

# SHOW RULES



governing the  
AMERICAN HAFLINGER REGISTRY

## PURPOSE

*To provide written class standards, and give a written explanation as to the terms used in conjunction with the showing of Haflinger Horses at the American Haflinger Registry's National Show.*

***Hitch exhibitors please refer to the current set of rules provided by the Indiana State Fair.***

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## Contents

GENERAL INFORMATION .....	3
DEFINITIONS .....	3
CONDUCT OF SHOWS .....	5
ATTIRE.....	5
EXHIBITOR/COMPETITOR RESPONSIBILITIES .....	6
MULTI-DISCIPLINE CLASSES .....	6
HALTER (IN HAND) .....	6
TRAIL OR OBSTACLE .....	7
DRESSAGE .....	8
ENGLISH .....	11
HUNTER/JUMPER.....	11
WESTERN .....	12
PLEASURE DRIVING .....	14
FARM CLASSES .....	17

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## DEFINITIONS

1. **OWNER:** The individual, group or farm as it appears on the horses registration papers. The owner must be a current member in good standing with the AHR.
2. **EXHIBITOR/COMPETITOR:** The horse and rider/driver/handler entered in a particular class. The exhibitor/competitor may or may not be the owner of the horse.
3. **YOUTH COMPETITOR:** An individual, who has not reached their 19th birthday as of January 1 of the current competition year. Riders/Driver's age is determined as of January 1 of the current year. Therefore, those 19 on or before January 1 are adults. Youths may not show stallions. Youth must wear ASTM/SEI F 1163 approved helmets in all riding and Youths may show in open classes but may not show in a class designated for adults. Riders in YOUTH walk/trot/jog classes are walk/trot/jog riders for the duration of the show and may not show in canter classes.
4. **NOVICE HORSE:** Defined as a horse in its first year of showing.
5. **NOVICE RIDER/DRIVER:** Defined as a rider/driver in their first two years of showing.
6. **SHOW STAFF:** Includes, but is not limited to the following persons: Gate attendants, ring workers, and other persons engaged by the show officials to help with the physical conduct of the show.
7. **SHOW OFFICIALS:** Includes, but is not limited to the following persons: Show Manager, Show Committee, Judges, Stewards, Paddock Masters, Veterinarians, Course Designers, Timekeepers, Announcer, Secretary, and Award Presenter.
  - a. **SHOW MANAGER:** The individual acting in this capacity is designated by the Board of Directors. No member of the Show Manager's family can officiate as a paid judge in the show. The Show Manager shall:
    - i. Have authority to enforce all rules referring to the show and he/she may excuse any exhibitor from the show prior to or during the judging.
    - ii. Be present on the grounds for the duration of the show.
  - b. **SHOW SECRETARY:** This individual is directed to perform duties as assigned by the Show Manager or Show Committee Chairpersons. The regular duties consist of keeping records of all class entries, scratches, additions, and placings.
  - c. **ANNOUNCER:** This individual announces classes, placing, and makes announcements as directed by Show Officials. He/she works directly with the Show Manager, Show Committee, Show Secretary and Ring Steward.
  - d. **RING STEWARD:** This individual is responsible for the conduct of each class as it is performed in the ring. Duties include but are not limited to:
    - i. Communicating with the announcer to ensure that all eligible entries are assembled before the judging begins.
    - ii. Relieve the Judge of unnecessary details: assemble the class promptly, keep the judging program on schedule, eliminate long delays between classes and helps control the conduct of the horses and exhibitors in the ring. The Ring Master has the authority to excuse entries from any class if conditions warrant such action.
    - iii. Notify the Judge when all entries are present for each class.
    - iv. Assist the Judge, not advise him/her, and refrain from discussing, or seeming to discuss, the horses or exhibitors in the ring.
    - v. Have charge of activities of the ring or arena.
    - vi. Assure that all the Judge's directives are communicated and followed.
  - e. **PADDOCK MASTER:** The Paddock Master is a liaison between competitors and the Ring Steward, a supervisor of the schooling area, a source of information, and the overseer of the safety of the schooling area. By keeping in touch with the competition arena, the Paddock Master is in a position to control traffic and ensure that competitors get to the arena on time. Any changes in the schedule or holds on course can be reported to the competitors in the schooling area through the Paddock Master, as well as over the P.A. system.

- f. ***JUDGES and JUDGING:*** Judges are nominated from the National Show Committee. A contract will be drawn up and signed by both parties after a comprehensive appraisal of the Judge's areas of expertise. The Judge shall not be an exhibitor, driver, technical delegate or manager at any show at which they are officiating. The Judge shall not officiate at any show in which a member of his immediate family, clients, or trainers is competing. A Haflinger may not be shown in front of a judge that is owned by or sold by said judge within a period of ninety days prior to the event or currently leased from said judge. The judge must be clear and free from all Haflingers in the show, including boarding and training of the Haflinger, owner or exhibitor. The judge must maintain clean hands as to distance himself/herself from exhibitors.
- i. In any class, the Judge is the absolute authority. Once a class has been judged, it shall not be re-judged. Once the Judge has marked his/her card and places for awards are made, there shall be no changing of the Judge's record.
  - ii. The Judge may order any person or horse from the competition for poor conduct of either and may disqualify any competitor for excessive abuse of the horse. The Judge may at his/her discretion refuse entry into the arena or remove an entry from a class for improper attire and/or equipment or for improper actions, which may include being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
  - iii. During the class, excessive use of the voice, shouting, whipping or whistling to the horse may be penalized at the Judge's discretion. In any driving class, the driver should strive to control the horse's movement with discreet use of vocal aids.
  - iv. Any request to speak to a Judge during the show must be made through the Show Manager. When an exhibitor makes a request through a Show Manager for the Judge's opinion concerning that exhibitor's horse, it is urged that the Judge will give his/her opinion courteously and sincerely in the presence of the Manager. A good rule of thumb would be to always ask your question in a non-blaming, non-threatening way and then be silent and listen. If you feel the need to use words like "but", "if" and "how about", then you are crossing the line. Just listen and then thank the Judge for their time. A negative comment from your perception of the Judge's ability should only be stated on the evaluation questionnaire.
  - v. The Judge must always be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect. No person, exhibitor, owner, parent, show official or otherwise, shall direct abuse, threatening conduct or intimidation toward the Judge or show committee, whether or not the conduct occurs during the show or on the show grounds. At the discretion of the show officials, a violation of this rule may result in disciplinary action up to and including removal of the exhibitor or competitor from the competition, show grounds or future shows. If actions or threats are unlawful, the affected should contact the appropriate legal authorities.
  - vi. No exhibitor will visit or socialize with the Judge the day prior to or the day of the show. There will be no fraternization between an exhibitor and the Judge during the show.

