

Kentucky State Horse Management Meeting

November 3, 2013

In Attendance:

Dr Fernando Camargo, Amy Lawyer University of Kentucky,

District 1: No representatives

District 2: No representatives

District 3: Jessica Woods V (voting), Susannah Wermeling V, Madeline Wermeling V

District 4: Kathie Robertson V, Jean Smith V, Deana Curran V, Eric Smith NV (Non-voting)

District 5: Haley Floyd V, Barbra Dowell V, Kelsey Woodrum V, Dalton Nottingham NV, Peggy Jo Denton NV, Samantha Clark NV, Stephanie Meredith NV.

District 6: Kelsey Nobles V, Marilyn Midkiff V, Katy Wimsatt V, Laura Nobles NV, Layne Midkiff NV.

District 7: Melanie Kelly V, Elizabeth Brown V, Kendra Cunningham V, Paula Jewel NV

Meeting called to order by President Jean Smith 4

Minutes: Motion to accept minutes as printed with spelling corrections by Denna Curran and seconded by Barbra Dowell. Passed

Elections

President: Jean Smith 4, was the only nominee for President and will continue as President by acclamation.

Vice President: Jessica Woods 3, Kathie Robertson 4, and Kendra Cunningham 7 nominated. Vote by ballot Kendra Cunningham was elected Vice-President.

Secretary: Jessica Woods 3, Kathie Robertson 4 was nominated. Kathie Robertson was elected by ballot.

State Youth Rep- Dr Camargo discussed broaden the duties of the position
Kelsey Nobles-6, Madeline Wermeling-3, Elizabeth Browne-7, Kelsey Woodrum-5,
Dena Curran-4

Each youth spoke on why they wanted to be the State Youth Delegate. Elizabeth Browne-7 was elected by ballot

Program Updates:

Per Dr. Camargo-Leader Certification has resulted in more pride, we now have 97 counties certified,

New Rules: 2014 Cut secondary horse, but you can show two horses at districts and same at state if they qualify. You can show two horses in the same class. High point will be horse rider combination. Both horses must qualify at District in order for both to move on to States.

No cross district showing, kids and parent responsibility to get kid to the correct show ring. Can run the same horse in two disciplines. Can run two different horses in the same class.

Mounted games day open last weekend of March or April or May and open class

Youth

Adult

Open

Amy-Went over numbers of entries, Funding, not making money on license plate, Corn growers still on board for this year. We are down in donations. Different fund raising idea were discussed

Melanie told everyone Corn Growers has been nominated for an award.

Regional-Dr. Camargo said we were well represented by Kentucky

Rule update- Hunter is doing revision this year.

District 1

Suggestions:

- Revisit the ranch horse class again. Could this please be an option?
- All divisions but w/r/m have a versatility type class with obstacle course or trail. Offer this as an O/I class.

District 2

Suggestions:

- Possibility of moving the location of the DQP due to congestion of horses in front of the entrance to the ring. This would allow more room for the kids in the practice ring as well as those getting ready to enter the ring. The less traffic that is in this area the better.

District 3

1. RECOMMENDATION-Contest Division

Change Pony Height for contest division, speed events

- Pony class should read as “Registered and grade mares and geldings 14.2 hands and under
- Horse class should read as “registered and grade mares and geldings over 14.2 hands

Motion made by Susannah Wermeling and seconded by Deana Curran. Motion brought to a vote and was defeated.

2. RECOMMENDATION- Walk Trot Rule

- Allow 4hers to compete in walk trot two shows in this class two years.

- Rule should read as “exhibitors must be between the ages of 9-18 January 1 of the current year, however, may show in this class two consecutive years only, with special consideration for special needs children.”

Motion made by Jessica Woods and Seconded by Susannah Wermeling. Motion brought to a vote and was defeated.

Upheld by Animal Science Committee

3. RECOMMENDATION- High Point Awards
 - Allow Walk Trot (Each Division) to have a high point award.

Motion made by Jessica Woods and Seconded by Susannah Wermeling. Motion brought to a vote and was defeated.

Upheld by Animal Science Committee

District 4

1. RECOMMENDATION - High Point Awards

WALKING/RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE DIVISION AND HUNTER DIVISION

- Walking/Racking/Mountain Division
 - Return High Point Awards to separate ‘breed’ divisions, as it was in 2012.
- Hunter Division
 - Return High Point Awards to Hunter to Over Fences and On the Flat High Point, as it was in 2012.

