

7. Miscellaneous Classes

Regional 4-H Horse Shows vary throughout the province. The following classes may or may not be offered to members:

7.1 Showmanship At Halter

- Showmanship class will be judged strictly on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse at halter. The horse is used solely to demonstrate the ability and preparation of the exhibitor.
- The ideal showmanship performance consists of a poised, confident, neatly dressed exhibitor leading a well-groomed and conditioned horse that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern. Showmanship is not a halter (conformation) class and should not be judged as so.
- Patterns will be posted if the judge requires a pattern.

7.1.1 Class Procedures

- All exhibitors should enter the ring leading their horse, which should be alert and walk in a counter clockwise direction unless otherwise directed by the Ringmaster or the Judge.
- Exhibitors may be asked to complete a pattern which may include the following: leading the horse at a walk, jog/trot or extended trot; or back in a straight or curved line or combination of straight and curved lines; stop; and turn 90° (1/4), 180° (1/2), 270° (3/4), 360° (Full turn) or any combination there of. The judge must have the exhibitor set up squarely for inspection at some point during the class.
- The exhibitor should be poised, confident, and courteous at all times. As well, he/she should quickly recognize and correct faults in the position of the horse without touching the animal. The exhibitor should continue to show the horse throughout the entire class. The horse should lead willingly, be responsive to the exhibitor's cues, and not drag behind the exhibitor.
- The exhibitor must lead on the horse's left side holding the lead shank in the right hand 15 – 30 cm. (6" - 12) from the halter. The remaining portion of the lead should be carried neatly and safely in the left hand. A tightly coiled or rolled lead shank will be considered a fault. Loosely coiled or in a figure eight is recommended. When leading, the exhibitor should be positioned with his/her shoulder in line with the horse's throat latch, which is halfway between the eye and mid-point of the horse's neck, referred to as the leading position.
- The position of the exhibitor when executing a turn to the right is the same as the leading position except that the exhibitor should turn and face the horse's head and have the horse move away from him/her, pivoting around the right hind foot and crossing over in the front.
- When backing, the exhibitor should turn from the leading position to face the rear of the horse with the right hand extended across the exhibitor's chest and walk forward beside the horse, with the horse moving backwards.
- When setting the horse up for inspection, stand angled toward the horse in a position between the eye and the muzzle, and never leave the head of the horse. Never obstruct the judge's view by getting in between the horse and the judge. The quarter method is recommended. This means that as the judge moves around the horse to inspect it, the exhibitor should always be one quarter away from the judge. When moving to change sides in front of the horse, move smoothly with the minimal steps possible (3 – 4) and assume the same position on the right side as the left. Pose the horse with feet squarely under it and do not crowd the exhibitor in front, behind or beside you when walking or lining up.
- If a member is unsure of the pattern (if any), the member should ask at the beginning of the class. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to know and learn the pattern.

7.1.2 Attire For Showmanship

The appearance of the exhibitor must be neat and clean. The attire should be appropriate for the discipline in which the horse is being shown (English, Western, or Saddleseat). Boots, long-sleeved shirt, blouse or jacket, tie or scarf, hat or English helmet and belt are mandatory. Long hair must be contained. Gloves are optional. No chaps or spurs.

7.1.3 Grooming and Equipment For Showmanship

- Hair coat must be clean and well brushed. Mane and tail should be clean and free of tangles. The mane may be roached but a forelock and tuft over the withers must be left.
- If a horse kicks, a red ribbon must be placed in its tail.
- Inside the ear may be clipped or the longer hair protruding from the ear slightly trimmed. Long hair on jaws, legs and muzzle and pasterns should be trimmed.
- Bridlepath must be trimmed to breed standard.
- Hooves should be trimmed and clean. If shod, shoes must fit properly and clinches should be neat. Dressings or polish may be used.
- Horse shall be shown with a well fitting, clean halter and lead, which is safe and practical. It must be a web or leather halter. Rope or cotton blend halters are not appropriate for showmanship.
- A shank with a chain may be used by handlers who have had proper instruction. The chain length should be a maximum of 18 inches, so that when it is doubled it has a maximum length of 9 inches. Leads must be folded or coiled in the left hand, and the right hand must hold the lead just beyond the chain or snap, never the chain itself. The lead may be attached in one of the following ways:
 - At the right throatlatch ring, run down the side of the halter through the ring on the right side of the muzzle, then under the jaw to exit the ring at the muzzle on the left side
 - At the right throatlatch ring, run down the side of the halter through the ring on the right side of the muzzle, then across the bridge of the nose with a wrap over the noseband and exit through the ring at the muzzle on the left side
 - Through the ring under the jaw of the horse.
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- It is appropriate to use a bridle when showing a horse English or Saddleseat. If you are showing using a bridle, you should show in English attire and vice versa.

