



**THE NATIONAL
WALKING HORSE
ASSOCIATION**

Rules and Regulations

**Version 2.0
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FOREWORD

The National Walking Horse Association (NWHHA) is a non-profit organization formed to do the following:

- to promote and increase public awareness of the true and inherent abilities of the Walking Horse, to provide an equitable horse show affiliation program for Walking Horses, Spotted Saddle Horses and Racking Horses to be exhibited, judged, and showcased in full compliance with the Horse Protection Act.

The NWHHA will accomplish these goals through:

- Rules that are enforced fairly and consistently.
- A judges program that trains judges to place horses in compliance with the rule book.
- A designated qualified person (DQP) program with thorough and fair inspections.

The term **Rules**, when used herein, are the Rules of the National Walking Horse Association unless otherwise stated.

These Rules may be changed and amended from time to time by the National Walking Horse Association.

NATIONAL WALKING HORSE ASSOCIATION

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1. Affiliated Shows and Sales

1.1 Definitions

- A. **NWHA**, when used herein, represents the formal name, **National Walking Horse Association**.
- B. The term **Affiliated Show**, when used herein, includes all shows which have chosen to affiliate with the NWHA.
- C. The term **Rules**, when used herein, refers only to the Rules of the National Walking Horse Association unless otherwise stated.
- D. **DQP**, when used herein, refers to Designated Qualified Personnel.

1.2 Affiliation Procedures

- A. Any show desiring to affiliate may apply, upon agreeing to use only NWHA licensed or guest judges and appointed DQPs in all walking horse classes, and to abide by all the Rules, regulations and procedures of the NWHA. When the request for affiliation is received an application form and all necessary information will be forwarded to Show Management.
- B. Any sale desiring to affiliate may apply, upon agreeing to use only NWHA appointed DQPs and to abide by all the Rules, regulations and procedures of the NWHA. When the request for affiliation is received, an application form and all necessary information will be forwarded to Sale Management.
- C. Any show or sale agreeing to affiliate thereby agrees to pay the fees listed below.
- D. NWHA DQPs will inspect other breeds of horses under the jurisdiction of the HPA at multi-breed shows.

1.3 Affiliation Fees:

- A. **All shows and sales:** \$25. This fee is due with affiliation agreement form. To allow sufficient time for Affiliation approval, application must be made not less than 30 days prior to the show date.
- B. **Affiliation:** \$4 per horse per day regardless of the number of times shown.
- C. **Sales Affiliation:** \$5 per sale consignment inspected by the DQP.

1.4 Show or Sale Management shall furnish NWHA within 15 days after the show:

- A. Payment for affiliation fees.
- B. Copy of each class sheet, showing all entries and class winners, including complete names and addresses of both owners and trainers on all horses inspected which are under the jurisdiction of the Horse Protection Act (HPA). (Not required of Sale Management.)
- C. Show or Sale Manager's Report on the form furnished by the NWHA.
- D. Copy of Premium List and/or Program or Sale Catalog.
- E. Judges' Cards.



2. Duties of Show Officials and Employees

2.1 Show Officials

The term "Show Officials" shall include and refer to the following:

- Show Management
- Judges
- DQPs
- Veterinarians
- Timekeepers
- NWAH Representatives

2.2 Duties of Show Management:

It shall be the duty of Show Management to enforce all the Rules of the NWAH from the time entries are admitted to the show grounds until their departure. In particular, it shall be Show Management's duty:

- A. To hire NWAH approved Judges or to obtain, if necessary, guest cards for Judges
- B. To use DQPs assigned by the NWAH.
- C. To order the DQP to measure any horse whose height, length of foot or shoe dimensions are protested by an exhibitor. Such measurement shall take place immediately. The decision of the Show Officials shall not be overturned by the NWAH.
- D. To eliminate, without waiting for a protest to be made, any entry that is found to be ineligible.
- E. To receive and act upon Protests in accordance with the Rules, and to report whatever action is taken to the NWAH. In the event that a person participating at a show shall commit an offense or violation described in the Rules, Show Management, at its discretion, may disqualify that person from further participation in that show only. Any such offense shall be reported to the NWAH for whatever further action is deemed necessary. In the event a Protest is upheld, the class will be re-tied.
- F. To provide a telephone at shows where horses are stabled overnight.
- G. To provide all necessary physical facilities to accommodate the show, including an area set aside for the inspection of horses by DQPs and to provide the necessary personnel for the DQP to carry out his/her duties.
- H. To provide a veterinarian on the grounds or on a stand-by status at the show.
- I. To abide by all decisions made by a Judge or DQP and in no way try to influence their decision or their procedure.
- J. To cooperate in whatever way requested with the USDA and enforce their rules.
- K. To insure the personal safety of all officials representing the NWAH.
- L. To employ the following personnel needed to insure a successful show:
 - Show Manager
 - Announcer
 - Ringmaster
 - Gate Attendants
 - and the following optional personnel as determined by Show Management:



- Organist
 - Ring Clerks
 - Farrier
 - Law Enforcement Personnel
 - First Aid Personnel
- M. To insure that no manager serves as a Judge or DQP at his/her own show.
- N. To insure that the DQP, Judge, Ringmaster or the person that hires/contacts the Judge, nor members of their immediate family, compete in a show at which they are participating in an official capacity, nor shall any horse owned by any of the above be shown at this show.
- O. To disqualify any exhibitor and/or exhibitor's entries if there is just cause, and to rule that exhibitor forfeit any winnings and ribbons at that show, and, if necessary, to have the horses of such exhibitor removed from the grounds without being held liable for damage. All such actions must be reported to the NWHHA.
- P. To cause to be posted in a conspicuous place during the show, the Judges' cards, or copies thereof, at those shows which employ a multi-judge system.

2.3 Duties of Show Secretary (or Show Management in absence of Secretary)

- A. The Secretary shall apply annually to the NWHHA for dates for the show. In case of a conflict, the NWHHA shall arbitrate and make a decision. Allow at least 30 days between the date of application and the show date requested. The NWHHA may withhold assignment of a date for an affiliated show if the show has indebtedness to the NWHHA.
- B. The Secretary must furnish a copy of the prize list to the NWHHA immediately upon publication.
- C. The following must be included on the premium list: "Persons on federal disqualification cannot transport horses to this show and can participate only as a spectator."
- D. The Show Secretary must provide the NWHHA all class entry information, including the Judge's completed cards, within 15 days after the show, indicating the placings in all classes. Amateur Exhibitor Card numbers must be included on the entry form.
- E. The Secretary must send in a list of Show Officials officiating at the show.
- F. The Secretary should furnish the DQP with the following:
- G. Class sheets on each class that is to be inspected.
- H. Copy of premium list and/or program.
- I. The Secretary of each affiliated show shall have a copy of the current NWHHA Horse Show Rules available for reference at all times during the show.
- J. The Secretary shall report in writing to the NWHHA any act on the part of any person deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the NWHHA. Matters to be so reported include discourtesy to a judge, DQP, show official and spectator, removal by an exhibitor of his/her horses from the show grounds, or withdrawal from the show after it has commenced without permission.
- K. The Secretary shall be responsible for all matters in connection with entries.



3. Horse Show Jurisdiction and Procedures

3.1 General

- A. The Rules of the NWA shall take precedence over any other rules.
- B. Show Management may make rules more stringent but not less stringent.
- C. Every show and every person participating therein including exhibitor, trainer, owner, lessee, manager, agent, rider, driver, judge, DQP, show official, or employee is subject to the Bylaws and Rules of the NWA and to the local rules of the show. Every person participating in any show recognized by the NWA is subject to the provisions of the NWA whether or not the particular class in which he/she participates is operated under the NWA.

3.2 Class Interruptions

In the event that a class, in which horses compete, whether collectively or individually, is stopped while in progress due to storm, accident or other emergency, the following procedures shall govern:

- A. The class, when recommenced, shall be held over in its entirety and no consideration shall be given to the performance during the original session.
- B. If classes are postponed to a day not included in the original show dates exhibitors are entitled to a refund of entry fees and are relieved of any obligation to show back in postponed classes.

3.3 Serviceable Soundness for Horse Show or Horse Sale Purposes

- A. All horses shown at a NWA affiliated show or sale must be serviceably sound for horse show purposes and must not show evidence of lameness, broken wind or complete loss of sight in both eyes (discretion of the judge), stallions and mares in breeding classes excepted.)
- B. The official veterinarian's decision, if requested by the Judge, as to the serviceable soundness of a horse shall be final. If the official veterinarian is not immediately available or called on, the Judge's decision as to serviceable soundness of a horse shall be final.

3.4 Stallions

Stallions shall be barred from any class in which the conditions specify that a youth exhibitor is to ride.

3.5 Drugs and Medications

- A. No horse shall be administered any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer or local anesthetic which might affect the performance of a horse. (Stimulants and depressants are defined as medications which stimulate or depress the circulatory, respiratory or central nervous systems.) Also prohibited is the use of "ginger", any foreign substance on the pastern area, and any drug, regardless of how harmless or innocuous it might be, which by its very nature masks or screens the presence of aforementioned prohibited drugs, or prevents or delays testing procedures. Horses suspected of being illegally medicated will have blood drawn and tested by a licensed veterinarian. If a veterinarian is not readily available the Judge's decision is final. Entries showing signs of being sedated or tranquilized shall be excused by the Judge in Halter Classes.
- B. Persons involved may be required to forfeit all prize money and any trophies, ribbons and "points" won at said competition. The owner must pay a fee of \$50 to show management. Points accumulated toward year end awards prior to said competition may be nullified. A trainer and /or owner of a horse found to be in violation of the previous rule is subject to whatever penalty is assessed by the NWA. Said trainer and/or owner may be fined and may be suspended from all competition at the discretion of the NWA. The horse may be suspended for any period of time specified by the NWA.



3.6 Entries

- A. According to the Horse Protection Act, a horse cannot show unless it is first inspected by the DQP. In order for the DQP to inspect horses, all class entry sheets must contain the following information:
- Horse's official name.
 - Trainer's name (if the trainer is also the amateur/owner, put "same as owner" in the trainer column.
 - Amateur name and card number.
 - Mailing address of trainer, owner, and exhibitor.
- B. The entry blank of each show must contain a certification to the NWHHA signed by the exhibitor or his representative, to the effect that:
- Every entry shall constitute an agreement that the person making it, owners, exhibitors, lessee, trainer, manager, agent, coach, rider and the horse shall be subject to the bylaws and the Rules of the NWHHA and the local rules of the show. Further it shall constitute a declaration that the horse and/or rider is eligible as entered and that the owner and all of his/her representatives are bound by the bylaws and Rules of the NWHHA and the show and accept as final the decision of the NWHHA on any question arising under said Rules, and agree to hold harmless the show, the NWHHA, its officials, directors and employees for any action taken.
 - Failure of a show to require that such entry blank be signed shall constitute a violation of the NWHHA rules.
 - Should an exhibitor, his/her agent, or trainer fail to sign an entry blank as required, his/her first entrance into the ring as an exhibitor shall be interpreted as acceptance of the Rules of the NWHHA and shall ipso facto render him/her subject to said Rules.
 - Violation of the Rules in connection with entries may be cause for disqualification of the exhibitor, agent and/or trainer by the Show Committee.

3.7 Horses Names

Horses entered do not have to be registered but a horse must be entered under its officially recorded name or name by which it is known. It must also be entered under the name of the owner of record or of the registered farm name.

Double registered horses: If a horse has different names with different breed registries, the horse must be entered using the registered name of the breed in which the horse is being shown.

3.8 Amateur Card and Numbers

To be eligible to show in an amateur class everyone must have a current amateur card. Amateur cards are not required for youth exhibitors and Country Pleasure Exhibitors.

3.9 Combined Ownership

Horses must be entered in the names of combined owners. Combined-ownership horses are eligible to be shown in Owners' and Amateur Owners' classes and may be shown by either owner or any member of their immediate family.



3.10 Refusal of Entries

- A. In addition to entries of persons suspended by the NWHHA or the USDA, Show Management may reserve the right to refuse the entry of an exhibitor who has demonstrated un-sportsmanlike behavior at a show or has conducted him/herself in a manner which brings discredit to the show, its management, officials, or employees, provided the exhibitor so excluded shall have the right to be heard on the issue by Show Management before the refusal of entry is made.
- B. No entry shall be admitted into the show ring once the gate is closed and judging has commenced.

3.11 Measurement of Height Entries

Stand the animal on a smooth, level surface, in such a position that the front legs are vertical and the backs of the hocks are in a vertical line with the points of the horse's quarters. The head should be held low enough to reveal the highest point of the withers from the ground. The arm of the Measuring Standard shall be placed over the highest point of the withers and no measurement taken at any other part of the horse's body shall count. The Standard must be a straight, stiff, rigid stick and should be provided with a plumb bob or spirit level to make sure the standard is perpendicular from the withers to the ground and that the cross piece is parallel with the ground surface.

4. Divisions and Classes

Classes at NWHHA Affiliated Shows generally fall under one of the following divisions as listed below. Exceptions to those listed might be Local or Club Interest or Open Breed. Unless otherwise specified, only the horse is judged, although eligibility of the entry for many classes is determined by the classification of the rider.