## CONDUCT OF SHOWS

1. **ABUSE:** Cruelty to or the abuse of a horse by any person at a show is forbidden and renders the offender subject to penalty. The Show Committee must act on any report of cruelty or abuse and if determined to be valid, the violator may be barred from further participation in that show or future shows.
2. **SOUNDNESS:** The Judge shall watch for lameness in all horses brought into any class. Obvious lameness shall be cause for disqualification. Obvious lameness is:
  - a. Consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances.
  - b. Marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride.
  - c. Minimal weight-bearing in motion and/or at rest or an inability to move.
3. **SHOW SCHEDULE:** Classes will be called in the order they appear in the show program. If it becomes necessary to cancel or reschedule any class, the change must be announced at least thirty minutes prior to the affected class to allow adequate preparation time for the next scheduled class.
4. **DELAY OF CLASSES:** When the start of any class requiring horses to be shown individually or collectively is delayed by horses not ready to perform, the class may be closed at the order of the Judge or Ring Steward provided a warning is issued and the competitor(s) is(are) given one minute to appear at the in-gate ready to participate. The Ring Steward will give the warning to the announcer as to when the gates will be closed for the class. If a class is in progress and must be stopped due to an accident or other emergency, the Show Manager will decide whether to recommence the class. If it becomes necessary to interrupt a dressage competition for any reason, the unfinished portion may be rescheduled and resumed on the same day at the option of the Show Manager with the Judge's consent. All scores recorded before the interruption will stand.
5. **DIVISION OF LARGE CLASSES:** The Judge or management may split large classes if conditions warrant. The size of the ring and the number of entries will determine when a class should be split. In a small ring, classes may be split at a lower number. The Judge or management has the discretion as to how the division is to be made, keeping in mind the safety of competitors. Final placing can be determined by working off selected entries from each section.
6. **ENTRIES:** All Haflingers shown must be properly registered with AHR. Late entries are permitted with penalty at the discretion of the Show Secretary/Show Manager (see show Prize List for entry deadlines). **Payment is required at the time of entry.** Competitors exhibiting in a class in which they have not been officially entered will result in being charged double the entry rate, no exceptions.
7. **ENTRY NUMBERS:** All entries must have a number before entering any class. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to display the proper number for the correct entry in each class. It is not unusual for exhibitors to have more than one number for a show, due to the fact that they may have more than one entry in a class and each entry will have a separate number. An exhibitor displaying an incorrect number or failing to display any number at all will result in a disqualification from that class.
8. **CLASSES:** Prizes may be awarded up to 6 places in each class. The exhibitor must check in with the Ring Steward, positioned at the entry gate, before entering the ring. The exhibitor will at this time give the correct number to the Ring Steward and line up at the Ring Steward's instruction. There will be a one minute allowance from the time the class is called to enter the ring until the gate closes and at that time the announcer will announce "this is your class", and the class judged.

## ATTIRE

All Exhibitors/Competitors/Technical delegates and show officials in the show ring will wear clothing appropriate to the class or duties performed. Exhibitors/Competitors should see the rules in subsequent paragraphs for proper dress associated with their class. Show staff, as defined above, should keep in mind that they represent AHR and wear clothing appropriate to their duties and responsibilities. No blue jeans permitted in show ring during classes.

## EXHIBITOR/COMPETITOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Exhibitor is solely responsible for the completeness and correctness of all entry information as well as with the compliance of all rules of the show. It is the Exhibitor's/Competitor's responsibility to have the correct entry at the ring gate at the time the class is called and that the competitor, wearing the correct number for the entry & check in with the Ring Steward. The Exhibitor's responsibilities also include:

1. Responsibility for all attendants and passengers, as well as the appropriateness of dress, attire, conduct and completeness of turnout and its presentation.
2. Protecting horse's health, welfare and safety by following the current [USEF Drug and Medication rules and practices](#).
3. The exhibitor is responsible for posting emergency contact information detailing all phone numbers and room locations of persons to be contacted in case of an emergency. Emergency contact information should be provided on the entry form as well as posted on the stall.
4. ALL exhibitors and competitors must sign a Liability Disclaimer Form which is available either from the show committee or at the show office. No competitor will be allowed to enter the ring without a release being signed and on file in the show office. Parent or legal guardian must sign the form for competitors under age 18. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
5. There will be no tack changes.

## MULTI-DISCIPLINE CLASSES

### 1. WALK-TROT CLASSES:

- a. The intent of the walk trot class is to allow youth beginner riders the opportunity to show when they are not yet ready to canter in a show situation, and for Novice horses not yet ready to canter in a show situation. The rider will be asked to enter the ring, demonstrate a controlled walk, trot or jog both directions of the ring. The riders will be asked to back. Horses should stand quietly and back readily. The horse should be well mannered and balanced.
- b. Horses may be shown in appropriate English or Western tack; riders appropriately dressed as defined under the rules for English and Western pleasure.
- c. Riders entering walk/trot classes will be walk/trot ONLY on all horses for the duration of the show.

