

Appendix 1: Judging Specifics for the Tennessee Walking Horse

AP100 General

- Tennessee Walking Horses are considered pleasure horses and demonstrate the qualities of a pleasure horse. They display an alert and willing attitude with no indication of nervousness or difficult behavior. They are calm, quiet, responsive, relaxed, obedient, willing, smooth and display good manners. There is no evidence of resistance (wringing tail, ears back etc).
- All Tennessee Walking Horses must demonstrate correct gaits as described in **AP101**.
- Classes for Tennessee Walking Horses comprise 2 sections:
 - **In Hand including Halter, Model, Suitability as a Sire or Dam, Produce of Dam and Get of Sire classes.**
 - **Under Saddle including English Division, Trail Pleasure Division and Western Division.**
- All Tennessee Walking Horses must adhere to the Shoeing Regulations as outlined in **Article 4** and the Tack and Attire Regulations as outlined in **Article 6**.
- Show management may utilize various and specific criteria to create classes, such as Amateur Owned and Trained, Amateur to Ride, Open, 15.2 and under, over 15.2, Youth etc. **Combining English and Western exhibitors in the same class, although discouraged, is acceptable if show management deems it necessary.**

AP101 Gaits of the TWH

Working Walk (sometimes referred to as a dog walk)

- The working walk is a slow, even four beat walk. The head and neck are lowered as the horse stretches into the rider's hand showing relaxation and acceptance of the bit. At the working walk the horse is clam and relaxed. There is no need for restraint on the part of the rider and there is observable slack in the reins.

Flat Walk

- The flat walk is a bold, ground covering gait that is even and four beat.
- Each foot must both leave, and strike, the ground independently and be accompanied by a pronounced vertical head nod that begins in the vicinity of the shoulder and involves the whole neck and head, not just the head alone.
- The footfall sequence is left hind, left front, right hind, right front. To create the proper timing, a hind foot is always one-half stride ahead of the front foot. (When the left hind foot first hits the ground the left foreleg is half way through its stride putting the left foreleg hoof even with the right foreleg when the right foreleg is vertical.)
- The horse appears to pull with his front legs and drive from his rear legs.
- The rear legs track straight over the tracks of the front feet and must appear to move effortlessly.
- The action of the back foot stepping over the track of the front foot is known as overstride and is preferred over tracking up or capping.
- A Tennessee Walking Horse nods its head in rhythm with the cadence of its feet. This head motion, along with overstride, are important factors to be considered in judging walking horse classes.
- The flat walk is not a speed gait and should be much slower than the running walk.

Running Walk

- The running walk is a smooth, gliding gait with the same footfall as the flat walk but with an increase in speed and stride. Speed however, must never be tied over form.

- The gait is natural to the breed and must not appear to be artificial in execution.
- The running walk is executed freely showing "a looseness in motion".
- The running walk should appear to be a pleasure for both horse and rider.
- The horse pulls with its front feet and drives well under itself with his hind quarters.
- The horse continues to nod its head while executing the running walk. The head nod must originate in the shoulder and continue up the neck column. A head that merely pecks or a head that remains stationary is incorrect.
- When relaxed some Tennessee Walking Horses flop their ears or click their teeth in rhythm with the gait. Unless these actions appear to be the result of discomfort or improper biting, they will not be penalized.

Judging of the flat walk and running walk

- Horses displaying lameness will be **excused** or **eliminated**.
- Correct form is stressed and prized.
- Smoothness and the appearance of a comfortable ride for the rider are essential to the proper demonstration of form.
- Judging of the flat walk and running walk will not be influenced by either speed or animation, unless the class specifically calls for animation as a required element. However, animation alone is never tied above a horse that exhibits better form and footfall but has less animation.
- The appearance of laboring at the running walk will be **penalized**
- There must be an observable distinction in speed between the flat and the running walk. Failure to exhibit this distinction of speed will be **penalized**.
- Excessive speed in the running walk resulting in a loss of form will be **penalized**.
- A horse that merely pecks its head rather than nods its head will be **penalized**.
- A horse whose head remains stationary will be **penalized**.

Canter and Lope

- The canter in English classes or the lope in Western classes is smooth, collected, economical and, straight on both leads. The horse is not walking behind but cantering on both ends with a three beat count and a rolling motion.
- The horse canters or lopes on the correct lead for the direction of the ring unless a counter canter is requested.
- The horse remains comfortably in hand at the canter or lope.
- Judges may ask for the canter or lope to be extended. The stride is increased in length, rather than speed.

