



2018

Show Series Season Rules & Regulations

Table of Contents

River Run Horse Shows.....	4
RRHS By-Laws	5
POINTS, AWARDS AND WINNINGS	6
SHOW STEWARD RESPONSIBILITIES	8
SHOW ETIQUETTE	8
BACK NUMBERS	9
HAZARDOUS WEATHER	9
AGE OF HORSE AND EXHIBITORS	9
SHOWING OR SHARING A HORSE	11
LEAD LINE DIVISION	12
EWD DIVISION	12
WALK/TROT DIVISION	16
JUNIOR HORSE	17
SENIOR HORSE	17
SOUNDNESS	17
STALLIONS	18
PONIES	18
GENERAL SHOW RULES	18
HALTER DIVISION	19
SHOWMANSHIP DIVISION	20
ENGLISH PERFORMANCE EVENTS	22
ENGLISH DIVISION-BITS	23
ENGLISH PLEASURE	23
ENGLISH EQUITATION	24
HUNT SEAT	25
SADDLE SEAT	25

WESTERN PERFORMANCE EVENTS 26

WESTERN DIVISION-BITS 26

WESTERN REINS 27

WESTERN PLEASURE 28

WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP..... 29

APPENDIX #1 – EXAMPLES OF INDIVIDUAL TESTS FOR ENGLISH EQUITATION 30

APPENDIX #2 – EXAMPLES OF INDIVIDUAL TESTS FOR WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP..... 31

CONTESTING DIVISION 31

GENERAL CONTESTING RULES 32

JUMPING DIVISION 33

River Run Horse Shows

2018 Rule Book and By-Laws

The River Run Horse Show Group (RRHS) is dedicated to a family-friendly, casual, but competitive atmosphere. Our goal is to have a place to gather with family and friends and enjoy the animals that we love so much, as well as enjoying some friendly competition along the way.

RRHS will hold any combination of casual pleasure shows, speed shows, or educational clinics during the year.

OTHER BREED STANDARDS

If something is not specifically addressed in these rules, then you may show and appoint your horse according to your breed standards.

RRHS By-Laws

ARTICLE I: Membership

Section 1. The membership of this club will be open to anyone showing with us.

ARTICLE II: Rights, Privileges and Dues

Section 1. This club was chartered under the name R.R.H.S. and its leadership shall be privileged to exercise such rights, as are therein conferred and such additional special privileges as are granted by these by-laws

Section 2. A copy of the rulebook and by-laws can be accessed on line at our website www.riverrunhorseshow.weebly.com

ARTICLE III: RRHS Committee

Section 1. The club shall be governed by a committee of Kent County Horse Leaders/Volunteers appointed yearly.

Section 2. All leadership monthly meetings will be at the discretion of the current committee.

Section 3. The committee shall operate the club in the arranging of all competition and projects; but they shall not be empowered to borrow money or to pledge the assets of the club without the approval of a majority vote of Board members.

ARTICLE VII: Amendment of By-Laws

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended by any annual meeting of the committee by a majority vote of the committee members present.

ARTICLE VII: Dissolution

Section 1. In the event of dissolution of R.R.H.S., any assets remaining after current year liabilities shall be donated to the Kent County Horse Leaders.

POINTS, AWARDS AND WINNINGS

- ❖ To accumulate RRHS points toward the year end winnings the exhibitor must show at least 3 shows.
- ❖ Any points accrued up until the cancellation time of a show will be the points that stand for that show date. Daily High Point and Reserve championships will be awarded based on these points.
- ❖ Each RRHS exhibitor/horse combination must show in at least 1 class on 3 different dates to qualify for year-end awards.
- ❖ In the event of a tie for Year End Champion or Reserve Champion, the tie will be broken based on the highest number of first (1st) places followed by seconds(2nd), thirds (3rd) etc.
- ❖ Under no circumstances will points be transferred from one age division to another or from one horse to another. One horse/one rider combination only for Daily and Year End awards. An exhibitor may exhibit more than one horse; however, points will accrue separately.
- ❖ A horse may be shown in more than one age division (age divisions listed below), if a horse is shown by more than one exhibitor, points cannot be transferred or combined between riders.
- ❖ Points are awarded as follows. 6 pts for 1st place, 5pts - 2nd, 4pts - 3rd, 3pts - 4th, 2pts - 5th, 1pt - 6th : Points regardless of how many are entered in class.
- ❖ We discourage judges from disqualifying exhibitors and encourage them to place the class, as they believe it should be regardless if someone deviated from the assigned pattern.
****In the event of a disqualification of a horse or horses from a class, the points will also be prorated as listed above.*
- ❖ Each Lead-line, and EWD exhibitor will be recognized for their participation.
- ❖ There will be an All-Around Champion and Reserve All-Around Champion for each of the following age divisions. Points accumulated in age division classes; western riding and one halter division will be counted toward All Around standings.