## HALTER (IN HAND)

## GENERAL RULES

1. On entering the ring, competitors are to line up in the location indicated by the Ring Steward and after being examined by the Judge are to be worked as the Judge requests, usually at a walk and trot.
2. Haflingers are not required to be shod. Weanlings and yearlings will not be shod.
3. Classes will be judged on conformation and way of going. Manners are judged at the Judge's discretion. In breeding classes, the horses may have their teeth checked along with other parts of the anatomy in regards to breeding. Checking of teeth for correct bite will not apply to geldings.
4. Group classes (Get of Sire, Produce of Dam, Breeders Class, and Best Three Haflingers) are judged on conformation and are not required to be shown moving. Each Haflinger in a group class should be shown without ribbons unless otherwise announced.
5. Champions are selected from the first or second place winner of each class under consideration. Horses may be worked again at the discretion of the judge. Horses should wear their ribbons from previous halter classes.
6. Haflingers may be shown in an appropriate show halter, or a bridle, if age two or older.

## SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES

1. To be judged on "turn out" of horse and handler and handler's ability to present his/her animals. If showing English, horse must be presented in an English bridle or plain leather halter, and handler must be completely dressed in English attire. If showing Western, horse must be presented in a Western style halter and handler must be completely dressed in Western attire. THIS IS NOT A CONFORMATION CLASS.
2. Handler must be able to walk, trot, turn or pivot, stop and back the horse as directed by the judge.

## TRAIL OR OBSTACLE

### 1. General Rules

- a. The purpose of the class is to ride the horse through different obstacles
- b. The class is judged on manners, way of going, performance, obedience, and willingness of the horse. Also the exhibitor will be judged on how smoothly and efficiently he/she handles the horse while completing each obstacle.
- c. Course patterns should be posted at least one hour before the class is held.
- d. The judge should walk the course after the obstacles are set up in order to ensure correctness of the pattern and ensure safety.
- e. The judge or show committee may allow the exhibitors to walk the course before the class is held. The horse is not allowed on the course during the exhibitor walk of the course.
- f. **JUDGING:** the scoring of the class is based on a point system for each obstacle. The judge will award credit to the handler/horse on how one performs at the obstacle. At the same time penalties will given for each obstacle. Exhibitors will be timed and have no more than 4 minutes to complete the prescribed pattern or will result in a disqualification.

### 2. Ridden Trail or Obstacles

- a. The class is open to exhibitors riding Western or English.
- b. Exhibitor attire and horses tack to be the same as required to enter a Horsemanship or Equitation type class.
- c. The class may be conducted with divisions of youth and adult.
- d. The class will consist of at least six obstacles. The obstacles should be set up to provide enough working space to work the obstacle or to conduct a gait (walk, trot, canter) between the obstacles.
- e. Obstacles simulate what may be encountered on a trail ride and can be but are not limited to: ride over at least four logs/poles (set up in a straight line, zigzag, arched, or raised with spacing of 20 to 24 inches for walk, 36 to 42 inches for trot, and 6 to 7 feet for canter), , back through (i.e. straight, L-shaped, U-shaped, or around cones), mailbox, work/pass through a gate, bridge, handler works with a slicker/jacket, jump (set up to be no more than 12 inches in height and recommended for advanced riders), sidepass (over a pole or between poles), pass through a narrow passage (set at least 48 inches in width) at any gait, turn in a box, ground tie, carry on object for a specified pattern/distance or ground tie.
- f. An obstacle can be set up with a combination of two or more of any of the obstacles listed.
- g. Rein hands may change only while maneuvering an obstacle or will be disqualified.
- h. **Scoring** for ridden trail will be based on the performance of the horse ridden over obstacles and judged on manners, responsiveness & quality of movement. Maximum credit will be given to entries that show style & reasonable degree of speed. Horses should appear alert and respond willingly to rider's cues and aids.
  - i. Obstacle scores will range from -1 ½ to +1 ½. (-1 ½=extremely poor, -1=very poor, -1/2=poor, 0=correct, +1/2=good, +1=very good, +1 ½ = excellent) Additionally, penalty points will be assigned independently from the obstacle score.
  - ii. Penalty Scores:
    1. **5 Point Penalty (per occurrence):** Drop object (i.e. dropping object to be carried or letting go of gate or dropping rope gate); each refusal, balk or attempt to evade obstacle or backing more than two strides; use of either hand to instill fear or praise; blatant disobedience; failure to complete obstacle, step outside of or jump off of an obstacle with more than one foot.
    2. **3 Point Penalty (per occurrence):** Step outside of or jump off obstacle with only one foot once foot has entered the obstacle; incorrect lead at lope; knockdown or severely disturbing an obstacle (elevated pole, cone, barrel, obstacle, etc.); incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for more than two strides.
    3. **1 Point Penalty (per occurrence):** hit or step on any component of obstacle; incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two strides or less; skipping over space or both feet in single stride space; splitting pole in a lope over.
    4. **½ Point Penalty:** each tick of a log, pole, cone or other obstacle.
    5. **Zero (0) Score** will occur for entire class & not placed if: failure to follow the correct line of travel within or between obstacles; use of more than 1 finger between reins; use of 2 hands when riding in a curb bit; performing obstacles incorrectly or other than specified order; no attempt to perform obstacle; equipment failure; excessively or repeatedly touching the horse on the neck to lower the head; fall to ground by horse or rider; failure to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction, including overturns of more than 1/4 turn; 3rd refusal; failure to demonstrate correct lead or gait.