4.1 Under Saddle Rail Class Division:

Under Saddle Rail Classes shall be open to amateur, youth and/or professional riders, in keeping with specific class requirements. Classes within this division are:

- A. Trail Pleasure Classes.**
- B. Lite-Shod Pleasure Classes.**
- C. Plantation Pleasure Classes.**
- D. Country Pleasure Classes**
- E. Western Pleasure Classes**
- F. Spotted Saddle Horse Classes**
- G. Racking Horse Classes**



4.2 Versatility Division:

Versatility Classes may be offered also. Open to amateur and/or professional riders as specified by Show Management, in keeping with specific class requirements. Versatility Classes include:

- A. Barrel Racing
- B. Combined Driving
- C. Competitive Trail Riding
- D. Dressage
- E. Endurance Riding
- F. Equitation (walking seat and stock seat)
- G. Hunter Over Fences
- H. Hunter Hack
- I. Judged Pleasure Riding
- J. Obstacle Driving
- K. Pleasure Driving.
- L. Pole Bending
- M. Reining
- N. Reinsmanship
- O. Showmanship at Halter
- P. Trail Obstacles
- Q. Water Glass
- R. Western Riding

4.3 Halter Division:

Halter class entries are presented in hand, in either a show halter or bridle as dictated in the specific class requirements. Entries showing obvious outward signs of being sedated or tranquilized shall be excused by the Judge in Halter Classes.

- A. **Breeding Classes:** Open to all exhibitors in keeping with specific class requirements. Suggested classes are:
 - Mare and Foal Class.
 - Get of Sire Class.
 - Produce of Dam (2 or more offspring)
- B. **Halter Classes:** Open to all exhibitors in keeping with specific class requirements. Suggested classes are:
 - Weanlings.
 - Yearlings.
 - Two-Year.
 - Championship Classes.
 - Note: Halter Classes may be divided further by sex of entries.



C. **In Hand Classes:** Open to all exhibitors in keeping with specific class requirements. Suggested classes are Two Year Olds and Over:

- Stallions
- Mares
- Geldings

D. **Model Classes:** Open to all exhibitors in keeping with specific class requirements. Suggested classes are:

- Model Classes.
- Model Championship.
- Note: Model Classes may be divided further by sex and/or age of entries. Entries must be two-year-olds or over.

4.4 Equitation Division

In the Equitation Division, the rider, as opposed to the horse, is judged. Open to youth exhibitors 17 years old and under and adults 18 years old and over. **Note: The awarding of prize money in this division is forbidden.**

A. Youth Equitation: Open to riders 17 and under. Suggested classes are:

- Walking Seat Equitation, Riders 11 and under (no canter required.)
- Walking Seat Equitation, Riders 12-14 years.
- Walking Seat Equitation, Riders 15-17 years.
- Walking Seat Equitation Championship.

B. Adult Equitation: Open to riders 18 and over. Suggested classes are:

- Walking Seat Equitation, Riders 18 and Over (no canter required.)
- Walking Seat Equitation, Riders 18 and Over (canter.)

C. Stock Seat Equitation: Suggested classes are:

- Stock Seat Equitation, Riders 11 and under (no canter required.)
- Stock Seat Equitation, Riders 12-14 years.
- Stock Seat Equitation, Riders 15-17 years.
- Stock Seat Equitation, Adults 18 and over.
- Stock Seat Equitation Championship



5. Class Definitions and General Procedure

5.1 Open Classes:

An Open Class is one in which there is no limiting qualification for the rider.

5.2 Local Classes:

- A. A Local Class is one in which entrance is restricted by show management to horses owned by residents of a specified locale and which is so described in the prize list. Results of Local Classes shall not be considered in determining show championships awarded on points, nor will they count toward end of the year awards.
- B. Classes which are restricted to members of a club shall be included in the above definition unless memberships are open to and easily obtainable by all exhibitors.

5.3 Novice Classes

- A. Unless otherwise specified, a Novice Horse Class is open to horses which have not won three first place ribbons. Eligibility of a novice entry is established as of the date of the closing of entries.
- B. Unless otherwise specified, a Novice Rider Class is open to riders who have not won three first place ribbons. Eligibility of a novice entry is established as of the date of the closing of entries.

5.4 Age Classes

- A. **Youth Exhibitor:** For horse show purposes, a youth exhibitor is an individual who, on January 1st of the show year, has not yet reached his/her 18th birthday. (An exhibitor who turns 18 on January 2nd is eligible to show as a youth exhibitor all that year.) **Youth are not required to obtain a youth exhibitor card to be eligible to show, but to be eligible to receive NWA Year End High Point Awards they must have a NWA Youth Card.** A youth exhibitor may compete in an amateur class unless the prize list specifies otherwise. **All youth riders are encouraged to wear an ASTM/SEI certified helmet while mounted on a horse on the show grounds. Riders age 11 and under are required to wear an ASTM/SEI certified helmet at all times while mounted. All youth riders in speed and jumping events are required to wear ASTM/SEI certified helmets.**
- B. **Horses:** For horse show purposes, a horse shall be considered to be one year old on the first day of January following the date of foaling. Exception: Foals born in October, November, and December are eligible for weanling classes along with foals born the following year.

5.5 Amateur Classes:

An Amateur Class is one in which every contestant enjoys amateur status. All amateur exhibitors, except those exhibitors in Country Pleasure classes, are required to obtain an amateur card from the NWA to be eligible to show.

Amateur Classes may be restricted to riders who are no longer eligible to compete as a youth exhibitor, in which instance the prize list shall specify "18 and over."

5.6 Owners' Classes

- A. Owners' Class is one in which every contestant owns the entry being shown, or is a member of the owner's immediate family unless otherwise stated in the prize list.
- B. Owners' Classes which specify "18 and Over" shall be limited to exhibitors who are no longer eligible to show in youth exhibitor classes.
- C. Any time there is a question as to ownership of a horse, the owner in question, upon request, must provide sufficient proof of purchase to the satisfaction of the NWA within the time specified.



5.7 Amateur Owned and Trained Classes:

Amateur Owned and Trained Classes are open to horses that are **owned by an amateur, trained by an amateur and exhibited by an amateur**. The horse cannot be ridden, trained or schooled by a professional trainer for 90 days prior to being shown in an Amateur Owned and Trained Class. Additionally, the rider cannot be coached nor assisted by a professional trainer at a horse show.

5.8 Youth Exhibitors' Classes:

These classes are limited to riders who had not reached their 18th birthday on January 1st.

- A. If a child comes into the ring and cannot handle the horse and it is a danger to the child, the Judge or Show Manager shall excuse the entry who shall exit with proper assistance. If a parent determines the child cannot handle the horse, he/she may request, after proper identification, that the entry be excused and the judge shall comply.
- B. Strapping or taping youth exhibitors' shoes to their stirrups is strictly prohibited and, if detected, entry shall be excused.
- C. Stallions shall be barred from any class the conditions of which specify that a youth exhibitor is to ride.
- D. Beginning June 2007 all youth riders are encouraged to wear an ASTM/SEI certified helmet while mounted on a horse on the show grounds. **Riders age 11 and under are required** to wear an ASTM/SEI certified helmet at all times while mounted. All youth riders in speed and jumping events are required to wear ASTM/SEI certified helmets.

5.9 Height:

The height of all animals shall be stated in "hands" instead of "inches." A hand is four inches. Maximum height shall be reckoned as so many hands "and under" while minimum heights shall be reckoned as "over" a given number of hands. Horses are greater than 14.2 hands; ponies must be 14.2 hands and under.

5.10 Model Classes:

Model Classes may be offered. They may be divided as to age, sex, or height as provided above. Model Classes do not qualify a horse for an Under Saddle Rail Championship Class.

5.11 Breeding or In-Hand Classes:

Breeding or In-Hand Classes may be offered. For each class offered, the prize list shall specify the age, sex and manner of showing.

5.12 Qualifying Classes:

An entry shall be deemed to have qualified for a Championship Class, if it has completed a qualifying class. If excused after completing a work-out as correctly called for by the judge the horse shall still be considered as qualifying for the appropriate Championship Class. In the event of a workout it is excused by a Judge after or during the initial lineup without request by the exhibitor to be excused (exception: entries excused for a rule violation anytime during the class are not qualified.)



5.13 Championships

- A. A Show Committee must designate all qualifying classes and may require any and all winners in a qualifying class to compete in a Championship Class provided it is so stated in the prize list. Any exhibitor failing to comply shall forfeit all winnings in the qualifying class. If an exhibitor qualifies more than one horse for a Championship Class, he may elect to show only one without penalty. If a horse qualifies for more than one Championship Class the exhibitor may elect to show that horse in only one Championship Class without penalty.
- B. To be “shown and judged” in any class in which horses compete together an animal must perform all required gaits both ways of the ring in the original workout and must remain in the ring up to the point of being excused by the Judge.
- C. A horse showing in a Specialty No Canter Class is not qualified to show in a Championship Class which requires three gaits.

6. Amateur Status

6.1 Definition of an Amateur

(Note: If there is a question of whether or not a person is an Amateur, determination shall be made by the NWHHA.)

- A. A person is an amateur for horse show purposes who, after his / her 18th birthday, does not engage in any activities which would cause him/her to be classified as a professional.
- B. A person who has not reached their 18th birthday is declared to be an amateur.
- C. For horse show purposes, a youth exhibitor is an individual who, on January 1st of the show year, has not yet reached his/her 18th birthday. (An exhibitor who turns 18 on January 2nd is eligible to show as a youth exhibitor all that year.)
- D. Amateur Application and Card:** To be eligible to show in amateur exhibitor classes at NWHHA Affiliated Shows, every amateur exhibitor must have a current Amateur Card with the NWHHA. These must be renewed each year. The exception to this rule is exhibitors showing in Country Pleasure classes who are not required to have an Amateur Card. Amateur exhibitor applications containing the name of the applicant, address, date of birth, area code/telephone number and accompanied by the required **\$15** fee are available for nonmembers of the NWHHA. Amateur cards are available for one horse show for a \$5 fee and may be purchased at the horse show from show management. Amateur cards are free to NWHHA members.
- E. Youth Card:** Youth are not required to have a youth card to be eligible to show, but to be eligible to receive points for NWHHA Year End High Point Awards, they must have a NWHHA Youth Card. This card is free to all youth members or youth that are in a family that has a NWHHA Family Membership.
- F. The following activities shall not affect Amateur Status of a person who otherwise qualifies as an Amateur:**
 - 1. Stands a breeding stallion and/or boards horses unless it is his/her principal means of income.
 - 2. Writes books or articles pertaining to horses.
 - 3. Accepts remuneration for officiating as a Judge, DQP, steward, technical delegate, course designer, announcer, or as a TV commentator, or for services as a veterinarian, groom, farrier or tack shop operator.
 - 4. Any person who serves an internship for college credit through his/her respective accredited college program and who had never held professional status can accept reimbursement for expenses without profit.
 - 5. A person can give riding lessons for expenses only but not train horses.



6. **Expenses are defined as:**
 - a. If using your personal horse – expenses involved in upkeep of said horse, i.e., feed, shelter, tack, farrier services, worming, vaccines, veterinary expenses and grooming supplies.
 - b. If using student's horse – the current government allowable POV mileage rate. (Note: current, 2008 rate is .505 per mile.)
7. Persons acting as counselors at a camp who are not hired in the exclusive capacity of riding instructor and persons giving instruction and training to the disabled.
8. Accepting a token of appreciation, other than money, for riding, driving or showing in halter/in hand. (Note: Horse board, prize money, partial support or objects of more than \$300 value are considered remuneration, not small tokens of appreciation.) (Also Note: Accepting **any** amount of money, whether more or less than \$300 is considered remuneration.) Prize money won by an Amateur-owner rider/driver/handler in any class, other than Equitation and Showmanship, is not considered remuneration. Money prizes to winners in Equitation or Showmanship classes for Amateurs are forbidden.
9. Anyone who engages a person to ride or drive in an Amateur Class and then pays or remunerates that person in excess of what is allowable as provided in this section shall be subject to disciplinary action by NWSHA.

6.2 Non-Amateurs

A person is not an Amateur for horse show purposes if after his/her 18th birthday that person:

- A. Engages in brokering, dealing in, hiring out, acts as a paid agent or takes on consignment for the purpose of sale or training horses/ponies other than those owned wholly or in part by him/her or by a family member.
- B. Accepts remuneration for riding, schooling, driving, showing in halter/in hand, training or conducting seminars. **See Section 6.1 (F)(5) for exception.**
- C. Accepts prize money in Equitation or Showmanship classes. Prize money may be accepted by Amateur riders in Dressage.
- D. Rides or shows in halter/in hand in horse shows any horse for which he/she or family member accepts remuneration for boarding or training for a person outside of the immediate family.
- E. Accepts remuneration for employment in any capacity rides or shows in halter/in hand in horse shows, any horses which his/her employer or a member of the immediate family of such employer owns, boards or trains.
- F. Accepts remuneration for the use of his/her name, photograph or other form of personal association as a horseperson in connection with any advertisement or article to be sold.
- G. Stands a breeding stallion as his/her principal means of income.
- H. Accepts remuneration for employment in other capacity (secretary, bookkeeper, veterinarian, groom farrier) AND gives instruction, rides, drives, shows in halter/in hand, trains or schools horses, other than horses actually owned or lease by him/her, when his/her employer or member of the family of said employer or a corporation which a member of his/her family controls, owns, boards or trains said horses.

6.3 Relative of a Professional

- A. Any member of a Professional's family who has reached his/her 18th birthday is not an Amateur if he/she aids or assists in the activities which make the aforesaid a professional.
- B. Any member of a Trainer's immediate family who has reached his/her 18th birthday shall not be considered an Amateur if he/she shows a customer's horse.
- C. Performing clerical work only or providing financial aid only is not deemed "aiding or assisting."



6.4 Changing from Professional to Amateur status

A person must be inactive as a Professional for the same period of time he/she was a Professional for up to five years maximum. The Professional must notify the NWHHA office in writing regarding his/her intent to change from Professional to Amateur status. NWHHA's dated and written acknowledgement of said notice shall determine start date of required inactivity as a Professional.