Judging of the Canter or Lope

- Pumping or snatching of the reins will be **severely penalized**.
- Four beat canters or lopes will be **severely penalized**.
- Cross cantering or cross firing will be **severely penalized**.
- A horse that is run into the rail as a means of picking up the correct canter lead or a horse that is kicked in the shoulder or in front of the girth as a canter cue will be **severely penalized**.
- Excessive speed at the canter will be **penalized**.
- Canter in place will be **penalized**. The horse must move forward.
- A mechanical or exaggerated rocking chair appearance will be **penalized**.

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Hand Gallop

- Judges may request a hand gallop in some classes in the Western Division.
- The hand gallop is a four beat gait.
- There is an observable difference in speed and length of stride between the lope and the hand gallop
- The hand gallop is maintained on a loose rein with no attempt by the horse to break into a full run.

Judging at all Gaits

- Laboring associated with an artificial way of going at any gait will be **severely penalized**
- Horses that display an incorrect gait for the entire class will be **severely penalized**.
- Horses that display a tendency at times to rack, pace, fox trot or trot, or otherwise deviate from the correct gaits will be **penalized**.
- Tired horses will be **penalized**.

TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE IN HAND DIVISION

AP102 General

- Horses must be exhibited by a single exhibitor except in Produce of Dam and Get of Sire classes where one exhibitor handles each entry.
- Classes may be subdivided by age or gender at the option of show management.
- Weanlings and Yearlings must be shown barefoot.
- Unruly or ill-mannered horses will be excused from the ring.
- Emphasis is placed on type, conformation, substance, quality, turnout and evaluation of the way of going.
- When movement is a component of the class, Tennessee Walking Horses reflect natural looseness with free moving shoulders and ample overstride. Strong emphasis is placed on naturalness.
- In breeding classes:
 - All horses will be checked for correct mouths.
 - Mature stallions will be checked for the presence of two testicles.
 - The vaginas of mares will be checked for good reproductive conformation.
- Desirable characteristics that can be passed on through breeding will be rewarded.
- Transmissible weaknesses and/or unsoundness will be **penalized**
- Surface blemishes may be overlooked.

AP103 Light Horse Type and Conformation

- When judging TWH, the registry requirements will prevail.
- In general the ideal light horse has 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.
- The croup should generally exhibit a gentle slope.
- The hips should be well muscled with 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.

AP104 In Hand Class Routine

Entries enter the ring at a walk and proceed counterclockwise.

Model entries walk to a position on the rail and take the position for judging.

Halter entries will be worked both ways of the ring at the walk. The judge may ask for the gait to be extended. Entries are then lined up for judging.

- Entries that are parked stand erect, not overly camped out, and balanced on four corners. Ears should be forward and the attitude of the horse, although interested in his surroundings, should be attentive to his handler. The horse's expression is alert.
- Western style horses do not park like an English style horse, but the expression is still alert with active ears.

AP105 In Hand Tack and Attire

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

- Weanlings and Yearlings must be exhibited in a show halter.
- Horses 2 and over may be exhibited in either halters or bridles, with the exception that **stallions, 2 years and older must be shown in a bridle**. A chain may be attached to the lead line and under the chin groove when horses are shown in halters.
- A whip, not to exceed 48 inches in length, including the lash, may **only** be used by exhibitors using Traditional saddle seat presentation.
- Braids at the mane and forelock are optional for saddle seat presentation. Horses exhibited in Western halters or bridles do not wear braids.

AP106 Halter

Halter classes are evaluated on movement (way of going), conformation, tractability (manners and disposition), and condition and turnout.

Judging Criteria: Gait 40%, Conformation 35%, Tractability (manners and disposition) 20%, Condition and Turnout 5%.

AP107 Model

The model horse is a "picture" of the breed. Way of going is not considered. Manners are perfect. Model classes are evaluated on type, conformation, substance, quality and turnout.

AP108 Suitability as a Sire or Dam

The horses are judged on the characteristics that make them desirable as breeding stock. In addition to conformation, way of going, type, substance, quality and turnout, tractability and naturalness will be considered. (See AP102) Transmissible weaknesses will be **severely penalized**, while surface blemishes may be overlooked.

Judging Criteria: Gait 40%, conformation 35%, tractability 20%, conditioning 5%.

Qualifying Level: Mares and stallions may be shown separately, but at the championship level are shown together to compete for the Suitability of Breeding Stock Champion title.

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Championship Level: Mares and stallions are shown together. Tractability and naturalness of gait will be further evaluated as the judge may ride horses in contention for the top 2 or 3 places. It is therefore strongly recommended that owners/handlers be confident that their horses can be ridden, and easily handled, before entering the class. In anticipation of the eventuality that any horse may be chosen for the top places, an attendant for each entrant must be on hand with saddle and bridle from the beginning of the class.