# DRESSAGE

## CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

1. The dressage horse shall be judged according to the purpose and directives listed on each test.
2. Tests offered will be current USDF Introductory Tests, USEF Dressage Tests, WDAA Western Dressage Tests, and FEI Tests.
3. AHR reserves the right to limit the number of tests per day per horse.
4. No changes may be made to the dressage show schedule unless authorized by the Show Manager.

## INSPECTION OF EQUIPMENT

A steward may be appointed to check the saddlery of each horse before it enters the arena or starts a test. In the Dressage Test, the checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution. If the competitor so requests, the bridle and bit may be checked immediately after the test has been completed. However, should the bridle or bit in such a case be found not to be permitted, the competitor shall be eliminated.

## JUDGING

1. In all dressage classes, any circumstances not specifically covered by these rules, the USEF Rulebook, Dressage Division and Western Dressage Division shall serve as the reference for all other rules and requirements not covered in the AHR Rule Book.
2. A competitor failing to enter the arena within 60 seconds of the starting signal will be eliminated, at the discretion of the Ground Jury. The same applies to a competitor who enters the arena before the starting signal has been given.
3. A test begins with the entry at A and ends after the salute at the end of the test, as soon as the horse moves forward. Any incidents before the beginning or after the end of the test have no effect on the marks.
4. Competitors must take the reins in one hand at the salute. Gentlemen may, but are not required to, remove their hats at the salute. Ladies should not remove hats. Riders wearing protective head gear should not remove their helmets.
5. When a movement must be carried out at a certain point of the arena, it should be done when the competitor's body is above the point.
6. The use of the voice in any way whatsoever or clicking of the tongue once or repeatedly is a serious fault involving the deduction of at least two marks from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this occurred (Western Dressage excluded).
7. In case of marked lameness, the judge at C, after consultation with the other judge(s) if appropriate, will inform the competitor that he is eliminated. There is no appeal against this decision.
8. A horse leaving the arena completely, with all four feet, between the time of entry and the final salute, will be eliminated.
9. Any resistance that prevents the continuation of the test for more than 20 seconds will be punished by elimination.
10. When a competitor makes an "error of course" (takes the wrong turn, omits a movement, etc.) the judge at C warns him by sounding a bell/whistle. The judge shows him, if necessary, the point at which he must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed, then leaves him to continue by himself. However, in some cases when, although the rider makes an "error of course," the sounding of the bell/whistle would unnecessarily impede the fluency of the performance (for instance if the competitor makes a transition at V instead of K), it is up to the judge at C to decide whether to sound the bell/whistle or not. However, if the bell/whistle is not sounded at an error of test in which the movement is repeated and the error occurs again, only one error is recorded.
11. When a competitor makes an "error of the test" (trots rising instead of sitting, does not take the reins in one hand at the salute, etc.), he must be penalized as for an "error of course."
12. In principle, a competitor is not allowed to repeat a movement of the test unless the judge at C decides on an error of course and sounds the bell/whistle. If the competitor has started the execution of a movement and tries to do the same movement again, the judge(s) must consider the first movement shown only and at the same time penalize for an error of course.
13. If there is more than one judge, unless all judges are in agreement on an error, the competitor receives the benefit of the doubt.
14. Any outside intervention by voice, signs, etc., is considered unauthorized assistance. A competitor receiving unauthorized assistance will be eliminated, at the discretion of the Ground Jury.
15. When there are two or more judges, one horse and rider, taking no part in the competition, will perform the prescribed ride in order that the judges may confer before the competition begins.



## Dressage

### 1. Attire

- Short riding coat of conservative color, with tie, choker or stock tie, breeches or jodpurs, boots or jodpur boots. Riders may wear half-chaps, gaiters or leggings in solid black or brown, without fringe, matching the color of their boots, and made of smooth leather or leather-like material. Gloves of conservative color are recommended. Wearing a hardhat or appropriate dressage headgear is compulsory for anyone riding a Haflinger on the flat. AHR strongly encourages all competitors to wear ASTM/SEI F 1163 approved helmets.
- In extreme heat and/or humidity, the Ground Jury has the option to allow competitors to compete without jackets. In such cases, competitors must wear either a long or short sleeved collared shirt of conservative color without neckwear.
- Spurs are optional. Spurs capable of wounding a horse are forbidden. Spurs must be of smooth metal. There must be a shank pointing only towards the rear, which must be no more than 5.08 cm (2 inches) long. The end must be blunt in order to prevent wounding a horse. If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directed downwards, however, swan necked spurs are allowed. If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth and free to rotate

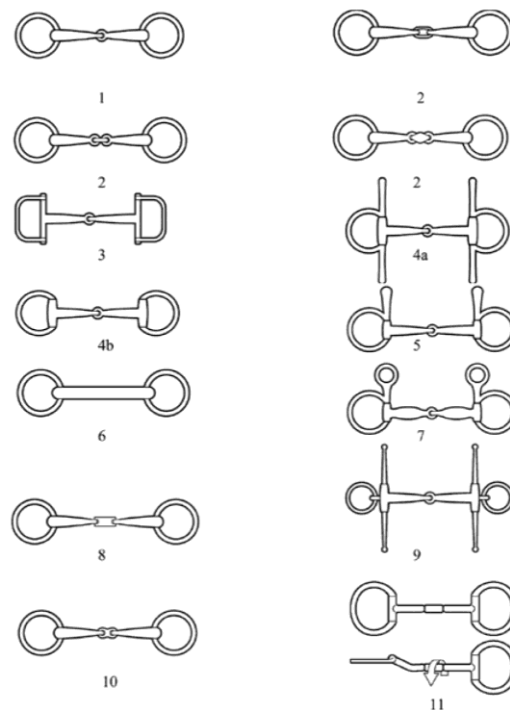
### 2. Saddlery & Equipment

- An English type saddle with stirrups is compulsory for Federation and USDF tests. An English type saddle may be constructed with or without a tree but cannot have a horn, swell, gallerie, or open gullet. Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock, or Western saddles are not permitted nor are modified versions of these saddles. Saddle pads are optional but should be white or of a conservative color. No advertisement or publicity is permitted on saddle cloths or horses. English-style stirrups, without attachments, or safety stirrups are compulsory.
- For Introductory, Training, First and Second Level tests, a snaffle bridle with plain, crossed, flash or dropped noseband. Only those bits listed with Figure 1 are allowed.
- One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm) including lash permitted.
- Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (including "easyboots") or bandages (including tail bandages) and any form of blinkers, earmuffs or plugs, nose covers, seat covers, hoods are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden. Fly hoods (ear covers) made of a thin (single, unpadding) layer of material, are permitted for competitions held in open-sided covered rings or outdoor rings in order to protect horses from insects.

