

## SHOW RULES EFFECTIVE January 1, 2010

### I. General Rules

1. These show rules intend to adhere to the Constitution and Standards of Conduct as put forth by the USEF rulebook. Any specific point not covered in these rules, refer to the USEF rulebook ([www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)) or the ADS rulebook ([www.americandrivingsociety.org](http://www.americandrivingsociety.org)). Where a direct conflict may arise these rules take precedent.
2. Where classes are offered that are not covered in these rules, or the USEF rules or the ADS rules, the sponsoring show management will have final say in all rulings.
3. Horses entered must be registered with the GVHS/GHRA/GCDHA/GHA and be purebred Gypsy Vanners, Gypsy Cobs or Gypsy Horses. Exhibitors must show Proof of Registration or Pending registration. The show management will resolve any question or dispute that may arise from said eligibility of registration pending horses. Their decision will be final.
4. Horses are to be shown in their natural way of going. They should demonstrate a calm and willing demeanor yet be powerful. To be an all around utility horse that is eager and able to perform in all disciplines. Any extreme or exaggerated movement unnatural to the breed will be heavily penalized. Any horses demonstrating aggressive behavior shall be disqualified.
5. All horses entered must be serviceably sound, healthy and in good condition. Lameness, obviously unhealthy, or unthrifty animals will be disqualified.
6. For showing purposes the age of the horse will be determined by the Jan 1st rule. Each January 1st a horse is considered one year older. For example: if a horse turns 3 years of age anytime during the current year (Jan 1-Dec 31), it is considered a three year old, and shown as a 3 year old for the entire current show year (Jan 1-Dec 31).
7. Horses must be at least 3 years of age to be ridden or driven in performance classes.
8. The addition of supplemental hair in the mane, foretop, tail or feather shall be cause for disqualification.
9. Horses may be shown clipped, or unclipped, both are equally acceptable. Body clipping or 'saddle pad' clipping will not be discriminated against. There may be a small bridle path clipped to keep the halter or bridle in place.
10. When showing under saddle or in harness, horses with very long, thick foretops must have the foretop banded, braided, tucked under the side of the bridle or in some way prevented from impairing the horse's vision.
11. Braiding is acceptable in classes where braiding is traditional for that class (i.e. Hunt, Dressage). All braids are permissible, including continental braids, French braids, double French braids, half French braid, etc. Ribbons may only be used in specialty classes such as costume.
12. The natural color of the horse may not be changed but products such as hoof black applied to hooves, chalk/powder/corn starch and/or high lights may be used to emphasize the natural color.

13. The use, or application of, to or into any horse (other than legal levels of allowed medications) any foreign or caustic substance, such as ginger, mustard, pepper, abrasives, etc., which would alter or influence a horse's movement or behavior, is prohibited and will be cause for disqualification. Offenders may be fined, suspended or barred from future events.
14. The injecting of any foreign substance into a horse's tail, the cutting of tail ligaments, "soreing" or maiming of feet, or any such practice which would alter or influence a horse's natural carriage, movement or behavior, is prohibited. Offenders will be suspended or barred from future events.
15. No one under the age of 18 may show a stallion in hand, or riding, including lead line. A youth age 12, or older, may show a weanling colt in hand. No one under the age of 12 may show any horse (mare, gelding or stallion) under the age of 3 years.
16. Youth is an exhibitor who has not reached his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday before Dec. 1 of the current show year.
17. Youth Exhibitors are required to wear protective headgear in all Hunter, Jumper and Hunter Equitation classes and in driving classes as a driver or groom.
18. A safety helmet may be worn in any class, by any exhibitor, without penalty or prejudice.
19. Classes denoted as "Pleasure" classes shall be judged with a heavy emphasis on the word "pleasure". Both horse and rider should project the image of a happy, comfortable ride. Excessively low heads (poll below the withers) fast or slow speeds, or gaits that are artificial, shall be heavily penalized.
20. Entries will be penalized if not on the correct lead at the canter or lope.
21. Open jumpers are not judged on form or way of going, but on faults accumulated over the jump course. Working hunters are judged on movement, way of going, form over the fences, and safety.
22. An Owner is the person who is listed as the owner on the horse's registration certificate, or who is leasing a horse for that show year.
23. Horses should model with front legs and at least one rear cannon bone perpendicular to the ground. Front legs should be square. Back legs can be positioned with one slightly behind the other. Horses will not be "parked" out.
24. Bandages or wraps of any kind are prohibited except in costume classes.
25. In classes with foals shown with their dams, each foal must have its own handler. At no time shall foals be allowed loose in the ring or on the premises. Suckling foals may enter the ring while their dams are being judged as long as they are under control, led in halter by their own handler, and do not interfere with the judging of the mare or other horses.
26. The term weanling will be applied to all foals of the current year whether they are weaned, or not.
27. A Green Horse is one that is in its first year of showing in that particular discipline.

