

Appendix 3: Judging Specifics for the Paso Fino Horse

AP301 Sanctioned Shows

Sanctioned shows may be shows sanctioned by FOSH that are also recognized by the Paso Fino Horse Association (PFHA). These shows must follow all of the PFHA rules and must be considered to be a part of an all breed show. Exhibitors must follow all of the procedures set by FOSH to be able to enter the show arena.

Horses that participate in any FOSH show where a non Paso Fino Certified Judge presides will only be eligible to participate in the FOSH high point program.

When a FOSH show that meets all of the requirements for accepting the PFHA rules and point system, the steward and the Paso Fino Show official contact will be responsible for submitting all show results information required to PFHA.

A set schedule of Paso Fino classes will be established for all of the FOSH shows. Paso Fino managers working together with FOSH show management may choose from this list to meet the needs of the particular show.

AP302 Rules Governing Paso Fino Judges Approved for FOSH Sanctioned Shows

- The individual must be a current PFHA Certified Judge
- The judge must also meet the requirements of the FOSH Independent Judges Association (IJA) and attend their educational clinic at least once every three years.
- Each judge is subject to PFHA rules regarding the minimum time for conflicts of interest and/or business with any exhibitors participating less than 30 days before the show.
- No horses owned by the judge may compete at the show and no immediate family members (father, mother, brother or sister and in-laws) may exhibit a horse before a judge related to them.
- Any Paso Fino judge working for FOSH show management must be willing to judge some of the other breeds participating in the show and must be familiar with their rules and standards for judging.
- Each Paso Fino judge will be required to explain placements for the Paso Fino classes offered. Explanations must be made in a positive manner and must not exceed five minutes.

AP303 Tack and Attire

In all classes, curb chains or curb straps shall not be abusively tight. In schooling classes for Performance Fino, Amateur Owner or Youth, curb chains are allowed but they must be wrapped in order to avoid direct contact with the horse. No metal curb chain is allowed in the Pleasure Division.

AP304 Safety Headgear

Safety helmets which carry the message that they meet the American Society for Testing and Materials/Safety Equipment Institute F1163 are optional in all classes instead of the required hat. Riders are allowed to wear this helmet under the hats required for a given class. **In classes where a jump is required, or in any class where children under 12 years of age are riding, the use of a helmet is required. Children under 12 years of age must wear a helmet while on horseback regardless of the location of the equestrian activity. This includes the show ring, the warm-up arenas, and stabling areas, if mounted.**

AP305 English Tack

- In classes where English tack is designated, saddles may be of any English type, except forward seat forward jumping saddle, unless jumping is required.
- Any Colombian headgear that is used must be leather (flat, rolled or braided).
- Reins and headgear must maintain uniformity in color.

- An English breast strap or breast plate not to exceed one inch in width may be used.
- No silver, vinyl or reflective vinyl is allowed on headgear, breast plates or breast straps.

AP306 Western Tack and Attire

- Western tack is defined as a good working saddle of stock seat type construction.
- The headgear must be of Western style unless the horse is a schooling horse
- And Colombian head gear is used. The rider's attire must include a long sleeve shirt with a vest, boots, Western chaps, a Western hat and a tie.
- Spurs are allowed.

AP307 Attire for Classic Fino and Performance

Exhibitors will have the choice of the Paso Fino Official Costume or the Colombian Show Costume.

AP308 Paso Fino Official Costume

This costume is made up of a long sleeved bolero type jacket and full length riding pants or a jump suit which covers the boots. The costume will be conservative in color and trim. A shirt or blouse will be worn. A matching or contrasting cummerbund is optional. Sequins, glitter or other reflective adornments are not allowed on any part of the Paso Fino Show costume. Male riders shall wear an unadorned tie. A Spanish styled hat made of felt, leather or suede with a round, flat crown and a flat or lightly rolled brim shall be worn. Either a matching or contrasting hat band is required. The total effect is to be one of conservative/good taste.