- ❖ Halter will not count for daily high point, or Year-end awards.
- ❖ Divisions that accumulate points are as follows
 - Walk/Trot Pony 9-19
 - Walk/Trot 13 & Under
 - Walk/Trot 14 & Over
 - 9-12
 - 13-15
 - 16-19
 - 20 & Over
- ❖ For Year-End awards, all prizes awarded **must be claimed by September 1st** of the year awarded or the prize is forfeited and becomes the property of RRHS. If exhibitor cannot attend the final show to receive their prize, it is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor to make other arrangements to obtain the prize. Awards will be mailed at the expense of the recipient; the exhibitor is to contact a current committee member to make these arrangements.
- ❖ There will be a Daily High Point Champion and a Reserve Daily High Point Champion at each show. All awards must be claimed prior to the end of the next RRHS approved/sponsored show. Unclaimed awards become the sole property of RRHS.

SHOW STEWARD RESPONSIBILITIES

The judge or show steward shall maintain the right to refuse any exhibitor the privilege of showing in any event should his or her conduct be deemed unsuitable to the dignity of the show, or should his or her horse be considered dangerous to the welfare of any or all participants or spectators at the show. Unsuitable conduct in and out of the ring can be one or all of the following situations:

- ❖ Unnecessary physical force above and beyond reasonable schooling
- ❖ Extensive use of profanity
- ❖ A horse that may be a danger to itself, the showman or other participants

SHOW ETIQUETTE

Exhibitors, parents and other onlookers are not to approach the judge about problems, questions, or to hold conversations.

This is considered improper show etiquette. The proper procedures for questions or concerns are to contact the appointed RRHS Show Steward. Each show will have an assigned steward and you may inform the steward of your concern(s). The steward will determine what action should be taken.

Failure to comply will result in dismissal from the show

Any un-sportsmanship conduct observed and reported to the Show Steward will be addressed in the following ways:

- 1) You may receive a verbal or written warning.
- 2) You could be asked to leave the show grounds.

3) Behavior, **including that of members' guests at a show**, could result in termination of RRHS membership and/or forfeiture of points earned.

BACK NUMBERS

All competitors will be supplied a back number to show under by the association hosting the horse show. Back numbers are assigned to the HORSE/EXHIBITOR COMBINATION. Exhibitors may choose to use their own back number if it has not been previously claimed by any other RRH exhibitor, and is not listed as an ineligible number on your RRHS form. This number cannot have any identifiers of any kind, for example, your initials or that of another association may not be listed.

HAZARDOUS WEATHER

The show steward has the authority to cancel any show due to weather conditions that are life threatening. There will be a waiting period to see if the conditions improve. If conditions remain threatening, the show will be cancelled.

Please call the weather hotline for updates on weather conditions and possible cancellations (616)394-4018 after 4pm on Wednesdays

AGE OF HORSE AND EXHIBITORS

- ❖ For showing purposes, the age of an individual on January 1st of each year shall be maintained throughout the entire show year.

- ❖ Following the actual date of foaling, any horse or pony shall be considered one year older on January 1st of each year.

SHOWING OR SHARING A HORSE

A horse may be exhibited by more than one exhibitor however, classes will not be held or stopped to accommodate this. For example, the horse may be shown in the same equitation class, however if rail work is called for by the judge only one rider will be able to exhibit the remainder of the class. This horse could be shown in walk/trot class by an exhibitor and shown in a walk/trot/canter class by another exhibitor. It is a horse/rider combination we focus on and multiple combinations could occur given the many age groups available to be shown in. This rule allows for situations such as a parent and child showing the same horse. Tack changes will be permitted if time allows and at the discretion of the hosting show committee.

Exhibitors may show more than one animal, points cannot be combined and/or transferred between horse and rider combination.

Example:

- Rider A and Rider B share a horse, rider A takes 1st place rider B takes 4th place, rider A and rider B cannot combine points daily or year-end high point
- Rider exhibits two horses, horse A and horse B, rider takes first with horse A and 3rd with horse B, Rider cannot combine points toward daily or year-end high point

LEAD LINE DIVISION

- ❖ Exhibitors must be 8 years old or younger
- ❖ The walk and jog/trot are the only gaits allowed in this class. Trotting is not required. Only if the riders ability allows for it. Walk only is acceptable in this class.
- ❖ The horse will be led by a person on the ground. Optional spotters will be permitted.
- ❖ All participants are required to wear ASTM approved helmets regardless of their chosen riding style
- ❖ Exhibitors are not eligible for other age division, open or pony classes.
- ❖ All exhibitors will receive recognition for their participation.