7. Definitions

7.1 Hearing Committee and Procedures:

- A. Penalties for specific violations will be preset wherever possible.
- B. The ***(Executive Director)** will have the responsibility and authority to issue penalties for other violations or the discretion to refer them to the Hearing Committee. **(A person employed by NWHHA to interpret and enforce rules for showing.)*
- C. The Hearing Committee will hear cases referred to them by the Executive Director.
- D. The Hearing Committee will hear all appeals.
- E. Four names will be selected from a list of NWHHA members willing to serve on the hearing committee. These people will serve for one hearing session only. People with a conflict of interest in a particular case will not be used.

7.2 Exhibitors include:

- A. Any person who enters any horse, any person who allows his/her horse to be entered, or any person who directs or allows any horse in his/her custody or under his/her direction, control or supervision to be entered in any horse show or horse exhibition.
- B. Any person who shows or exhibits any horse, any person who allows his/her horse to be shown or exhibited, or any person who directs or allows any horse in his/her custody or under his/her direction, control, or supervision to be shown or exhibited in any horse show or horse exhibition.
- C. Any person who enters or presents any horse for sale or auction, any person who allows his/her horse to be entered or presented for sale or auction, or any person who allows any horse in his/her custody or under his/her direction, control, or supervision to be entered or presented for sale or auction in any horse sale or horse auction.
- D. Any person who sells or auctions any horse, any person who allows his/her horse to be sold or auctioned, or any person who directs or allows any horse in his/her custody or under his/her direction, control, or supervision to be sold or auctioned.

7.3 Exhibiting by Persons on Suspension

Exhibiting is prohibited by persons on suspension. This includes showing in competition at a horse show, exhibiting a horse at a sale, presenting the National Colors at a horse show or other event, or any other public exhibition of a horse.

7.4 Trainer

A trainer is defined as any adult who has the responsibility for the care, training, custody or performance of a horse. The person whose responsibility this is, or his/her representative, must sign the entry blank at each show whether said person be an owner, rider, agent and/or coach as well as trainer. Where a minor exhibitor has no trainer, a parent or guardian must sign and assume responsibility of trainer. The name of the trainer must be designated as such on the entry blank. It shall be the responsibility of Show Management to see that entry blanks contain all of the required information.



- A. Trainers, in the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary, are responsible for a horse's condition and to know all the Rules and regulations of the NWHHA and the penalty provision of said Rules. If any trainer is prevented from performing his/her duties, including responsibility for the condition of the horses in his/her care, by illness or other cause, or is absent from any show where horses in his/her care are to be shown he/she should immediately notify the Horse Show Secretary, and at the same time, a substitute shall be appointed by the trainer, and such substitute shall be equally responsible with the regular trainer for the condition of the horses in his/her care.
- B. The trainer and owner acknowledge that the trainer represents the owner regarding horses being trained or managed, entries, scratches for any reason, and any act performed on any horse under the care and custody of the trainer.

7.5 Size Division of Horse and Pony

- A. The term "horse" as used in these rules denotes either a horse or pony.
- B. When the term "horse" or "pony" is used in prize lists and catalog of shows where height is one of the qualifications of the class, the word "horse" shall designate animals over 14.2 hands. The word, "pony" shall designate animals 14.2 hands and under.
- C. A mature horse is one that is five years of age or over.
- D. An animal 14.2 hands or under may compete as a horse in one class and a pony in another class at the same show unless otherwise specified on the show bill.

7.6 Family

For horse show purposes the term, "immediate family." shall include the following: husband, wife, parent, step-parent, child, step-child, brother, sister, half brother and half sister, in-laws of the same relations stated herein, grandparents and grandchildren.



8. Attire and Equipment

8.1 Exhibitors' and Attendants' Attire and Equipment

English tack and attire are mandatory in all classes except those which specifically require or permit otherwise.

A. **Correct English attire** for walking horse presentations consists of:

- English Riding Habit
- English Spurs (optional).
- Polished Shoes or Boots.
- Pant's tie downs, or underpasses.
- Gloves (optional).
- Safety helmets are allowed in all divisions and judges will not penalize riders for wearing them. **Youth, ages 11 and under, are required to wear approved helmets.**
- Snap brim hat or derby is optional for lady riders in English attire. Hats are suggested for gentleman riders. Top hat should only be worn with formal habit in championship classes.
- Exhibitor's hair must be neat and well groomed. Long hair must be styled so the back number can be seen easily.

B. **Correct Western attire** for walking horse presentations consists of:

- Western style long pants
- Western style long sleeve, collared shirt
- Western hat
- Western boots.

C. **Optional western attire includes**

- Western spurs
- Gloves
- Chaps
- Coat, vest, and/or jacket
- Western tie, bolo or scarf

D. **Halter division** exhibitors must wear conservative attire to include, at a minimum, a collared shirt and tie.

E. **Horse and/or stable advertising** will not be allowed in the ring on exhibitors or attendants.

F. **English or western tack/attire, but not a combination of both**, is permitted in the following events unless show management specifies otherwise:

- Trail Pleasure
- Trail Obstacle
- Model (Versatility)
- Water Glass
- Showmanship at Halter



G. Western tack/attire required:

- Barrel Racing
- Reining
- Pole Bending
- Western Pleasure
- Western Riding

8.2 Horse equipment:

A. Saddles

Permitted:

- English saddles are standard equipment, unless specific class requirements indicate otherwise.
- Side saddles are permitted in flat shod pleasure and versatility classes.
- Any standard Western saddle may be used in classes which permit Western tack. Silver tack may be used but shall not be given preference over good working equipment.
- Prohibited:
 - Australian stock saddles may not be used in any event (exception: disabled riders and open breed classes.)
 - Dressage saddles are prohibited in Walking Seat Equitation

B. Bridle, Bit, Curb: Severe bits are discouraged and bleeding of the mouth or muzzle will be penalized in the final judging. Judges may excuse entries wearing equipment he/she considers too severe.

- Shanks in excess of 9 1/2 inches in length are prohibited. Shanks are measured from the very top of the metal to the very bottom of the metal, including the rings to which the cheeks and reins are attached.
- A gag bit with no shanks is not considered a standard walking horse bit and is prohibited.
- Curb chains or curb straps, if used, must lie flat against the jaw and be at least 1/2 inch wide.
- Cross chain cavessons are prohibited.
- Snaffle, Kimberwick or Pelham bit is required in WH Over Fences.
- Bosal may be used in Pole Bending, Barrel Racing, Trail or Reining Classes.
- Bosal or ordinary ring snaffles may be used on four-year-old or younger western flat shod horses. (When using a bosal or snaffle on a junior horse, the rider may use two hands on the reins.)
- Hackamores are prohibited in all classes except Barrel Racing or Pole Bending.
- Any standard walking horse single rein bridle and bit may be used.

C. Braids are appropriate and required in all Under Saddle Rail classes where English tack and attire are used. They are prohibited in western events.

D. The use of plastic wrap on horses legs while on the show grounds is prohibited.

E. Full blinders of any type are not permitted on the show grounds at anytime.

F. Alteration of Markings/Hoof Polish or Foreign Substance: Any change in color of markings is prohibited. Only clear grooming materials are allowed on the hide and hair. Materials may be used to remove stains. Black hoof polish is allowed.

G. Foreign substances of any kind are not permitted on the pasterns or lower legs.



- H. **Whips:** Lashes, plastic bags, appendages or any other appliances of any kind attached to a whip are prohibited.
- One whip per exhibitor no longer than four feet, including the snapper, may be used in rail, halter or model classes.
 - For Driving Classes, please refer to Pleasure Driving and Obstacle Driving for whip regulations.
 - Whips are prohibited for entries shown in western tack/attire, Water Glass, Basic Reining, Trail Obstacle and Racking Horse Country Pleasure.
- I. **Artificial Appliances:** While in the show ring, artificial appliances of any kind, including leg wraps, are prohibited on all horses with the following exceptions.
1. **Permitted in Basic Reining, Western Riding:**
 - Skid boots, splint boots and polo wraps.
 2. **Permitted in Barrel Racing, and Pole Bending:**
 - Martingales, tie downs, skid boots, splint boots and polo wraps.
 3. **Permitted in WH Over Fences:**
 - Martingales, non-weighted rubber bell boots, splint boots and polo wraps.



8.3 Shoeing Rules and Regulations:

Shoes:

- A. **Plantation Shoe:** (For Plantation Pleasure Division only.) The plantation shoe must not exceed 1 1/2 inch in width nor 1/2 inch in thickness with no bare plate or other weight inside the shoe. The caulk must not exceed a one inch turnback and the shoe must not extend more than 1/4 inch beyond the hoof at the toe. The heel of the shoe must not extend beyond the bulb of the horse's heel when a perpendicular line is drawn from the bulb of the horse's heel to the ground.
1. The use of borium is permitted on the caulks of pleasure shoes, but the thickness of the shoe and caulk with the borium must not exceed 1 1/8 inches. Welded on clips are not permitted on flat-shod horses. Clips that are drawn from the shoe itself are permitted. No additional weight shall be allowed on or in the hoof, other than the shoe and nails.
- B. **Lite Shoe:** (For any under saddle rail class division except Keg-shod classes.) The lite shoe must not exceed 3/4 inch in width or 3/8 inch in thickness with the exception of the caulk, which must be no thicker than 3/4 inch. The turnback shall not exceed one inch, and the shoe must not extend more than 1/4 inch beyond the hoof at the toe. The shoe is not to extend beyond the bulb of the horse's heel when a perpendicular line is drawn from the bulb of the horse's heel to the ground.
1. The use of borium is permitted on the caulks of the lite shoes, but the thickness of the shoe and caulk with the borium must not exceed 7/8 inch. Welded on clips are not permitted on flat-shod horses. Clips that are drawn from the shoe itself are permitted. No additional weight shall be allowed on or in the hoof, other than the shoe and nails.
- C. **Yearling Shoe:** Shall not exceed 3/4 inch wide nor 3/8 inch thick.
- D. **Weanlings** may not be shod under any circumstances.
- E. **Heel/Toe Measurement:** Toe length must exceed the height of the heel by one inch or more. The length of the toe shall be measured from the coronet band, at the center of the front pastern along the front of the hoof wall to the ground. The heel shall be measured at a 90 degree angle from the coronet band, at the most lateral portion of the rear pastern, to the ground excluding the caulks.
- F. **No shoe can be made from any material heavier than conventional steel.**
- G. **Acrylic Horse's Hooves:** Acrylic can be used to build a toe that has been broken on one foot only.
- H. **Hoof Bands:** Hoof bands are prohibited in the show ring.

9. Judges

9.1 General

Designation as a NWHHA-approved judge is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by the NWHHA according to procedures formulated by it, to individuals, whose equine expertise and personal character merit the honor. An individual's conduct and ability as a judge must be exemplary; is subject to continual review; and such designation is revocable by the NWHHA with or without notice and formal hearing.

9.2 Classification of Judges

- A. **Regular Judge:** A regular Judge may judge in all divisions at all NWHHA affiliated horse shows. To be eligible for approval as a regular Judge a person must meet all requirements as set forth in the Standard Operating Procedure for Judges, must be 25 years of age, and must have judged a minimum of six horse shows.
- B. **Apprentice Judge:** An apprentice judge is someone who has not judged a minimum of six horse shows. This person must be 25 years of age or older. An apprentice judge must apprentice a minimum of four horse shows before being considered for approval as a regular Judge.



9.3 General Requirements

- A. All judges will be tested and are required to attend training clinics at least every other year.
- B. All Judges will be required to obtain a NWHHA-issued License.
 - Regular License-\$100 annually
 - Apprentice License-\$50
- C. No one will be considered as an NWHHA Approved Judge that has been convicted of a crime regarding moral turpitude.
- D. All judges will sign a statement agreeing to accept all disciplinary actions by the NWHHA or its representatives.
- E. Judges will be approved by the NWHHA Judges Committee.

9.4 Guest Judge

A Guest Judge is an individual 25 years of age or over, to whom the NWHHA may grant permission to officiate upon the request of a particular show and for that show only. A non-refundable fee of \$25 shall be required for a Guest Judge.

9.5 Information

In determining the qualifications of an applicant for approval as an NWHHA Judge, the information to be considered by the NWHHA shall include all information presented to the NWHHA by the applicant, and such information as the NWHHA may otherwise obtain. Except as otherwise herein and after provided in these Rules, no person shall judge at a NWHHA show unless he/she holds a valid license.

9.6 Responsibilities of a Judge

- A. A Judge shall adjudicate each class in conformity with the Rules and specifications of that class as they appear in the NWHHA Rule Book. He/she must be proficient and possess a thorough knowledge of the Rules of the NWHHA.
- B. No one, nor their immediate family or employee, nor horses owned by this person shall show before a NWHHA Approved Judge that had any business dealings with that judge in the past ninety days (exception: stud fees).
- C. Once a class has been judged, it shall not be re-judged, and once the Judge has marked his/her records for awards made, there shall be no changing of the Judge's record (exception: entry that fails post show inspection).
- D. Failure of a Judge to attend a show to which he/she is committed shall constitute cause for disciplinary action except in cases of extreme emergency.
- E. A Judge assumes a responsibility to protect Show Management by excusing from the ring all horses suspected of being in violation of the HPA or NWHHA Rules.
- F. When officiating at a show, a Judge must not arrive on show grounds until 30 minutes prior to show time.
- G. A Judge shall not inspect or discuss any horse entered in the show prior to the start of the show or during said show, unless so requested by Show Management. Show Management must be present.
- H. No Judge selected to officiate at a show shall be contacted relative to this show by any person attempting to influence his/her opinion in determining how a horse will be placed in the class. All contacts made in violation hereof shall be reported immediately to the NWHHA by said Judge.
- I. Communicating with a Judge(s) at a NWHHA affiliated show by an exhibitor is a violation of NWHHA rules
(Exception: Section 9.7 (B))



- J. All NWA Approved Judges must conduct themselves in a manner which reflects credit upon the NWA, the horse show, and the Walking Horse.
- K. An entry must be excused for bad image. **(See Section 10.12).**
- L. An entry may, at the discretion of the Judge, be excused from the ring for any infraction of the NWA Rules or for deviating from the true gaits of the Walking Horse. The entry shall be eligible to show in a succeeding qualifying class if the problem can be corrected.