AP109 Produce of Dam

Produce of Dam classes comprise a minimum of 2 entries of any age by the same dam, although show management may increase number of entries and restrict age of entries. Entries are led into the ring one behind the other. The class will be evaluated as a halter class (AP106)

AP110 Get of Sire

Get of Sire classes comprise a minimum of 2 entries of any age by the same sire, although show management may increase number of entries and restrict age of entries. Entries are led into the ring one behind the other. The class will be evaluated as a halter class (AP106)

TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE UNDER SADDLE

AP111 General

There are three Under Saddle Divisions

- **English Division** comprising Park classes and English Plantation Pleasure classes.
- **Trail Pleasure Division** comprising English Trail Pleasure classes, Western Trail Pleasure classes, English Working Trail Pleasure classes and Western Working Trail Pleasure classes.
- **Western Division** comprising Western Pleasure classes and Ranch Horse classes.

AP112 Judging Under Saddle Classes

- Assuming all required gaits are attempted, all required gaits are given equal importance in judging.
- A TWH who does not exhibit any of the required gaits for a sufficient period to allow the judge to form an adequate impression of the entry will be **severely penalized** and will not be placed above other horses that do present all required gaits.
- The mandatory elements in all TWH classes are: correct gaits, adherence to characteristics of the ideal horse for the class, pleasure horse qualities, ability to back, adherence to Tack and Attire standards and adherence to Shoeing standards. When judging, all mandatory elements are not equal.
- Tennessee Walking Horses must demonstrate correct gaits as described in AP101. Recognizing that the style in which these gaits are demonstrated varies from horse to horse, classes for Tennessee Walking Horses are varied. Classes are described and defined by correctness of gait and the style of movement (way of going) rather than by the size of the shoe. Horses are evaluated both on correctness of gait and how well they fit the description of the ideal horse for each class.
 - Horses that display an incorrect gait for the entire class will be **severely penalized**: they will not be first or second and will not be placed over horses that gait correctly.
 - Horses that display a tendency to deviate from the correct gait at times during a class will be **penalized** at the discretion of the judge, but will not be placed first and will not be placed over other horses that gait correctly.

- The ideal horse described in each class defines the parameters upon which judges' decisions will be based.
 - Horses not exhibiting characteristics of the ideal horse for the class entered will be **severely penalized** regardless of the quality of the gaits presented by that horse. Such horses will not place above any horse exhibiting the characteristics of the ideal horse for the class so long as those horses in the correct class perform the correct gaits.
- If no horse exhibits BOTH the characteristics of the ideal horse for the class entered and performs the correct gaits, no horse will be placed first or second.
- Tennessee Walking Horses must back a minimum of four steps on a straight track without jerking or sawing on the reins by the rider, or signs of resistance and irritation by the horse (gaped mouth or swishing tail, etc). Failure to back without resistance will be **penalized**.
- Tennessee Walking Horses must demonstrate the qualities of a pleasure horse. (AP100)
- All Tennessee Walking Horse entries must adhere to **Article 6** Tack and Attire
- All Tennessee Walking Horses entries must adhere to **Article 4** Shoeing Regulations

AP113 Under Saddle Class Routine

- The required gaits for each class are performed in both directions.
- In any class, a second running walk may be called for the second way of the ring to allow for additional evaluation of the purity of the gait.
- If a horse is in the parked position, the rider will square the horse up before asking for the rein back.

English Division

AP114 Call of Class for English Division

Horses enter at the flat walk.

- **Two gait** classes - flat walk, running walk, flat walk, reverse, flat walk, running walk, flat walk and proceed to the line up.
- **Three gait** classes - flat walk, running walk, canter, flat walk, reverse, flat walk, running walk, flat walk, canter, flat walk and proceed to the line-up.

AP115 Park Classes

Horses in Park classes display a high degree of collection, resulting in natural motion while executing authentic walking horse gaits. The action of the horse appears airy and natural rather than mechanical or artificial. Park horses are "showy" horses.

Performance and way of going of the Park Horse

- The total picture of the Park Horse is one of controlled energy, brilliance and balance.
- The Park Horse exhibits a high head and neck carriage in keeping with his conformation.
- The Park Horse displays energetic, animated full body motion, which may include high front-end elevation (breaking near to level or above), deep head nod and a driving back end.
- Authentic walking horse gaits are paramount. Park horses are consistent in all gaits displaying correct timing, head nod, reach, stride, and overstride.
- Horses with long strides behind will not be tied over horses with better overall form but less stride behind.