EWD DIVISION

RIDERS:

- ❖ All riders will be required to wear SEI approved riding helmets for both riding and groundwork.
- ❖ Riders are responsible for providing their own horse, volunteers as needed, and headgear.
- ❖ All Riders should be able to ask their horse to walk forward, halt, and turn right and left.
- ❖ Riders must control the horse at all times in the show ring. Leaders and Sidewalkers are a safety element only and are not expected to influence the performance of the horse or rider. Judges will penalize riders receiving unnecessary assistance.
- ❖ In order to be participate, an exhibitor must have a medically

diagnosed condition that causes a permanent impairment that can be measured objectively. Examples of conditions, diseases or disorders that may lead to permanent impairment are: paresis, amputation (partial to full joint), ankylosis, upper motor neuron lesions, vision impairment, and intellectual disability. Eligible conditions include: amputation, arthrogryposis, Asperger syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, Batten disease, cerebrovascular accident (stroke), cerebellar ataxia, cerebral palsy, Coffin-Lowry syndrome, cystic fibrosis, Down syndrome, dwarfism, fragile X syndrome, Friedreich's ataxia, Guillain-Barre syndrome, hearing impairment, Hunter syndrome, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, mental retardation, microcephaly, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, Rett syndrome, spina bifida, spinal cord injury, Tourette syndrome, traumatic brain injury, trisomy disorders and visual impairment. Additional diagnosis will be considered upon request.

VOLUNTEERS:

- ❖ Volunteers will help the rider only when needed. The rider must be in control of the horse unless there is a safety issue.

HORSES:

- ❖ Horses must be in good condition and be suitably trained to meet the needs of the rider.
- ❖ Horses may be borrowed from the riding program to which the rider belongs or from another source.

TACK:

- ❖ Adapted tack may be used when needed as long as it conforms to safety standards.
- ❖ Tack may be English or Western, but must conform to safety guidelines, be well fitted, and conform to the needs of both horse and rider.
- ❖ Tack and headgear will be inspected for safety as riders enter the ring.

CLASSES:

- ❖ Classes will be judged without regard to the age of the rider.
- ❖ Classes will not be divided into English/Western.
- ❖ A minimum of 2 “spotters,” prepared to assist any rider in case of an emergency, will be present in the ring during each class.
- ❖ Classes may be run concurrently with leadline classes depending on the abilities expressed by the exhibitors on their RR rider profile form.

SHOWMANSHIP:

-Walk Only/Walk Trot Assisted or Independent

RIDING

-Walk Only/Walk Trot Assisted or Independent

ENTRIES:

- ❖ **REMEMBER:** All entries must be accompanied by a copy of a current negative Coggins test on the horse you will be showing.

EWD RIDERS SHOW ENTRY FOR MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY:

- ❖ Rider Profile Form found on the river run horse shows website.
www.riverrunhorseshows.weebly.com

NOTE: These RULES AND GUIDELINES have been adapted from the supplement for the RULES/GUIDELINES that apply to the 2016 Michigan 4-H State Horse Show overall. They pertain to the EWD Rider classes only.

WALK/TROT DIVISION

These classes are intended for inexperienced horses or riders who are not ready or capable to lope/canter in a show setting. The horse/rider combination participating in walk/trot is not eligible for any walk/trot/canter classes other than the walk/trot age group they have signed up for (exception: Halter) This combination may choose to leave the walk trot division, but points will stop accruing for walk/trot once they have chosen to leave the walk trot division. Once an exhibitor has shown the horse/rider combination in an RRHS canter class, they are no longer eligible to accrue points in walk-trot during that show season.

- ❖ Tack is to follow the specifications found in either the English Division or the Western Division of this rulebook
- ❖ Horse and rider combination are not eligible for other age divisions
- ❖ Exhibitors may show in their respective halter classes.
- ❖ This class will only show at the walk, jog or trot
- ❖ The judge may ask horses to back
- ❖ Exhibitors in Horsemanship/Equitation classes will be asked to perform a pattern and/or show on the rail in one direction.
- ❖ Under saddle patterns for 13 & under classes will be posted prior to the first show and will be used throughout the season (Separate patterns will be posted for Equitation and Horsemanship)

WALK/TROT 13 & UNDER: Exhibitors must be 13 years old or younger.

WALK/TROT 14 & Over: Exhibitors must be 14 years of age or older.

JUNIOR HORSE

The “Junior” horse is to be 5 years of age and under. The Junior horse may be shown in a Bosal, Snaffle Bit, or Shank Bit. Legal bits are described in the Rule Book. A Junior horse shown in a Bosal or Snaffle Bit will be shown with two hands. A Junior horse shown in a legal Shank bit will be shown one handed. Proof of age may be required upon request of the show management.