9.7 Regulations Governing Judges

- A. A Judge shall not, during the period of a show at which he/she is judging, be the house guest of a person who is exhibiting in the show, or whose family is exhibiting at such show.
- B. An exhibitor may make a request through the Show Manager for the Judge's opinion concerning that exhibitor's horse. The request must be made at the conclusion of the show. It is urged that the Judge will give his/her opinion courteously and sincerely in the presence of the Show Manager and in a private setting.
- C. An NWA-approved Judge shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect. No person, exhibitor, owner or otherwise, shall direct abuse or threatening conduct toward them, either in the furtherance of their judging duties, or as a result thereof, whether or not the conduct occurs during an approved event or show, or on show grounds. The Judge has no choice except to report the violation.

9.8 Disciplinary Actions

After a Judge has been approved by NWA, and such Judge shall demonstrate lack of competence, skill, integrity, cooperation, or the desire to deport him/herself in a manner as to be worthy of a Judge, that Judge's name may be removed from the NWA Approved Judges List by the NWA or its representatives.

9.9 Judging Systems

- A. **Majority Opinion Three-Judge System:** Under the Majority Opinion System (M-O-S), all three Judges carry equal weight in the final class decision, and winners are placed by the best two out of three votes. Each horse is judged as if it were working individually and then compared with the performance of all other horses in the class who are judged on the same basis. All Judges place the same number of entries in each class, depending on class size. Ties are resolved by averaging the opinions of the three Judges.
 - 1. **Judging:** Judges must work independently, with no discussion of any kind until the winners are announced. They should vary their judging positions and rotate around the ring. They should discuss and plan how to cover the ring and work classes before the show to avoid "cluster" judging. A suggestion would be to section the ring into three areas which will give each Judge a separate but equal view of the rail with rotation of positions for each class.
 - 2. **Rotation:** Show Management shall mark the Judges' cards ahead of time with the rotation and indicate who will be Call Judge for each class. No referee is required since all ties are broken by a two-thirds majority vote.
 - 3. **Placings:** Mark the Judges' cards ahead of time indicating how many entries should be placed. Three additional ties are recommended for each class. (Tie 11 horses in a class in which 8 horses receive awards. The Ringmaster should return an incompletely tied card to the Judge for correction before giving it to the Scorer(s).
 - 4. **Identical Tie for First Place:** When three numbers are circled on the same line and their vote counts are identical, it is an extremely rare three-way identical tie. When a three-way identical tie occurs for first place, a workout is optional. If the Judge calls for a workout, the three horses involved shall be sent back to the rail. If a workout is not called for the class, the class will be tied by the fall of the Cards.
 - 5. If there has already been a workout, the Judges should be notified and given the option of going with fall of the Cards or sending the horses back to the rail for additional work.



6. If the tie is still identical after the workout, the class is tied by the fall of the Cards.
7. When the identical three-way tie is for second place or lower, the class is determined by fall of the Cards.
 - a. A B C
 - b. 101 102 103 (1-2-3)
 - c. 102 103 101 (1-2-3)
 - d. 103 101 102 (1-2-3)
8. The number that is positioned first (not the circled line) on the Call Judge's card will be first (101). The second (102) and third (103) places are then determined by the Judges' choices as their cards are placed in sequence.
9. In the example shown , if B was the Call Judge, then 102 would be first, C's choice of 103 would be second and A's choice of 101 would be third. If C were the Call Judge, then 103 would be first 101 would be second and 102 third.

10. **Workouts:**

- Any Judge may request a workout in any class by communicating through the Ringmaster. The Judge making the request must state the numbers of those horses he wants called to the workout and for how many places they are to be worked. The Ringmaster relates this to the other Judges one at a time. A workout requires agreement by two of the three, or the positions must be filled without a workout.
- If a workout is agreed upon, the Ringmaster must ask the other Judges if they wish to add other horses to those being sent to the rail. The Ringmaster must be sure that all Judges know what horses are working to fill the places.
- To be included in a preliminary class workout, an entry must appear on two Judges' cards. An entry that does not receive two votes returns to the rail and may then be parked in by one Judge. In a championship class, a horse that appears on only one Judge's card must be included in the workout.
- The Ringmaster must inform the Announcer of the workout request. **Whenever horses are being called for a workout, the Announcer must call for them in numerical order.**

B. **High-Low Olympic Judging System:** Five judges working independently of each other will place each class. Judge number one will be the Call Judge. Points will be assigned to the placings on a one to ten basis with first place receiving ten points, second place receiving nine points, third placing receiving eight points, and so forth on down to one point for tenth place. The highest placing and the lowest placing are eliminated for each entry.

The remaining three placings are totaled and the entry receiving the most points wins the class. In case of a tie, then all five placings are added. If still tied, then the first or Call Judge's card will break the tie.

If a horse receives four or less placings the top score is eliminated.



10. Judging Procedure and Criteria

10.1 Introduction

When judging or exhibiting Walking Horses, it is important to remember that this breed's original purpose was to be a working Plantation Saddle Horse. Sometimes referred to as the Plantation Nodding Walk Saddle Horse, it was bred to carry its rider comfortably, for long hours, through the flat-lands of the plantation crop rows. Horses in the Trail Pleasure Walking Horse division should be closest in style and movement to that original, working saddle horse. In the 1960s influential breed sires, and the industry's desire to have a flashier, more animated horse were instrumental in creating the "Park" style Walking Horse. This Horse exudes a brilliant attitude. The Lite Shod and Plantation Walking Horse divisions were created for this flashier horse.

10.2 General Judging Procedure

All horses in Under Saddle Rail Classes shall enter the ring and go to the right, after which the Judge shall call for gaits as described below: In Walking Horse rail classes a second running walk may be called for the last way of the ring as the last gait at the Judge's discretion.

CORRECT SEQUENCE FOR GAITS TO BE CALLED:

- A. **Country Pleasure Two Gait:** Enter at Trail Walk. Trail Walk, Pleasure Gait, Trail Walk and Reverse. Repeat the sequence. Line up. Back up at Judge's direction.
- B. **Country Pleasure Three Gait:** Enter at Trail Walk. Trail Walk, Pleasure Gait, Trail Walk, Canter, Trail Walk and reverse and repeat the sequence. Line up. Back up at Judge's direction.
- C. **Trail Pleasure, Lite Shod or Plantation Two Gait:** Enter at Flat Walk. Flat Walk, Running Walk, Flat Walk and Reverse. Repeat the sequence. Line up. Back up at Judge's direction.
- D. **Trail Pleasure Two Gait with Trail Walk:** Enter at Flat Walk. Flat Walk, Running Walk, Flat Walk, Trail Walk and Reverse. Repeat the sequence. Line up. Back up at Judge's direction.
- E. **Trail Pleasure, Lite Shod or Plantation Three Gait:** Enter at Flat Walk. Flat Walk, Running Walk, Flat Walk, Canter, Flat Walk and Reverse. Repeat the sequence. Line up. Back up at Judge's direction.
- F. **Trail Pleasure Three Gait with Trail Walk:** Enter at Flat Walk. Flat Walk, Running Walk, Flat Walk, Canter, Flat Walk, Trail Walk and Reverse. Repeat the sequence. Line up. Back up at Judge's direction.
- G. **Spotted Saddle Horse Two Gait:** Enter at Show Walk. Show Walk, Show Gait, Show Walk and Reverse. Repeat the sequence. Line up. Back up at Judge's direction.
- H. **Spotted Saddle Horse Three Gait:** Enter at Show Walk. Show Walk, Show Gait, Show Walk, Canter, Show Walk and Reverse. Repeat the sequence. (The SSH must always be in gait and never does a Trail Walk.) Line up. Back up at Judge's direction.
- I. **Racking Trail Pleasure:** Enter at the Trail Rack. Trail Pleasure Walk, Trail Pleasure Rack, Trail Pleasure Walk and Reverse. Repeat the sequence. Line up. Back up at Judge's direction.
- J. **Country Pleasure Racking:** Enter at the Country Pleasure Slow Rack. Country Pleasure Show Walk, Country Pleasure Slow Rack, Country Pleasure Fast Rack, Country Pleasure Show Walk and Reverse. Repeat the sequence. Line up. Back up at Judge's direction.
- K. **Western Pleasure Racking:** Enter at the Western Pleasure Rack. Western Pleasure Walk, Western Pleasure Rack, Western Pleasure Walk and Reverse. Repeat the sequence. Line up. Back up at Judge's direction.



- L. **Style Racking:** Enter at a Style Rack. Show Walk, Style Rack, Show Walk and Reverse. Repeat the sequence. No Back required. Line up. **Style Racking horses are not required to back.**
- M. **Speed Racking:** Enter at a Slow Rack. Show Walk, Slow Rack, Fast Rack and Reverse. Repeat the sequence. No Back required. Line up. **Speed Racking horses are not required to back.**

As the horses enter the ring, the Judge must observe their way of going, and if the Judge finds that an entry is a bad image as set forth in the Rules, the entry must be excused immediately. (**See Section 10.12**)

10.3 Class procedure

Horses shall be worked both ways of the ring at all required gaits sufficiently for all horses to have performed before each officiating Judge. Horses must perform all required gaits both ways of the ring. A horse that has not performed all required gaits shall not be placed over a horse that has performed all gaits.

10.4 Reverse

The reverse can be executed by turning either toward or away from the rail when exhibiting a horse in English tack and attire. The reverse must be executed by turning away from the rail when exhibiting a horse in Western tack and attire.

10.5 Lineup

After the preliminary workout of a class, all horses shall be lined up and inspected by the Judge. During the lineup a Judge makes the final decision (on possible Rule violations) as whether to excuse a horse or permit it to remain in the class.

10.6 Time-outs

Time-outs interrupt a show therefore unauthorized time-outs will not be permitted.

- A. A rider desiring a time-out will ride to the center of the ring, remain mounted and request it of the Judge. The Judge will ascertain the reason for the time-out and either grant or deny the request.
- B. Assistance over the rail is not permitted; physical assistance over the rail (touching the horse) is not permitted and horse must be excused.
- C. If the Judge finds the reason for a time-out not valid, the entry must be ordered back to the rail immediately.
- D. Time-outs may be granted by the Judge for replacement of shoes, replacement of broken equipment, or in other instances the Judge deems necessary. In any division, a shoe thrown in the ring must be presented immediately to the judge for inspection. If a violation is found, the horse is disqualified and a ticket written by the judge, who should retain the shoe and turn it over to the NWA. However, time-outs for adjustments of equipment, such as curb chains or bridles, are not allowed.
- E. A total of ten minutes in aggregate shall be allowed for each entry for authorized time-outs, but no more than two time-outs per class.
- F. All time-outs will begin when justifiable reasons are acknowledged, except for the replacement of shoes, in which event the time-out shall begin the moment the farrier lifts up the horse's foot. Time will be allowed prior to the beginning of time-out for locating the thrown shoe.
- G. During time-outs exhibitors remaining on the rail may be asked to halt or go at ease as directed by the judge.



10.7 Workouts:

All horses chosen for a workout must be worked both ways of the ring at each gait asked for by the Judge. A Judge shall not place any entry in a workout unless the entry has performed all required gaits both ways of the ring in the initial performance unless all entries are put in the workout. Workouts must include sufficient horses to fill the placings, plus at least two additional horses. Horses not qualifying in the elimination workout initially do not have to be worked both ways of the ring before being excused. Final workouts shall be judged as a new and separate class.

10.8 Falls

- A. A rider is considered to have fallen if the rider is separated from his/her horse (who has not fallen) so that they must either remount or vault back into the saddle.
- B. A **horse** is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground.
- C. The fall of a horse and/or rider shall not disqualify the entry, unless due to bad manners of the horse or unless the safety of the rider is threatened. Exception: In Equitation Classes, the fall of either the horse or the rider disqualifies the entry.

10.9 Unruly Horse

Horses being unruly, rearing up, balking, running off, or leaving the ring must be excused.

10.10 Conformation

The composition and design of the Walking Horse should enable the horse to be a functional athlete that can perform the gaits specific to the breed. Basic conformation is a must with balance, structural correctness, adequate muscling, breed and sex characteristics being key components to provide athleticism, desired movement, and image for the breed. Added to those components is a distinct style of conformation which should include a neck that rises higher out of the shoulders than most breeds and more hip and hock angulation than most breeds.

The ideal Walking Horse should possess an attractive head, well-shaped and pointed ears; large, kind, clear and alert eyes; a tapered muzzle; long and graceful neck with a refined throat latch; long, sloping shoulders; deep heart girth; chest width neither too wide nor too narrow; short to medium length back with strong coupling at the loin; sloping croup with lower-set tail; the hip is sloped and long from point of hip to hip joint, shorter from hip joint to stifle, long from stifle to hock with muscular development extending down toward the hocks. The rear cannon bones are short. The underline is longer than the topline. Extremes in any conformation component are not desirable. Soundness of limbs should be of utmost importance.

In all in-hand and model classes, stallions and mares should be free of genetic abnormalities such as parrot mouth, underbite or any other incorrect bite deviations. Additionally, all stallions two years of age and older should have two testicles descended. Entries with genetic abnormalities should be severely penalized.