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Penalties

- A horse not demonstrating the described characteristics of an ideal Park Horse will be **severely penalized**, and will not be placed above a horse that both exhibits the described characteristics and performs the correct gaits in the class.
- Deviation from the correct walking gaits will be **severely penalized**.
- Bumping or pumping of the reins will be **severely penalized**
- Appearing to support the horse through the reins by holding the horse into an upright frame will be **severely penalized**.
- Horses on the wrong lead will be **penalized**.
- High front knee action without reach will be **penalized**
- Failure to back readily will be **penalized**.
- Failure to stand quietly in the line up will be **penalized**.

Shoeing

Park Classes are not defined by shoe size but by way of going. The maximum shoe is the 1 inch shoe (and may only be worn on horses 4 and older); however horses may also compete in lite shod or keg shoes or barefoot if the way of going is appropriate for the class.

Tack and Attire

Park classes are traditional Saddle Seat classes and require Saddle Seat tack, equipment and attire. For complete description refer to **Article 637 Saddle Seat Tack, Equipment and Attire** and **Article 608 Prohibited Tack, Equipment and Attire**. Refer to **Article 609, 610, 611, 612, 613 and 615** for Allowable bits.

AP116 English Plantation Pleasure Classes

Horses in English Plantation Pleasure classes are natural English pleasure show horses, executing authentic walking horse gaits fashionably and freely in a forward-moving manner exhibiting pleasure horse qualities. There is no wasted motion - all effort is used for forward motion. The horse is well balanced, the shoulders roll and reach, head not is prominent, overstride is easily observable (may be considerable) and all gaits are smooth. High front-end elevation and animated full body motion are not required elements. (**Plantation indicates the intended use of the horse rather than a shoe size.**)

Performance and way of going of the English Plantation Pleasure Horse

- The horse has a higher head carriage in keeping with its conformation.
- The horse has moderate front end elevation and full body motion that is natural in appearance with no impression of laboring.
- The total picture is one of boldness and balance.
- The horse gives the appearance of effortlessness in the execution of its gait. It is airy and up in the bridle, but **the horse is not held in frame**.
- The horse is shown in a collected manner.
- The horse is ridden on light rein.
- True walking form is paramount. English Plantation horses are consistent in all gaits displaying correct timing, head nod, reach, stride, and overstride.
- There are observable changes in speed and stride between the gaits.
- The horse is responsive to aids given by the rider.
- The horse is easily controlled
- The horse is alert and willing with no indication of nervousness or difficult behavior.
- The horse backs a minimum of four steps on a straight track without resistance.

Penalties

- A horse not demonstrating the described characteristics of an ideal English Plantation Pleasure Horse will be **severely penalized**, and will not be placed above a horse that both exhibits the described characteristics and performs the correct gaits in the class.
- Deviation from the correct walking gaits will be **severely penalized**.
- Bumping or pumping of the reins at any gait will be **severely penalized**.
- Horses on the wrong lead will be **penalized**.
- Horses that fail to respond immediately to the rider's aids, will not stand quietly, or fail to back a minimum of four steps on a straight track with no indication of discomfort or displeasure will be **penalized**.
- Bad manners of any sort will be **penalized**.
- High front knee action without reach will be **penalized**
- Horses with long striding back legs will not be tied over horses with better overall form but with less stride behind.

Shoeing

English Plantation Pleasure classes are not defined by shoe size but by way of going. The maximum shoe is the 1 inch shoe (and 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 class.

Tack and Attire

All English Plantation Pleasure classes are considered traditional Saddle Seat classes and require Saddle Seat tack and attire. For complete description refer to **Article 637 Saddle Seat Tack, Equipment and Attire** and **Article 608 Prohibited Tack, Equipment and Attire**. Refer to **Article 609, 610, 611, 612, 613 and 615** for Allowable bits.

Trail Pleasure Division

AP117 General

- Trail Pleasure Horses are using horses. These are horses used for pleasure riding on trails under a variety of conditions and over a variety of terrain. While all Trail Pleasure horses are ridden on trails, the types of trails encountered vary depending upon the type of terrain.
- These Rules include classes for 2 types of Trail Pleasure horses:
 - Horses intended to be ridden on groomed trails or bridle paths (Trail Pleasure)
 - Horses intended to be ridden on terrain that is uneven and constantly changing (Working Trail Pleasure).
- Classes in this division may be either two or three gait and offered for Western or English as separate categories or as combined classes.
- Show managers are encouraged to offer a variety of amateur and amateur owned and trained classes in both trail pleasure and working trail pleasure.