SENIOR HORSE

The senior horse is to be 6 years of age and older. The senior horse must be shown in a legal Shank bit with one hand. Legal bits are described in the Rule Book. Showing a senior horse two handed will constitute a disqualification in the class. There will be no exceptions. Proof of age may be required upon request of the show management.

SOUNDNESS

- ❖ Animals must be serviceably sound in all classes:
- ❖ If a horse’s lips, nose, or sides show signs of broken skin, rawness, or bleeding the horse shall be eliminated from showing.
- ❖ Any horse that is affecting the safety of others may be excused from any class by the judge or called into the middle of the arena.

STALLIONS

- ❖ All stallions one year of age or older must be handled and shown by those aged 18 or older.

PONIES

- ❖ For the purpose of this show association, ponies must be 56" and under. A ½" allowance is made for shoes.
- ❖ Should there be any questions regarding size, ponies could be measured by a RRHS Show Steward prior to entering any RRHS show classes.
- ❖ Any Pony classes offered are for persons 18 years or younger. If a person 19 years and older exhibits a pony, the animal must be shown in the person's respective age division.
- ❖ Must be measured by RRHS committee member prior to entering classes

GENERAL SHOW RULES

- ❖ Classes will not be held for exhibitors who are not ready, unless a pre-requested tack change has been arranged.
- ❖ It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to know what class is running and when they are to enter the arena, not the responsibility of the gate person, RRHS, or any other member of the association.
- ❖ An exhibitor may not show more than one horse in an age group class.
- ❖ Exhibitors must be at the gate and ready to show at the start of the class.
- ❖ Show management determines when a class is closed and no additional entries will be accepted.

- ❖ For pattern classes, once the judge has determined the class is over and is scoring patterns, no further exhibitors will be allowed to enter and present themselves to the judge.

HALTER DIVISION

- ❖ Open to mares, geldings and stallions. In all halter classes, horses are to be led into the ring wearing a halter or suitable headgear for their breed.
- ❖ Horses are to be shown in hand at a walk and trot. The horse will be judged on conformation, movement, manners and finish.
- ❖ Horses may **NOT** show in multiple halter classes with the exception of Horse/Pony Halter 2 & Under Color
- ❖ Halter is an open class based on conformation and does not count toward Daily High Point awards or the Year End All Around award.
- ❖ Horse/Pony Halter 2 & Under does not count toward Daily High Point awards or the Year End All Around award.

SHOWMANSHIP DIVISION

- ❖ Casual attire may be worn in showmanship classes. Attire must be consistent with the horse's headgear. No Penalties will be given of ASTEMI/SEI approved helmets.
- ❖ Tank Tops, and tennis shoes are prohibited.
- ❖ In showmanship classes, the horse is the means through which the contestant exhibits his or her ability to show a horse in hand. Therefore, no consideration shall be given the horse other than fitting and showing.
- ❖ Judging techniques and procedures will vary according to the individual judge's preferences so no specific pattern is given in these rules. All showmanship rules will apply to any judging patterns.
- ❖ All horses shall be in hand at all times. The horse should be able to set up quickly, stand quietly, pivot, walk, trot, and back freely.
- ❖ The exhibitor should be positioned in a safe manner as to keep the horse in the best position when presenting to the judge.
- ❖ The exhibitor shall always lead the horse from the horse's left (near) side.

Faults include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Not having the horse under control at all times.
- ❖ Failure to recognize and correct faults in the horse's position
- ❖ Kicking the horse's legs into position.
- ❖ Failure of horse to lead properly and stop before turning
- ❖ Turning in an unsafe manner
- ❖ Loud voice commands to the horse
- ❖ Over showing and under showing
- ❖ Blocking judge's view

- ❖ Causing judge to move to avoid being stepped on or bumped
- ❖ Improper equipment or attire

ENGLISH PERFORMANCE EVENTS

APPOINTMENTS OF THE HUNT SEAT RIDER

- ❖ Casual attire is acceptable.
- ❖ Tank Tops, and tennis shoes are prohibited.
- ❖ Clothing must be clean, neat and workmanlike
- ❖ **ASTM/SEI certified helmets required for all ages, no hunt caps allowed**

APPOINTMENTS OF THE HUNT SEAT HORSE

- ❖ Forward seat English saddle
- ❖ Dressage saddles are acceptable
- ❖ Snaffle, Pelham, or full bridles, all with plain leather brow bands and cavesons are permissible for Senior horses
- ❖ Snaffle bridles with plain leather brow bands and cavesons are permissible for junior horses
- ❖ Prohibited – boots, martingales, tie downs, dropped, flash or figure eight nose bands

