANADIAN HORSE - Breed Standards Old English name: FRENCH CANADIAN HORSE

**Official Characteristics:** Abundant, long, fine and wavy hair. Tail long and thick. Shows power, agility, fineness, strength, vigor, and natural balance. Bones dense and clean, joints lean and clean. Elegant and noble in carriage and movement. Sway starts steadily on ground. Free and vigorous movement, no ending heavily and with lots of flinch. Termination of tail is a thick, wavy tail. Vestigial, easy-to-see ribs. Black, Chestnut, Bay, Pearly Grey or with blaze or white stockings. Origin: Province of Quebec, St-Lawrence Valley. Nickname: "The Little Iron Horse". Weight: 1000 - 1400 lb. Color: Brown, enthusiastic, gentle and docile. Source: *Canadian Studbook, Book 1*. This diagram provided by the Association Québécoise du Cheval Canadien and the Syndicat d'Élevage National du Cheval Canadien Français.



<b>HEAD</b>		<b>Points</b>
Shape & Carriage, Ears, Forehead, Eyes, Eyelids	2	
Nostrils, Lips Mouth	1	
Lower Jaw, Cavity between jaws, Cheeks	1	
<b>Total for Head</b>	<b>4</b>	

<b>NECK &amp; THROAT</b>		<b>Points</b>
Throat	1	
Neck	4	
<b>Total for Neck and Throat</b>	<b>5</b>	

<b>TRUNK</b>		<b>Points</b>
Withers	1	
Back	4	
Loin	4	
Breast	1	
Chest	7	
Belly	3	
<b>Total for Trunk</b>	<b>20</b>	

<b>FORE QUARTERS</b>		<b>Points</b>
Shoulder	5	
Arm and Elbow	1	
Forearm	2	
Knee	5	
<b>Total for Fore Quarters</b>	<b>13</b>	

<b>HIND QUARTERS</b>		<b>Points</b>
Croup	3	
Tail	1	
Buttock, Thigh, Stifle, Leg	5	
Hocks	5	
<b>Total for Hind Quarters</b>	<b>14</b>	

<b>LOWER PART OF LEG</b>		<b>Points</b>
Fore Leg: Cannon, Fetlock, Pastern	5	
Hind Leg: Cannon, Fetlock, Pastern	5	
<b>Total for Lower Part of the Leg</b>	<b>10</b>	

<b>FEET</b>		<b>Points</b>
Front Foot	10	
Hind Foot	5	
<b>Total for Feet</b>	<b>15</b>	

<b>EXTERIOR</b>		<b>Points</b>
Skin	1	
Height	1	
Weight	1	
Action	7	
<b>Total for Exterior</b>	<b>10</b>	

<b>Temperament and Nervous System</b>		<b>Points</b>
Temperament	5	
Grace & Symmetry	4	
<b>Total for Temperament/Nervous System</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100</b>	