10.11 Qualifying Gaits

- A. **Trail Walk:** The Trail Walk is a true walk with a loose rein and no appearance of strain on the part of the horse or rider. The appearance should be that of a pleasure riding horse that is relaxed, content and manageable.
- B. **Flat Walk:** The flat walk should be bold and four-cornered with an evenly timed 1-2-3-4 beat. In the flat walk the horse should break at the knees, reaching and pulling with the front legs with that movement originating from the shoulder. The horse should have impulsion and exhibit stride and drive with the hind legs. There should be no wringing or twisting of the hocks, nor any excessive hock action. The horse should demonstrate a loose way of going with plenty of motion. Overstride is important but should be in accord with the conformation and length of the back and legs of the horse. A horse with a good flat walk will naturally have a straight, up and down head motion timed with the overall rhythm of the walk. Within the flat walk lies the foundation for a good running walk and it should be judged equally as important as is the running walk. The flat walk should be a distinctive FLAT walk, not a slow running walk, with each leg impacting the ground with distinction. The flat walk is more bold or purposeful in movement than the running walk. Form should never be sacrificed for speed. Excessive “bumping or jerking” of the reins at the flat walk is not considered good form and shall be penalized.
- C. **Running Walk:** The running walk has the same beat or evenly timed footfall (1-2-3-4) as the flat walk but is much smoother with greater stride, rhythm and natural motion. The increased rear leg stride and increased reach in the shoulder create this smoother ride and propel the horse at a faster speed without changing the cadence of the leg motion. As with the flat walk, the horse will naturally have a straight up and down vertical head motion timed with the overall rhythm of the running walk. A correctly performed running walk is truly a gait of ease, producing a clearly heard and easily counted 4-beat tempo. It should be straight and loose, 4-cornered and exhibit over-all balance, without any trace or degree of a rack, trot, fox trot, pace or stepping pace. There should be no excessive winging, crossing or rope-walking. Horses exhibiting an exaggerated, hesitating way of going, with a tendency to point with the front hooves, are not in form. The horse should reach and pull in the front with powerful shoulder movement and demonstrate obvious impulsion behind, pushing and striding, setting its feet firmly on the ground. When correctly engaged the horse will naturally drop its hip. Overstride is important but should be in accord with the conformation and length of the back and legs of the horse. **Speed at the running walk while maintaining correct form is a positive attribute; however, form should NEVER be sacrificed for speed.** Consistency of correct gait shall be rewarded. Excessive “bumping or jerking” of the reins at the running walk is not considered good form and shall be penalized.
- D. **Canter:** The canter should be consistent, smooth and straight on both leads, not walking behind, but cantering on both ends with a rolling or rocking chair motion, comfortably collected, neck slightly arched, head slightly tucked, giving the appearance of ease and grace. The horse should be relaxed, performing in rhythm, with head motion in perfect harmony with leg movement. The canter is not too fast, with speed somewhat dependent upon the individual horse’s conformation and size; this shall be considered in judging. While in the canter, the horse should cover some ground; it should not rock up and down and go nowhere. A horse that is on the wrong lead or cross-cantering must be penalized. “Pumping” or bumping of the reins at the canter is not considered good form and shall be penalized.
- E. **General:** The Walking Horse should move freely in each gait and proceed in a smooth fluid, rhythmic manner. Form is not to be sacrificed for speed. At all gaits, the horse should be flexed at the poll with muzzle slightly tucked. Any tendency to rack, pace, step-pace, trot, fox trot or otherwise deviate from the true walking gaits is not typical of the breed and shall be penalized in judging. All 3 gaits should have equal value when being judged. A horse which is the most all-around ideal individual should be the winner rather than a horse which is outstanding in only one gait. Horses shall be judged for their present performance and not on reputation or past performances. Nosing out, over collection, bad manners or excessive speed without form should be properly penalized in any placing. Refusal to back, balking, mouth gaping, head tossed upwards, or fighting the rider while backing, shall be penalized in the final judging. Excessive bumping or jerking of the reins while backing shall be penalized. It is important to remember that gait and overstride are what set the Walking Horse apart from other breeds and the goal is to reward the best gaited horse in the class. Therefore, a horse may not necessarily be discounted on the basis of mistakes made when overall quality of that horse’s gaits is exceptional.



10.12 *Bad Image:*

Any horse exhibiting a ***bad image** in the show ring, even though it may not be in violation of the HPA, must be excused from the ring by the Judge. ***Bad image** includes, but is not limited to:

- stiff front leg
- crampy rear leg motion
- excessive winging
- wobbling
- wringing of hocks
- laboring
- stumbling
- buckling knees
- lack of rhythmic timing
- pointing
- favoring a particular leg
- horse in poor flesh.

Note: The judge must denote on his/her judge's card horses excused from the ring for any rule violation.

10.13 *Presentation*

All entries should be presented clean, neatly trimmed, braided (for English presentation,) and in good flesh presenting a healthy appearance. Each entry should be outfitted in clean and appropriate tack. The exhibitor of each entry should be neat in appearance, correctly dressed in properly fitting riding attire and shall demonstrate sportsmanlike behavior at all times.

10.14 *Trail Pleasure Classes*

The Trail Pleasure Horse must perform the true walking gaits efficiently and with effortlessness geared toward encouraging stamina and longevity as a pleasant, working saddle horse. The horse should exhibit a true, four beat walking gait with pronounced and cadenced head nod. The horse should be well balanced, in that not one element of the horse should stand out from all other qualities when considering gait, form, rhythm or conformation. A horse exhibiting a crampy or gimmicky way of going must be excused. Animation and action are not desired in a Trail Pleasure Horse; front legs should not break higher than 45 degrees from the vertical. The ideal Trail Pleasure Horse will reach out in front and pull with its shoulders. The front legs can move close to the ground as long as the power is coming from a loose shoulder and the horse has head shake and is square and on four corners. The Trail Pleasure Horse should be on the bit and not strung out in frame. It should carry its head in a natural and relaxed position. The horse must be extremely well mannered, responsive and quiet. The horse must be manageable on a light rein at all gaits. The horse must stand quietly and back readily on command. Trail Pleasure horses may be asked to stop on the rail at any time during the class to demonstrate manners and a willing attitude. The Trail Pleasure Horse's canter should be relaxed and consistent with no sign of effort from the rider. **Additionally, if specified on the class list, Trail Pleasure horses will be asked to do a Trail Walk as the last gait called for both ways of the ring.** The Trail Walk is a true walk with a loose rein and no appearance of strain on the part of the horse or rider. The appearance should be that of a pleasure riding horse that is relaxed, content and manageable.

The Trail Pleasure Class may be a two or three gaited class. Trail Pleasure classes can be Amateur or Open. The Trail Pleasure Horse may be ridden English or Western, (as determined by the class) but not a combination of both. Trail Pleasure horses are not allowed to show in Lite Shod Pleasure, Plantation Pleasure or Country Pleasure at the same show, but they are eligible to show in halter and versatility classes at the same show.

10.15 *Lite-Shod Pleasure Classes*

The Lite Shod Pleasure Horse should display brilliance and show presence while performing true walking gaits.



The horse should be collected and well balanced, in that not one element of the horse should stand out from all other qualities when considering gait, form, rhythm or conformation. Compared to the Trail Pleasure horse, the ideal Lite Shod Pleasure horse should have a higher head carriage and exert more energy through collection while maintaining its walking ability and overall presence. The flat walk should be performed as described in **Section 10.11 (B)** and the running walk as described in **Section 10.11 (C)**. The Lite Shod Pleasure Horse should break higher with its front legs than a Trail Pleasure Horse in all gaits and should not be penalized for this unless it appears unnatural to the horse or out of balance with all other elements of the horse. Form is not to be sacrificed for speed. Manners are paramount for a pleasure horse and should be given serious consideration in judging. The horse should have an alert and willing attitude, be manageable with light to medium rein contact, and must back readily. Any evidence of being behind the bit should be penalized. Lite Shod Pleasure horses are allowed to cross-enter into Plantation Pleasure rail classes at the same show but cannot cross-enter into Trail Pleasure or Country Pleasure at the same show. The Lite Shod Pleasure Class may be a two or three gaited class. Lite Shod Pleasure classes can be Amateur or Open. The Lite Shod Pleasure Horse may be ridden English or Western (as determined by the class,) but not a combination of both.

10.16 *Plantation Pleasure Classes*

The Plantation Pleasure Horse should perform the true walking gaits and in the same manner as described above for the Lite Shod Pleasure Horse. The major difference between a Plantation Pleasure Horse and a Lite Shod Pleasure Horse is the larger shoe allowed in the Plantation Pleasure Division which may produce a more animated and powerful appearing front end. The Plantation Pleasure Horse should still perform its gaits effortlessly without the appearance of laboring. Plantation Pleasure Horses are not allowed to cross-enter into Lite Shod Pleasure, Trail Pleasure or Country Pleasure classes. Plantation Pleasure classes may be two or three gaited. Plantation Pleasure classes can be Amateur or Open. The Plantation Pleasure horse may be ridden English or Western (as determined by the class,) but not a combination of both.

10.17 *Country Pleasure Classes*

The Country Pleasure Class is intended to be an introductory level class designed to be beginner friendly and to encourage participation from exhibitors who may be new to showing horses. Country Pleasure Classes are offered for youth and amateur exhibitors and are typically optional tack. Exhibitors are not required to have Amateur Cards. Neat attire is encouraged and should include a collared shirt and long pants. English or western tack may be used but not a combination of both. If horses are shown in western tack the rider may use two hands. This division is open to all gaited horse breeds. Horses entered in Country Pleasure Classes are not eligible to be shown in any other Walking Horse classes at the same show. Shoeing is at the discretion of show management but horses must be in compliance with the Horse Protection Act.

Required Gaits for Country Pleasure Classes: The Trail Walk is a true walk with a loose rein and no appearance of strain on the part of the horse or rider. The appearance should be that of a pleasure riding horse that is relaxed, content and manageable. **Pleasure Gait:** This gait is to be performed at moderate speed and can be a variation of any saddle horse gait with no preference given to any particular gait over another. The gait should be consistent and balanced and should appear easy and comfortable to ride. Excessive speed is not a desired trait and should be penalized. Manners are paramount in this division. Horses should stand quietly and back readily. Positive credit will be given to horses that display such qualities as responsiveness, steadiness, manners and traveling on a loose rein.



10.18 Western Pleasure Classes

Entry shall reflect suitability of the Walking Horse as a western working horse, exhibiting qualities suitable for ranch work. The western pleasure horse works quietly, exhibiting an exceptionally smooth, comfortable ride without excessive action or animation. A good western pleasure horse should have a balanced flowing motion with a free and easy gait. The horse should be ridden on a loose rein, and should exhibit a true, four beat walking gait with a cadenced head motion (nod). The head set should be natural, neither excessively nosed out or over flexed at the poll. The head should not be high but should exhibit the type of head carriage of a Walking Horse used as a western working horse.

- Horses in western pleasure are to be reversed away from the rail (to the inside.)
- Reins must be held in one hand and cannot be changed during performance. When using split reins, a hand around the reins or index finger between reins is permitted, but the free hand is not allowed to touch the reins.
- Romal reins mean an extension of braided material attached to closed reins. This extension is allowed to be carried in the free hand with approximately a 16 inch spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the Romal. The Romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or used to signal or cue the horse in any way. When using the Romal, a hand should be around the reins, but a finger between the reins is not permitted.
- While the horse is in motion, the rider's hands shall be clear of horse and saddle at all times.
- The Judge may call for a halt on the rail to test for quietness. Horse must stand quietly on the rail and in the lineup, and back freely when asked. Horse should back with head in normal position and mouth closed.
- It is recommended the judge ask the entries to back clear of the line-up and do a 360 degree neck reined turn, either right or the left, rider's discretion. A 360 is required in all western championship classes.
- The horse should wear a western bridle with no cavesson or colored browband. Braids are prohibited. Western tack and attire including hat, boots and long sleeve, collared shirt are mandatory. Chaps, spurs, and lariat may be used at the option of the rider.
- If a western horse does not stand quietly, he must be penalized.
- If a western horse is two handed at any time, he must be severely penalized. (Exception: A bosal or ring snaffle may be used with two hands on four-year-old and younger western flat shod pleasure horses.)
- If a western horse has a fast, uncontrollable canter or requires pumping or bumping, he must be penalized.

10.19 Spotted Saddle Horse Classes

- A. Hoof Bands shall not be permitted in spotted saddle horse classes at NWAH shows.**
- B. Spotted Saddle Horses may be shown in either Western or English tack and attire, but not a combination of both. Tack and attire will be determined by class title. Refer to NWAH Rule Book, **Sections 8.1 and 8.2** for correct attire. **Shanks in excess of 9 ½ inches in length are prohibited.**
- C. **Definition of Gaits:**
 1. Show Walk: The Show Walk should be a smooth, intermediate saddle gait. It can be a Flatwalk, Slow Rack, etc.
 2. Show Gait: The Show Gait should have an increase in speed from the Show Walk. Examples of a Show Gait are a Running Walk, Fast Rack.
- D. Gait Calls: Exhibitors enter at a Show Walk. The judge will ask for the Show Walk, Show Gait, and Canter (if required) in both directions of the arena.