APPOINTMENTS OF THE SADDLE SEAT RIDER

- ❖ Casual attire is acceptable.
- ❖ Tank Tops, and tennis shoes are prohibited.
- ❖ Clothing must be clean, neat and workmanlike
- ❖ **ASTM/SEI certified helmets required for all ages, no hunt caps allowed**

APPOINTMENTS OF THE SADDLE SEAT HORSE

- ❖ Flat English type saddle
- ❖ Dressage saddles are acceptable
- ❖ Full or Pelham bridle for senior horses
- ❖ Full, Pelham or snaffle bridle for junior horses
- ❖ Cavesons and brow bands should be decorated
- ❖ Prohibited – boots, martingales and tie downs

A judge may penalize a horse with legal but non-conventional equipment

ENGLISH DIVISION-BITS

MOUHPIECES

- ❖ Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar)
- ❖ A port on either a solid or broken mouthpiece may not exceed 1 ½” in height
- ❖ A broken mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. The connecting piece may be a ring of 1 ¼” or less outside diameter or a flat bar with a maximum length of 2” and measuring between 3/8” and ¾” top to bottom. The connecting piece must lie flat in the horse’s mouth
- ❖ All mouthpieces must be at least 5/16” in diameter as measured 1” from the cheek
- ❖ Mouthpieces may be smooth, corkscrew, slow twist, straight or ported
- ❖ Mouthpieces may be stainless, sweet iron, copper or rubber
- ❖ Mouthpieces may have copper inlays or may be latex wrapped
- ❖ Rings may be loose or offset “O”, “D”, egg butt, full cheek or Kimber wick style
- ❖ Snaffle rings may not exceed 4” in diameter
- ❖ Weighted snaffle bits prohibited

ENGLISH PLEASURE

THE GOOD PLEASURE HORSE SHALL GIVE THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION OF BEING A PLEASURE TO RIDE

- ❖ All tack is to follow the specifications listed in the English Division section of this rulebook.
- ❖ Horses will be judged on movement, manners and the inherent quality of the above statement
- ❖ Horses will be judged to their breed standard
- ❖ Horses will walk, trot and canter both directions of the ring

- ❖ The judge may request horses to extend gaits, hand gallop or back
- ❖ Horses are to reverse either toward or away from the rail and continue in the same gait they were in when the reverse was called
- ❖ Riders will not be asked to reverse at the canter
- ❖ Riders will not be asked to change horses
- ❖ Horses will be called off the rail either collectively or individually at the walk or trot

ENGLISH EQUITATION

- ❖ Judges will design and post the required patterns before the first class of the day
- ❖ Rail work is optional/individual pattern work may be demonstrated on the rail.
- ❖ Different patterns may be used for each age division
- ❖ Rail work and/or patterns will be at the judge's and/or Show Stewards discretion and may be determined the day of the show based on estimated entries. For the walk/trot mounted classes, no pattern work will be exhibited or required.
- ❖ Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used by the rider in obtaining them.

RIDERS WILL BE JUDGED ON:

- ❖ Seat
- ❖ Hands
- ❖ Performance of the horse
- ❖ Suitability of the horse to the rider

HUNT SEAT

- ❖ Riders should have a workmanlike appearance. Seat and hands should be light and supple.
- ❖ Toes should be at an angle best suited to the rider's conformation. The ankles should be flexed allowing the heels to be down and the rider's calf to contact the horse slightly behind the girth area. Irons may be on the toe or ball of the foot
- ❖ Hands should be over and in front of the horse's withers, slightly apart, and making a straight line from the horse's mouth to the rider's elbow. Knuckles should be 30 degrees inside the vertical
- ❖ The method of holding reins must be consistent with the type of equipment being used. All reins must be picked up at the same time.

SADDLE SEAT

- ❖ Riders should convey the impression of effective and easy control while establishing and maintaining a secure seat
- ❖ Foot position should be toes forward, heels down and ankles flexed slightly inward. Irons should be placed on the ball of the foot with pressure on the entire width of the sole
- ❖ A vertical line drawn from the rider's shoulder and downward shall pass through shoulders, hips and heels. No swaying of the legs should be visible
- ❖ Hands should be held in an easy position – neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle. Hands should demonstrate sympathy, adaptability and control
- ❖ The reins and rider's forearm shall form a straight line from the horse's mouth to the rider's elbow. The method of holding the reins must be consistent with the type of

equipment being used. Both hands shall be used and all reins must be picked up at the same time. Bight of the reins should be on the off (right) side.

WESTERN PERFORMANCE EVENTS

APPOINTMENTS OF THE WESTERN RIDER

- ❖ Clothing must be clean, neat and workmanlike
- ❖ Casual attire is acceptable.
- ❖ Tank Tops, and tennis shoes are prohibited.

