

NOVICE WESTERN PLEASURE INFO

A Western Pleasure horse should be what the name says, mainly a pleasure to ride. Your horse should exhibit a free flowing stride with self-carriage, smooth gaits and transitions.

A pleasure horse should be a happy horse and a natural horse. Emphasis in the show pen will be placed on good movers, manners, and attitude, as reflected in the horse's ears, mouth, tail and way of going. Your horse might be a good mover but if you enter the show pen and his/her ears are pinned back in anger or distress and or the tail is swishing with displeasure these traits could be counted against you.

(a) The purpose of novice western pleasure is to allow a horse to compete on **an entry-level field with horses of the same level of experience**. The novice western pleasure is a stepping-stone to the more advanced level of competition. This class will be judged according to the purpose of its intent.

(b) Horses regardless of their age, may be ridden with one hand and a standard western bit (shank) or with two hands and a snaffle bit or bosal. **Use of a shank ridden with 2 hands is not allowed, and riders will be disqualified for it..**

If riding with two hands and using split reins, reins must be crossed with the tails of the reins on the opposite side of the neck. **In case of one hand riding, the reins must be in the same hand during the whole presentation, one finger in between the reins is allowed**
The rider's hands should be carried near the pommel and not further than four inches (10 cm) out on either side of the saddle horn. Rider's hands must be steady with very limited movement.

(c) The good western pleasure horse has a comfortable free flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with the individual's conformation. It should cover a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. Ideally, the horse should have a balanced , flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence that requires no more than light contact by the rider. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gaits is a major consideration.

The head and neck serve as a balance arm and are carried in a relaxed, natural position appropriate for each individual's own conformation. He should carry his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position. He should not carry his head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. His head should be level with his nose slightly in front of the vertical, having a bright expression with his ears alert. He should be shown on a reasonably loose rein, but with light contact and control. He should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions when called for.

When asked to extend, he should move out with the same flowing motion. Maximum credit should be given to the flowing, balanced and willing horse that gives the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride.

Maximum credit should be given to the responsive, confident, willingly guided horse that performs all the required gaits correctly with strength and finesse. The horse should be balanced in all aspects; conformation, gait and disposition. Such a horse is an athlete that goes softly and gives the appearance of being fit and capable of the tasks.

Ultimately, the horse is very eye appealing and gives the impression of being a pleasure to ride. Light contact should be measured by a horse's response to the rider's hands, seat and legs and not merely by the tension in the reins. However, and excessively draped rein is just as undesirable as extremely tight rein. Subtle cues are desirable, while an absence of cues is not. The individual that willingly and

quietly responds to subtle cues by the rider is performing with light contact.

Extra explanation

- 1.Walk, a four-beat gait: True, flat footed and ground covering.
2. Jog-Trot, a two-beat gait: Free, square, slow and easy.
3. Lope, a true three-beat gait: Smooth, slow, easy and straight on both leads.

To be judged on manners, performance, suitability of horse to rider, substance, quality and conformation.

Western pleasure is a group event, horses will be judged as a group and are NOT presented individually

The rider will use appropriate tack, western style equipment and clothing.

A safety helmet or Western hat with protection helmet inside are recommended !!!

The use of a Bodyprotector is allowed !

WESTERN PLEASURE CLASS PROTOCOL

General.

1. Competitors enter the ring in group in a counter clockwise direction at the jog-trot.
2. Light contact with horse's mouth must be maintained at all gaits.
3. Judges must consider all gaits equally in adjudicating this class.
4. If bridles are to be checked, it is the sole decision of the judge to do so. The judge may designate the steward to check bridles at the out gate. Riders must dismount.
5. Horses are NOT to be presented individually !

Judging and Rules

(a) This class will be judged on the performance, condition and conformation of the horse, **and judging will start place as soon as the horse enters the ring, and stop when the horse has left the ring .**

(b) Horses **come in counter clockwise in walk** and must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads. The ring steward will communicate all changes of gates and directions. At the option of the judge, horses may be asked to extend the walk, one or both ways of the ring. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly. Passing is permissible and should not be penalized as long as the horse maintains a proper and even cadence and rhythm.

(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 work of the same nature from any horse. He/she is not to ask for work other than that listed above.

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

(f) Horses 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)
- (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) Touching horse or saddle with free hand if ridden in one hand
- (7) Head carried too high (according to natural build of the horse)
- (8) Head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers)
- (9) Overflexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical
- (10) Excessive nosing out
- (11) Opening mouth excessively
- (12) Stumbling

- (13) Use of spurs forward of the cinch, and excessive use of spurs
- (14) If a horse appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired
- (15) Quick, choppy or pony-strided
- (16) If reins are draped to the point that light contact is not maintained.
- (17) Overly canted at the lope. (when the outside hind foot is further to the inside of the arena than the inside front foot)

(h) Faults that will be cause for disqualification, scored according to severity:

- (1) Head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers consistently)
- (2) Severe overflexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical consistently.
- (3) excessive behaviour resulting in unruly horses and any behaviour in violation with animal welfare
- (4) dangerous unruly or uncontrollable horses can be disqualified by the judges' decision.

Show Organisers, Judges and Riders

a) No judge is allowed to judge a class in which a horse is subject of a conflict of interest. Such judge has to stand down for the whole class.

b) The show organiser reserves the right to refuse any entry, but must give the reason for refusal.

c) Judges will not visit competitors premises or accept the hospitality of participants immediately before or during the event concerned.

d) Judges will not knowingly judge horses concerning which there may be an actual or apparent conflict of interest, nor will riders exhibit horses under judges where an actual or apparent conflict of interest may affect the judge's decision. Organisers will not accept entries which indicate any conflict of interest with an invited judge, unless an alternative judge and a reserve judge are available.

e) An actual or apparent conflict of interest is defined as judging a horse which

* has been bought or sold by the judge either as owner or agent,

* is owned in whole or part by the judge or by a member of the judge's family, or business partner in an Arab horse business venture,

* has been leased by the judge, at any time,

* has been bred by the judge or is the property of a breeding organisation in which the judge is an employee,

* has been regularly trained, examined or treated by the judge in a professional capacity.

f) A sport judge is authorised to withhold any award if in their opinion the competitor does not merit such an award.

g) Judges may exclude any horse that is lame or ill. Other rights of sport judges follow FN/FEI or Western Riding Rules.

h) The judges may refuse to judge a competitor who is not neatly dressed.