

Appendix 0: Country Pleasure Division & Open Gaited Breed Division

AP001 Country Pleasure Division

- Country Pleasure classes are two gait classes.
- Unless show managers direct otherwise, at FOSH sanctioned shows country pleasure horses are eligible to compete in any other class at the show as long as their shoeing conforms to requirements of the class.
- The ideal country pleasure horse should reflect the name of the division. This should be the type of horse that you would like to ride if you were to go out to spend a day in the country.

Performance and way of going

All horses will be asked to enter at a working walk and will then be for an intermediate gait of their choice. The intermediate gait excludes the canter, lope or hand gallop.

- Horses must be relaxed, forward moving, and must display exceptional manners and responsiveness to the rider's commands.
- Horses must line up and stand quietly before being asked to back.
- Country Pleasure horses should display an alert, willing attitude.
- The judge may require contestants to mount and dismount while in the lineup.

Penalties

- Excessive speed or animation that is not compatible with a "stroll in the country" must be severely penalized.
- Pinned ears and twitching tails are to be penalized.

Shoeing

Horses may be exhibited in this division wearing up to the maximum shoe size (see definition of the 1inch shoe) or with any shoe below that size or barefoot.

Tack and attire

If offered as a combined class, either English (Saddle Seat) or Western tack, equipment and attire is acceptable, but tack and attire may not be mixed. For a complete description refer to **Article 637** Saddle Seat Tack, Equipment and Attire **644** Western Tack, Equipment and Attire and **Article 606** Other Acceptable Tack Options and **Article 608** Prohibited Tack, Equipment and Attire.

AP002 Open Gaited Breed Division

- Open Gaited Breed Classes may be offered at any FOSH sanctioned event.
- Any Gaited Breed is eligible to enter.
- Show management may offer a variety of Open Gaited Breed classes including but not limited to In Hand, English (Saddle Seat), Western, 2 gait, 3 gait, youth, age restricted for either horse or rider, and all versatility classes.
- When competing in Open Gaited Breed Classes traditional tack and attire may be used.
- Ring Protocol and Judging Procedures will be as outlined in this Rule Book.

AP003 Open Gaited Breed In Hand Conformation

When judging specific breeds, the registry requirements of the breed will be used.

Light Horse Type and Conformation

In general the ideal light horse should have a neat head, well shaped ears, large eyes, and a tapering muzzle. There should be clear definition at the throatlatch and no indication of coarseness. Nostrils should be wide and open. The jaw should be well defined. The neck should be of a length proportionate to the remainder of the body and

should not be heavy/common. Backs should tend towards the short with good coupling at the loins and should give the impression of strength in conformation. The chest should be of adequate width to allow for ample lung capacity. The body should be deep in the girth and well ribbed. Croups should generally exhibit a gentle slope while the hips should be well muscled with the muscle extending down the leg towards the hocks. Legs should be flat and cordy and should be well situated on the corners of the horse. The horse's feet should be of a size sufficient to support the bulk of the body.

Common terms for evaluating Light Horses

Topline: The back of the horse viewed from the top is called the topline. It should be straight with muscle mass of equal symmetry in mature horses visible on the left and right sides. In order to evaluate the topline, the horse must be shown on the square with an equal amount of weight on all four feet and the nose positioned directly in front of the chest.

Loin: From a side view, the strong loin shows peaks or waves in the topline over the lumbosacral joint. A short loin will map out as a broad triangle from each lumbosacral joint. A short strong loin aids in the ability to collect the horse. A longish loin weakens the back irrespective of the body's overall length.

Length of Back: The length of the back is to be compared to the overall length of the total body as measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock.

Withers: The wither not only anchors the neck, it additionally provides a leverage point that allows the back to rise or fall when the horse raises or lowers its head. Low withers predispose an animal to being unable to actively raise the back, thus creating a hollow back by conformation. High withers create problems with tying in the root of the neck.

Neck: The neck serves as the primary agent of balance for the horse. Although a long-necked horse may be attractive, in judging conformation, the excessively long neck is to be penalized because it precludes suppleness and leads to "rubber necking" or to resistance to collection. In determining an appropriate length of neck, envision an imaginary curved line drawn from just behind the ears of the horse to the dock of the tail.

Forelegs: If a horse is considered to be over at the knee he is standing too far backward; behind the knee means the horse is standing too far back. Both situations are weaknesses in conformation. If pigeon-toed, the feet turn in; when splayfooted the feet turn out.

Hind leg: Common faults of the hind legs include: too far under the horse- sickle hocked; turned in towards each other at the point of the hock- cow hocked; hocks turned out at the point of the hock, bowed hocks. The hind legs should be vertical at the cannon bone.

Tractability: The ease with which a horse may be managed, worked with, or handled; docility or malleability.

Tack and Attire

For complete description refer to **Article 623, 624, 625, and 626** In Hand Tack, Equipment and Attire and **Article 608** Prohibited Tack, Equipment and Attire

Appendix 0: Country Pleasure Division & Open Gaited Breed Division

AP004 Open Gaited Breed Lead-line (Youth 8 years and under)

- Designed to furnish youth exhibitors the opportunity to learn and demonstrate basics of horsemanship. Safety is of prime importance.
- The handlers of horses must be adults (18 years or older).
- Horses must be two years old or older.
- No stallions are permitted.
- Attire for this class may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. Exhibitor's feet must be in stirrups. The use of Velcro, tape, or the tying of the youth's feet in the stirrups is strictly forbidden.
- Handler and rider's attire must be clean, neat, and uniform.
- A lead shank attached safely to the horses bridle OR a halter with an attached lead shank over the bridle is mandatory.
- Handler should allow sufficient slack in the lead to give exhibitor some control of the horse. Horse's grooming shall be considered in overall judging.
- Judging shall be based on the youth exhibitor's abilities.