28. A “Green” or “Novice” rider is in their first or second year of showing and have not won a blue ribbon in the discipline.

## **II. Shoeing General Rules**

- 1) Horses may be shown shod, partially shod (front feet only) or unshod and hoof length should be reasonable for the size of the horse being shown.
- 2) If shown shod, hooves and shoes must be reasonable for the size of the horse being shown, excessive length is discouraged and will be penalized or disqualified at judge’s discretion.
- 3) Toe and/or side clips drawn from the same shoe that in no way affects how a horse travels or breaks over are allowed.
- 4) If shod, it must be with flat shoes that do not affect the way the horse travels or how a foot breaks over.
- 5) Either metal shoes or shoes of other material may be used. Shoes must be of the same material, weight, and thickness, although front and back hooves may be shod in different sizes.
- 6) Weighted shoes are prohibited. Scotch bottom shoes are prohibited.
- 7) Pads and wedges are prohibited, exceptions will be made for horses with medical or therapeutic issues if they have a signed letter from a Veterinarian explaining the need for the pad/wedge.
- 8) Borium or standard screw-in caulks are allowed.

## **III. Conduct General Rules**

- 1) Excessive use of a whip or other actions, either by the handler or from the audience, which may disturb other entries, shall be penalized or disqualified at the Judges’ discretion.
- 2) Excessive use of spurs or use of spurs in front of the girth by rider is prohibited and shall be penalized or disqualified at the Judges’ discretion.
- 3) Electronic communication devices used for the purpose of communicating or coaching, between competitors and individuals outside the ring, shall be prohibited in all classes.
- 4) Any horse that is unruly to the point of presenting a real danger to itself, its handler or other participants will be asked to leave the ring and may be asked to leave the show grounds.
- 5) Uses of any devices or aides that alter the natural movement of the horse (such as chains, shackles, rubber bands, etc.) are strictly prohibited at any competition, anywhere on the show grounds or stabling area. Any animal with prohibited equipment must be disqualified from further competition and forfeit all entry fees and winnings. Offenders may be suspended or barred from future events.

## **IV. Tack & Attire General Rules**

- 1) Attire shall be neat, clean and suitable for the discipline which is being judged.
- 2) In-Hand classes do not require a hat or helmet.
- 3) No sandals, open toed shoes, sling backs or clogs are permitted in any class.
- 4) Running shoes or sport type shoes are permitted when showing in-hand.
- 5) Tack should be clean, well fitting and suitable for the discipline being judged.
- 6) Either leather or synthetic material is permitted. Good working tack shall not be penalized.
- 7) No twisted, wire, scissor, or gag bits are allowed. Mechanical hackamores are not allowed. Martingales are only allowed in open jumper, gaming or schooling classes.
- 8) Reins must be attached to the bit.

## **V. In Hand Division**

1. In Hand Classes - Handlers shall follow the judge's direction to present horses at the walk and trot. After which time they will line up for final presentation/judging. Exceptions: Some specialty classes such as color Classes, lead line, and in Hand Costume classes are not required to trot.
2. Horses will be judged on type, conformation, movement, temperament, and presence.
3. Desired movement
  - a) The walk shall be relaxed, forward and balanced from the hindquarters.
  - b) The trot should be a strong, forward moving gait and shall exhibit good impulsion and power from the hindquarters while being balanced with even cadence in the stride.
  - c) The trot shall show good suspension, while being balanced with even cadence in the stride.
  - d) Movement can vary but must always be clean, straight and true. Movement must be natural, not forced or artificial. The horse must travel straight, true and square with no winging, flicking or paddling.
4. Stallions 3 years and older must be shown bitted. Acceptable tack would be full stallion tack, including bridle, surcingle, side reins and crupper, or they may be shown in a regular bridle, or a halter with bit. Bridles and stallion tack may be either leather or synthetic.
5. Mares and Geldings may be shown bitted, or in a halter. Halters may be of leather, synthetic or traditional rope halters. Knotted training rope halters prohibited. Leads should be at least 6' long. A flat chain may be shanked over or under the chin.
6. All horses under the age of 2 must be shown in halters.
7. All tack should be clean, properly fitted and in good repair.
8. The exhibitor's attire may be western, English or sport type. If showing western, the attire should consist of a sleeved shirt with collar, jeans or long pants with suitable boots and optional hat. Belts, gloves, ties, scarves, vests and jackets would be optional. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum. English attire may be either breeches or jodhpurs with boots and a shirt with tie or choker. Jackets, vests, gloves, belts and helmets are optional. Sport attire should consist of slacks or khakis with either a shirt and tie or an appropriate shirt. Footwear may be boots, closed toe shoes, or running shoes.
9. Tack should reflect the manner in which the horse is being presented. Halters and bridles may be constructed of leather, natural or synthetic material.
10. Gag and twisted bits of any type are prohibited.
11. Nosebands are optional for in-hand classes.
12. A split or single chain lead may be used instead of a rein.
13. Evening In-hand attire may consist of more formal attire including suits or tuxedos for men and pants and dress jacket for ladies.
14. Inappropriate or unsafe attire shall result in immediate disqualification.
15. Attire may not display a farm or owner name, or horse name, or logo.
16. In hand classes can be divided by age based on the size of the show and discretion of show management.
17. Specialty In-Hand Classes
  - A. Get of Sire and Produce of Dam
    1. Get of Sire entries and Produce of Dam entries must be shown with one handler per horse. More than one entry per sire or dam shall be permitted in the same class.
    2. Entries shall be presented under the same specifications as stated in the "In-hand Presentation" section above, but not to be moved on the line.