AP309 Colombian Show Costume

A white straw hat with optional black band, black suit with short bolero jacket, white shirt, black tie, black boots and black belt, if any, is indicated for the Colombian Show Costume. Colombian show chaps also known as Zamarros must be part of this costume. This attire is allowed in Classic Fino and Performance Divisions.

AP310 General Rules

Age of the Horse

For the purpose of separation of classes by age in years at horse shows, the age of the horse is determined by the age the horse would be as of the first of January. As an example, a foal born in 1998 will be considered a yearling during the 1999 show season and will be considered to be two years of age on January 1, 2000.

Placement of Classes

In most FOSH sanctioned shows classes are tied to the 5th place. In order for a show to meet the PFHA rules and to qualify for PFHA points, Paso Fino classes will be tied to the sixth place and an honorable mention. Classes are announced in the reverse, starting with honorable mention to first place.

Removal from Competition and/or the Show Grounds

No exhibitor may remove a horse from the show grounds or competition without the permission of the show secretary or, if necessary, without written permission from a veterinarian. No exhibitor may remove a horse from the ring without the permission of the judge. In deference to safety, an exhibitor may ride to the center of the ring and request permission to be excused.

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Schooling Classes

Schooling classes will be offered for two age groups. **No Paso Fino may compete in under saddle classes until it has reached 30 months of age.** There are two schooling age classes: 3 year old and 4 year old. These may be combined into one class. Classes may also be separated by sex (fillies, colts and geldings),

Youth Exhibitors

- All youth exhibitors must be current members of the breed association. Youth classes are offered in two groups:
- **Junior Youth Riders** must be 13-17 years of age. Age is determined by the age the rider is on September 1 of the current year. Youth classes include equitation, performance, Classic Fino and pleasure.
- **Sub Junior Riders** must be 7-13 years of age. Age is determined by the age the rider is on September 1 of the current year. Youth classes include equitation, performance, Classic Fino and pleasure.
- Any youth may ride in an open class subject to their requirements. No youth is allowed to compete in a Championship Class not designated for youth unless they qualified by riding in an open or amateur owner class. Show management may wish to offer an open youth class in each of the divisions.

Class Descriptions

AP311 Bella Forma - Conformation/In Hand Division

The horse must be shown in the Paso Fino gait. The choice of style may be Fino or Performance. The ideal horse should be judged for conformation and naturalness of the gait. Transmissible faults like buck-kneed, calf-kneed, base wide, base narrow, cow hocks or sickle hocks, toes in/out, offset knees, standing under, camped out in front, too straight behind, are qualities that must be penalized to greater or lesser degrees, depending upon the severity of the fault. Horses with swaybacks and fallen crests must be heavily penalized. The quality of gait should be judged for smoothness, clarity, harmony of cadence, symmetry of action, and the ability of the entry to consistently maintain the gait. A horse that does not perform the four beat lateral gait must be disqualified from the class.

Judging Criteria

The class is judged 60% on conformation, 30% on quality and naturalness of the gait, and 10% on manners and presentation. The horse may be shown on one line or on two lines, being driven forward in front of the handler. The horses will enter the arena one at a time until they line up as directed by the ringmaster. The judge may ask the entries to go over the sounding board if he/she desires. Bella Forma classes may be divided by age, sex and have an individual championship for each sex or they may be combined to have an Open championship.

AP312 Classic Fino Division

Classic Fino is an evenly spaced four beat lateral gait. The horse must be willing, natural, smooth, animated, exciting, and must execute the gait with brilliance and style. The horse must be in balance and must perform at the most collected form possible without losing naturalness and harmony of gait. The collection may vary on the age and style of the horse. The horse must maintain its carriage and quickness of footfall throughout the entire class. Any tendency to mix gaits, the loss of even cadence, lack of smoothness caused by the up and down or side to side movement of the horse's croup should be penalized. Head shaking, opening of the mouth, pinning of the ears, switching of the tail, or continuous help from the rider to encourage the horse to work, should be heavily penalized.