Motion made by Deana Curran, and seconded by Kathie Robertson. Motion brought to a vote and was defeated.

Upheld by Animal Science Committee

2. RECOMMENDATION – High Point Awards

Project Books

- Require the submission of a Project Record book to be eligible for any High Point Award in all divisions.

Justification

- Would incorporate the record books into the horse program.

Motion made by Kathie Robertson, and seconded by Melanie Kelly. Motion brought to a vote and passed.

Overtaken by Animal Science Committee, possible change to rule coming in 2015

3. RECOMMENDATION – General Rules

- Change the date allowing youth to change to their second project horse to one week prior to the start their specific District Show.

Withdrawn already addressed.

4. RECOMMENDATION- General Rules

- Require District and State Horse Show volunteers, as well as coaches and parents at these events, to sign the 4-H Event Code of Conduct.

Justification

- Serves as a reminder to everyone involved with the youth competitors of the sportsmanlike conduct expectation.

Withdrawn already addressed

5. RECOMMENDATION – General Rules

- Add wording in General Rules that states “All equipment must be in good, safe condition, and must be attached and/or held together by either buckles or appropriate, safe attachments, i.e. NO duct tape, Velcro fasteners, baling twine, etc.

Justification

- This would eliminate safety concerns due to equipment breaking or falling off horses during either riding or handling at the show grounds, thereby aiding in keeping youth as well as other participants safe.

Motion made by Kathie Robertson, and seconded by Deana Curran, Motion brought to a vote and passed.

Upheld by Animal Science Committee

SUGGESTION - RANCH RIDING

- All Ranch Riding classes should be left as OI classes.
- Clarify names of classes and they should follow current AQHA rules Suggested classes are:
 - ‘**Ranch Pleasure**’ to follow AQHA rules 416 – 419 with a choice of the 4 listed patterns in 416.
 - ***RANCH HORSE PLEASURE.*** *The purpose of Ranch Horse Pleasure horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded and horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements, and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.*
 - **SHW417. Class requirements:**
 - **SHW417.1** Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers, and scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.
 - **SHW417.2** The required maneuvers will include the walk, jog, and lope both directions: and the extended jog and extended lope at least one direction; as well as stops, and back.
 - **SHW417.3** Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, jog, or lope over a pole(s); or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.

- **SHW417.4** The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge.
 - **SHW417.5** The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in GAITS, with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.
 - **SHW417.6** No time limit.
 - **SHW417.7** One of the suggested four patterns may be used, however a judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required maneuvers and the three (or more) optional maneuvers are included.
 - **SHW418. Ranch Horse Apparel and Equipment**
 - **SHW418.1** No hoof polish.
 - **SHW418.2** No braided or banded manes or tail extensions.
 - **SHW418.3** Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
 - **SHW418.4** Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.
 - **SHW418.5** Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.
 - **SHW419. Ranch Horse Penalties.**
- ‘**Versatility Ranch Horse**’ to follow AQHA rules 550.
 - **VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE.** The versatility ranch horse class demonstrates the performance, versatility and conformation of the American Quarter Horse as a working ranch horse. One or multiple judges may be used. However, when multiple judges are used, only one judge per class is permitted. Judges must be chosen from the Versatility Ranch Horse Approved Judges list.
 - **SHW550.1** No horses less than 3 years of age may be exhibited.
 - **SHW550.2** No hoof polish
 - **SHW550.3** No braided or banded manes or tail extensions.
 - **SHW550.4** Trimming inside ears is discouraged.
 - **SHW550.5** Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair.
 - **SHW550.6** Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.
 - **SHW550.7** Holding the saddle horn with either hand will be penalized and may be disqualified at the judge's discretion unless covered by specific class rules.

Justification

- This will allow for more cross over from other disciplines, allowing for more youth to participate in these classes.

- Making Ranch Riding a separate division could decrease the numbers in other divisions, rather than increase youth participation.
- Following current AQHA rules will bring clarity to the expectation of the class
- Will help youth to better prepare for classes.

SUGGESTION - BAREBACK CLASSES – ALL DIVISIONS

- Define gaits that will be used, specific to discipline, and other expectations in class rules ie; walk, jog/trot, lope/canter, equitation gait, back, perform a pattern, etc.

Justification

- Will help youth to prepare for class and understand expectation.

SUGGESTION - ALL SHOWMANSHIP AND HORSEMANSHIP CLASSES

- Use multi-colored cones.

Justification

- This would be easier for youth to identify what should happen at what cones.

