

## Appendix 5: Judging Specifics for the Racking Horse

### AP501 General Information Relating to the Breed

In the Saddlebred the rack is considered to be a manmade gait that is part of the five gaited repertoire. However, in the racking horse the gait is considered to be the signature gait and a natural one for the breed, just as the running walk is considered to be natural for the Tennessee Walking Horse. Although there are some who describe the Racking Horse as a registry made up originally of horses that would not walk and therefore could not be used as walking horses, such a description has no legitimacy with the horse that has now after a period of years been bred true to type and to gait.

### AP502 Body Type and Disposition

In body type, the Racking Horse is a medium sized horse, generally standing about 15.2 hands and with weight proportionate to body size. The appearance of the horse should be of a gracefully built animal, not fine but with substance. The neck should be long and arched. Swan necks as seen in the Saddlebred are not considered to be desirable in the racking breed. The horse should be possessed of full flanks. The Racking Horse should have flat, smooth legs, slender in appearance rather than heavy and have a round hoof proportionate in size to the horse's body. The animal should have a shorter rather than longer back that is well tied in to the hind quarter which should possess strength in its construction. The tail should be carried with a slight elevation and should be long and full. The Racking Horse must have a neat head and a bright expressive eye. Nostrils should be prominent and open. The ears should be seated on top of his head, well shaped and pointed at the ends. Additionally they should not be thick but should give the appearance of thin skin as is appropriate in a finely bred horse. The shoulders of the horse should be sloping and well muscled, well tied into the wither. The chest should be of appropriate size to accommodate adequate lung capacity and the legs should not appear to come "out of a single hole" in the front. In addition, horses that are pigeon chested or goose rumped are to be penalized. In disposition, the Racking Horse must be docile and tractable. Indications of ill nature or unwillingness to work must be noted and penalized in the final judging.

### AP503 Gaits of the Racking Horse

#### The Unique Gait

The Rack is often referred to as a single foot. This is because although the gait is a four beat gait, each foot hits the ground in a moment of individual action. Whereas in the walking gait, the footfall is one foot up and three feet in various phases of contact with the earth, at the rack the footfall is one foot down and three feet in various phases of elevation. The result of this gait is a ride that can be best described as shock-absorbed. Judges should evaluate the quality of the rack based on stylish execution, speed appropriate to form and action that does not appear to be artificial or contrived. Racking Horses are shown in three distinct gaits. These include the show walk, the slow rack and the fast rack.

#### Show Walk

The show walk is a four beat gait that must be smooth, collected and slow. This is an easy going gait but must display style and grace. The horse should appear to be alert and must be mounted up in the bridle for English classes and in the Western divisions must exhibit a head set appropriate for a Western horse not used in stock work.

#### Slow Rack

The slow rack remains a relaxed gait with a four beat count. Any tendency to fox trot, trot or pace must be severely penalized. The horse should travel on a straight track and bend appropriately through the curves. The rider should not allow the hind legs to trail out or for the horse to go crookedly on the track. The gait must be smooth and form is more important than speed.

#### Fast Rack

The fast rack exhibits the same form as the slow rack but with an increase in speed. However, form must not be sacrificed for speed and the gait must continue to display style, action and smoothness.

**In all three gaits**, the Racking Horse must be shown in a collected frame. The rider must appear to be relaxed and the gait should be smooth so that there is no visible disruption of the rider in the saddle. Exaggerated head nods seen in some of the other breeds are not desirable in the Racking Horse and exaggerated hock action is likewise undesirable. Although a racking horse may exhibit a long rear stride, the overall picture must be one of balance. The action of the front legs must include a curved rolling line. A leg that follows a straight line and appears to point is to be severely penalized in the overall evaluation. A Racking Horse that exhibits correct execution of the gaits and a balance between front and rear action must be tied over horses that possess spectacular front action or rear action in a unilateral manner. The judge must seek out the well balanced performer in the flat shod division.