AP118 Trail Pleasure Classes

- Horses in Trail Pleasure classes are using horses that are appropriate for use on **groomed trails or bridle paths**. Trail Pleasure horses perform true walking gaits with an effortlessness geared toward encouraging longevity and stamina. Trail pleasure classes are judged on the ability of the horse to provide a safe, pleasurable ride while performing authentic walking gaits.
- Performance and way of going of the Trail Pleasure Horse
- The horse is shown in a semi-collected frame.
- The head and neck is carried in a natural and relaxed manner, appropriate to the horse's overall conformation.
- The horse is surefooted.
- The ride is comfortable, smooth and pleasurable.

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- Horses are consistent in all gaits displaying timing, head nod, reach, stride and overstride appropriate for pleasure riding on groomed trails or bridle paths.
- The footfall is correct and there is an observable difference in speed and stride between the flat walk and the running walk.
- The canter or lope is relaxed and ground covering.
- The horse is not tired or laboring at any gait.
- The horse has exceptional manners.
- The horse is responsive, quiet and manageable at all gaits on a light rein.
- The horse backs a minimum of four steps on a straight track without resistance.
- The horse stands quietly.
- **If requested by the judge**, the Trail Pleasure horse must drop from **any gait** to a working walk, as the rider feeds the reins to the horse. The reins are fed out to the buckle with English tack or until the reins are fed out to the halfway point as in roping reins in Western tack. This results in the horse stretching its neck showing relaxation and acceptance of the bit. The horse does not attempt to speed up or "get away" from the rider when the working walk is requested.
- **If requested by the judge**, the horse must execute a side pass from either side. Each horse will be pulled from the line-up for the side pass.

Penalties

- A horse not demonstrating the described characteristics of an ideal Trail Pleasure Horse will be **severely penalized**, and will not be placed above a horse that both exhibits the described characteristics and performs the correct gaits in the class.
- Deviation from the correct walking gaits will be **severely penalized**.
- Horses with high knee action will be **disqualified**.
- Bumping or pumping or snatching of the reins at any gait will be **severely penalized**.
- Horses on the wrong lead will be **penalized**.
- Horses that fail to respond immediately to the rider's aids, will not stand quietly, or fail to back a minimum of four steps on a straight track with no indication of discomfort or displeasure will be **penalized**.
- Bad manners of any sort will be **penalized**.
- Failure to drop from any gait into the working walk will be **penalized**.
- In Western Trail Pleasure classes two hands on the reins (except with a snaffle bit or bosal on a junior horse) will be **severely penalized**.
- In Western Trail Pleasure classes fingers between romal reins or more than one finger between split reins will be **severely penalized**

Call of the Class for Trail Pleasure

Horses enter at the flat walk. Horses enter the line-up at the working walk.

- **Two gait** classes - flat walk, running walk, flat walk, reverse, flat walk, running walk, flat walk and proceed to the line up.
- **Three gait** classes - flat walk, running walk, flat walk, canter or lope, flat walk, reverse, flat walk, running walk, flat walk, canter or lope, flat walk and proceed to the line up.
- **If requested by the judge**, the working walk may be called from any gait. The working walk will be followed by the flat walk.

Shoeing

Trail Pleasure classes are not defined by shoe size but by way of going. The lite shod shoe is the maximum shoe allowed but horses may compete with keg shoes or barefoot if the way of going is appropriate for the class.

Tack and Attire

If offered as a combined class, either English (Saddle Seat) or Western tack and attire is acceptable, but tack and attire may not be mixed. For complete description refer to **Article 641 Trail Pleasure Tack, Equipment and Attire** and **Article 637 Saddle Seat Tack, Equipment and Attire** and **Article 644 Western Tack, Equipment and Attire** and **Article 606 Other Acceptable Tack Options** and **Article 608 Prohibited Tack, Equipment and Attire**. Refer to **Article 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614 and 615** for Allowable bits.

AP119 Working Trail Pleasure Classes

Working Trail Pleasure horses are suitable to be taken directly from the show ring and put to work in a trail environment where a variety of terrain and conditions are encountered. Due to the variety of terrain and possible obstacles encountered on the trail, Working Trail Pleasure horses may have shorter strides. The Working Trail Pleasure horse demonstrates true walking horse gaits in an economical manner.

- **Working Trail Pleasure classes may be offered with or without obstacles.** If obstacles are included, they are counted as 25% of the total point value of the class.
- Classes are judged on the ability of the horse to provide a safe, pleasurable ride over a variety of terrain while performing authentic walking gaits.