Judging Criteria

Classic Fino is judged 75% on execution, presence, brilliance and naturalness of gait, 15% on appearance, conformation, way of going (carriage) and 10% on manners.

Horses will enter the arena together and perform the following procedure: They must enter in Classic Fino and circle the arena counterclockwise, then halt, then Fino again and then reverse at a Fino. Then work clockwise at a fino, then halt again. They will proceed at Fino and then reverse.

The sounding board may be used as a tool to listen to the gait and a figure eight may be requested to test flexibility and balance of the horse.

These classes may be offered in Schooling 3 and 4 years; and then an open class over 3 years. They may also be divided by sexes in each age group. They will be offered for both amateur owned and open to all. If both are offered, a separate championship may be offered or a championship for both.

N.B. No horse under the age of 30 months may be shown under saddle in this division or any other saddle division.

AP313 Performance Division

The three qualifying speeds are Paso Corto, Paso Largo and Collected Walk. The **Paso Corto** is an evenly spaced four beat lateral gait with collection and animation. The horse must have a proud carriage and a powerful presence. The gait style must have good flexion of all four legs and the horse must be balanced, supple and willing. All of the qualities like quiet croup, good quiet headset, acceptance of the bridle, good tracking (straight), no croup movement, smoothness, responsiveness must be part of the judge's criteria. **Paso Largo** is the extension form of the Paso Corto. The horse should maintain the same picture and balance at this speed. The horse must maintain the gait without losing the drive or collection form of the Paso Corto. The transition must be executed with ease and relatively quickly. It is not a race but there must be a clear difference in the change of the forward speed between the Paso Corto and the Paso Largo. The **collected walk** is an evenly timed four beat gait where the horse maintains its collected form, exhibiting a correct headset, in a controlled manner.

Judging Criteria

The class will be judged 30% Paso Corto, 30% Paso Largo, 10% on walk, 20% on appearance, conformation and way of going and 10% on manners. The horses may be asked to go over the sounding board at the Paso Corto and perform a figure eight or a serpentine. A serpentine consists of a 180 degree turn followed by straight line with another 180 degree turn the other direction and so on. The judge will indicate the area in which to do it. Cones may be used to outline this serpentine or figure eight.

The horses will come into the arena counterclockwise at a Paso Corto, then, upon direction, execute the Paso Largo followed by, upon direction, a collected walk and then the reverse. They will then proceed clockwise at the Paso Corto, followed by the Paso Largo, the collected walk and the reverse. After this mandatory work, the judge may require additional work as desired. This division may be offered and separated by the age and/or sex of the horse; open and/or amateur owner level.

AP314 Pleasure Division

The qualifying speeds are Paso Corto, Paso Largo and flat walk. The required gaits are evenly spaced four beat lateral gaits. The horse must be willing, natural, extremely smooth (choppy gaits must be penalized), well mannered and comfortable in the bridle. The rider must appear to be comfortable in the saddle. A correct flat walk is a must. Horses that are not at ease while flat walking should be penalized.

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At the line up all of the horses must be asked to back. Refusing to back will automatically disqualify the horse from the class. The horses will perform the same procedures as in the Performance division. A flat walk must be announced instead of collected walk.

Judging Criteria

The class is judged 25% on Paso Corto, 25% on Paso Largo, 10% on flat walk and 40% on way of going, conformation, smoothness and manners. The transitions should be smooth and the horse must demonstrate that it is a pleasure (effortless) to ride. The riders may be asked to dismount their horses on the rail or at the line-up. A serpentine and the sounding board are tools the judge may use to tie the class. This division may be offered and separated by the age and/or sex of the horse, open and/or amateur owner level.