### AP504 General Tack and Attire Guidelines

- Racking Horses may not be exhibited with tail braces, boots, action devices, or any other apparatus that would restrict the forward motion of the breed.
- The breed is traditionally exhibited in a so-called cutback saddle, common to saddle seat presentations.
- Western saddles may be used only in Western competition or in country pleasure if designated for optional tack and attire.
- Forward seat saddles are prohibited, as is combining types of tack and attire.
- Because the breed is exhibited in accordance with saddle seat mores, a braid is attached at the forelock and the top of the mane following the end of the bridle path. Braids should be neatly attached and not taped in with noticeable items like black electrical tape that draws away from the overall presentation of the horse. Braids are prohibited when showing in Western tack.
- Bridles, except in Western classes, should be of the type normally seen in the Racking Horse industry. That is to say, possessing a cavesson, cheek pieces, throat latch and brow band which may be colored. The bridle should possess a single rein configuration. Curb straps should be clean and may not be twisted or snugged so tightly as to cause the animal distress. Excess links of the curb chain should not be left to flap from the curb hooks.
- Hackamores, martingales, and any form of tie down is prohibited as are gag bits without shanks and any curb bit with shanks that exceed 8.5 inches measured from the top of the bit. Additionally severe mouth pieces are inappropriate at any time, but specifically within a pleasure division and the presence of such a mouthpiece in the ring may be cause to penalize the horse, especially if the horse exhibits any evidence of mouth or tongue distress.
- Whips, crops and cross chain cavessons or crank type cavessons are prohibited in the pleasure division. English or Western spurs that are not sharpened at the rowels are optional.

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- Riding suits for gentlemen, including tie downs on jodhpur breeches and riding suits or day coats and jodhpur breeches for women, including tie downs, is considered appropriate show ring attire for this division. Western boots may not be worn with English attire.
- In Western or country pleasure events, attire requirements common to those divisions and outlined in other locations in this Rule Book apply.
- Snap brim hats of felt or straw are required for gentlemen over the age of 18. Hats are not required for women or for youth of either sex. The wearing of hats is encouraged, however, by all exhibitors in order to create a more finished appearance in the show ring.
- ATSM certified helmets may be substituted by any rider of any age in place of more traditional head gear. Riders are not to be penalized for choosing the ATSM helmet.
- Time outs in the racking division are allowed, unless they are prohibited by show management. The time out may not exceed 10 minutes in aggregate and may not exceed two individual requests for time out in a single class even if the 10 minutes has not been expended.
- Time outs are allowed only for replacement of a lost shoe, repair or replacement of broken or missing equipment, or to correct an accident.
- If a shoe is lost, it must be presented to the judge for inspection before being reset by the farrier. The timeout begins when the farrier begins work on the horse. The period of inspection by the judge does not constitute part of the time out. The time-out will be monitored by the ringmaster whose time will be considered to be final. In all other instances, timeouts begin when the rider rides to the center of the ring.

### AP505 Shoeing Specifications

- The use of bands on any horse, at any time while on the grounds of a FOSH sanctioned show, is prohibited. Although the Racking Horse registry allows the use of bands on flat shod horses, FOSH rules prevail at a sanctioned show.
- Horses may not be wrapped with saran or brown paper or any other form of wrap that may be used to generate heat or retain heat while they are stalled or led about on the show grounds of a FOSH sanctioned show.
- For racking horses, flat shod means direct contact between hoof and shoe. No pads, including those used for therapeutic purposes, may be worn.
- The largest permissible shoe for the flat shod racking horse is 1/2 inch in thickness and 1 inch in width with no bare plates or other weight inside the shoe. The caulk may not exceed 1 inch and the shoe may not extend more than 1/4 inch beyond the natural hoof, measured at the toe. Welded clips are prohibited but clips drawn from the shoe itself are allowed. There shall be no additional weight added to the flat shoe or in or around the hoof, other than the weight that comes from the shoe itself and the nails used to attach it to the hoof.