Performance and way of going of the Working Trail Pleasure Horse

- The frame of the horse is a working frame.
- All movement is forward movement, with gaits tending toward the "using gaits" rather than the "showy gaits".
- The horse has stamina and never appears tired or laboring.
- Working Trail Pleasure horses are consistent in all gaits displaying timing, head nod, reach, stride and overstride appropriate for pleasure riding on a variety of terrain and under a variety of conditions.
- The footfall is correct and there is a difference in speed and stride between the flat walk and the running walk.
- The canter or lope is relaxed and ground covering.
- The horse is sure-footed.
- The ride is comfortable, safe and pleasurable.
- The Working Trail Pleasure horse **must** drop from **any gait** to a working walk, as the rider feeds the reins to the horse. The reins are fed out to the buckle with English tack or until the reins are fed out to the halfway point as in roping reins in Western tack.. This results in the horse stretching its neck showing relaxation and acceptance of the bit. The horse does not attempt to speed up or "get away" from the rider when the working walk is requested.
- Working Trail Pleasure Western horses are willingly guided or controlled with no apparent resistance on a reasonably loose rein (one that has visible slack or a shallow "U") without undue restraint. The rein is used when necessary to direct the horse not to check it into frame or gait.
- The horse stands quietly and square in the lineup with no parking out.
- The horse backs a minimum of four steps on a straight track without any resistance.
- **If requested by the judge**, the horse must execute a side pass from either side. Each horse will be pulled from the line-up for the side pass.

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- If requested by the judge, the horse must execute a 360 degree turn on the forehand or the haunches.

Penalties

- A horse not demonstrating the described characteristics of an ideal Working Trail Pleasure Horse will be **severely penalized**, and will not be placed above a horse that both exhibits the described characteristics and performs the correct gaits in the class.
- Deviation from the correct walking gaits will be **severely penalized**.
- Bumping or pumping of the reins at any gait will be **severely penalized**.
- Horses with high knee action will be **disqualified**.
- Horses on the wrong lead will be **penalized**.
- Horses that fail to respond immediately to the rider's aids, will not stand quietly, or fail to back a minimum of four steps on a straight track with no indication of discomfort or displeasure will be **penalized**.
- Bad manners of any sort will be **penalized**.
- Failure to drop from any gait into the working walk will be **penalized**.
- In Western Working Trail Pleasure classes, two hands on the reins (except on a snaffle bit or bosal on a junior horse) will be **severely penalized**.
- In Western Working Trail Pleasure classes, fingers between romal reins or more than one finger between split reins will be **severely penalized**.

Call of the Class for Working Trail Pleasure

Horses enter at the flat walk.

- **Two gait** classes - flat walk, running walk, flat walk, reverse, flat walk, running walk, flat walk and proceed to the line up.
- **Three gait** classes - flat walk, running walk, flat walk, canter or lope, flat walk, reverse, flat walk, running walk, flat walk, canter or lope, flat walk and proceed to the line up.
- The working walk **will be** called from any gait. It will be followed by the flat walk.

Shoeing

Working Trail Pleasure classes are not defined by shoe size but by way of going. Horses may be barefoot or keg shod. The shoe must not extend past the toe, carry over beyond the normal rim of the hoof or extend past the bulb of the heel.

Tack and Attire

If offered as a combined class, either English (Saddle Seat) or Western tack and attire is acceptable but tack and attire may not be mixed. For complete description refer to **Article 648** Working Trail Pleasure Tack, Equipment and Attire and **Article 637** Saddle Seat Tack, Equipment and Attire and **Article 644** Western Tack, Equipment and Attire and **Article 606** Other Acceptable Tack Options and **Article 608** Prohibited Tack, Equipment and Attire. Refer to **Article 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614 and 615** for Allowable bits.

Western Division

AP 120 General

Horses five and under may be ridden with a snaffle bit or bosal and two hands on the reins.

AP121 Bits in the Western Division: See Article 609, 610, 611, 612, 614, and 615 for allowable bits

- Western Snaffle
 - Horses 5 and under using a snaffle bit or bosal may be ridden with 2 hands on the reins.
 - Horses 6 and over **may** be ridden using a snaffle bit or bosal, but only one hand is permitted on the reins.
- Western Curb –
 - Horses 6 and over may be ridden using a curb bit with either split reins or romal reins but only one hand is permitted on the reins.
 - Horses 5 and under may be ridden using a curb bit with either split reins or romal reins but only one hand is permitted on the reins.
- Curb Strap – at least ½ inch wide; all leather or leather on each end with chain in the middle, must lie flat in the chin groove