3. Sire or Dam do not enter the ring, unless the dam enters with suckling foal.
  4. Entries in Get of Sire or Produce of Dam must be made by the owner of the Sire or Dam or with written permission from the owner, in the name of the Sire or Dam.
  5. Judging Criteria: Entries shall be judged on conformation and uniformity, reproductive likeness & similarity, type, quality, presence,
- B. Color classes will be judged on richness, balance and clarity of color, crispness of pattern and presence. Color classes may be split into A) Patterned Horses and B) Solid and Blagdon Horses.

## **Showmanship at Halter**

### **General**

1. Horses must be in full compliance with the General Rules section, and Shoeing section.
2. The showmanship class shall be judged strictly on the exhibitor's ability to condition and show a horse at halter. In this class 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.
3. The showmanship class is not another halter class and should not be judged as such.
4. Patterns are required to be posted at least one hour prior to the class. Patterns are designed to test the showman's ability to effectively present a horse to the judge.
5. All ties will be broken at judge's discretion.
6. Any use of an artificial aid (e.g. whip) will be considered a disqualification.
7. No one under the age of 18 may show a stallion in hand, riding, including lead line. A youth age 12 or older may show a weanling colt in hand. No one under the age of 12 may show any horse under the age of three, including leading in a lead-line class.

### **Presentation**

1. All exhibitors may enter the ring and then work individually or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually, at the discretion of the judge.
2. The following maneuvers are considered acceptable: lead the horse at a walk, jog, trot or extended trot or back in a curved or straight line, or a combination of straight and curved lines, stop and turn 90, 180, 270 or 360 degrees in any combination or multiple turns.
3. The judge must have exhibitors set their horse up squarely for inspection at sometime during the class.
4. The exhibitor should be poised, confident, courteous and genuinely sportsmanlike at all times.
5. The exhibitor should continue to show the horse until the class has been placed or they have been excused.
6. The exhibitor should appear business like, stand and move in a straight, natural and upright manner.
7. 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 unless requested by the judge to show the horse's teeth.
8. When leading, the exhibitor should be positioned between the eye and the mid-point of the horse's neck

9. Both arms should be bent at the elbow with the elbows held close to the exhibitors side and the forearms held in a natural position.
10. When executing a right turn, the exhibitor should turn and face the horse's head and have the horse move away from them to the right.
11. When executing a back, the exhibitor should turn from the leading position to face toward the rear of the horse with the right extended across the exhibitor's chest and walk forward beside the horse with the horse moving backward.
12. 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.
13. The exhibitor's position should not obstruct the judge's view of the horse.
14. Leading, backing, turning, and initiating the set up should be performed from the left side of the horse.
15. The exhibitor should never stand directly in front of the horse
16. The exhibitor should not touch the horse with their hands or feet or visibly cue the horse by pointing their feet at the horse during the set up.
17. The horse's body condition and overall fitness should be assessed by the judge.

### **Appointments**

1. Tack should reflect the manner in which the horse is being presented. Halters and bridles may be made of leather, natural or synthetic material. Gag and twisted bits of any type are prohibited. Nosebands are optional for Showmanship classes. A split or single chain lead may be used instead of a rein. All tack must be clean, properly fitted and in good repair.
2. Mares and Geldings may be shown in a bridle with a snaffle bit with no shanks or in a halter. Halters may be of leather, synthetic or traditional rope halters. Knotted training rope halters are prohibited. Leads should be at least 6' long.
3. Stallions three years and older must be shown in a bridle with a snaffle bit with no shanks or with a stallion bit. Bridles may be leather or synthetic.
4. All horses under two years of age must be shown in a halter. Halters may be of leather, synthetic, or tradition rope halters. Knotted training rope halters are prohibited.
5. Whips and other artificial aids are not allowed.