**Figure 1. Bits Permitted in English Dressage.** All bits (as shown below) must be smooth and with a solid surface. Twisted, wire and roller bits are prohibited. A bushing or coupling is permitted as the center link in a double jointed snaffle, however, the surface of the center piece must be solid with no moveable parts. The mouthpiece of a snaffle may be shaped in a slight curve, but ported snaffles are prohibited. A bridoon is defined as a snaffle bit used together with a curb bit to form a double bridle. Bits (including curb and/or bridoon bits of a double bridle) must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber (in manufactured state); flexible rubber bits are not permitted, except as noted below, under A. The diameter of the snaffle or bridoon mouthpiece must be minimum 10 mm diameter at rings or cheeks of the mouthpiece. Any bit combining any mouthpiece pictured in Figure 1 with any cheekpiece pictured in Figure 1 is permitted. Type of bit should not vary from those pictured below except where specified, and bits should be attached only as pictured in diagram.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Ordinary snaffle with single-jointed mouthpiece | 6. Unjointed snaffle (mullen-mouth)   |
| 2. Ordinary snaffle with double-jointed mouthpiece | 7. Snaffle with cheeks (hanging or drop cheek; Baucher). This may be a d-ring or other ordinary snaffle as pictured in Nos. 1-6 |
| 3. Racing snaffle (D-ring)                         | 8. Dr. Bristol  |
| 4. Snaffle   | 9. Fulmer   |
| a) with cheeks, with or without keepers            | 10. French snaffle  |
| b) without cheeks (egg-butt)                       | 11. Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece  |
| 5. Snaffle with upper or lower cheeks              |   |

\*Any of the above may be made with a rubber, plastic or leather covering, but the bit may not be modified by adding latex or other material. Bits with mouthpieces made of synthetic material are permitted, provided that the contours of the bit conform to the contours of one of the bits pictured above. Flexible rubber or synthetic mouthpieces are permitted.



## Western Dressage

### 1. *Attire*

- a. A long-sleeved shirt with any type of collar is required; short sleeves may be worn at the discretion of the judge. Slacks, pants should be worn with boots. Necktie, kerchief, bolo tie or pins are option. Vests, coats, and chaps are also optional.
- b. A suitable western hat or ASTM/SEI F 1163 approved helmet must be worn.
- c. Spurs are optional, and may be of Western style, with or without blunt tines, or English dressage style.

### 2. *Saddlery & Equipment*

- a. A standard stock saddle, national, working saddle, Aussie, native, or western side saddle is to be used. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. A horn is not required by western style fenders are required.
- b. Any western type headstall must be used. A western cavesson is allowed. A rider can ride with two hands with only split reins, connected reins, or mecate type reins. Romal reins may only be used with a curb bit; the rider must use one hand with romal reins.
- c. Any snaffle bit may be used on a horse of any age being ridden at any level. Hackamores are permitted on a horse of any age at any level. A hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible non-metallic core. A standard Western curb bit may be used on a horse of any age being ridden at any level. The maximum length of the shanks is 8.5 inches (21.59 cm). Shanks may be fixed or loose. Bars of the mouthpiece must be round, smooth and unwrapped (except with latex) metal of 5/16 inch (7.96 mm) to 3/4 inch (19.05 mm) in diameter measured one inch from the cheek. All curb bits must be free of mechanical devices; nothing such as extensions, rivets or prongs may protrude below the mouthpiece. The mouthpiece may have two or three pieces. A three piece connecting ring of 1 1/4 inch (31.7 mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8 inch to 3/4 inch (9.5-19.05 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2 inches (50 mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2 inches (8.89 cm). Rollers attached to the center of the bit and covers are acceptable. Curb chains, if used, and flat leather chin straps must be at least 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. No wire, rawhide, metal or other substance can be used in conjunction with or as part of the flat leather chin strap or curb chain.
- d. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm) including lash permitted.
- e. Use of martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (including "easy-boots") or tail bandages and any form of blinkers, earmuffs or plugs, and nose covers, are cause for elimination. Protective manufactured leg wraps are permitted, with color matching natural color of the horse as much as possible. Fly hoods (ear covers) made of a thin (single, unpadded) layer of material, are permitted for competitions held in open-sided covered rings or outdoor rings in order to protect horses from insects.

## ENGLISH

### ENGLISH PLEASURE

#### 1. General

- a. **Tack:** Regulation snaffles, pelhams and full bridles, all with cavesson nose bands are recommended. A judge may penalize for non-conventional types of bits or nosebands. Martingales of any type are prohibited in under saddle classes. Boots, bandages and wraps are prohibited.
- b. **Attire:** Riders are required to wear hunt coats of traditional (dark) color, shirts with choker, tie or stock tie, white, or tan breeches or jodhpurs, tall boots or paddock boots with knee straps, helmet or protective headgear. Youth riders must wear ASTM/SEI F 1163 approved helmets. Riders of all ages and abilities are encouraged to wear ASTM/SEI F 1163 approved helmets.
- c. **Soundness:** All horses must be serviceably sound. Horses that are not serviceably sound are ineligible for an award.