District 5

General Rules, Page 5 Item#13

1. With showmanship being a requirement for all participants when qualifying at their district show, it should also be a required class at the state level. In doing so it would provide body score observation for all horses (during their respective showmanship class) at state such as is done at the district level and eliminate any borderline issues. At the same time it would also help generate additional entry fee income for the state show.

Motion made by Haley Floyd, and seconded by Barbra Dowell. Motion brought to a vote and passed.

Overtured by Animal Science Committee

General Rules, Page 9 Item#29

1. In comparing the 2011 high point scale with 2013:

2011 Point Scale

NO. CONTESTANTS POINTS FOR PLACINGS
IN THE CLASS 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th

1-2	½									
3-5	1									
6-10	2	1								
11-15	3	2	1							
16-20	4	3	2	1						
21-25	5	4	3	2	1					
26-30	6	5	4	3	2	1				
31-35	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			

36-40	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
41-45	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
46 & OVER	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

2013 Point Scale

Number of Contestants in class	Points for Placing									
	1st	2nd	3 rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
1	1									
2	2	1								
3	3	2	1							
4	4	3	2	1						
5	5	4	3	2	1					
6	6	5	4	3	2	1				
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1			
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		
9	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
10 & over	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

When comparing the two high point scales one will notice that while the 2013 scale is more user friendly it does not recognize the top ten participants in larger classes such as the point scale used in previous years (2011). **Therefore we recommend returning to the previous 2011 point system or another system that distributes points fairly based on the number of entries in the class.**

Motion made by Barbra Dowell, and seconded by Haley Floyd. Motion brought to a vote and was defeated.

Upheld by Animal Science Committee

Suggestions:

- In an effort to eliminate additional safety issues it is suggested that *shavings/sand be extended from Stauffer Walk over to Broadbent to help ensure the safety of horse/rider and spectators.*
- Very much in favor on continuing the equipment checks using the same individual (Bryan Cassill) for they were very accommodating allowing youth to make the proper tack change & explaining the reason why.
- In an effort to equate the hours involved for the two days of contest events it is suggested that we have showmanship, poles & stake race on one day then barrels, flags and 3D barrels assuming the continuation & popularity of the open invitational 3D event.
- Surface quality issues with Broadbent arena, it is suggested not to allow expo personnel to rework the arena once it has already been prepared by state horse show volunteers.
- Appreciate the way the severe weather issues was handled by state show and expo staff.

District 6

1. Book Walking/Racking/Mountain Horse Division; Section Walking Division General Class Rules & Walking Horse Shoeing Requirements (page WRM-5,6)

Current rule: 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
Post Office Box 167
Shelbyville, TN 37162
Phone: 931/684-9506 Fax: 931/684-9538
Website: www.showhio.com

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

Walking Horse Owners Association
WHOA HIO
P.O. Box 4007
Murfreesboro TN 37129
Phone: (615) 494-8822 Fax: (615) 494-8825
website: www.walkinghorseowners.com or

Reason for change: SHOW HIO is terminating business and WHOA is one of the “oldest” Walking Horse organizations with an HIO that has been certified by the USDA. The WHOA HIO has a rulebook and a judge’s list. Judges have annual training and testing or WHOA could also issue a guest license to appropriate individuals. DQPs (Designated Qualified Person) have annual training using USDA guidelines. **SHOW HIO To Be Inactive Friday, October 04, 2013.**

We also need to look at shoeing requirements! Another alternative is for the State 4-H Horse Program to make the rules that they want for shoeing/tack/attire & hire a veterinarian to “check” horses for soundness & compliance with USDA guidelines in the Walking/Racking/Mountain horse division at District & State Shows.

The WHOA Horse Industry Organization (WHOA HIO) was established and certified by the United States Department of Agriculture in April, 2010. The WHOA HIO was formed for the purpose of (1) creating, maintaining, and enhancing the methodology for teaching and fostering the prevention of the soring and cruelty to horses being shown, sold, or exhibited; (2)

facilitating the taking of lawful available action for the enforcement of laws and regulations relating to or in any way affecting horses being shown, sold, or exhibited; (3) working to achieve compliance with, and enforcement of, the Horse Protection Act, the Horse Protection Regulations, and industry rules and regulations through the operation of the certified Designated Qualified Person (DQP) program; (4) providing a meaningful forum for discussion and resolution of issues related to horse shows, sales, and exhibitions. The WHOA HIO is independent of the Walking Horse Owners Association.