PROHIBITED – Splint Boots martingales, tie downs, caveson, roping or barrel reins ***With the exception of gymkhana classes

WESTERN DIVISION-BITS

BOSAL

Means the use of a flexible, braided, rawhide, leather or rope bosal; the core of which may be either rawhide or flexible cable. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaw, regardless of how padded or covered. This rule does not refer to a so-called mechanical hackamore

SNAFFLE BITS

- ❖ Mouthpieces are to be round and smooth. They are not to be wrapped with any metal (including copper). Latex wrapping is acceptable. Mouthpieces may be inlaid as long as the mouthpiece remains smooth.
- ❖ Mouthpieces may be 2 or 3 pieces. The connecting piece may be a ring of 1 ¼” outside diameter or a flat bar. The

flat bar may not be more the 2” in length and must be between 3/8” and 3/4” as measure top to bottom. The connecting piece must lie flat in the horse’s mouth.

- ❖ Mouthpieces must be at least 5/16” in diameter as measured one inch in from the cheek and may have a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle.
- ❖ Rings may be loose, fixed, or offset “O”, “D” or eggbutt
- ❖ Maximum ring size is 4”
- ❖ Chinstrap (if used) must be flat leather
- ❖ Weighted snaffle bits prohibited

STANDARD WESTERN BIT

- ❖ Un-ported broken mouthpieces follow the rules for mouthpieces under the heading “Snaffle Bits”
- ❖ Ported broken mouthpieces may not have a port higher than 3 ½”. Rollers and covers are acceptable
- ❖ Unbroken mouthpieces are to be round and smooth. They are not to be wrapped with any metal (including copper). Latex wrapping is acceptable. Mouthpieces may be inlaid as long as the mouthpiece remains smooth. The bar must be a minimum of 5/16” as measured 1” in from the cheek.
- ❖ Ported fixed mouthpieces may not exceed 3 ½” in height. The port may be flattened metal as long as it is smooth
- ❖ Nothing may protrude below a mouthpiece. Extensions and prongs are strictly prohibited
- ❖ The maximum length of the shank is 8 ½”
- ❖ Shanks may be fixed or loose, but may not slide on the mouthpiece more than 1/8”

WESTERN REINS

BOSAL

- ❖ A traditionally tied mecate is to be used
- ❖ Mecate may be horsehair, mountain rope or nylon
- ❖ Reins are to be held with both hands

SNAFFLE BIT

- ❖ Split reins are to be used
- ❖ Reins are to be held with both hands

STANDARD WESTERN BIT

- ❖ Either split reins or romal reins are permitted
- ❖ Split reins - the tail of the reins must fall on the same side as the rein hand.
 - only one finger is permitted between the reins
- ❖ Romel reins - the romel may be held, provided hands are kept at least 16" apart.
 - no fingers are permitted between the reins

Only one hand may be used for reining (unless riding a Junior horse 5 & Under with a Snaffle bit) and it may not be changed. Second hand may be used to adjust the reins, provided hands are kept at least 16" apart.

WESTERN PLEASURE

THE GOOD PLEASURE HORSE SHALL GIVE THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION OF BEING A PLEASURE TO RIDE

- ❖ Horses will be judged on movement, manners and the inherent quality of the above statement
- ❖ Horses will be judged on their breed standard
- ❖ Horses will walk, jog and lope both directions of the ring
- ❖ The judge may request horses to lope with forward motion, extend the jog or back
- ❖ Horses are to reverse either toward or away from the rail and continue in the same gait they were in when the reverse was called
- ❖ Riders will not be asked to reverse at the lope
- ❖ Riders will not be asked to change horses

- ❖ Horses are to be called off the rail either collectively or individually at the walk or jog

WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

- ❖ Judges will design and post the required patterns before the first class of the day
- ❖ Rail work is optional/individual pattern work may be demonstrated on the rail
- ❖ Different patterns may be used for each age division
- ❖ Rail work and/or patterns will be at the judge's and/or Show Stewards discretion and may be determined the day of the show based on estimated entries. No pattern work is required or will be exhibited in the walk/trot age divisions.
- ❖ Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used by the ride in obtaining them.
- ❖ All tack is to follow the specifications listed in the Western Division section of this rulebook.
- ❖ The rider should sit in the saddle with the knees slightly bent and weight directly over the balls of the feet. The stirrups should be short enough to allow the heels to be lower than the toes. Feet may be placed in the stirrup at the ball of the foot or "home". Riding with only the toes in the stirrups will be penalized.
- ❖ The body should always appear comfortable, relaxed and flexible
- ❖ Reins are to be carried above or slightly in front of the saddle horn
- ❖ Riders should sit the jog. The seat at the lope should be close to the saddle and going with the horse's movement