### **Attire**

1. Dress for handlers should be appropriate for the purpose.
2. The exhibitor shall be dressed in a safe, neat, and clean manner.
3. Attire may not display a farm or owner's name, a horse's name or farm or ranch logo.
4. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum.
5. No T-shirts, shorts, skirts, strapless tops or canvas/cloth shoes are allowed.
6. Attire may be Western, English, or Sport type.
7. Western attire should consist of a sleeved shirt with collar, jeans or long pants with suitable boots and hat. Belts, gloves, ties, scarves, vests and jackets are optional.
8. English attire may be either breeches or jodhpurs with boots and a shirt with tie or choker. Jackets, vests, gloves, belts, and hats are optional. Half chaps are permitted.
9. Sport attire should consist of slacks or khakis with either a shirt or tie or an appropriate shirt. Footwear may be boots, closed toe shoes, or leather running shoes.

10. Evening Showmanship attire may consist of more formal attire including suits or tuxedos for men and pants and dress jackets for ladies

### **Judging Criteria and Class Specifications**

1. The horse should perform the work accurately, precisely, smoothly and with a reasonable amount of speed.
2. A severe disobedience will not result in a disqualification, but should be severely penalized.
3. Excessive schooling, training, willful abuse, loss of control of the horse by the exhibitor, failure to follow prescribed pattern, knocking over or working on the wrong side of cones shall be cause for disqualification.
4. Stops should be straight, prompt, smooth and responsive with horse's body remaining straight
5. The horse should back readily with head, neck, and body aligned.
6. Pull turns should be 90 degrees or less.
7. Turns over 90 degrees should consist of the horse pivoting on the hind leg while stepping across in front.
8. The horse should set up quickly with feet squarely underneath the body.

Judging is based on showmanship 20% on leading, 20% on showing, 20% on poise and attitude, and Presentation 15% on horse's conditioning, 15% on horse's grooming, 10% on appointments

## **VI. Performance Division**

### **English Pleasure**

1. All horses and exhibitors must adhere to the General Rules .
2. Exhibitors shall enter at a trot in a counterclockwise direction. All horses shall be worked at all gaits (walk, trot, canter) both ways of the ring. Exception: Walk / Trot Class.
3. At the judge's discretion horses may be asked to extend any gait except in Youth Exhibitor classes.
4. In the lineup, horses must stand quietly and may be asked to back individually, or as a group.
5. Bridle shall be light, show type either Hunter or Dressage; either Snaffle, Pelham, or Kimberwick bit acceptable. Browband/cavesons other than Hunter or Dressage types are not permitted. Saddle Seat style colored browbands/cavesons and/or figure eight nosebands, drop or flash nosebands are not permitted. Martingales of any type, draw reins, artificial appliances, boots, and bandages are prohibited. Hunting style breastplates are allowed, although there may be no martingale or draw rein type attachments used with the breastplate. A judge at his/her own discretion may penalize a horse with non-conventional types of bits or nosebands.
6. English Hunt, Dressage, all-purpose, or sidesaddles are permitted, leather or synthetic.
7. All tack should be clean and properly fitting.
8. Manes and tails may be braided, however unbraided manes and tails are not to be penalized.
9. Riders should wear coats of a traditional Hunt style. Coats should be of a conservative color (such as black, navy, or other dark customary colors) and of a material appropriate for area and season. Traditional breeches or jodhpurs with black or brown boots should be worn. Gloves are optional. Traditional Hunt caps or safety helmets are to be worn. ASTM-SEI approved safety helmets must be worn by Youth riders and are recommended for all riders.
10. Gloves, crops and spurs are optional.

11. The horse should move freely forward with even, ground covering strides. The horse should exhibit a comfortable, balanced, consistent way of going while maintaining a frame suitable for a hunter or dressage horse.
12. Excessive speed (or slowness) at any gait will be severely penalized.
13. Horses will be judged on performance, manners, and quality.

### **Suitability for Dressage**

1. All horses and exhibitors must adhere to the general rules.
2. Horses must be shown in an english bridle with a smooth snaffle bit. Drop, flash, or figure eight nosebands are permissible. Regular cavesson nosebands are also permissible.
3. English Dressage or English All-Purpose saddles are permitted. Suitable saddle pads are required.
4. Martingales of any type, draw reins, other artificial appliances, boots and bandages are prohibited in competition. One whip is permitted. The whip must not be longer than 43.3 inches or 110 cm, including the lash.
5. Attire shall be a short riding coat of conservative color, with tie, choker, or stock tie, breeches or jodhpurs, boots or jodhpur boots, a Hunt cap or protective headgear. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty. Gloves of conservative color are recommended. Half chaps and/or leggings are not allowed. Unrowelled spurs are permitted.
6. Manes and tails may be braided, secured with thread, yarn, or bands.
7. Dressage Suitability Gaits: Horses to enter at working trot, in a counter clockwise direction. Horses will perform all gaits both ways of the ring. Gaits shall be working trot, working canter, working walk, free walk, and lengthened trot. Transitions into and out of the canter may be called for through the working trot. Horses will be asked to reverse direction at the working trot or working walk at the judge's discretion. Trot work to be ridden rising.
8. Dressage Suitability Objectives: To confirm that the horse's muscles are supple and loose, and that it moves freely forward in a clear and steady rhythm, with purity of the gaits, and accepting contact with the bit. The horse should show lightness of the forehand and engagement of the hindquarters. Resistance and tension of the horse to be penalized. The horse's potential as a Dressage mount is to be considered.
9. Dressage Suitability Specifications: To be judged 60% on Performance of gaits and transitions, with attention to impulsion and submission, and using the objectives above as reference and 40% on horse's manners, and willingness.