- E. Western Classes: A 360 degree neck reined turn, either right or left, (rider's discretion) is required in all Trail Pleasure Championship Western Classes. Exhibitors may also be asked to perform this maneuver in qualifying classes. **Whips are prohibited in western classes. Horse must reverse away from the rail.** Refer to the NWA Rule book, **Sections 8.1 and 8.2** for descriptions of tack and attire. The horse must wear a bridle with no cavesson or colored brow band. Braids are prohibited. Refer to the NWA Rule book, **Section 10.18** for a full description of western requirements.
- F. **Spotted Saddle Horse Divisions and Shoeing Rules:**
1. **Trail Pleasure Division:**
 - a. The Trail Pleasure horse should be under control and have a natural headset. Horses may be asked to halt at least one time each way of the ring at the Judge's discretion. The horse should stop and stand quietly on a relaxed rein until asked to continue. The horse must demonstrate perfect manners and an exceptionally smooth, natural gait. The Trail Pleasure horse must give the impression of the ultimate trail horse at all times during the class. The horse should perform on a relaxed rein and be held in one hand and cannot be changed during the performance. For horses over four years of age, reins must be held in one hand and may not be changed during the performance. **Exhibitors 11 years of age and under may use two hands.** Romal reins mean an extension of braided material attached to closed reins. This extension should be carried in the free hand with approximately 16 inch spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the Romal. The Romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or used to signal or cue the horse in any way. When using the Romal, the hand should be around the reins; a finger between the reins is not permitted. **A Trail Pleasure Western horse, four-years-old and under may be reined using two hands if a bosal or ring snaffle is used.** The Trail Pleasure horse must stand quietly and back readily in the line up or be penalized in the final judging.
 - b. The trail pleasure shoe must not exceed that of a lite-shod shoe. Refer to NWA Rule book, **Section 8.3 (B)** for shoe requirements. The turnback shall not exceed one inch, and the shoe must not extend more than ¼ inch beyond the hoof at the toe. The shoe is not to extend beyond the bulb of the horse's heel when a perpendicular line is drawn from the bulb of the horse's heel to the ground.
 2. **Lite-Shod Division:**
 - a. The Lite-Shod horse should have a headset natural to the horse's conformation but should have a bit more show presence than the trail pleasure horse. If shown in Western Tack the **exhibitor may use two hands to rein;** however, if one hand is used the same rules apply as the trail pleasure division. The Lite-Shod horse must stand quietly and back readily.
 - b. Lite-Shod Shoe requirements are the same as the Trail Pleasure requirements.
 3. **Open Shod Division:**
 - a. The Open Shod horse should display brilliance and show presence. If shown in Western Tack the **exhibitor may use two hands to rein;** however, if one hand is used the same rules apply as the trail pleasure division. The Open Shod horse must back readily.
 - b. Open Shod Shoes shall not exceed the size of the plantation shoe. Refer to NWA Rule book, **Section 8.3 (A)** for shoe requirements. The caulk must not exceed a one inch turnback and the shoe must not extend more than ¼ inch beyond the hoof at the toe. The heel of the shoe must not extend beyond the bulb of the horse's heel when a perpendicular line is drawn from the bulb of the horse's heel to the ground.



10.20 Racking Horse Classes

A. Hoof Bands shall not be permitted in racking classes at NWAH shows.

B. General: English tack and attire are mandatory in all classes except those that specifically require or permit otherwise. Refer to NWAH Rulebook, **Sections 8.1 and 8.2** for attire requirements.

C. Trail Pleasure Racking

1. Trail Pleasure racking horses must be lite shod (3/4 x 3/8 inch maximum). Refer to NWAH Rule book, **8.3 (B)** for shoe requirements. Whips are not permitted. Horses shall enter the ring at a trail rack. The judge will call for a trail walk and trail rack in both directions of the ring.
2. Trail Racking Horses should exhibit a true 4 beat gait with an effortlessness geared toward encouraging stamina and longevity on the trails. Horses must walk and rack on a loose rein and be extremely well mannered, responsive and quiet. Horses must stand quietly and back readily. Animation and action are not desired in a trail racking horse.
3. Trail Pleasure Racking Western classes must reverse away from the rail (to the inside). Reins must be held in one hand and cannot be changed during performance unless the horse is four years old or younger (using a bosal or ring snaffle). Refer to the NWAH Rule book, **Section 10.18** for a full description of western requirements. The Judge may call for a halt on the rail to test for quietness. Horse must stand quietly on the rail and in the lineup, and back freely when asked. If a western horse does not stand quietly, it shall be penalized. It is suggested that for Championship classes in Trail Racking Western the Judge ask the entries to back clear of the lineup and do a 360 degree neck reined turn, either right or left, rider's discretion. The horse shall wear correct western tack. Refer to the NWAH Rule book, **Sections 8.1 and 8.2** for descriptions of tack and attire. The horse must wear a bridle with no cavesson or colored brow band. Braids are prohibited.

D. Country Pleasure Racking

1. The Country Pleasure Racking horse may wear any size shoe not to exceed the plantation-sized (1 ½ x ½ inch). Refer to NWAH Rule book, **Section 8.3 (A)** for shoe requirements. Whips are not permitted. Horses shall enter the ring at a slow rack. The Judge will call for a show walk, slow rack, and a fast rack (country pleasure rack) both directions of the ring.
2. Country Pleasure Racking Horses should exhibit a true 4 beat gait with slightly more animation than the trail racking horse. Horses should be well mannered and responsive. Quality of gait shall not be sacrificed for speed. Horses must stand quietly and back readily.
3. Country Pleasure Racking Western classes must reverse away from the rail (to the inside) Reins must be held in one hand and cannot be changed during performance unless the horse is four years old or younger (using a bosal or ring snaffle). Refer to the NWAH Rule book, **Section 10.18** for a full description of western requirements. The Judge may call for a halt on the rail to test for quietness. Horse must stand quietly on the rail and in the lineup, and back freely when asked. If a western horse does not stand quietly, it shall be penalized. It is suggested that for Championship classes in Country Pleasure Racking Western the judge ask the entries to back clear of the lineup and do a 360 degree neck reined turn, either right or left, rider's discretion. The horse shall wear correct western tack. Refer to the NWAH Rule book, **Sections 8.1 and 8.2** for descriptions of tack and attire. The horse must wear a bridle with no cavesson or colored brow band. Braids are prohibited.

E. Style Racking

1. The Style Racking horse may wear any size shoe not to exceed the plantation-sized (1 ½ by ½ inch). Horses shall enter the ring at a style rack. The judge will call for the show walk and the style rack both directions of the arena.
2. The Style Racking Horses should display brilliance and show presence while performing a true 4 beat rack. Horses should be balanced both front and rear with animation and action in both the show walk and style rack. Exhibitors should not sacrifice style or gait for speed. Style racking horses are not required to back.



F. Speed Racking

1. The Speed Racking horse may wear any size shoe up to the plantation-sized (Not to exceed 1½ by ½ inch). Protective equipment, including unweighted heel boots, quarter boots, bell boots is permitted. The DQP will inspect the horse and all boots before allowing them on a horse. After inspection, boots and safety equipment may be put on the horse in the warm-up area.
2. Horses shall enter the ring at a slow rack. The judge will ask for show walk, slow rack, and fast rack both directions of the arena.
3. Speed Racking Horses should exhibit the brilliance and excitement of speed racking. However, form shall not be sacrificed for speed. Any tendency to trot, pace, or break gait must be penalized in judging. Speed Racking Horses are not required to back

G. Open Western Pleasure Racking

1. The Western Pleasure Racking Horse may wear any size shoe up to the plantation sized (not to exceed 1 ½ x ½ inch). Refer to NWA Rule Book, **Section 8.3 (A)**.
2. Reins must be held in one hand and cannot be changed during performance unless the horse is four years old or younger (using a bosal or ring snaffle). Refer to the NWA Rule Book, **Section 10.18** for a full description of western requirements.
3. Horses shall enter the ring at a pleasure walk. The judge will ask for a pleasure walk and a slow rack both directions of the ring. Horses in Western Pleasure must reverse away from the rail (to the inside). A halt on the rail may be called for. Horses must stand quietly on the rail and in the lineup, and back freely when asked. If a western horse does not stand quietly, it shall be penalized.
4. It is suggested that in Championship classes the judge ask the entries to back clear of the lineup and do a 360 degree neck reined turn, either right or left, rider's discretion.
5. The horse shall wear correct western tack. Refer to the NWA Rule Book, **Sections 8.1 and 8.2** for descriptions of tack and attire. The horse must wear a bridle with no cavesson or colored brow band. Braids are prohibited.

10.21 *Pleasure Driving Classes*

Performance of the horse shall be paramount and in no way overshadowed by equipment turnout. Horse to enter to the right (counter clockwise) and work both ways of the ring at the flat walk and running walk. Reverse to be executed on the diagonal at a walk or at the direction of the ringmaster. The horse is to line up, stand quietly and back readily. Pleasure horse qualities are paramount. The horse should be judged with the same general qualities as the flatshod pleasure horse. The following are suggestions to be used in judging: 70% on performance, way of going, manners and condition of horse; 30% on condition, fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle, neatness and appropriateness of driver's attire and overall impression.

- A. The term Driver used herein refers to the person controlling the reins and whip. Youth drivers who have not yet reached their 12th birthday must be accompanied by an adult in the vehicle. Youth drivers who are older than 12 but not yet 18 years of age may be accompanied by an adult. Youth drivers accompanied by an adult shall sit on the right side of the vehicle. Only the driver may handle the reins, whip or brake; Failure to comply will result in elimination. ALL drivers and passengers must be able to place their feet squarely on the floor of the vehicle and must also be able to brace a foot squarely on the lower dash; the forward, slanted section of the vehicle directly beneath the dash and slanting upward from the floor. A secured foot rest may also be used to accommodate the above requirements.
- B. Headgear passing or surpassing current ASTM standards is strongly recommended for adult drivers and **required for all youth drivers.**
- C. All drivers and people involved in the competition shall keep safety foremost in their minds. It is strongly suggested that drivers keep upon their person a tool to cut the harness in case of emergency.
- D. Either the one or two handed method of driving is acceptable. Drivers will not be penalized for using one style over another. The distal ends of the lines (reins) shall be buckled together at all times. Dragging of reins on the ground is not only unsafe but unsightly and shall be penalized.



- E. An appropriate driving whip shall be carried, in the right hand, at all times while driving. The thong on the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the horse or pony. A driver without whip in hand shall be severely penalized.
- F. Ladies shall wear conservative dress; blouse and skirt, shirt and jodphurs with apron, saddle suit or day coat and jodphurs. Men should wear business suit, saddle suit or sport jacket and slacks. Gloves and either hats or protective headgear are required. Floppy hats are discouraged.
- G. If open, all-breed, driving classes are offered, the words “working walk” may be used in place of “flat walk” and “intermediate gait” or “pleasure gait” may be used in place of “running walk.”
- H. Grooming and turnout of horse shall conform to breed standards.
- I. Bridles with blinkers should be adjusted to fit snugly to prevent catching on the vehicle or other pieces of harness. Flash nosebands are strongly discouraged in pleasure driving classes. A bridle with reins attached and passed through the saddle terrets must be in place whenever a horse is put to a vehicle. A throatlatch and noseband or cavesson is mandatory. A bridle shall not be removed from a horse, under any condition, while it is still put to a vehicle. The horse must never be left unattended while put to a vehicle.
- J. Snaffle bits and other traditional driving bits such as Half-cheek snaffle, Liverpool, Elbow and Butterfly are allowed. Typical Walking Horse bits are not considered driving bits. Burr, gag and twisted wire bits are not permitted. Severe bits are to be penalized in judging.
- K. Black harness is considered appropriate with most vehicles and for vehicles with iron parts painted any color except brown. Russet (brown) harness is considered appropriate with natural wood vehicle with brown or black iron, painted vehicle with natural wood panels with any color iron or vehicle that is painted brown with brown iron. Shaft and pole trimmings should match the harness. All metal furnishings should match.
- L. Breast collars are appropriate with any vehicle. Full collars may be used for heavier vehicles.
- M. Sidechecks or overchecks are optional.
- N. Drivers should strive to present an appropriate turnout to include compatible size, type and weight of horse and vehicle. Driving vehicle may be two or four wheel and of suitable appearance and safety. Show management may choose to limit classes to two or four wheel vehicles. Breeching is not used with wire wheels and is recommended with wooden wheel vehicles. Combined driving marathon vehicles are restricted from pleasure driving classes.
- O. Unless the ring is very large, classes of more than 14 entries shall be split. In a small ring the class may need to be split at a lower number of entries.
- P. All entries shall reverse on the diagonal unless otherwise directed by the Judge or ringmaster. Failure to do so may result in elimination.
- Q. Drivers should strive to maintain a safe distance from other vehicles both during the competition and the warm up area.
- R. No entry may leave the arena after judging has begun without permission from the Judge and/or ringmaster. If asked to leave the ring by the Judge and/or ringmaster, the turnout must do so as soon as is safely possible.
- S. Leading a turnout into the ring is considered outside assistance and not permitted. A neatly attired header should be called in at lineup for safety reasons but should be instructed not to touch the horse unless directed to by the Judge. If the header holds the horse it must be penalized.
- T. An uncontrollable horse must be immediately dismissed with assistance if necessary. The Judge must excuse a competitor with unsafe vehicle or harness.
- U. Show management may offer other classes such as antique or period, drive and ride or obstacle.

10.22 *Versatility Classes*

Horses nominated for the NWA Lifetime Superior Achievement Program accrue points for national awards. Rules for the LSAP and versatility events may be found in the NWA Versatility Rule book.



10.23 *General Requirements for Under Saddle Rail and Versatility Classes:*

- A. In all classes, horses will be shown in English tack unless specific class requirements indicate otherwise.
- B. In all under saddle rail classes except Style Racking and Speed Racking, horses will be required to back.
- C. For exhibitors presenting English horses the order to reverse can be executed by turning either towards or away from the rail.
- D. Barefooted horses may be shown however, judges must disqualify lame or tender footed horses.
- E. A normal time out to replace a thrown shoe will be allowed.
- F. There shall be no curb chain or caveson adjustment upon the reverse.
- G. In Western classes, silver mounted equipment shall not count over good working equipment.
- H. Dress for versatility classes is addressed in the NWA Versatility Rule book.
- I. In timed events and/or individually worked classes such as barrels, pole, western riding, trail, etc. a particular horse counts as one entry no matter how many people ride it. The only time a horse can be entered in a timed event or trail class with two different riders and count as two entries is if the class is an open class and one of the riders is an adult and other is a youth exhibitor, and this is allowed only if there is no other class for the adult or youth exhibitor.