AP122 Use of Reins in the Western Division

For Horses of any age using split reins or romal reins and a curb bit

For Horses 6 years and over using split reins or romal reins and a snaffle bit

For Horses 6 years and over using a bosal or Western bitless bridle

- Reins are to be held in one hand and must not be changed once the gate is closed and the class begins.
- **Split reins:** When using split reins the hand may be around the reins **OR** one finger may be inserted between the reins. When the hand is around the rein, the rider may hold the end of the reins with the opposite hand to keep the reins from swinging. When one finger is inserted between the reins, the ends of the rein must fall on the side of the reining hand and the reins must not be held to keep from swinging.
- **Romal reins:** When using romal reins the hand must be around the reins. The rider may hold the end of the reins to keep them from swinging but the romal must be held at least 16 inches away from the reining hand.
- The rider's non-reining hand shall be clear of the reining hand at all times. The non-reining hand may be carried across the chest or allowed to fall relaxed and straight from the shoulder, either resting on the thigh or carried behind the thigh near the cantle of the saddle.
- The rider's non-reining hand must not be tucked around the waist or held out to the side near the front of the saddle.
- In Ranch Horse classes, the non-reining hand must fall relaxed and straight from the shoulder, and be carried either resting on the thigh or behind the thigh.

Appendix 1: Judging Specifics for the Tennessee Walking Horse

AP123 Western Pleasure Classes

The Western Pleasure horse works quietly exhibiting an exceptionally smooth, free and easy gait. The horse is ground covering, consistent and steady at all gaits. The horse exhibits a good attitude and is very calm, responsive and obedient to the rider. The Western Pleasure horse is not held in frame, but works quietly in a semi-collected frame that is slightly more collected than that of a Ranch horse. Possessing a lower head-set, the shoulder and neck are relaxed. The horse may possess shorter coupling with a muscular build and may have a shorter stride.

Performance and way of going of the Western Pleasure Horse

- Western Pleasure horses are consistent in all gaits displaying timing, head nod, reach, stride and overstride appropriate to a Western style horse.
- The horse exhibits true four beat, consistent walking gaits and a controlled three beat lope.
- There is an observable difference in speed and stride between the flat walk and the running walk.
- Western Pleasure horses are relaxed at all gaits. The gaits are free and easy.
- Western Pleasure horses provide an exceptionally smooth ride without action or animation. All movement and energy is channeled into forward motion.
- The horse exhibits reach and overstride but a balanced appearance is important.
- The headset is relaxed and natural, between 45 to 90 degrees and not behind the vertical.
- The frame is semi-collected
- Western Pleasure horses are willingly guided or controlled with no apparent resistance on a reasonably loose rein (one that has visible slack or a shallow 'U') without undue restraint. The rein is used when necessary to direct the horse not to check it into frame or gait.
- Western Pleasure horses exhibit true pleasure qualities.
- Western Pleasure horses stand quietly in the lineup.
- They back readily, straight and without resistance.
- **The judge may request the Western Pleasure horse to:**
 - halt on the rail from any gait
 - extend the lope
 - hand gallop
 - demonstrate a 360 degree (neck rein) turn on the haunches in either direction .
 - The 360 degree turn is mandatory in Championship classes. In the event that there are no Western Pleasure championship classes offered at a show, the 360 degree turn is mandatory in each Western Pleasure class.

Penalties

- A horse not demonstrating the described characteristics of an ideal Western Pleasure Horse will be **severely penalized**, and will not be placed above a horse that both exhibits the described characteristics and performs the correct gaits in the class.
- Deviation from the correct walking gaits will be **severely penalized**.
- Hitting the horse with the rein (if seen by the judge) will result in **disqualification**.
- Cueing the horse in front of the cinch will be **severely penalized**.
- Bumping, pumping or snatching of the reins (if seen by the judge) will be **severely penalized**.
- Horses not holding a three beat lope will be **severely penalized**.
- Horses traveling with an open mouth at any gait, or with evidence of tongue distress will be **severely penalized**.

- Two hands on the reins (except with a snaffle bit on a junior horse) will be **severely penalized**.
- Fingers between romal reins or more than one finger between split reins will be **severely penalized**.
- Horses on the wrong lead will be **penalized**.
- Horses that travel too fast at the lope will be **penalized**.
- Horses that fail to stand quietly will be **penalized**.
- Horses that fail to back willingly or show resistance while backing will be **penalized**

Call of the Class for Western Pleasure

Horses enter at the flat walk.

- **Two gait** classes - flat walk, running walk, flat walk, reverse, flat walk, running walk, flat walk and proceed to the line up.
- **Three gait** classes - flat walk, running walk, flat walk, lope, flat walk, reverse, flat walk, running walk, flat walk, lope, flat walk and proceed to the line up. **If the hand gallop is requested** it will be called after the lope and then followed by the lope.
- **If requested** a halt on the rail may be called from any gait. After the halt on the rail, the horse may be asked to reverse or to continue at the flat walk.

Shoeing

Western Pleasure classes are not defined by shoe size but by way of going. The lite shod shoe is the maximum shoe allowed but horses may compete with keg shoes or barefoot if the way of going is appropriate for the class.