No motion made

2. Book Hunter Horse Division Section Judging of Dressage Classes, page H-12

Current rule: Guidelines for judging dressage tests

Wording of rule change:

Adding all guidelines listed on the USEF website for explaining how to judge dressage. Specifically, there are at least these two items missing from the current 4-H rules,

- The mark for each movement should first establish the fact of whether the movement is marginal (5 or below) or higher. The judge should state the reason for his judgment, at least when giving marks of 6 and below
- The levels of dressage are offered as a means of evaluating a horse that is changing. The purpose of each test is printed on the cover and the horse shall be considered in light of the degree of training it should have achieved to be shown at that level.

It would be reasonable to refer to <https://www.usef.org/documents/ruleBook/2013/08-DR.pdf> for the entire section. This link gives valuable information on correctness of gaits, etc. which should be considered in the judging of dressage rides.

Reason for change:

The 4-H members competing deserve to receive a scoresheet that will help them structure their dressage training. 4-H dressage is no different than the dressage expected at schooling or recognized shows.

The guidelines for judging the dressage tests should be include everything published by the USEF under that topic, or simply refer to the online rulebook for the entire section so the riders, leaders and judges are getting the whole picture of what is expected. Using anything less than the full descriptions would be misleading to riders, leaders and 4-H judges, which could cause trouble.

As an example, a district judge was using comments like “not collected” for movements in a Training Level test, where “collection” is not expected, rather than acceptance of the bit, willingness to move forward, suppleness and rhythm, which are the expectations in a Training Level ride. True “collection” is not introduced until Second Level and therefore should not be criticized before that level.

Referred to Hunter committee

3. Book Hunter Horse Division Section Hunt Seat Equitation I, II, III, page H-7

Current rule:

Pattern is optional

Wording of rule change:

All riders will perform a pattern selected by the judge. Railwork may include all riders or a group of riders selected from the pattern work. Railwork may include one or both directions of the ring and any number of additional rider tests.

Reason for change:

Scored pattern work is traditionally the preferred method of evaluating horsemanship skills. 4-H members practice year-round on equitation patterns and should be given the opportunity to show off their hard work. At the 2013 State 4-H Horse Show, the Hunter judge chose to NOT do ANY equitation patterns, causing some competitors to feel disappointed in months of wasted efforts. A required pattern is reasonable to allow the judge to see each rider individually. In short, kids riding in equitation classes expect a pattern and feel it is a large part of what they should be judged on. Time should not be a factor in this decision, this is a state-level championship show, and it should feel like it!

Motion made by Katy Wimsatt, and seconded by Marilyn Midkiff. Motion brought to a vote and passed

Overturned by Animal Science Committee

4. Book Western Horse Division Section: None Listed

Current rule: None

Wording of rule change:

Add at least one Ranch Horse class as an additional western performance class option.

Reason for change:

District 6 added this class as an option to their district horse show. This was a popular class with 8 entries, just as many entries as the Western Performance class. We think this will be a popular addition.

No motion made

5. Book Contest Division Section 3D Barrel Race- OI, page WC-6

Current Rule:

Rosettes and Danish ribbons will be distributed to the top 3 times on each division (1D, 2D, and 3D), plus the winner of the 1D will receive \$150 cash, the winner of the 2D will receive \$100 cash, and the winner of the 3D will receive \$75 cash.

Wording of Rule Change:

Rosettes and Danish ribbons will be distributed to the top 3 times in each division (1D, 2D, and 3D), plus the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place of each speed division will receive \$50, \$30, \$20 in each division. For example the first place in 1D will receive \$50, the second place in 1D will receive \$30 and the third place in 1D will receive \$20. The first place in 2D will receive \$50, the second place in 2D will receive \$30 and the third place in 2D will receive \$20. The first place in 3D will receive \$50, the second place in 3D will receive \$30 and the third place in 3D will receive \$20.

Reason for Rule Change:

This will keep entry numbers high and interest going for all exhibitors.

Motion made by Marilyn Midkiff and seconded by Katy Wimsatt. Motion brought to a vote and passed

Animal Science Committee decided that additional places will be paid contingent upon number of entries. Please see rulebook.