### **Hunter Hack**

1. All horses and exhibitors must adhere to the General Rules.
2. At the judge's discretion horses may be asked to extend any gait except in Youth Exhibitor classes.
3. In the lineup, horses must stand quietly and may be asked to back individually or as a group.
4. Light hand contact must be maintained.
5. Bridle shall be light show type; with either smooth single or double jointed Snaffle, or Pelham, or Kimberwicke. No twisted and/or double mouth bits allowed. Browband/cavessons other than Hunter or Dressage types are not permitted. Saddle Seat style colored browbands/cavessons are not permitted, and figure eight nosebands, drop or flash nosebands are not permitted. Martingales of any type, draw reins, artificial appliances, boots, and bandages are prohibited. Hunting style breastplates are allowed, although there may be no martingale or draw rein type attachments used with the breastplate. A judge at his/her own discretion may penalize a horse with non-conventional types of bits or nosebands.

6. English Hunt, Dressage, all-purpose, or sidesaddles are permitted.
7. Manes and tails may be braided, however, unbraided manes and tails are not to be penalized.
8. Riders should wear coats of a traditional Hunt style. Coats should be of a conservative color (such as black, navy, or other dark customary colors) and of a material appropriate for area and season. Traditional breeches or jodhpurs with black or brown boots should be worn. Gloves are optional. Protective helmets are to be worn by all riders. Protective helmets must be worn during the class and while jumping anywhere on the grounds.
9. Youth Exhibitors are required to wear protective headgear
10. Spurs and crops are optional.
11. Shadbellys and top hats are not allowed.
12. Horses shall enter at a trot in a counterclockwise direction. Horses shall be shown at the walk, trot, and canter both ways of the arena. Horses will then follow the direction of the ringmaster to line up, in preparation for work over fences. Horses may be required to back while in the lineup.
13. Horses shall be required to jump two fences, the first fence to be a minimum of 18" and a maximum of 2'3" and the second fence to be a minimum of 2' and a maximum of 2'6". Fences should be set at customary distances apart, using increments of 12'. Ground lines at the take-off side of the jumps are required. Horses to perform a hand gallop one way of the ring after the second fence, halt and stand quietly on a loose rein. The pattern or course for the jumping section shall be determined by the competition management or the judge, and will be posted at least one hour prior to the class. Posting the course as early as possible is preferred. A warm-up jump must be provided.
14. The horse should move freely forward with even, ground covering strides. The horse should exhibit a comfortable, balanced, consistent way of going while maintaining a frame suitable for a hunter.
15. Excessive speed at any gait will be severely penalized.
16. Horses shall be judged 30% on the flat work on the rail, and 70% on the work over fences including the whole pattern/course. Any faults incurred during the work over fences shall be scored as in a Working Hunter Class.

## **Western Pleasure**

1. All horses and exhibitors must adhere to the General Rules.
2. Exhibitors shall enter the ring at the jog trot. Horses are to be shown at a walk, jog and lope both ways of the ring.
3. At the judge's discretion, horses may be asked to extend any gait except in Youth Exhibitor classes.
4. Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away From the rail) and will not be asked to reverse at the lope.
5. In the lineup, horses must stand quietly and may be asked to back individually or as a group.
6. Light hand contact with the horse's mouth must be maintained at all gaits without undue restraint.
7. When showing with a western type curb bit only one hand may be used around the reins, and hands must not be changed. Two hands may be used when a horse is being shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore.
8. A natural head position is desired. A vertical head carriage not to be penalized.
9. Unnaturally low head position (poll below the withers) will be penalized.
10. Western style saddles, including side saddles, with either square or round skirt with appropriate western saddle pad. Western style bridle with split reins, bits may be smooth snaffles or western curb. If a curb bit is used, a flat curb chain/strap must also be used. Hackamores with a

round, flexible bosal may also be used. Mechanical hackamores are not allowed. Breast collars are optional.