10.24 *Model, In Hand and Halter Classes*

A. Model

Model Classes for Two year and over horses are to be shown in bridle or show halter and should be divided by sex of the horse. Entries shall be led into the ring and parked for judging. Conformation and conditioning are paramount. Horses must stand quietly. Unruly entries shall be dismissed from the ring.

B. In-Hand

In Hand Classes for horses two years old and over are to be shown in a bridle or show halter. Classes may be divided in classes by sex of the horse. Weanlings and yearlings are to be shown in halter. Entries in these classes are to be shown at a walk both ways of the ring and are to be judged 50% conformation and presentation and 50% movement.

- C. Entries in this division should exemplify the ultimate in conformation. They should be in sufficient good flesh to present a healthy appearance and should be immaculately groomed. In model, halter and in-hand classes, stallions and mares should be free of genetic abnormalities such as parrot mouth. Additionally, all stallions two years of age and older should have two testicles descended.

D. Judging Emphasis

- 1. All classes in this division, with the exception of Model Classes, shall be judged on overall performance, presentation and conformation.
- 2. Extremes in any conformation component are not desirable. Soundness of limbs should be of utmost importance.
- 3. Entries with any genetic abnormalities should be severely penalized.
- 4. In Model Classes entries shall be judged on conformation and presentation. Entries who do not stand quietly shall be penalized in final judging.
- 5. Walking Horses In Hand, weanlings and yearlings, in their way of moving, should reflect a natural looseness with free-moving shoulders and an ample overstride. In judging In-Hand classes, strong emphasis should be placed on naturalness and those characteristics that are passed on through breeding. In Hand, weanlings and yearlings should be judged 50% on conformation and presentation and 50% on movement.
- 6. Entries in Mare and Foal Classes shall be judged 50% on the mare and 50% on the foal.



7. In Get of Sire Classes, the stallion is shown in hand with as many as three but not more than five of his get. Get of Sire Classes are judged 100% on get.
8. Unsoundness and/or transmittable faults or weaknesses must be penalized strongly in final judging.

E. General Procedures

1. Entries in all classes in this Division shall be led into the ring and proceed, counterclockwise as directed by the Judge.
2. Weanlings and yearlings shall be shown in hand at a walk, reversed and walked, lined up and judged.
3. In-Hand Classes shall be worked and judged in the same manner as the weanlings and yearlings.
4. Mare and Foal Classes and Get of Sire Classes shall be worked at the discretion of the Judge. Horses shall be shown in hand at a walk as directed, lined up and judged.
5. Model entries shall be led into the ring, lined up as directed, then judged.
6. When entries are exhibited they should stand erect and square on all four feet. Entries should be alert with ears forward, attentive to the surroundings. Unruly entries must be penalized.
7. No entry may be administered a medication that will alter its disposition or deportment in the ring. When such a medication is suspected by a Judge, he shall have the authority to order a medical examination to determine if such medication has been administered. The NWHHA shall reserve the right to examine any entry to determine if drugs have been administered. Such examination as may be required shall be administered after the class. Entries showing obvious outward signs of being sedated or tranquilized shall be excused by the Judge in Halter, Model or In-Hand classes.
8. No ginger or any medication may be applied to the entry.
9. Any trainer or handler who, in the opinion of the Judge, abuses an entry with a whip or other instrument shall be excused from the class.
10. If, in the opinion of the Judge, an entry poses a threat to other exhibitors or, by its behavior, offers an obstacle to other exhibitors, it may be excused from competition.
11. Exhibitors must wear conservative attire including, at a minimum, a collared shirt and tie.

F. Equipment:

1. Weanlings and yearlings shall be shown in a show halter.
2. In Model and In Hand Classes, entries must wear a show bridle or show halter.
3. Boots or action devices and set tails or artificial humane tails are prohibited on all entries.
4. Braids in the manes and/or foretops are optional.
5. Whips not to exceed four feet in length including snapper are permitted for use by handlers presenting their horses with English equipment. Neither whips nor crops are allowed with Western presentation.



10.25 Walking Seat Equitation

The term, Equitation, specifically means, “The art or act of riding horseback.”

A. General Rules

1. Fall of the horse and/or rider requires automatic disqualification from the class. **Refer to Section 10.8 for definitions of fall of horse and rider.**
2. Any rider not having his/her mount under sufficient control shall be dismissed from the ring.
3. No attendant shall be allowed in the ring except at the request of the Judge.
4. When additional tests are desired the Judge’s instructions to the riders shall be publicly announced. Tests should be posted one hour before the class.
5. Unsoundness of the mount shall not penalize a rider unless it is sufficient to impair the required performance, except such unsoundness that violates the HPA and other Rules mentioned elsewhere which shall disqualify both horse and rider.

B. Appointments

1. Personal

- The rider should choose a neat, well-fitted habit with accompanying accessories within the guidelines based on tradition and present-day customs.
- A traditional saddle suit must consist of matching coat and pants and is correct for both day and evening.
- Suggested colors include black, blue, grey, green, beige or brown with coordinated accessories. Vests should be worn and may either match or contrast with the habit color. The coat length should be at least three inches below the fingertips when standing. The jodhpurs should be long enough to rest on the rider’s boot top and the bottom of the boot heel showing only the toe of the boot when mounted. Jodhpur underpasses must be worn.
- A matching or coordinated English riding hat or approved ASTM/SEI certified helmet must be worn. **Approved ASTM/SEI certified helmets are required for exhibitors aged 11 and under.** A tie matching or coordinating with the suit color should be worn with a man’s style shirt. Boots should be of the English type in either calf or patent leather. Gloves shall be worn. English type spurs (either blunt or small rowel) and a whip are optional.
- The semi-formal or tuxedo type suit is suitable to be worn after 6 p.m. only. The acceptable colors are dark blue, brown, grey or black, with collar or lapels of the same color. Top hat or homburg, dark bow tie, cummerbund, gloves, and dark boutonniere complete the outfit.
- The formal or tuxedo type suit is also acceptable only after 6 p.m. The acceptable colors are dark blue, brown, grey, and black with collar or lapels of the same color. Top hat, white bow tie, cummerbund (or pique vest), white gloves, and a white boutonniere complete the outfit.
- The rider’s hair should be neat and well groomed. Riders with long hair should have it styled above the collar.

2. Tack:

- All tack should be clean and well kept.
- Standard English Walking Horse bridle with a single rein must be used. Colored brow bands are appropriate; however, rhinestones, etc., are not acceptable. Cavions and breast straps should be of brown or black leather.
- English saddles are to be used. Whether of the flat or deep seat variety, the saddle should be the correct size for the rider. Forward seat saddles and dressage saddles are prohibited. White, brown or black solid color girths are to be used.
- Braids should be of the straight plaited variety with no butterflies or other ornamentations.



C. Seat and Hands

1. General

- The Walking Seat Equitation rider should be one of calm, supple workmanship in balance with effective and easy control of self and mount.
- The rider should show his horse well and exercise appropriate show ring etiquette.

2. Basic Position:

- In ideal position, a vertical line could be drawn through the ear, shoulder, hip and heel.
- Head held high looking forward.
- Shoulders square with rib cage drawn up out of the belt.
- Waist should be supple. Buttocks should be neatly tucked (avoid sway back). Seat deep, close, in deepest part of the saddle. Thighs and knees should be in close contact, with toes pointed forward.
- With foot out of the stirrup, the iron should strike the rider just below the ankle. Ball of foot should rest squarely on the stirrup iron with the weight of the leg lowering the heel below the toe.
- Arm should fall naturally from the shoulder with the elbow on the vertical or slightly forward. Forearm parallel to the ground or angling up slightly. Hands and forearms should form a "V" when viewed from above. They should be held well over the withers and far enough apart so that the thumbs almost touch when extended. The hands should be light and in unison with the horse, showing adaptability as well as control.
- Rein should be held between the thumb and index finger with the rest of the fingers closing gently around the rein. Closed (or crossed) reins are optional. Both hands shall be on the reins, and the bight of the reins should be on the off side.
- Excessive pumping of the reins at the canter is not appropriate and should be penalized.

D. Judging Criteria

Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to 20 with 1/2 increments acceptable. Ten points should be allocated for overall appearance and functional riding positions and styles. Ten points should be allocated for execution of performance to include rail work and other requested work.

Suggested final scoring shall be on a basis of 0-20 with the following scores and criteria for each.

At the judge's discretion only those riders who are contenders for an award may be asked to perform extra work or pattern, or the judge may ask all participants to perform extra work.



SUGGESTED SCORING CRITERIA

20	Excellent equitation including body position and use of aids. Performance on rail (and extra work) executed with precision, promptness and smoothness.
18-19	18-19: Generally excellent performance with one minor fault in appearance or position or execution of performance.
16-17	16-17: Good equitation appearance and position with minor fault(s) in precision, smoothness or promptness of performance
14-15	14-15: Average equitation appearance and position with flaws that prevent effective riding, or committing two or three minor faults in the performance or appearance or position of the exhibitor.
12-13	12-13: One major fault or several minor faults in the performance or position that precludes effective communication with the horse.
10-11	10-11: Two major faults or many minor faults in the performance or appearance and position of the rider.
6-9	6-9: Several major faults or one severe fault in the performance, appearance and position of the rider. Exhibitor demonstrates a lack of riding ability in performance, position or appearance.
1-5	1-5: Exhibitor commits one or more severe faults in the performance, position or appearance of rider; however, the rider completes the class.

E. Class Division and Appropriate Tests:

Class Routine: Enter the ring at the flat walk turning to the right and proceeding in counterclockwise direction. The class shall proceed around the ring at each required gait, and on command, reverse and repeat. Riders should line up on command, be judged individually, address reins, and back at the request of the judge. Any extra work should be performed in 30 seconds per rider.

1. Youth Class Division:

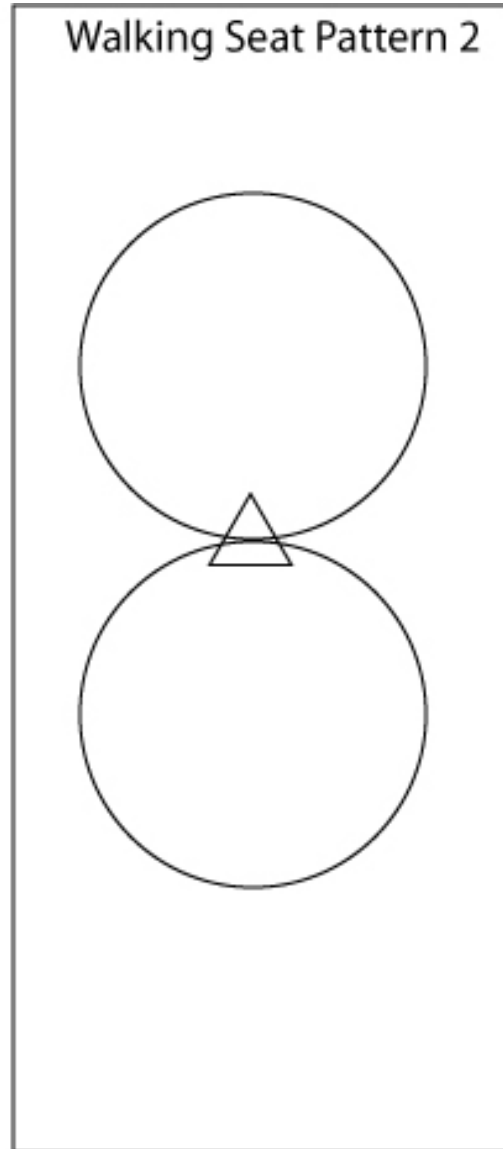
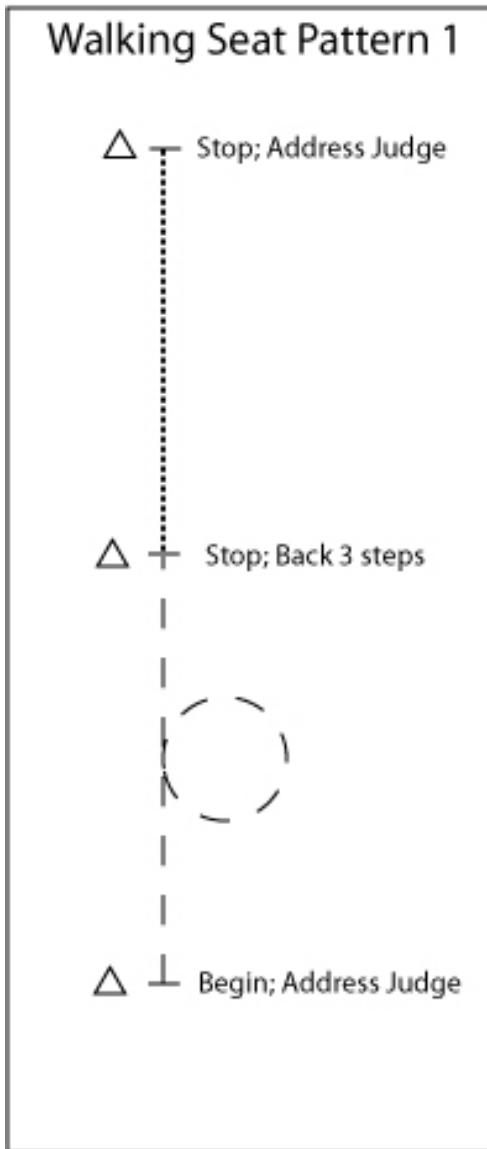
- Youth exhibitors 11 years old and younger should perform on the rail in both directions at the flat walk and running walk. Test 1 is acceptable extra work if chosen.
- For Youth exhibitors 12-14 years old, tests 1-4 are acceptable.
- For Youth exhibitors 15-18 years old, tests 1-4 are acceptable if chosen.
- Equitation Championships: Judges are encouraged to choose tests not performed in preliminary classes.