Suggestions

- In 2013 exhibitors in Mini and Hunter had no photography opportunity with the State Sign on Sunday (first day of State Show). We suggest having two State 4-H Horse Show signs, one at outdoor covered arena and one by Broadbent, one sign should be lower for the minis. Also, make sure signs are up at start of show. District 6 has a volunteer that is willing to oversee this. (*Glen Sutton from Henderson County*).
- Improve arena footing! Horrible conditions at start of show. Conditions of the arena- too many dips and waves, and too many high and low spots. Glen Sutton from Henderson County has volunteered to run the tractor for the week. If someone wishes to contact him via email they may do so at gsutton_69@hotmail.com or by phone at 270-635-1836. Contact him as soon as possible so he can get the dates in his calendar.
- Stall areas were littered with roofing nails which are a hazard. How do we improve our safety at Louisville?
- Move dressage from outdoor arena to indoor arena. The noise and distraction of planes flying over was just too much!
- Try to stall counties in the same district together. Or at the very minimum stall counties with similar disciplines together so that there is more camaraderie between 4-H members and adults.
- Divide all contest pony classes into junior and senior divisions. It is hard for 9 year old to compete with 17 year olds.
- Look at shoeing requirements for Walking/Racking/Mountain Division

District 7

1. Book n/a Section n/a

Current rule: does not exist

Wording of rule change: n/a

Reason for change: District 7 submitted this last year, but we weren't clear as to the Association Affiliation after which we were patterning. We are referring to the American Ranch Horse Association classes and have provided their rules for these classes below. The intent is to offer a new opportunity for 4-H youths in an area that is gaining in popularity, Ranch Horse. We propose to offer Ranch Riding (not eligible for other western pleasure classes) and Ranch Horsemanship (not eligible for regular western horsemanship). Their third performance class could be western versatility or reining. As directed by the State Horse Advisory Council last year, we held the classes at our District 4-H Horse Show. We had 8 in Ranch Riding and 7 in Ranch Horsemanship. These were both larger than most of our western pleasure and western horsemanship classes, granted the ages were split in those. I know at least two other districts offered these as well. We had youths who came to camp, but did not enter the show, that did enter these classes as well as some others. The information below is directly from the American Ranch Horse Association Rule Book. The wording can be condensed for our rule book to be similar to our existing class descriptions, if needed. Although we recommend a full description as it is new to many, for the first year anyway. If funding is the only issue we are willing to secure a sponsor(s) for the classes.

L-1. RANCH RIDING

A horse will be shown at three gaits - the walk, jog and lope. He will also be asked to reverse away from the rail, to stop and to back. The judge may ask for an extended walk or jog. Extended jog may be ridden by sitting in the saddle, posting or standing in the stirrups.

DESCRIPTION:

A superior ranch riding horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length on keeping with his conformation and covering a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. Ideally, he should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits with proper cadence and rhythm. The quality of the movement and consistency of the gaits is a major consideration. Exhibitor should not be penalized for picking up reins or moving horses body if horse is soft, willing and free of resistance but should receive credit.. Horse should be credited for softness when picking up through transitions, departures, stops, and back-ups. (This should not be confused with constant pulling and jerking around the arena as this shall be faulted according to severity). A willing horse will not ring their tail, or be blatantly disobedient to the rider's cues or demands. The horse should drive off his hind quarters using it as a driving force for his body. Horse should not carry his head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of

intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving the appearance of resistance. He should have a bright expression with his ears alert. He should be shown on a reasonable 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. Horse's expression should be alert, mannerly without the appearance of a dull, sullen lethargic drawn or overly tired attitude. Maximum credit should be to flowing, balanced and willing horse that gives the appearance of being fit, alert and a pleasure to ride and a horse that processes great athletic ability and being agile.

A) This class will be judged on the performance, condition and conformation of the horse.

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 and the jog, one or both ways of the ring. The extended jog is a definite two-beat lengthening of the stride, covering more ground. Cadence and balance with smoothness are more essential than speed. Passing is permissible and should not be penalized as long as the horse maintains a proper and even cadence and rhythm. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly.

C) Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or jog at the discretion of the judge, but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope.

D) Judge may ask for additional and individual(s) work of the same nature from any horse.

E) Rider shall not be required to dismount except in the event the judge wishes to check equipment.

F) Horses are to be shown at a walk, jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein or light contact without undue restraint.

G) Faults to be scored according to severity:

1) Excessive speed (any gait)

2) Being on the wrong lead

3) Breaking gait (including not walking when called for)

48

4) Excessive slowness in any gait, loss of forward momentum (resulting in an animated and/or artificial gait at the lope)

5) Failure to take the appropriate gait when called for (during transitions, excessive delay will be penalized)

6) Head carriage to high or low (in keeping with horses conformation).