### AP506 General Ring Protocol

- In general, Racking Horses enter the ring to the right and proceed at a Show Walk. (Check individual divisions for variances from the general ring protocol.)
- Gaits are called in the following order, once the class is considered to be in session and available for judging. The show walk is followed in turn by the Slow Rack and the Fast Rack.
- The gaits are executed in the same manner on the reverse way of the ring. Each horse must be allowed to complete a full circle of the arena at each gait before a gait change is called.
- After the work in each direction, horses are called to the line up and evaluated for conformation. In Championship classes, horses must be stripped for evaluation and a handler is allowed in the ring to assist the rider.
- Juveniles are not permitted to show stallions in any pleasure in hand, riding or driving division.
- Workouts for Racking Horses may include any or all of the gaits at the judge's discretion. In addition, the judge may decide to work the horses only one way of the ring rather than both ways. Workouts may be called for any place. If horses are selected from the original class for a workout, the judging shall begin anew with the workout group.

### Divisions of the Flat Shod Racking Horse

#### AP507 General

Flat shod racking horses must present the qualities of true pleasure horses. They may be entered in a variety of subdivisions within the pleasure category but may not cross over from one division to the other except in the case of Trail Pleasure, Country Pleasure and Western Pleasure horses. Entries in these three subsections may compete in any or all three divisions at the same show.

The generally accepted subsets of the flat shod pleasure divisions in racking horse competition are as follows: Trail Pleasure, Country Pleasure, Western Pleasure, Park Pleasure, and Pleasure Driving and In Hand competition. Bumping and pumping of the reins in any division is to be severely penalized

#### AP508 Trail Pleasure

The Trail Pleasure mount is not meant to be a high headed or high actioned horse, but rather should represent the ideal trail horse. Collection in the gaits and tractability are to be rewarded. The animal must stand quietly, back readily without resistance and on a straight track, and is required to perform only two gaits, the Trail Pleasure Walk and the Trail Pleasure Rack. Speed is not a factor in this division. The horse must be easy in the mouth and there should be no evidence of strain between horse and rider. Smoothness and form are paramount in judging. Although horses enter the ring at the Trail Pleasure Rack, judging begins with the Trail Pleasure Walk when the judge calls the session to order. Gaits are executed both ways of the ring. Horse must line up and execute a correct reinback from a balanced position.

#### AP509 Country Pleasure

Country Pleasure in this section of the rule book refers to classes where Racking Horses are the only entries. For mixed breed classes refer to the standard body of the rule book. The Country Pleasure horse need not be high headed or have high front end action but he must exhibit a smooth stride behind that has some degree of reach. This class may be entered in either English or Western attire. The class is judged at three gaits: Country Pleasure Show Walk, Country Pleasure Slow Rack and Country Pleasure Fast Rack. The Country Pleasure horse must stand quietly and back readily on a straight track and from a light rein. Pulling or see sawing on the reins is to be penalized as is gaping of the mouth, or evidence of resistance.

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The show walk in this division has neither the speed nor the animation of the Country Pleasure Show Rack. Judges are to reward a smooth, true four beat walk with a smooth stride from behind and a natural roll to the front break. At the Slow Rack, the tempo increases and is distinct from the show walk, however the gait remains four beat and must continue to be smooth. At the Fast Rack, the country pleasure horse continues to increase tempo and stride but speed is not considered in the overall judging. There must be a distinct and observable difference in the tempo of each of the three required gaits. The natural rolling motion in the front action must be present in each of the gaits.

In this division the entries present themselves before the class is called into session at the Country Pleasure Show Walk. The gaits are called in order as listed.

### AP510 Western Pleasure

The Western pleasure racking horse must exhibit the qualities of a horse intended for ranch or farm use. Speed is not a factor in the judging of this division. Although the horse must be alert, high head carriage and action is severely penalized, as is the application of a taut rein, or the appearance of pulling on the curb bit. The head set must be a natural set appropriate to the horse's conformation. Two gaits are required in this division: Pleasure Walk and Slow Rack. The judge must also call for a halt on the rail from any gait, each direction of the ring. In the line-up, the horse must stand quietly and balanced, not parked out. He must execute a correct reinback clear of the line up of a minimum of three steps on a straight track. The entry must then execute a three hundred and sixty degree neck reined turn to either direction. The turn is not required to be on the haunches. Its purpose is intended only to demonstrate the horse's ability to neck rein. Laying back of the ears or switching or twisting of the tail is severely penalized in this division.