Tack and Attire

Western Tack, Equipment and Attire are required for Western Pleasure classes. For complete description refer to **Article 643** Western Tack, Equipment and Attire and **Article 608** Prohibited Tack, Equipment and Attire. Refer to **Article 609, 610, 611, 612, 614 and 615** for Allowable bits.

AP124 Ranch Horse Classes

The Ranch Horse reflects suitability and qualities of a horse used as a working western horse. It is exceptionally responsive, willing and quiet yet always alert. All gaits are performed correctly with effortlessness, efficiency and stamina. It possess shorter coupling with a noticeably muscular frame.

- **Ranch Horse classes may be offered with or without obstacles.** If obstacles are included, they are counted as 25% of the total point value of the class.

Performance and way of going of the Ranch Horse

- Ranch Horses are consistent in all gaits displaying timing, head nod, reach, stride and overstride appropriate to a working horse.
- The horse performs a true, four beat walking gait with correct footfall, shows an obvious increase in speed at the running walk, and maintains a consistent ground covering 3 beat lope and a four beat controlled hand gallop.
- The headset is natural and relaxed so that the horse can spot potential hazards. (between 45 to 90 degrees and not behind the vertical)
- The horse works quietly and steadily.
- The foot should not break above the ankle.
- The horse responds willingly, quickly and quietly to all aids.
- The horse is alert.
- Ranch horses are willingly guided or controlled with no apparent resistance on a reasonably loose rein (one that has visible slack or a shallow 'U') without undue restraint. The rein is used when necessary to direct the horse not to check it into frame or gait.

Appendix 1: Judging Specifics for the Tennessee Walking Horse

- The horse performs a relaxed working walk on a loose relaxed rein. The head and neck drop and relax and the reins are loose and free swinging. The working walk is appropriate for following a slow moving herd of cattle without charging forward or changing speed. The horse will reverse at the working walk.
- The horse must halt on the rail from any gait.
- The horse reins back freely without resistance
- The horse demonstrates a 360 degree neck reined turn on the haunches in either direction.

Penalties

- A horse not demonstrating the described characteristics of an ideal Ranch Horse will be **severely penalized**, and will not be placed above a horse that both exhibits the described characteristics and performs the correct gaits in the class.
- Deviation from the correct walking gaits will be **severely penalized**.
- Horses with high knee action will be **disqualified**.
- Bumping, pumping or snatching of the reins (if seen by the judge) will result in **disqualification**.
- Hitting the horse with the rein (if seen by the judge) will result in **disqualification**.
- Cuing the horse in front of the cinch will be **severely penalized**.
- Horses traveling with an open mouth at any gait, or with evidence of tongue distress will be **severely penalized**.
- Two hands on the reins (except on a snaffle bit or bosal on a junior horse) will be **severely penalized**.
- Fingers between romal reins or more than one finger between split reins will be **severely penalized**.
- Horses that fail to back willingly or show resistance will be **penalized**.
- Horses on the wrong lead will be **penalized**.
- Horses that fail to stand quietly will be **penalized**.
- Horses that do not reverse correctly on the rail will be **penalized**.
- Horses that do not turn correctly on the haunches will be **penalized**.

Call of the Class for Ranch Horse

Horses enter at the flat walk. Horses enter the line-up at the working walk.

- **Two gait** classes - flat walk, running walk, working walk, reverse away from the rail at the working walk, flat walk, running walk, working walk and proceed to the line up.
- **Three gait** classes - flat walk, running walk, working walk, flat walk, lope and hand gallop, flat walk, working walk, reverse away from the rail at the working walk, flat walk, running walk, flat walk, lope, hand gallop, flat walk, working walk and proceed to the line up.
- A halt on the rail will be called from any gait.
- Reverse
 - After the halt on the rail, the horse may be asked to reverse. When asked to reverse after the halt on the rail, the horse must execute a 180 degree turn on the haunches.
 - When asked to reverse while in motion, the horse reverses at the working walk
- The horse stands square in the lineup.
- Horses reins back a minimum of four steps and complete a 360 degree neck reined turn on the haunches in either direction.
- A side pass in either direction **may** be requested. Each horse will be pulled from the line-up for the side pass.

Shoeing

Ranch Horse classes are not defined by shoe size but by way of going. Keg shoes with no trailers or turnbacks are the maximum shoes allowed. Shoes normally used in reining or cutting or for traction are also allowed.

Tack and Attire

Ranch Horse Tack Equipment and Attire are required. For complete description refer to **Article 635** Ranch Horse Tack, Equipment and Attire and **Article 608** Prohibited Tack, Equipment and Attire. Refer to **Article 609, 610, 611, 612, 614 and 615** for Allowable bits.