11. Stallions must be shown in a bitted bridle.
12. All tack should be clean, properly fitted and in good repair. Either leather or synthetic is permissible.
13. Bits: A standard Western bit is one that has a shank with a maximum overall length of 8 ½ 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. Jointed mouthpieces are permitted. Flat leather chinstrap, other than the buckle(s), which must be at least 1/2 inch in width. Any device made of wire, metal or rawhide used in conjunction with or as part of leather chinstrap is prohibited. Curb chains are also allowed and must be at least 1/2 inch in width and lie flat against the jaw. Hackamore or snaffle bits (smooth mouth) will also be permitted. Mechanical Hackamores are prohibited. Horses are permitted to show in all Western classes with a snaffle bit or hackamore and riders using snaffles or hackamores 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. All Stallions must be shown in a bitted bridle.
14. Split reins or closed reins with romal are equally acceptable. When split reins are used and the ends fall on the side of the reining hand, one finger between the reins is permitted. If the split reins fall on the opposite side of the reining hand, no finger is allowed in between the reins, and the ends must be held at least 16 inches from the reining hand. When closed reins with romal are used, the end may be held by the rider provided it is held at least 16 inches From the reining hand. When a hackamore is used, attached reins may be of hair, rope or leather.
15. Martingales or tie downs are prohibited.
16. Whips are not allowed other than with a sidesaddle.
17. Spurs are optional.
18. Rider's attire must include a long sleeved shirt with collar, jeans or long pants, boots and hat. Optional attire to include tie, scarf, belt, gloves, vest, jacket, chaps and spurs.
19. Horses should display a pleasant and natural way of going with an emphasis placed on a pleasurable ride and purity of gaits.
20. Excessive speed or slowness to be severely penalized.
21. Excessively low or unnatural headset to be severely penalized.
22. All western pleasure classes will be judged on performance, manners, and quality.

### **Freestyle Riding**

1. All horses must adhere to the General Rules.
2. In freestyle riding, the horse and rider enter the arena alone.
3. They have 3-4 minutes to perform any gaits and movements they choose to do.
4. Judging will be based on creativity of the freestyle, willingness and obedience of the horse, movement overall impression, and entertainment value.
5. Music is provided by the exhibitor
6. A routine may involve multiple horses, riders, and other people or props, the exhibitor with the number is the one being judged.

### **Obstacle Class**

1. All horses must adhere to the General Rules.
2. Horses are required to work over and through obstacles on a reasonably light contact without undue restraint or force.

3. No horse may enter the course area until the course and the judge are ready. Riders will be permitted to inspect the course on foot during the judge's instructions prior to the start of the class.
4. Obstacles which may be encountered include, but are not limited to, negotiating a gate, carrying objects from one part of arena to another, going through water, over logs or simulated brush, walking down into and up out of ditch without lunging or jumping, crossing a bridge, backing through obstacles, side passing, mounting and dismounting from either side and performing over any reasonable conditions encountered along the trail. However, unnatural obstacles, such as fire extinguishers, perforated plywood in water boxes, live animals or unsafe elements such as hay bales, should be avoided.
5. Course to include a minimum of six obstacles and a maximum of eight obstacles except in the case of damaged obstacles .
6. Care in preparing the course should be exercised to prevent a direct advantage to either a small or large horse.
7. The judge has the right to alter the course, before the first horse begins.
8. Rail work shall not be required.
9. Two or more horses may be entered by the same exhibitor, and the same rider may elect to show more than one horse.
10. Unsafe obstacles: If at any time an obstacle is found to be unsafe, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all horses' scores. No horse shall be asked to repeat the course, except in the case of a tie.
11. All Classes are to be shown over and through obstacles at a walk, trot or canter with light contact to the mouth being maintained without undue restraint. (Obstacle In-Hand shall be shown at walk and trot only).
12. After enough horses have completed the course for the ribbons awarded, any horse with a major fault may be eliminated at the judge's discretion, without completing the course.
13. Obvious unsoundness must be disqualified with no prize awarded.
14. During in hand obstacles the handler should attempt to move the horse through the course with a minimal amount of touching, or use of the whip for guidance. One that completes the obstacles with less physical manipulation should be rewarded, over one that uses more physical force or use of the whip.
15. Horses may be shown in any discipline and appointments should reflect the chosen discipline. Whips are not allowed in the ridden trail or obstacle classes, however, handlers in an in-hand obstacle course may carry one whip, not to exceed 4', including the lash. Rope halters not allowed for in hand obstacles.
16. Entry will be evaluated on responsiveness, willingness and general attitude. To be judged on performance, obedience, willingness and manners. Horses to be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching obstacle. Judges are encouraged to ask any horse that is taking an excessive amount of time at an obstacle to advance on to the next obstacle.
17. Horse shall be eliminated if Off Course. Off Course is defined as:
  1. Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.
  2. Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side.
  3. Skipping an obstacle unless directed by the judge.
  4. Negotiating the obstacles in the wrong sequence.
  5. Not following the correct line of travel.

## **Equitation**

### **General**

1. The rider's position, seat, hands and the correct use of the aids are to be judged.
2. A lack of required tack, equipment or appointments shall result in immediate disqualification.