7) Over flexing or straining neck in carriage so that the nose is behind the vertical.

8) Excessive nosing out

9) Opening/gapping mouth excessively

10) Stumbling

11) Use of spur in front of the cinch

12) If horse appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly

tired.

13) Quick, choppy or pony-strided.

14) Overly canted at the lope (Horses which lope with haunches in towards the center of arena).

15) Excessive head bobbing.

16) Excessive ringing of tail.

H) Credits:

1) Natural ground covering gaits

2) Consistency at all gaits

3) Smooth upward and downward transitions

4) Work on reasonably loose rein without excessive cueing to maintain moderate pace

5) Giving the appearance of being able to do a days work

6) Athletic Ability/Agile

7) Softness of horses' chin, poll, neck, shoulder, body, hip and being broke through thru the whole body.

L-4. PERFORMANCE GAITS

The following terminology is a description of ranch riding gaits:

A) THE WALK & EXTENDED WALK:

1. Poor Walk: uneven pace and no cadence. Has no flow and may appear intimidated or appear to march.

1a. Poor Extended Walk: Never lengthens stride, lack of ground covering.

2. Average Walk: has a four-beat gait, level top line and is relaxed.

2a. Average Extended Walk: Moves up in pace/covers more ground.

3. Good Walk: has a flowing four-beat gait, level top line, relaxed and is bright and attentive.

3a. Good Extended Walk: covers reasonable amount of ground; obvious lengthening in stride while being effortless for the horse.

B) THE JOG & EXTENDED JOG:

1. Unacceptable Jog: cannot perform a two-beat gait and has no flow or balance in the motion.

2. Poor Jog: hesitates motion. Does no keep even and balanced motion or has negative characteristics such as walking behind, dragging rear toes or taking uneven length of stride with the front and rear legs.

2a. Poor Extended Jog: never lengthens stride and may appear to be rough to ride

3. Good Jog: is comfortable to ride while having a consistent two-beat gait. The horse guides well and appears to be relaxed.

3a. Average Extended Jog: moves up in its pace and appears to be smooth to ride.

4. Excellent Jog: effortless and very efficient motion. He has a bright and alert expression and exhibits more lift and self carriage, shows confidence, yet soft with its motion while being balance and under control.

4a. Excellent Extended Jog: has obvious lengthening of stride with a

slight increase in pace while exerting less effort and appears to be smooth to ride.

C) THE LOPE:

1. Poor Lope: does not have a three-beat gait. No flow, rhythm or balance. Uncomfortable to ride.

2. Average Lope: has a true three-beat gait with very little head and neck motion. He guides well and has a relaxed appearance.

3. Good Lope: has more lift and flow than average horse. Has a strong but smooth drive from behind. Steady top line, relaxed appearance and is responsive to rider's aids. Appears to be comfortable to ride.

4. Excellent Lope: has a round back with an effortless strong, deep stride with the rear legs and a flat swinging with the front legs. Horse has a great degree of lift and self-carriage and is relaxed yet alert and confident.

D) THE BACK-UP:

1. Poor Back-up: is resistant and heavy in front. May gap mouth and throw his head or back crooked.

2. Average Back-up: backs straight and quietly with light contact and without hesitation.

3. Good Back-up: displays balance and smooth flowing movements. Backs straight with self-carriage without gapping mouth with light contact and without hesitation.

50

N-2. HORSEMANSHIP

This class is available to Amateur and Youth divisions only.

A) The horsemanship class is designed to evaluate the rider's ability to execute, in concert with their horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balance, functional, and fundamentally correct seat. The ideal horsemanship pattern is extremely precise with the horse and rider working in complete unison, executing each maneuver with subtle aids and cues. The horse's head and neck should be carried in a relaxed, natural position. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving it the appearance of being intimidated, or be extremely nosed out, giving the appearance of resistance.

B) It is mandatory that the judge post any pattern(s) to be worked at least one hour prior to the start of the class. Pattern(s) should be designed to test the showman's ability to effectively present a horse to the judge. All ties will be broken at the judges' discretion.

C) All exhibitors must work individually either from the gate or the ring. When the exhibitors work from the gate, a working order is required.

D) The following maneuvers are acceptable in a pattern: walk, jog, lope, extended jog in a straight line, curved line, serpentine, circle or figure 8, or a combination of these gaits and maneuvers; stop, back in straight or curved line, turn or pivot, including spins and rollbacks on the haunches and/or on the forehand, sidepass, two-track or leg-yield, flying or simple

lead changes, counter-canter, or any other maneuver, or ride without stirrups. A back should be asked for at sometime during the class. Judges should not ask exhibitors to mount or dismount.