7.1.4 Faults

- Poorly groomed horse
- Untidy manner of dress for exhibitor
- Ill fitting halter
- Holding the chain portion of the halter
- Horse improperly leading, backing, stopping or standing crooked
- Horse stepping behind right front leg with the left when turning to the right
- Leading on the right side of the horse
- Not tracking straight to judge
- Blocking the judge's view of the horse (being in the incorrect quarter)
- Not correcting the mistakes made by the horse (resting foot, falling asleep)
- Talking to other exhibitors
- Placing horse's feet and legs using hand or kicking it
- Not stopping horse before turning
- Verbal cues to the horse
- Turning the horse in the wrong direction
- The judge having to move to avoid the horse
- Omission or addition of maneuvers
- Knocking over a cone
- Working the wrong side of the cone
- Severe disobedience of the horse i.e. rearing horse or horse circling the exhibitor.

7.2 English/Western Versatility Class

- Horse and rider judged on suitability of gaits and performance in both disciplines.
- Rider and horse perform first half of class under English attire and tack, as in English Pleasure.

- Part way through the class, judge will call for grooms to enter arena. At this time, the rider's groom will enter the arena, bringing his or her Western tack and Western clothing. Groom and dismounted rider will change tack on horse to Western, and rider will make appropriate clothing changes to Western tack and attire. Check your regional rules to see what is acceptable Western attire for this class.
- Groom to assist rider to remount if necessary and then leave the arena with English clothing and tack. Class will resume with rail work as in Western Pleasure.
- Order of showing may be reversed at the discretion of the show committee and/or judge. (eg. Riders first show in Western, then change to English).

7.3 Junior Horse

- The age of a horse shall be determined as being January 1 in the year in which it was foaled. A Junior Horse must be five (5) years of age or under on January 1st of the current year.
- A Junior Horse may be shown in either a snaffle bit or bosal with two hands, or a shanked bit with one hand. An acceptable bit is defined as any humane western bit having a smooth egg shaped, round or oval mouthpiece being a minimum of 5/16" in diameter, measured 1" in from the cheek. An acceptable snaffle bit will be the same, but without shanks. Twisted wire, wire wrapped or chain mouthpieces, gag bits, donuts and prong bits are not acceptable. Mechanical hackamores are not acceptable and bosals with metal in the noseband are not permitted. No side pulls. Chin straps are required with a snaffle bit and must be mounted below the reins.

7.4 Obstacle Course (Miniature Horses)

- Suggested obstacles include the following: back through or out of obstacle, slicker, walk through narrow passage, pick up a letter or obstacle, bridge, walk over poles, logs etc, walk through pattern created using markers or pylons, side pass and walk under obstacle. Jumps cannot exceed 12" in height.
- Obstacle course will contain 6 items.
- Pattern to be posted or distributed.
- Obstacle course to be judged as per trail class.

7.5 Lunge Line

- Classes will be judged on movement, manners, conformation, way of going, disposition, transitions, and handler's ability.
- The horse is to be shown both ways of the arena on a lunge line at a walk, trot and lope. This may differ for different ages of horses. There is usually no designation on which way of the ring is to be traveled first. However, within the restricted time frame, all of the gaits must be shown both ways of the ring. The method used to change direction is optional.
- There is usually a maximum of three minutes per contestant. Contestants will be notified at the half time mark.
- Horses are to be exhibited in a well fitting halter on a lunge line with a maximum length of 30 ft.
- Unsafe use of the lunge line may result in dismissal from the class.
- The lunge line must travel freely from the horse to the handler without touching any other part of the horse.
- Optional equipment: lunge whip, gloves and protective splint boots. No other equipment is acceptable.

7.6 In Hand Trail

- Minimum of four obstacles which may include:
 - bridge
 - trot or walk-overs
 - gate
 - carrying an object
 - back-up

- turning in a box
- Scoring criteria will be the same as for a mounted trail class.
- Horses should be groomed and members should dress as they would for a showmanship class.

7.7 Driving

- Classes may be split by the judge or organizing committee. Classes may be separated by single or multiple horse entries, separation of horses from ponies, or separation of 2 from 4 wheeled vehicles.
- It is the responsibility of the driver to see that he/she and all attendants and passengers are dressed appropriately for the class and that the horses are properly presented.
- Excessive use of the driver's voice, shouting or whistling at the horse may be penalized at the judge's discretion.
- The driver must be prepared to enter the ring when his/her class is called.
- In the case of equipment failure and/or accident, which necessitates repair or readjustment, all grooms or passengers carried must dismount the vehicle. They should not remount until the problem has been corrected.
- An appropriate whip shall be carried in hand at all times while the carriage is in motion.
- After judging begins, no attendant may enter the arena without the permission of the judge except in the case of an accident. Leading a turnout into the ring is considered outside assistance and is not permitted.