### **English Seat Equitation**

1. Position and appointments as appropriate to Hunter Seat.
2. English Equitation classes are to be shown on the flat at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the arena.
3. At the judge's discretion, individual work may be required. Instructions must be announced to all exhibitors. If a pattern is used, it must be posted at least 1 hour before the class. A pattern is defined as two or more tests to be ridden concurrently. Tests from which a judge may choose:
  - a. Work collectively at walk, trot, and canter.
  - b. Sitting or rising trot.
  - c. Halt (4-6 seconds) and/or back.
  - d. Execute a figure eight at a trot, showing a change of diagonals.
  - e. Execute a figure eight at a canter, showing a simple change of lead. This is a change whereby the horse is brought back into a walk or trot and restarted into a canter on the opposite lead. Figures to be commenced in center of two circles so that one change of lead is shown.
  - f. Ride without stirrups, riders must be allowed option to cross stirrups.
  - g. Turn on the forehand from the walk.
  - h. Turn on the haunches from the walk.
  - i. Execute a serpentine at a trot demonstrating changes of diagonals and/or canter on correct lead demonstrating simple changes of lead.

### **Western Seat Equitation**

1. Position and appointments as appropriate to Western Seat.
2. Riders showing with a snaffle bit may use 2 hands on the reins.
3. Exhibitors shall enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction at the jog trot. Horses shall be worked at the walk, jog trot and lope both ways of the ring.
4. At the judge's discretion, individual work may be required. Instructions must be announced to all exhibitors. If a pattern is used, it must be posted at least 1 hour before the class. A pattern is defined as two or more tests to be ridden concurrently. Tests From which a judge may choose:
  - a. Back
  - b. Figure eight at the jog trot.
  - c. Figure eight at the lope, with a simple change of lead. This is a change whereby the horse is brought back into a walk or jog trot and restarted into a lope on the opposite lead. Figures to be commenced in center of two circles so that one change of lead is shown.
  - d. Jog trot and stop, either on or off the rail.
  - e. Lope and stop, either on or off the rail, the judge must specify which lead to start on.
  - f. Change leads down center of ring, demonstrating simple change of lead.
  - g. Ride a serpentine, demonstrating a simple change of leads at a lope.
  - h. Execute a 360 degree turn on the haunches.

### **Walk-Trot Equitation**

1. Open to exhibitors who have never shown in an Equitation class that required a lope or canter at any recognized show. Exhibitor may not show in any other class that requires a lope or canter at the same show.
2. Exhibitors may show in any style seat, (English Seat, and Western Seat) however, the attire, equipment, and appointments must match the chosen seat.

3. The exhibitor will be judged on his or her basic position in the saddle. Exhibitor will also be judged on his or her ability to govern, control and properly exhibit the horse.
4. Exhibitors will enter the arena in a counterclockwise direction at the walk. Exhibitors will work at a walk and trot or jog trot both directions of the ring.

### **Lead line Equitation — 9 and under.**

1. Exhibitors may not enter any other riding class at the same show.
2. Exhibitors may use any style of tack and appointments; however, the rider's attire and the mount's tack should be of the same type.
3. Exhibitor should have control of the reins, but a handler must have a lead shank or lead rein connected to the horse at the bit. The handler may just walk along holding the lead shank, and allow the exhibitor to control the direction of the horse. If needed, the handler should take control of the horse to prevent an accident or loss of control by the exhibitor. Exhibitor must be able to properly have their feet in the stirrups.
4. Exhibitors will enter the arena at the walk, with their handler properly holding an attached lead shank or lead rein. Exhibitors will walk both directions of the arena, and lineup as directed by the judge or ringmaster. Horses should stand quietly in the lineup. At any time during the class, unruly or disruptive horses may be excused from the class at the judge's discretion.
5. To be judged on Exhibitor's position and appointments.
6. No stallions allowed in leadline.

### **Costume**

Exhibitor is to give free expression to the imagination and creativity of the presentation. Classes are to be judged on creativity, originality, dramatic and or humorous value, authenticity to period, suitability of costume to horse and handler and manners.

1. All horses must adhere to the General Rules.
2. Exhibitors shall enter in the ring at a walk in a counterclockwise direction.
3. Exhibitors may be asked to halt & stand quietly.
4. Light hand contact must be maintained.
5. Line up position is at the discretion of the Judge.
6. Exhibitors may show individually or as pairs.
7. Ridden horses may have an assistant handler leading them if that attendant is also in costume.
8. It will be at the Judges discretion to decide if a costume is unsafe or creates an unsafe atmosphere in which case it will be cause for elimination.
9. Costumes should be made of durable material and securely attached, such that no part of costume falls off during the class.
10. Appointments, exhibitor safety should be a primary consideration.
11. Shows may split the costume class into divisions with one being a ridden/driven division and one being an in-hand division. In the case of a ridden or driven division, entries will be asked to demonstrate a walk and trot both ways of the ring. They will not be asked to back.
12. Must be shown with an "approved" bit. Prohibited Bits: Twisted, burr, wire gag bits of any type are not permitted. Curb chains are also allowed and must be at least 1/2 inch in width and lie flat against the jaw. Mechanical Hackamores are prohibited. Ornamental bridles are permitted. Running martingales are permitted. Military martingales are permitted on military presentations only. Standing martingales or tie downs are prohibited.
13. All Saddles, Sidesaddles, and girths are permissible, as well as "period" or "fantasy" saddles that are deemed safe.