Seat and Hands

A) **General:** Exhibitor will be judged on seat, hands, ability to control and show horse and suitability of horse and rider. Results as shown by performance of horse are not to be considered more important than the method used by the rider to obtain them.

B) **Hands:** Upper arms to be in a straight line with body, one hand holding reins should be bent at the elbow. Reins may be held in two hands if the horse qualities to be ridden in a snaffle, hackamore or snaffle bit with mecate.

C) **Basic Position:** Exhibitor should sit in saddle with legs hanging straight and slightly forward to stirrups or knees bent slightly and weight directly over ball of feet. In either position the stirrups should be just short enough to allow heels to be lower than toes. Body should always appear comfortable, heels relaxed and flexible. Feet should be placed in stirrups with weight on ball on foot. Consideration, however, should be given to width of stirrups, which may vary on western saddles.

□ The rider's back should be flat, relaxed, and supple. An overly stiff and/or overly arched back will be penalized. The shoulders should be back, level, and square. Those exhibitors that can maintain the proper position throughout the maneuvers should receive more credit. Both hands and arms should be held in a relaxed, easy manner, with the upper arm in a straight line with the body. The arm holding the reins should be bent at the elbow forming a line from the elbow to the horse's mouth. The free hand and arm may be carried bent at the elbow in a similar position as the hand holding the reins or straight down at the rider's side. Excessive pumping of the free arm as well as excessive stiffness will be penalized. The rider's wrist is to be kept straight and relaxed, with the hand held at about 30 to 45 degrees inside the vertical. The rein hand should be carried immediately above or slightly in front of the saddle horn. The reins should be

57

adjusted so that the rider has light contact with the horse's mouth, and at no time shall reins require more than a slight hand movement to control the horse. Excessively tight or loose reins will be penalized.

□ The rider's head should be held with the chin level and the eyes forward, and may be directed slightly toward the direction of travel. Excessive turning of the head to the inside of the circle, or down at the horse's head or shoulders should be penalized.

D) **Position in Motion:** Exhibitor should sit to jog and not post. At the lope, he should be close to the saddle. All movements of horse should be governed by the use of imperceptible aids. Exaggerated shifting of the exhibitor's weight is not desirable.

E) The horse's body condition and overall health and fitness should be assessed. The horse should appear to be fit and carry weight appropriate for the body size. A horse which appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn over overly tired should be penalized according to severity.

F) Tack should fit the horse properly and be neat, clean and in good repair.

2. Class Routine

Individual Work: The judge must first ask each exhibitor to work, individually using a designated pattern. The pattern shall include any maneuvers that are normally required in any stock horse class, such as figure eights and square stops. Individual pattern work must also include all three gaits and back. It must be remembered that, above all, a ranch horse is one that responds instantly and smoothly to all aids.

a) The horse should perform all maneuvers in the pattern willingly, briskly and readily with minimal visible or audible cueing. Severe disobedience will not result in a disqualification, but should be severely penalized, and the exhibitor should not place above an exhibitor that completes the pattern correctly. Failure to follow the prescribed pattern, knocking over or working on the wrong side of the cones, excessive schooling or training, or willful abuse by the exhibitor is cause for disqualification.

b) Transitions should be smooth and prompt in the pattern and on the rail. Circles should be round and performed at the appropriate speed, size and location as requested in the pattern.

c) The stop should be straight, square, prompt, smooth and responsive with the horse maintaining a straight body position throughout the maneuver.

d) Turns should be smooth and continuous. When performing a turn on the haunches, the should pivot on the inside hind leg and step across with the front legs. A rollback is a stop and 180 degree turn over the hocks with no hesitation. Backing during turns will be penalized severely.

e) The horse should step across with the front and hind legs when performing the side-pass, leg-yield and two track. The side pass should be performed with the horse keeping the body straight while moving directly lateral in the specified direction. When performing a leg-yield, the horse should move forward and lateral in a diagonal direction with the horse's body arched opposite to the direction that the horse is moving. In the twotrack, the horse should move forward and lateral in a diagonal direction with the horse's body held straight or bent in the direction the horse is moving.

f) A simple or flying lead change should be executed precisely in the specified number of strides and/or at the designated location. A simple lead change is performed by breaking to a walk or trot for one to three sides. Flying changes should be simultaneous front and rear. All changes should be smooth and timely.