Tack and attire requirements are the same as those pertaining to any open breed class in the Western division. The application of hands to the reins is also consistent with standard practices in the Western division for all breed competition. Romal reins are allowed in the racking division.

### AP511 Park Pleasure

The park horse represents the ultimate in the stylish personal mount category. Although the stylish horse is required in this division, the emphasis still continues on a mount that is dependable and pleasurable to ride. Judges must emphasize the junction of manners, quality and suitability of mount to rider.

When executing the gaits, smoothness is required as is a high head carriage and a degree of animation that exceeds what would be expected in a trail pleasure entry but does not match that shown in an open flat shod horse. The horse is shown on a light rein and must back readily on a straight track.

The division requires three gaits: Park Pleasure Walk; Park Pleasure Slow Rack; Park Pleasure Fast Rack. The walk is a snappy four beat gait without the speed and/or animation that will be shown at the slow rack. At the slow rack, the tempo increases but the gait must remain easy going and comfortable. Form will not be sacrificed for speed. At the fast rack there is a definite extension of the slow rack into a more animated gait.

### AP512 Pleasure Driving

The general rules applicable to all breed pleasure driving contained elsewhere in this manual are also applicable to the racking horse division. The entry will work at the Pleasure Walk and at the Pleasure Rack. The entry is judged 70% on manners, performance, way of going and conditioning, 20% on suitability of vehicle, harness, and appointments, 5% on conformation and 5% on neatness of presentation of the driver. Separate overcheck bits are optional but an approved driving bit is mandatory. Fine harness buggies are prohibited in the pleasure driving division as is nylon harness. All drivers must wear gloves. Whips of an appropriate length for the rig may be carried. A juvenile driver may be accompanied by an attendant who may not be involved with driving the entry except to assist in an emergency. Should such assistance be required, the entry will be disqualified and excused from the ring. Driving horses must be able to back willingly and readily.

### AP513 In Hand Division

Model horses are shown in a bridle only. They shall be led into the ring and parked for judging unless the entry is shown in a Western bridle with handler in Western attire. Western presentations should be made standing square on the corners. This class is judged primarily on conformation, with attention given to conditioning. Emphasis is placed on the suitability of the entry to be used as bloodstock. Transmissible weaknesses or other unsoundness are to be severely penalized. Judges are instructed to check bites and to note the presence of two testicles in stallions old enough to have dropped. They must also check the vaginas of mares for good reproductive conformation. In this division a handler may use a whip of up to 48" inches including the lash. Manners are paramount. Unruly horses will be immediately excused from the class. Exhibitors may not combine Western with English apparel.

Halter horses may be shown either in a show bridle or show halter. The entries are worked around the ring at a brisk walk and lined up in the direction of the judge for a final conformation evaluation. Type, conformation, substance and quality are considered in the final judging. At the judge's discretion, the exhibition of one of the three traditional gaits of the flat shod horse may be asked for. Unruly horses will be excused.

During conformation judging in the in hand division, entries will be lined up head to tail around the ring in a clockwise direction with adequate spacing for safety between entries. Each horse is required to make a complete circle each way of the ring before being lined up for halter competition. Racking Horses should be shown with their front legs perpendicular to the ground and the hind legs slightly stretched unless the presentation is a Western presentation.

Show halters and leads must be of leather construction and employ a chain lead. Colored brow bands are permitted but sequins and rhinestones are prohibited. Ornately decorated halters are not considered appropriate for Racking Horse In Hand competition. Exhibitors must be correctly turned out in either Western or saddle seat attire. This means that a riding coat must be worn for an English presentation.

Barefoot horses are permissible in hand classes. Weanlings and yearlings must be shown barefoot. Additionally, weanlings and yearlings must be shown in halters only. No bits are permitted. In halter competition, entries aged two and over may choose to exhibit in a bridle or show halter.