#### 2. Class Specifications:

- a. Horses will enter the ring to the right (tracking left) and will reverse toward the inside of the arena. Horses may be asked to back, perform in groups on the rail or be asked to perform individual patterns at the judge's discretion. Large groups may be split with the top contenders of each split brought back into the ring to work off for the final selection.
- b. Horses are shown at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring, to back readily and stand quietly. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Horses should be obedient, alert, responsive and move freely. They should not be eliminated for slight errors. Judges may ask horses to extend the trot or hand gallop collectively, one way of the ring. No more than eight will be asked to hand gallop at one time. To be judged on performance, manners, soundness, way of going, and the ability to give a good pleasure ride 80%; type and conformation 20%.

### ENGLISH EQUITATION

Riders shall enter the ring and proceed at least once around the ring at each gait and, on command, reverse and repeat. The order to reverse can be executed by turning away from the rail. Light contact with horse's mouth is required. Entries then line up on command. Any or all riders may be required to execute any appropriate tests/pattern at the judge's direction. Incorrect execution of the test/pattern may lead to disqualification from the class at the judge's discretion. All tests used must be on the flat. An English type saddle with stirrups is required. Appointments and dress must follow the requirements assigned to the specific English discipline being represented. See above English Pleasure information regarding tack and apparel.

## HUNTER/JUMPER

### OVER FENCES

1. A hunter is judged on manners, suitability, performance and soundness rather than how high the horse can jump. Refusals or knockdowns incur major penalties. There is a limit of three (3) refusals before elimination. Being off course results in elimination.
2. Proper English show attire and tack are compulsory. This would include: dark colored hunt jacket, hunt boots, conservative tailored blouse or shirt with choker, tie, or stock, hunt breeches and gloves. In extreme heat, management may allow jackets to be removed & if so, long-sleeved collared shirts are required. A transparent or conservative color raincoat may be worn in inclement weather.
3. All horses must be serviceably sound. All horses being considered for an award may be jogged for soundness with rider dismounted. Horses that are not serviceably sound are ineligible for an award.
4. Unless otherwise stated, USEF rules for Over Fences will be applied.
5. Jumper classes are open to any horse/rider combination other than Novice exhibitors. Novice horses may enter jumper classes.
6. A courtesy circle should be ridden at the beginning and end of each course.

## WESTERN

### WESTERN PLEASURE

#### 1. Western Bits & Equipment

- a. A western type headstall, without noseband, may be used with a western type bit.
- b. Curb chains or straps must be at least 1/2 inch wide and lie flat against the jaw. No wire, metal, rawhide or other substance may be used with or as part of the flat leather chin strap or curb chain.
- c. Hackamores (bosal) refer to a flexible, braided rawhide or leather, or rope bosal the core of which may be either rawhide or flexible cable; no rigid material permitted under the jaws. Hackamores or standard snaffle bits may be used on horses 5 years and under. Over the course of the show, a western horse shown in a snaffle or hackamore (bosal) may not show in any other western classes in a bridle with western curb bit. Snaffle bit may be 0 ring, D ring or egg butt with a ring no greater than 4 inches; the mouth piece should be smooth, round metal in two or three pieces. A three piece connecting ring of 1 1/4 inch or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar 3/8 to 3/4 (measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2 inches), which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable. Two hands may be used on snaffle and hackamore (bosal) reins.
- d. Split type reins or closed reins with romal are equally acceptable.
- e. Hackamore bits, martingales, tie downs, or cavesson nosebands are prohibited.
- f. A western curb bit refers to a bit that has a broken or solid mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. The bit should be considered a standard western bit and be free of mechanical device. Shanks may be loose or fixed with 8 1/2 inch maximum length. The bars should be smooth metal of 5/16 to 3/4 inches in diameter and may have 2 or 3 pieces. The port should be no higher than 3 1/2 inches maximum; rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, spades and half-breeds are acceptable. Slip or gag bits, flat polo mouthpieces and bits with prongs or extensions below the mouthpiece are not acceptable.
- g. With the exception of hackamore and snaffle bit bridles, only one hand is used on the reins; hands may not be changed. The hand may be around the reins, index finger only between split reins is permitted. When a romal is carried with closed reins the extension may be carried in the free hand with a 16 inch spacing between the rein hand and free hand. The romal may not be used in front of the cinch or to cue the horse in any way.
- h. Western classes will be shown in a western saddle. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit.
- i. Optional equipment includes: rope or riata coiled and attached to the saddle, hobbles attached to the saddle, tapaderos.
- j. Prohibited equipment includes: wire curb straps, nosebands, martingales and tie downs, twisted wire mouthpiece bits, protective boots or leg wraps.
- k. Appropriate western sidesaddles and attire are permitted.

#### 2. Acceptable Attire

- a. Suitable western attire includes western style boots and hat. Shirts with long sleeves and a collar are required. Vests, sweaters and coats are allowed. Colors and fabrics should be conservative and well-coordinated. Jeans (blue jeans not permitted) in good condition are appropriate. Chaps are optional.
- b. ASTM/SEI F 1163 approved helmets may be worn in western without penalty. Color or helmet cover coordinating with the outfit is recommended.
- c. Gloves and spurs are optional.

#### 3. Western Pleasure Class Specifications

- a. Horses will enter and be asked to walk, jog, and lope both directions of the ring. Extensions of gait may be requested at judge's discretion. Riders will reverse toward the inside of the ring. Horses may be asked to halt or change gait from one other gait. Changes should be smooth, and made with light tactful use of the reins. Riders will not be asked to reverse from a lope. Horses should be shown on a reasonably loose rein or light contact without undue restraint.