7.7.1 Description of Gaits

- **Walk:** A free regular walk of moderate extension. The horse should walk energetically, but calmly, with an even and determined pace.
- **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 a Dressage collected trot.
- **Working trot:** The horse should go forward freely and straight, engaging the hind legs with good hock action on a taut but light rein. The steps should be as even as possible. The degree of energy and impulsion shown at the working trot clearly indicates the degree of suppleness and balance of the horse.
- **Strong trot:** There should be a clear, but not excessive, increase in pace and lengthening of stride while remaining well balanced and showing correct lateral flexion on turns. Light contact should be maintained. Excessive speed will be penalized.
- **Halt:** Horse and vehicle should be brought to a complete square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt the horse should stand attentive and quietly, squarely on all 4 feet, ready to move off at the slightest request from the driver.
- **Rein back:** A movement in which the horse steps backward with his legs moving in diagonal pairs. The horse should move the carriage back straight and evenly at least 4 steps. The driver should use quiet aids and light contact. They should move back to their former position with the same quiet aids.

7.8 Judging

Halter Classes

Members evaluate a class of four horses, chosen by the organizing committee. Horses should be chosen based on similar breed, age, sex, etc if possible. Once members have chosen their placings for the class, they will fill out a "Written Reasons Card".

The following time schedule is suggested for evaluating a class of four horses:

Time (minutes)	
Side view	3.0
Front view	1.5
Rear view	1.5
Close inspection 2 min./group	4.0
Move class providing a front, rear and side view	4.0
Side view	3.0
Writing reason	3.0
TOTAL	20.0 minutes

To provide both a rear and front view of each horse at a walk and trot, and a side view of each horse at a trot, the following methods are suggested:

Large Arena



Divide the judging contestants into four equal groups. One at a time have each horse walk around the box, then trot around the box. This will allow each contestant the views discussed above.

Placings will be worth a maximum of 50 points and reasons will be worth a maximum of 50 points.

Guideline for Marking Written Reasons

Presentation (15 Points)

- logical, easy to follow
- comparative throughout - uses descriptive comparative terms ("more"; words ending in "er"); introduction and conclusion are complete
- class is identified completely and correctly
- proper expressions are used - grant, advantage, etc
- this is not a spelling test (just as long as you can tell what the member is trying to say)

Content (35 Points)

Reward points for:

- accurate information
- thorough - covers all the points the judge mentions
- "seeing" the animals in the class (forming a mental image)
- using the appropriate animal terms
- using the correct terms for body parts
- specificity

Deduct points for:

- inaccurate information
- "canned" reasons
- incorrect use of terms

7.9 Command Class

- This is an elimination class. The last horse to be eliminated is the winner. Elimination is a result of the horse refusing to do the commands in a timely manner.
- There will be a minimum of four (4) "spotters" in the ring to a maximum of six (6) including the judge to be determined by show committee depending on arena size. The judge will record the numbers as the riders are called off the rail into the centre of the ring. The judge's decision is final in the event of a dispute.
- The reverse command means stop after the reverse unless the judge says "reverse and walk/trot/lope on"
- The commands should suit the level of the class. The finesse of the commands will be judged harder at higher levels. For example: At Level 6 you must stop from a lope with no transitions to a trot or walk. Backups must be straight and fluid. Elimination includes: the horse moving after the stop command, walking on after the reverse when not called for, wrong leads in Level 4 and over and Level 3 as a final elimination if necessary, wrong number of steps in a backup, changing gaits when uncalled for, or inability of the horse to follow any command.

7.10 Delsey Derby

- This is an elimination class. Elimination happens only when partners drop or break the toilet paper at any time after the start of the class.
- Regional rules may specify that Delsey Derby is limited to specific rider levels. Regional rules also may specify that partners must make every effort to be from 2 different clubs. If after all partners are matched and two members from the same club are left over, they may become partners.
- Every effort must be made to follow the commands but continued refusal to follow a command will also result in elimination. For example, consistently trotting when a lope is asked for.
- Riders' hands may not touch and the toilet paper may not be twisted.

7.11 Matched Pairs

- This is a pleasure class. In some regions, members must be Level 3 or higher to enter.
- Regional rules may specify that members should make every effort to find a matching horse and partner from another club. You may still enter with another member even if your horses do not match in colour.
- The class will be judged on the ability of the horses to carry out the commands together. The matching horse colour, tack and attire are secondary considerations.

7.12 Costume Class

- The class will be judged on the ability of the members to create costumes that are interesting, entertaining, and creative for their horses and themselves.
- Safety is the primary consideration.

7.13 Drill Team Competition

- Order of drill performance, time limit and minimum number of riders is determined by the organizing committee or regional rules.
- For a judged event, teams will be judged on the following two categories:
 - Equitation: This judges spacing of the horses, correctness of transitions and gaits, attitude and behavior of the horses, riders' position (seat, hands and control), speed and difficulty of the moves. Precision, clean uniformity, roundness of circles (etc.) and spacing is important.
 - Entertainment: Includes such things as costumes and grooming, overall uniformity and look of the team, choice of music, flow of the moves and choreography, difficulty (or appearance of difficulty) of the drill, theme, uniqueness, smiles, playing-to-the-audience, and overall entertainment value.
- Equitation will carry more weight for scoring purposes.
- Drill teams may be made up of riders of any level but the drill routine must be ridden at the gait of the lowest level rider on the team. Regional rules may stipulate that if a club chooses to have two teams of different riding levels riding at the same time this rule will apply for the appropriate group. Safety is the primary consideration.