AP315 Country Pleasure Division for Paso Fino Horses

The gaits and speeds in this category of competition are the same as those found in the Pleasure category. Once in the line up each rider must back their horse, then they must dismount from the left side and remount from the right side. They must always have contact with the horse as they go around it. After remount, they must walk forward back to the lineup. Country pleasure is open to horses of any age and sex and to all amateurs and horses who have not had professional training for thirty (30) days prior to the show.

Judging Criteria

This class will be judged 20% on walk, 20% on Paso Corto, 20% on Paso Largo, 10% on back, 10% on appearance and way of going and 20% on manners. A country pleasure horse must be smooth, have consistency of gait and tractable attitude. A country pleasure horse should also be calm, mild mannered, safe, smooth, and comfortable. The country pleasure horse should be exhibited with light contact in the reins and exhibit good self carriage. The judge should be looking for the entry he considers to be the prototype of an enjoyable horse to ride through the countryside.

AP316 Trail Obstacle for Paso Fino Horses

This class must be judged 100% on ability to negotiate the obstacles. This class is open to horses of any age and/or sex. There must be at least six obstacles. The horse/rider have two chances at each obstacle. If a jump is part of the obstacles, the rider must wear a helmet. Loosing the sequence or order of the obstacles will disqualify the exhibitor from the class.

At a FOSH sanctioned show where Paso Finos compete in an open breed trail obstacle course, the IJA Rule book will prevail.

AP317 Western Pleasure Division

The qualifying gaits are flat walk, Paso Corto and lope. This class is open to horses of any age and/or sex. All Western headgear and costume must be worn. Australian Saddles are prohibited. Two hands are only allowed if the horse is a schooling horse and it has a Colombian bosal. The hands must be 12 inches apart. This class will be judged 35% Paso Corto, 30% on lope, 10% on flat walk and 25% on manners, attitude and way of going.

Horses will enter the ring at a Paso Corto, then will be asked to flat walk, then to lope on the proper lead. and then will be called back down to a flat walk. The class routine requires a reverse and repeat of the sequence of gaits described above. Horses must be penalized for not taking the proper lead.

All horses are required to back from the lineup. Failure to back disqualifies the horse. The judge may use additional tests to help in tying the class. These include: (a) demonstrate a straight back up to 15 feet; (b) lope and stop either on the rail or down to the center; (c) figure eight at the lope on the correct lead demonstrating a single, simple change of lead. One or two figure eights may be required. In a simple change of lead the horse is brought to a halt. The entry may then be restarted into a lope on the new lead from either the halt or the walk not to exceed two steps. The judge may also use the Paso Fino gait over the sounding board as an additional test.

AP318 Versatility Class

The qualifying gaits are collected walk, Paso Corto, Paso Largo and canter. This class is open to horses of any age and/or sex. The horse will be asked to demonstrate balance, flexibility, coordination and manners while performing these gaits. Willingness on the part of the entry is extremely important. Inability to demonstrate the Paso Fino gait will disqualify the horse. Failure to take the proper lead on the canter should be heavily penalized. The figure eight should be performed at the Paso Corto and should be smooth, consistent in gait and supple. A jump of 18 inches and a maximum of 3 feet will be taken from a canter.

Judging Criteria

This class is to be judged 20% on Paso Corto, 20% on Paso Largo, 10% on walk, 10% on canter and 40% on back, jump, manners and figure eight. The sequence of the gates should be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, Collected walk, canter, collected walk, reverse and repeat. At the line up each horse will be asked to back. Then each horse individually will do the figure eight at the place the judge indicates and then must take the jump at a canter. Failure to take the jump should be heavily penalized. Tack and headgear are to be of English type with a bridle or cavesson. Attire is to be the same for the Pleasure division.

AP319 Costume

This class is to be judged principally on the quality and authenticity of the costume. The horse must exhibit the Paso Fino gait. Each competitor must provide to the judge a write up on his costume and its relationship to the Paso Fino horse. A judge may ask questions of the exhibitors regarding the history of the costume to separate placements.