- b. The walk should be a true four beat gait with a level topline, a balanced and relaxed appearance, and more forward than excessively slow. The jog is a two-beat consistent gait in which the horse has level topline and relaxed appearance, while showing balance, self-carriage and driving from behind. The lope should be a true three beat gait, show strong self-carriage and driving from behind through the gait, and should be forward and ground covering without excessive speed. For all gaits, the head and neck of horse should be carried in a relaxed natural position with the nose neither behind the vertical or excessively nosed out. Poll must not be carried below the level of the withers. The horse should have a bright, alert expression, be responsive and smooth in transitions. Horse should have good quality movement that appears comfortable to ride. The horse should not be forced into the frame and move naturally in a way that is pleasing to watch. The rider will have slight contact with the horse's mouth, showing that the horse can be willingly guided. Excessive slowness in any gait will be penalized at judge's discretion.
- c. To be judged on performance, manners, soundness and way of going with the ability to give a good pleasure ride 80%, conformation and type 20%.

## WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

### 1. Equipment

Tack should be clean, well serviced, and properly adjusted to fit the horse. Equipment will consist of a western saddle, bridle, and blanket or pad. The bridle must have either split reins or a romal equipped with either a bosal, snaffle or curb bit. Curb chains or straps must be flat and at least ½ inch in width. Mechanical hackamores, tie downs, draw reins and/or martingales are prohibited. Carrying a rope, hobbles, slicker or similar equipment is optional. For additional details see western pleasure section #1.

### 2. Acceptable Attire

- a. Suitable western attire includes western style boots and hat. Shirts with long sleeves and a collar are required. Vests, sweaters and jackets are allowed. Colors and fabrics should be well-coordinated. Jeans (blue jeans not permitted) in good condition are appropriate. Chaps are optional.
- b. ASTM/SEI F 1163 approved helmets may be worn in western without penalty. Color or helmet cover coordinating with the outfit is recommended.
- c. Spurs are optional.

### 3. Class Specifications

Class judged on rail work; a pattern may be asked for at the judge's discretion. Riders should sit in a comfortable, balanced, relaxed, and flexible manner in the middle of the saddle with their weight supported by the insides of the thighs and seat. The rider's head should be up, with the shoulders even and square. The back should be straight with the upper arms parallel with the body. The reining hand should be carried just ahead and above the saddle horn with the reins gathered to permit light contact in the horse's mouth. The off hand may be carried either straight down to the side, across the belt buckle or on the thigh. One finger is permitted between split reins with the reins running down through the hand and falling on the same side as the reining hand. If a romal is used, no finger is permitted between the reins and the romal is held with the off hand with at least 16 inches of slack. The thigh, knee and upper calf should remain in contact with the horse with the knee slightly bent to allow a straight drop from the top of the calf to the heel. Heels should be carried down and toes forward with either the ball or arch of the foot resting in the stirrup. Riders may not switch hands on the reins and should maintain the basic horsemanship position at all times. Riders must sit the trot and maintain a tight seat at the lope. All cues and aids should be applied as inconspicuously as possible. Entries will be scored on the cleanliness and neatness of horse, rider and equipment, the rider's basic position and the techniques used by the rider in executing maneuvers in order to obtain the desired performance. Overall, the horse and rider should work as a team in order to show the horse to its best advantage.

# PLEASURE DRIVING

## GENERAL RULES

1. The Judge must excuse from competition any unsafe vehicle, harness, unruly horse or driver clearly out of control.
2. It is the responsibility of each driver to ensure that harness and vehicle are in good repair and structurally sound.
3. It is the responsibility of each driver to ensure that his horse or horses are physically fit to fulfill the tasks required of them.
4. The driver should always be the first person to enter the vehicle and the last to leave. Passengers must never be left on the vehicle while the driver is dismounted unless the passenger has taken control of the reins.
5. Drivers should strive to maintain a safe distance from other vehicles both during the competition and in the warm-up and parking areas.
6. Bridles should be adjusted to fit snugly to prevent catching on a vehicle or other pieces of harness. A throatlatch and a nose band or cavesson is mandatory. Under no conditions shall a bridle be removed from a horse while it is still put to a vehicle. The horse must never be left unattended while put to a vehicle. Failure to comply will incur elimination.
7. Unless otherwise stated, ADS rules will be applied to Pleasure Driving Classes.

## THE DRIVER

1. The driver should be seated comfortably on the box so as to be relaxed and effective. Either the one or two-handed method of driving is acceptable. Drivers should not be penalized or rewarded for using one style over another. However, in a reinsmanship class, in order to evaluate a driver's versatility the Judge may request an appropriate test involving driving with one hand. When there are passengers, the driver should sit on the off (right-hand) side of the vehicle.
2. An appropriate whip shall be carried in and at all times while driving. The thong on the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the farthest horse.
3. The whip salute is performed in one of the following ways:
  - a. A lady: by moving the whip, held in the right hand, to a vertical position, the butt end even with the face, or
  - b. By moving the whip, held in the right hand, to a position parallel with the ground, the handle before the face.
  - c. A gentleman may place the whip in his left hand and remove his hat.
4. Only the driver may handle the reins, whip, or brake during a competition. Failure to comply will incur elimination.

## GROOMS

1. Two grooms or passengers are required for four-in-hand or unicorns to assist in the event of difficulty.
2. One groom or passenger is required for a pair or tandem to assist in the event of difficulty.
3. A groom is optional for a single horse turnout.
4. Where grooms or passengers are required, failure to comply incurs elimination.
5. Grooms assisting a turnout must be on the vehicle and attired properly.

## THE HORSE

1. If shod, the horse should be suitably shod for pleasure driving.
2. Tails tied to vehicles or traces are prohibited.
3. In Pleasure driving classes, bell boots, shin boots and wraps are prohibited.