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE AND RIDER

- ❖ As described in the English and Western sections
- ❖ Attire and equipment must be consistent for horse and rider

RIDER WILL BE JUDGED ON

- ❖ Seat
- ❖ Hands
- ❖ Performance of the horse
- ❖ Suitability of the horse and rider
- ❖ Appointments of the horse and rider

APPENDIX #1 – EXAMPLES OF INDIVIDUAL TESTS FOR ENGLISH EQUITATION

- ❖ Address the reins
- ❖ Back
- ❖ Counter canter
- ❖ Figure 8 at the trot – demonstrating a change of diagonal.
 - At the left diagonal, the rider should be sitting when the left front leg is on the ground.
 - At the right diagonal, the rider should be sitting when the right front leg is on the ground. When circling clockwise at the trot, the rider should be on the left diagonal.
 - When circling counter-clockwise, the rider should be on the right diagonal.
- ❖ Figure 8 at the canter on the correct lead, demonstrating a simple change of lead
- ❖ Change leads down the center of the ring showing simple lead changes
- ❖ Serpentine at the trot or canter showing changes of diagonal or lead

- ❖ Drop the irons and ride without them. Irons may be crossed or left down
- ❖ Execute turns on the forehand
- ❖ Answer questions

APPENDIX #2 – EXAMPLES OF INDIVIDUAL TESTS FOR WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

- ❖ Figure 8 at the jog
- ❖ Lope and stop
- ❖ Figure 8 at the lope showing a simple change of lead
- ❖ Ride without stirrups
- ❖ Figure 8 at the lope showing a flying lead change
- ❖ Change leads down the center of the arena
- ❖ Ride a serpentine showing simple or flying changes of lead
- ❖ Execute turns on the haunches
- ❖ Answer questions

CONTESTING DIVISION

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE (WESTERN) –

A standard western-type saddle must be used. Use of any standard bit or conventional hackamore is optional. However, the judge may prohibit the use of bits or equipment he or she considers severe. Running martingales, standing martingales or tiedowns are permitted. Bell boots, shin boots and skid boots are permitted; however, polo wraps are not permitted because of the danger they would pose if they came undone. If split reins are used, they must be tied or fastened together. A single rein is recommended.

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE (ENGLISH) –

Snaffles – with or without dropped nosebands, pelhams, kimberwicks and full bridles are acceptable. A running martingale is permitted, as are standing martingales or tiedowns.

APPOINTMENTS OF RIDER –

- ❖ All riders must wear ASTM/SEI certified helmets while mounted
- ❖ Clothing must be clean, neat and workmanlike
- ❖ Casual attire is acceptable.
- ❖ Tank Tops, and tennis shoes are prohibited.

GENERAL CONTESTING RULES

- ❖ All gymkhana events will be timed.
- ❖ Horsemanship and sportsmanship will be stressed.
- ❖ Judges' decisions will be final.
- ❖ The use of spurs, bats or over-and-under bats is optional.

Excessive or abusive use of these items may be penalized or cause disqualification at the judge's discretion. Any contact made forward the cinch line will result in immediate disqualification

- ❖ Any unsportsmanlike behavior by contestants, volunteer leaders or family members – in or out of the arena – will result in disqualification.
- ❖ Horses must be under control at all times.
- ❖ Horses must be mounted when entering the ring. No assistance to either horse or rider is permitted past the arena gate. Horses **MUST WALK FLAT FOOTED** through the gate

- ❖ Contestants have 60 seconds from the time their name is called to cross the timer line, failure to do so will result in immediate disqualification
- ❖ After completing the course a rider must dismount and lead the animal from the arena. Failure to do so will result in immediate disqualification.

- ❖ Mounted riders should stay clear of the exit gate to allow the dismounted rider to safely exit the arena.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- ❖ Running through the chute or gate to enter the arena
- ❖ Failure to begin the course within 1 minute after the ready signal is given.
- ❖ Failure of the rider to enter the arena mounted.
- ❖ A stop or willful refusal to move forward once on pattern.
- ❖ Riding the horse out of the arena.
- ❖ Loss of course, which includes negotiating obstacles in other than the specified order or in the wrong direction. This includes circling, backing or reversing the direction of movement.
- ❖ Horse behaving in an unruly manner or out of control.
- ❖ Any kind of cruelty to the horse whether or not specifically mentioned in these rules, will disqualify the competitor.
- ❖ Any contact forward the cinch area
- ❖ Fall of horse or rider while in the arena.
- ❖ Using rubber bands or other items to secure any part of the rider to any part of the horse or tack.