3. Rail Work or Place Class: After each exhibitor has worked individually, the judge has the option to recall either all the exhibitors, or the finalist for rail work, or place the class.

4. Rail Work Procedure: Exhibitors recalled for rail work, shall enter the arena and be judged on the rail at a walk, jog, lope. They shall be worked both ways of the ring and shall always be on the correct lead. The reverse is to be executed by turning away from the rail.

a) The exhibitor should not crowd the exhibitor next to or in front of them when working on the rail and should pass to the inside of the arena. When reversing on the rail, the exhibitor should always reverse to the inside of the arena.

b) Position of the exhibitor and performance of the horse and rider on the rail must be considered in the final placing.

5. Scoring System - Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to 100 with 1/2 point increments acceptable. Fifty (50) point should be allocated towards the overall appearance of the exhibitor and horse and fifty (50) points allotted toward the performance.

6. Faults: Faults can be classified as minor, major or severe. The judge will determine the appropriate classification of a fault based upon the degree and/or frequency of the infraction. A minor fault will result in a 1/2 to 4 point deduction from the exhibitor's score. A major fault will result in a deduction of 4½ points or more from the exhibitor's score. An exhibitor that incurs a severe fault avoids elimination, but should be placed below all other exhibitors that compete the pattern correctly. A minor fault can become a major fault and a major fault can become a severe fault when the degree and/or frequency if the infraction(s) merits.

Faults in the Overall Appearance of Exhibitor and Horse include:

- a) Loose, sloppy, dirty or poor fitting clothing and equipment
- b) Stiff, artificial or unnatural body, leg and or head position
- c) Reins too long, short or uneven
- d) Loose leg with open knee or toes pointed down
- e) Exhibitor looking down to check leads or falling forward when stopping
- f) Shoulders held crooked or arms held in a straight, unbent position

Faults in the Performance include:

- a) Wrong lead or break of gait for a few strides
- b) Oblong or flat sided circles or counter arc when circling
- c) Stopping rough, crooked or dropping a hip out when stopping
- d) Backing sluggishly or crooked
- e) Failure to maintain a pivot foot or stepping behind with the front legs when turning, or failure to complete entire 90, 180, 270 or 360 degree turn.
- f) Holding the head or neck excessively crooked when moving in straight lines or when stopping or backing.
- g) Showing resistance when cued or reined.
- h) Hesitation during any maneuver unless specified.
- i) Failure of horse to stand still in pattern.
- j) Failure to exhibit change of speed when requested.

Severe Faults in the Overall Appearance of Exhibitor and Horse (avoids disqualification but should be placed below other exhibitors that do no incur a severe fault) includes:

- a) Touching horse.
- b) Grabbing the saddle horn or any other part of the saddle.
- c) Cueing with the end of the romal.
- d) Spurring in front of the shoulder.

Severe Faults of the Performance (avoids disqualification but should be placed below other exhibitors that do not incur a severe fault) include:

- a) Kicking at other horses, exhibitors or judge.
- b) Severe disobedience or resistance by horse including, but not limited to, rearing, bucking, or pawing.

59

Disqualifications (should not be placed) include:

- a) Failure by exhibitor to wear correct back number in visible manner.
- b) Willful abuse
- c) Knocking over the cone or going off pattern
- d) Excessive schooling or training.
- e) Fall by horse or rider.
- f) Illegal use of hands on reins
- g) Use of prohibited equipment.

O-1

2. Book n/a **Section** _____

Current rule: n/a **D7 volunteers recommend no second horse for show purposes**

Already addressed withdrawn

3. Book _____ **Section** _____ (not sure of location in rule book – I sent my hard copy to meeting and haven't gotten it back yet, Paula)

Current rule:

Wording of rule change: No handlers should be allowed in the make-up area to lead a horse in

Reason for change:

Safety for handler

Already addressed withdrawn

Suggestions

- Make sure judges are familiar with the Danish System. Make sure they know that they can give more than one blue Danish ribbon, for example.

- If a horse is a danger to other horses or people, the horse should be pulled out at camp or show.
- Bring back buckles for Walk/Trot Classes
- Muhlenberg County requested bigger buckles and ribbons
- Make sure ribbons are properly distributed (evidently there was an issue with a neck ribbon being given in a “III” age group class.

Meeting was adjourned with next meeting planned for February 1, 2014 at The Hyatt in Lexington

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Woods