## THE HARNESS

1. Breast collars are appropriate with lightweight vehicles. Full collars are suggested for heavy vehicles such as coaches, brakes, phaetons, dogcarts, etc.
2. A correctly fitting harness saddle is important for the comfort of the horse. A wide saddle is suggested for two wheeled vehicles as more weight rests on the horse's back. Narrow saddles are more appropriate for four wheeled vehicles.
3. Martingales and overchecks are prohibited in dressage classes for all vehicles. Sidechecks are optional.
4. Snaffle bits and other types of traditional driving bits are allowed. Bits may be covered with rubber or leather.

## THE VEHICLE

Drivers should strive to present an appropriate turnout. Appropriate indicates the balance and pleasing appearance of the combination of horse and vehicle. Factors determining the above include compatible size, type, and weight of horse and vehicle.

## DESCRIPTION OF GAITS

The following descriptions constitute approved standard for performance of each of the required gaits in a pleasure driving competition.

1. Walk: A free, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate extension is required. The horse should walk energetically but calmly with evenly and determined pace.
2. Slow Trot: The horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The trot is slower and more collected but not to the degree required in the dressage-collected trot. The horse should indicate willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence.
3. Working Trot: This is the pace between the strong and slow trot and more rounded than the strong trot. The horse goes forward freely and straight; engaging the hind legs with good hock action; on a taut but light rein; the position being balanced and unconstrained. The steps should be as even as possible. The hind feet touch the ground in the print of the fore feet. The degree of energy and impulsion displayed at the working trot denotes clearly the degree of suppleness and balance of the horse.
4. Strong Trot (Trot On): This is a clear, but not excessive, increase in pace and lengthening of stride while remaining well balanced and showing appropriate lateral flexion on turns. Light contact to be maintained. Excessive speed will be penalized. The term "Trot - On" should be used to call for the gait.
5. Halt: The horse(s) and vehicle should come to a complete square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt, horses should stand attentive, motionless and straight with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs and be ready to move off at the slightest indication from the driver.
6. Rein Back: Rein back is defined as a backward movement in which the legs are raised and set down simultaneously in diagonal pairs with the hind legs remaining well in line. To be performed in two parts:
  - a. The horse must move backward at least four steps in an unhurried manner with head fixed and straight, pushing the carriage back evenly in a straight line. The driver must use quiet aids with light contact.
  - b. Move forward willingly to the former position using the same quiet aids.

## WORKING CLASS

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

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

## TURNOUT CLASS

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

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

## REINSMANSHIP CLASS

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

1. To be shown at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. Drivers shall be required to rein back. All drivers chosen for a work-off may be worked at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a figure eight and/or perform other appropriate tests. In order to evaluate a driver's skill set, the judge may request a test involving driving with one hand.
2. To be judged:
  - a. 75% on the handling of reins and whip, control, posture, and overall appearance of driver.
  - b. 25% on the condition of harness and vehicle and neatness of attire.

## OBSTACLE DRIVING

### 1. Open Obstacle Driving

- a. The course will be in show book or posted at least one hour before start of event. Order of competition will be listed in show book with late entries being added to the front of this order. An electric timer or at least two stop watches shall be used. The time indicated by the electric timer or average time of the watches used by official timers will be the official time.
- b. To be driven over a prescribed course of numbered obstacles consisting of pairs of cones and balls, or the equivalent, not to exceed ten obstacles.
- c. After the competitor enters the arena, the gate will be closed. After passing through the start gate, the competitor will proceed through each pair of numbered cones in order, as numbered and shown on the course diagram.
- d. Option to or not to canter will be in the entry book and the show program. Proper show attire is expected with exception of driving aprons and gloves, which are optional. Grooms are also optional. Course walk through is permitted. If a horse is driven in a manner deemed to be reckless or unsafe to either the horse or the driver, the judge will eliminate this horse and driver from the competition

### 2. Cone Scurry

- a. To be driven over a course of unnumbered obstacles consisting of cones and balls, or the equivalent, not to exceed 10 obstacles.
- b. After passing through the Start markers from any direction, the driver shall proceed through each obstacle from any direction, in any order. Each obstacle must be driven once. Upon completion of the course, the driver must pass through the Finish markers from any direction, where time will be taken.
- c. Refusals, run-outs and circling will not be penalized.
- d. Course faults will be scored as penalty seconds and added to the driver's elapsed time. Placings will be determined on a low total time basis. Ties for first place will be broken by a drive-off.

### 3. Penalties for Cone Scurry Class

- a. Knocked down ball – 3 second penalty
- b. Knocked over cone – 10 second penalty
- c. Missing gate/off course - elimination



## FARM CLASSES

### FARM TEAM

#### 1. Class Specifications

- a. This will be for a team of horses attached to any farm vehicle or implement, the farm implement must not damage the arena footing and horses can be presented in farm/work harness.
- b. Horses will enter the ring to the right (tracking left); and will follow the team ahead of them when the judge calls the reverse. Horses are shown at the walk and jog both ways of the ring, to back readily and stand quietly. To be judged on performance, manners, soundness, way of going, and the ability to give a good consistent drive 80%; on vehicle and turnout 20%.

### CHORE TEAM RACE

#### 1. Class Specifications

- a. This will be for a team of horses attached to a work sled that will be provided by the show and will have a driver and a swamper. Teams will compete in a "head-to-head" fashion, with two teams completing the course at the same time. This is to be performed at the trot, more than two strides of the canter by either (or both) horses will be penalized with a 5 second time penalty.
- b. The teams will start together and will be released by the announcer, they will proceed to the loading/unloading station, pick up 4 bales of hay, place them on the sled then proceed to weave through three cones circle the fourth cone and then return back weaving through the cones. The must stop at the unloading/loading station and unload, all hay must be on the platform in an orderly fashion. Then proceed to the finish, where their time ends.
- c. Swampers must not leave the sled while it is in motion, the sled must be at a complete stop before they dismount to load or unload hay. Any swamper seen to grossly break this rule will receive a 5 second penalty.