TIMING PROCEEDURE

- ❖ Electric timers will be used, timer line will be clearly marked with cones

JUMPING DIVISION

Working Hunter Over Fences Criteria

Points

Horse's performance.....	90
Appointments of horse & rider	10
Total	100

CRITERIA EXPLANATION

HORSE'S PERFORMANCE –

Horses should have an even hunting pace, good manners, a safe style of jumping, a correct way of moving over the course and a correct way of moving when being judged for soundness. Extreme speed will be penalized. Correct leads in corners are preferred. Breaking gait (canter or trot) except to correct an incorrect lead or cross-fire, will be penalized.

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE AND RIDER –

See the “English Appointments” section of this rule book

.HUNTER COURSE

Judges are responsible for the correctness of each course after it has been set, and should call the show committee's attention to any errors that would result in unfair or inappropriate courses.

Exhibitors will be allowed to walk the course after the judge has approved the course.

COURSE OR ARENA ARRANGEMENT

- ❖ Arrangements should include a minimum of four obstacles.
- ❖ Horses must make a minimum of 8 jumps, at least one change of direction is preferred.
- ❖ The following types of obstacles may be used: Fences that simulate obstacles found in the hunting field, such as post and rail, brush, stone wall, white fence or gate, chicken coop, Aiken or hedge.
- ❖ The following jump types are prohibited: A pole over brush, triple bars, hog backs, hinged chicken coops and square oxers.
- ❖ The top elements of all fences must be securely placed so that a slight rub will not cause a knockdown, but so that the elements will fall if hit hard.

OBSTACLE CHARACTERISTICS INCLUDE

- ❖ Single obstacles should be located at 12- to 18-foot intervals.
- ❖ The height of obstacles must not exceed 3 feet.

- ❖ The use of wings on obstacles in hunter classes is recommended. Ground poles placed on the take-off side of jumps are required. When jumps are approached from both sides, ground poles are required on both sides.
- ❖ Unused jump cups and pins must be removed from jump standards.
- ❖ A combination jump is recommended in all hunter courses.

The recommended distance for combination jumps is:

- ❖ One-stride in-and-out, 22 feet to 26 feet
- ❖ Two-stride in-and-out, 36 feet
- ❖ Three-stride in-and-out, 48 feet
- ❖ Fences must be at least 10 feet wide, though wider fences are desirable, and wings of at least 30 inches are recommended.

SCORING HUNTER CLASSES

Horses should be sound and have an even hunting pace, good manners and a safe style of jumping, together with a smooth way of moving over the course. Extreme speed will be penalized. Circling once when entering the ring and once when leaving is required.

FAULTS

- ❖ When a horse makes two faults at one obstacle, only the major fault will be counted, except for refusals, which will count in addition to other major faults.
- ❖ When an obstacle includes two or more fences (such as an in-and-out), the faults committed at each element are considered separately. In cases of a refusal or runout at one element, the contestant must re-jump all elements of the combination.
- ❖ When an obstacle is composed of several elements in the same vertical plane, a fault at the top element is the only one penalized.
- ❖ Judges will penalize unsafe jumping and bad form over fences whether the obstacle was touched or onto light touches are not

a major consideration, but they may be scored according to the following scale in cases where elimination is difficult.

- ❖ Touching with any part of the horse's body behind the stifle (½ fault)
- ❖ Touching with any part of the horse's body in front of the stifle (1 fault)
- ❖ Touching a standard or wing while jumping an obstacle with any part of the horse, rider or equipment (1 fault)

KNOCKDOWNS—

An obstacle is considered knocked down when its height is lowered by horse or rider:

- ❖ With any part of the horse's body behind the stifle (4 faults)
- ❖ With any part of the horse's body in front of the stifle (8 faults)
- ❖ Lowering a standard or wing in jumping an obstacle with any part of the horse, rider or equipment (8 faults)
- ❖ If an obstacle is used for more than one jump and is knocked down on the first jump, the rider may pull up or circle until the judge signals that the jump is reset.

DISOBEDIENCES

Disobediences are major faults that will be heavily penalized. These include the first and second refusal, runout, bolting on course or an extra circle on entering or leaving course (8 faults).

DISQUALIFICATION

- ❖ The following are causes for disqualification:
- ❖ Third refusal, third runout, third time bolting on course
- ❖ Jumping an obstacle before it is reset
- ❖ Bolting from the ring
- ❖ Failing to stay on course
- ❖ Jumping an obstacle not included in the course
- ❖ Fall of the horse or rider

PONIES

The same rules listed for scoring hunter classes apply to scoring hunter classes for ponies. However, for ponies not exceeding 52 inches, fences should not exceed 2 feet and in-and-outs should not exceed a distance of 20 feet. For ponies over 52 inches but not exceeding 56 inches, fences should not exceed 2½ feet and in-and-outs should not exceed a distance of 22 feet.