Judging Criteria

Appearance of Exhibitor and Handler (30 points)

- Suitable English or Western attire, but not a combination of both.
- Cleanliness, neatness, and uniformity.

Youth exhibitor's performance (40 points)

- Correct seat position and poise
- Correct rein carriage and hand placement
- Alertness

Options judge may ask of the rider

- Backing their horse two to three steps
- Various general questions regarding the name of their horse, their age, their name, etc.
- Riding forward through cones. *In these cases, the handler retains a loose hold on the horse.*

Appearance of Horse (20 points)

- Physical condition of horse
- Hair coat clean and well brushed
- Mane and tail tangle-free
- Hooves trimmed or properly shod
- Well trimmed ears, jaws, legs and pasterns

Tack (10 points)

- Tack should be neat, clean and in good condition

AP005 Open Gaited Breed Western Parade

The Western Parade entry must be a showy, stylish and animated entry displaying beauty and brilliance.

Performance and way of going

- Horses are required to show a noticeable increase in speed between the walk and the intermediate gait.
- The neck must be arched with active, alert ears.
- Good manners are essential.
- Entries are judged 75% on performance, style, appearance and manners; and 25% on appointments of the horse and rider.
- The parade horse is shown at two gaits. The animated walk is a four beat gait executed on a straight track with knee action appropriate to the breed. The parade gait is a straight, balanced, collected intermediate gait that allows the rider to sit comfortably while demonstrating the parade wave.
- Horses in this class enter the ring at the animated walk and are shown at two gaits before reversing at a walk and executing two gaits on the reverse.
- The class will be accompanied, if possible, by march music of the sort heard at parades.

Penalties

- excessive speed
- bad manners
- switching of the tail,
- gaping of the mouth, hesitating
- sour ears and
- zigzagging

Shoeing

No more than the maximum 1" shoe may be worn in this division (and that may only be worn on horses 4 and older), but horses may also compete in lite shod or keg shoes or barefoot if the way of going is appropriate for the division.

Tack and Attire

Entries are to be shown in Western or charro attire, representative of the old west. At a minimum a cowboy shirt, pants with chaps, or a formal cowboy suit, Western hat and boots, or in the lace of ladies, optional sidesaddle attire, is required. The clothing and other appointments may be decorated with sequins, rhinestones, or other decorative elements. Spurs, decorative firearms, serapes, etc., are permitted. Braids augmented with flowers or other elements may be used in the mane and/or at the tail. Glitter is allowed on the body of the horse and in the mane and tail. Glittering of the hooves is permitted. Tie downs and martingales are prohibited.

AP006 Open Gaited Breed Horse Dancing

Description:

- Horse Dancing is an entertaining variety of short acts - a variety show. The exhibitor creates and presents an entertaining routine to the audience using: costumes, choreography, music, props, storytelling and acting. The routines may be serious, dramatic, elegant or funny.
- Horse Dancing has fewer required elements than: Musical Dressage (Kur); 4-H Freestyle; (musical) Freestyle; or (musical) Freestyle Reining. It 's more than simply riding around the ring to background music. The emphasis of a Horse Dancing routine is on the entertainment value, not on how well a horse performs. All exhibitors should understand that judging is very subjective.
- Although special tack or attire is not required, exhibitors must still adhere to the IJA rules for shoeing, shank length on bits and comply with all other IJA rules that promote the humane treatment of the horse (restrictions on action devices, severe bits, etc.)
- Costuming, song and routine must all be "G" rated, suitable for a general audience. Nothing risque, controversial, demeaning, derogatory, or using bad language is allowed. Use of the National flag is not allowed.
- Safety is of prime importance. Although costumes are an integral part of this class, safety for both horse and rider is of prime importance. If necessary, a "spotter" will be allowed to be in the arena at the same time as an exhibitor. However, the spotter is not to be part of the performance, and the spotter should remain as inconspicuous as possible. This is a SAFETY issue, and is appropriate for beginning, young, fearful or handicapped riders, etc.

Classes may be offered for:

- Any gaited breed of horse
- Any age exhibitor
- 2 or 3 gaits
- 1, 2, or 3 horse/exhibitor combination
- Driving (one driver no passenger)
- "In-Hand" for horses 3 years and younger, but the horse is not to be shown under saddle at the same show. In-Hand exhibitors must work off both sides of the horse, as well as include all the other required elements.

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Required Elements:

The exhibitor has the maximum of four (4) minutes to present his/her/their routine to the audience. In no particular order, the performance must go both directions in the ring; demonstrate more than one gait doing each gait in both directions; stop; back; and the routine should have a balanced appearance. Exhibitors should use the arena as if it were a stage, and position their routine to show to the audience. Riding on the rail, or in figure 8 type patterns, is highly discouraged.

Judging Criteria:

- Horse Dancing is an individual evaluation.
- The judge **must** sit in the audience for judging the class, and **must** use the scoring sheet.
- Scoring criteria in order of importance:
60% entertainment 40% required elements.

For further information on Horse Dancing refer to
<http://members.aol.com/HorseDancingCo/Judging.html>