14. Swords and daggers are permitted provided they have a sheath with a secondary guard and remain sheathed at all times. Any other weaponry such as an ax or mace, must be sheathed to prevent injury to exhibitors.
15. Drawing or brandishing swords, daggers, or any other weaponry on show grounds is not permitted.
16. Lances may not exceed 6 feet in length and must have a blunted point and be carried in the upright position only.
17. Weaponry appointments that can not be secured by sheath and a secondary guard are to be inspected during the warm up by a technical official prior to class commencement.
18. Articles that are perceived to be important to the overall presentation, which are not permitted due to safety issues, may be substituted with “stunt props” made of rubber or other non-metal materials.
19. Youth may not show in classes with any authentic weaponry, only with “stunt props” made of rubber or other non-metal materials.
20. Youth may not ride or handle a stallion.
21. Entries are to be shown at the walk both ways of the ring.
22. A ridden/driven division will be shown at a walk and trot in both directions. All gaits should be natural and in conformance with the costume.
23. Horses may not be asked to back.
24. Horses must be under control of the rider (or handler) at all times. Manners are paramount. Excessive speed or unsafe conduct to be severely penalized or disqualified.

## **Driving**

- 1) Driving Classes:
  - a. Leather or synthetic harness are equally acceptable.
  - b. The American Driving Society rules are used with permission of the ADS and can be found online at [www.americandrivingsociety.org](http://www.americandrivingsociety.org)
- 2) Traditional Gypsy Vehicle Driving class
  - a. Traditional Gypsy Vehicles may be used only in their own class.
  - b. Appropriate costumes acceptable but not required.
  - c. Any traditional 2 or 4 wheel wagon or cart vehicle can be used.
  - d. To be shown at a walk and slow trot only. Backing is optional.
  - e. To be judged 70% on the condition, fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle, neatness and appropriateness of attire, and overall impression. The remaining 30% is judged on performance, manners and way of going.

## **VI. Disqualification**

Following are reasons for disqualification.

- Any horse demonstrating aggressive behavior.
- Lameness, unsound, obviously unhealthy or unthrifty animals.
- The addition of supplemental hair in the mane, forelock, tail or feather.
- The use or application of, to, or into any horse (other than legal levels of allowed medications) any foreign or caustic substance, such as ginger, mustard, pepper, abrasives, etc. which would alter or influence a horse's movement or behavior.
- Improper shoeing can be penalized or result in disqualification at the judges discretion.
- Excessive use of a whip or other actions by the handler which may disturb other entries shall be penalized or disqualified at the judges discretion.

- Excessive use of spurs or use of spurs in front of the girth by the rider is prohibited and shall be penalized or disqualified at discretion of the judge.
- Use of device or aids that alter the natural movement of the horse.
- Inappropriate or unsafe attire.
- Lack of required tack, equipment or appointments.
- Off course in an obstacle/trail class.

## **VII Officials**

### A. Show Manager

1. Any reputable person can act in the capacity of the show manager
2. Manager shall have the authority to enforce all rules of the show.
3. Show manager will handle all communication with the judge

### B. Steward

1. The show manager must provide a competent ring steward to manage the arena and assist the judge.
2. Any reputable person may act as a ring steward.
3. They shall refrain from discussing the horses or exhibitors with the judge.
4. The show manager can also act as Ring Steward when necessary.

### C. All Officials

1. Show managers and stewards of the show and their immediate families shall not show or have horses shown that are leased to or registered in any of the above persons names.

### D. Regulations governing judges

1. Any judge hired to judge a show is required to be familiar with these show rules and comply with them.
2. Judges shall appear for their assignment professionally and suitably attired and also with the weather in mind if at an outdoor show.
3. A judge is expected to act in a professional manner at all times.
4. A judge shall not appear on the show grounds prior to 30 minutes before judging a class (unless he/she is judging another show, for instance at a fair). The judge shall not visit the stall area, nor speak with the owners, trainers, exhibitors, or owners representatives, or inspect or discuss any horse entered in the show before the judging, nor shall he/she review the program until the judging has been completed.
5. A judge may not exhibit, or own, or have trained a horse at any competition in which he or she is judging.
6. The office will supply every show with official judging cards. These will have all class descriptions for the appropriate class printed on the official card, when possible.
7. The judge will be provided with the breed standard and the show rules at least one month prior to the show.