2. Adult Class Division

- Adult Equitation is for riders 19 years and over. This division follows the same class routine as the youth equitation division.



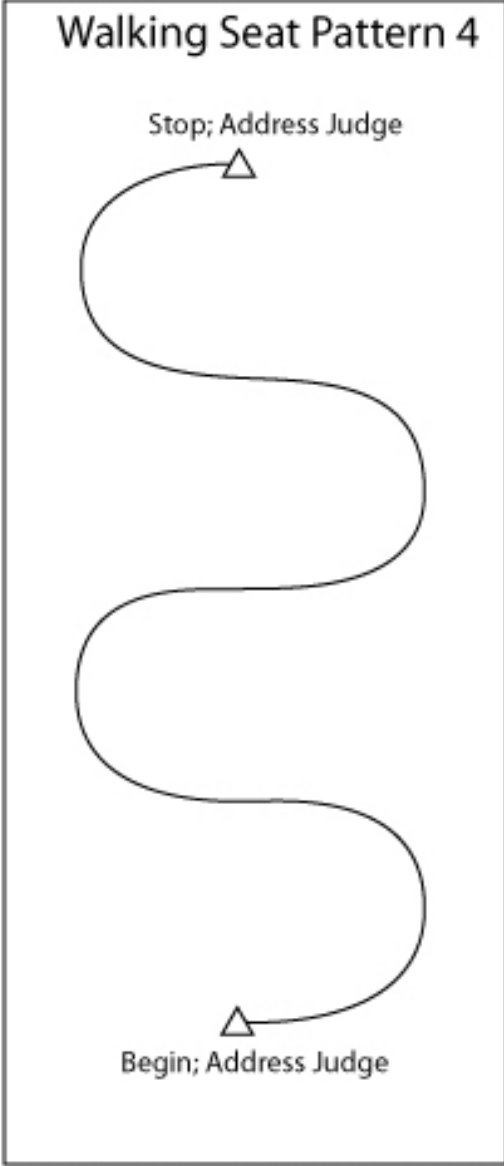
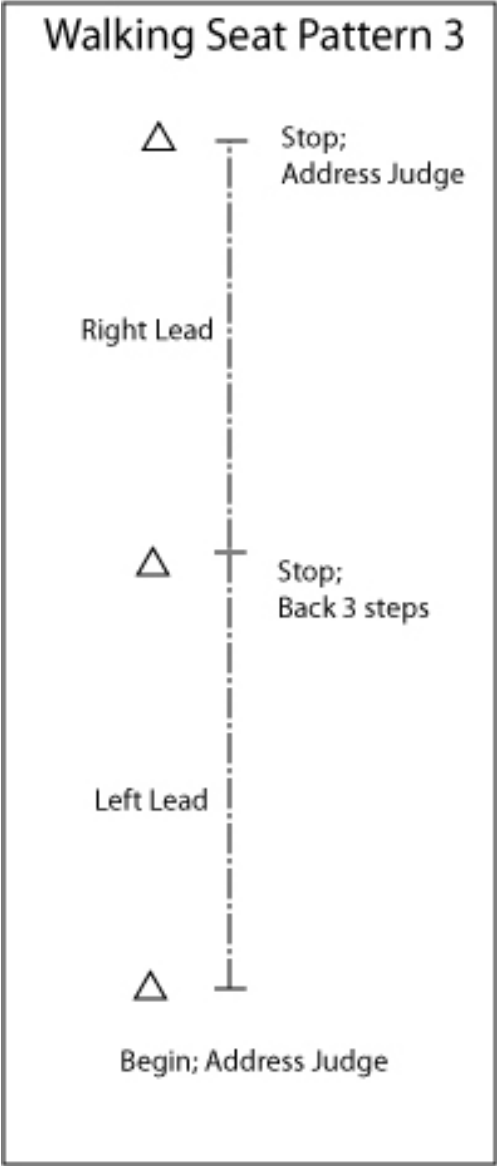
WALKING SEAT TEST PATTERNS



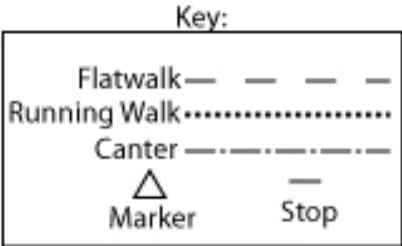
Pattern may be performed at any or all gaits

Key:

Flatwalk	— — — —
Running Walk
Canter	- - - - -
△	—
Marker	Stop



Pattern may be performed at any or all gaits.





10.26 **Stock Seat Equitation**

Riders will be judged on seat, hands, ability to control and show horse. Results as shown by performance of the horse are NOT to be considered more important than the method used by the rider.

A. General Rules

1. Fall of the horse and/or rider requires automatic disqualification from the class. **Refer to Section 10.8.**
2. Any rider not having his/her mount under sufficient control shall be dismissed from the ring.
3. No attendant shall be allowed in the ring except at the request of the Judge.
4. When additional tests are desired the Judge's instructions to the riders shall be publicly announced. Tests should be posted one hour before the class.
5. Unsoundness of the mount shall not penalize a rider unless it is sufficient to impair the required performance, except such unsoundness that violates the HPA and other Rules mentioned elsewhere which shall disqualify both horse and rider.

B. Appointments

1. Attire:

- The horse and rider should be well groomed and exercise good taste.
- Stock seat equitation attire must include: western hat or approved ASTM/SEI certified helmet, long sleeved shirt with collar, long pants, and boots. A tie, pin or scarf is optional. Vest, coordinating western chaps, jacket and gloves are optional.
- The rider's hair must be neat and well groomed. Riders with long hair must have it styled above the collar.
- Above all, the rider's clothing must be clean, workmanlike and neat.

2. Tack

- Tack requirements comply with the rules governing proper tack for a western pleasure horse.
- No braids should be used in the horse's mane and forelock in stock seat equitation.
- A western bridle with no cavesson must be used. Either a split or romal rein will be acceptable. The shanks of the bit must not exceed 9 1/2 inches.
- The saddle should be of the western type and should be the correct size to fit the rider.
- No Australian stock saddles are permitted.
- Silver on the bridle and saddle are quite acceptable and should be well cleaned but should not count over good working equipment.

C. Seat and Hands

1. The rider should sit in center of saddle with legs under rider forming a straight vertical line through, ear, center of shoulder, center of hip and back of heel. Stirrup length should allow heels to be lower than toes, with slight bend in knee and toe directly under knee. Body should always appear comfortable, relaxed and flexible, and back should be nearly flat. Stiff and/or arched lower back should be avoided. Feet may be placed home in the stirrup with boot heel touching the stirrup, or may be placed with ball of foot in the stirrup. Riding with toes only in stirrup will be penalized.
2. Both hands and arms shall be held in a relaxed easy manner, with the shoulders back and down, and upper arm in a straight line with the body, the arm holding the reins bent at elbow forming a straight line from the elbow to the horse's mouth. When using a romal, the rider's off hand shall be around the romal with at least 16 inches of rein between the hands. Wrists are to be kept straight and relaxed, with thumb on top and fingers closed around the reins. One finger between the reins is permitted when using split reins, but not with romal. Some movement of the arm is permissible but excessive pumping will be penalized. Reins are to be carried immediately above or slightly in front of saddle horn. Only one hand is to be used for reining,



and hand shall not be changed. Reins should be carried so as to have light contact with the horse's mouth. Excessively loose reins or tight reins will be penalized. In the event a horse (four years of age or younger) is shown with snaffle bit or hackamore, a rider will show with two hands on the reins.

D. Judging Criteria

Exhibitors are to be scored from 0-20 with 1/2 increments acceptable. Ten points should be allocated for overall appearance and functional riding positions and styles. Ten points should be allocated for execution of performance to include rail work and other requested work.

Suggested final scoring shall be on a basis of 0-20 with the following scores and criteria for each.

At the judge's discretion only those riders who are contenders for an award may be asked to perform extra work or patterns, or they may ask all participants to perform extra work.

SUGGESTED SCORING CRITERIA

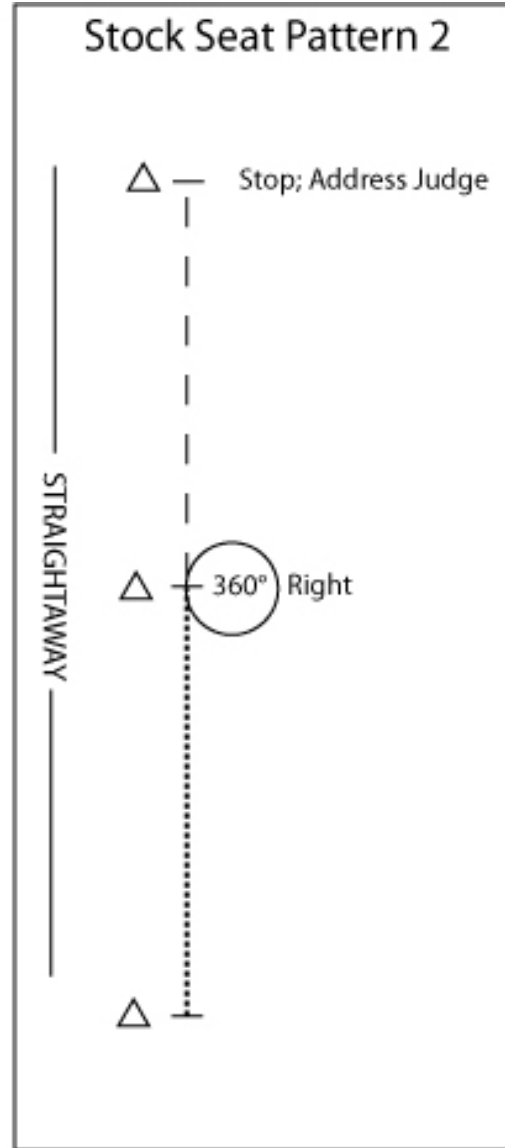
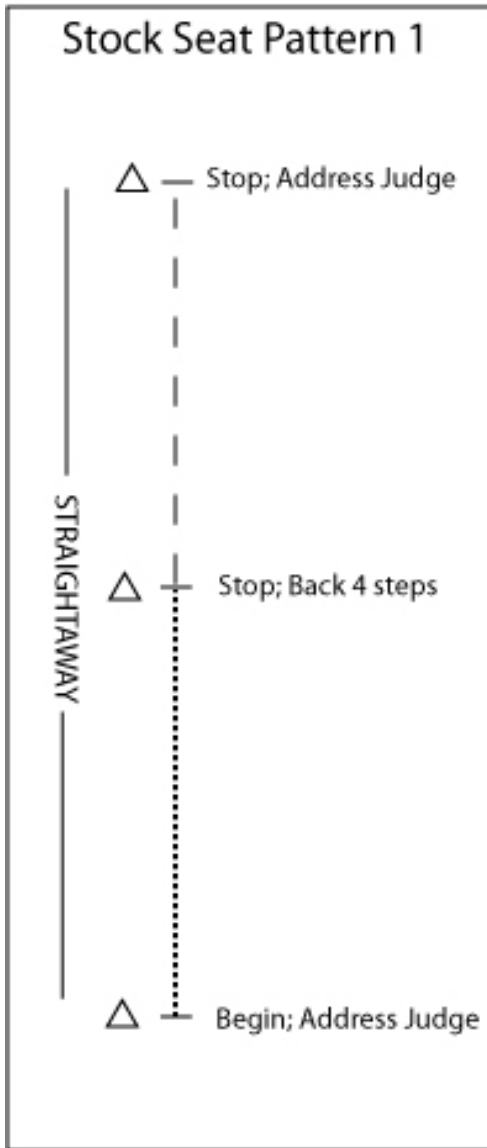
20	Excellent equitation including body position and use of aids. Performance on rail (and extra work) executed with precision, promptness and smoothness.
18-19	Generally excellent performance with one minor fault in appearance or position or execution of performance.
16-17	Good equitation appearance and position with minor fault(s) in precision, smoothness or promptness of performance
14-15	Average equitation appearance and position with flaws that prevent effective riding, or committing two or three minor faults in the performance or appearance or position of the exhibitor.
12-13	One major fault or several minor faults in the performance or position that precludes effective communication with the horse.
10-11	Two major faults or many minor faults in the performance or appearance and position of the rider.
6-9	Several major faults or one severe fault in the performance, appearance and position of the rider. Exhibitor demonstrates a lack of riding ability in performance, position or appearance.
1-5	Exhibitor commits one or more severe faults in the performance, position or appearance of rider; however, the rider completes the class.

E. Class Division and Appropriate Tests:

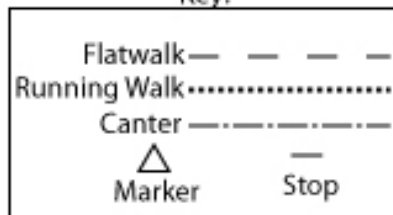
1. The judge will ask each rider to work individually. These individual workouts will be any of the maneuvers the judge feels are necessary to determine the horsemanship ability of the rider. The purpose of the Stock Seat Equitation class is to determine the riding ability of the rider, and the judge will bear this in mind at all times.
2. Markers should be carefully planned to standardize patterns and guide riders. Their placement should be indicated in the posted pattern and their placement in the arena well supervised.
 - a. Youth Class Division
 - Youth exhibitors 11 years old and younger should perform on the rail in both directions at the flat walk and running walk. Test 1 is acceptable extra work. **Approved ASTM/SEI certified helmet must be worn.**
 - For Youth exhibitors 12-18 years old, tests 1-4 are acceptable.
 - b. Adult Class Division
 - Adult Stock Seat Equitation is for riders 19 years and over. This division follows the same class routine as the youth stock seat division.
 - c. Equitation Championships: Judges are encouraged to choose tests not performed in preliminary classes.



STOCK SEAT TEST PATTERNS

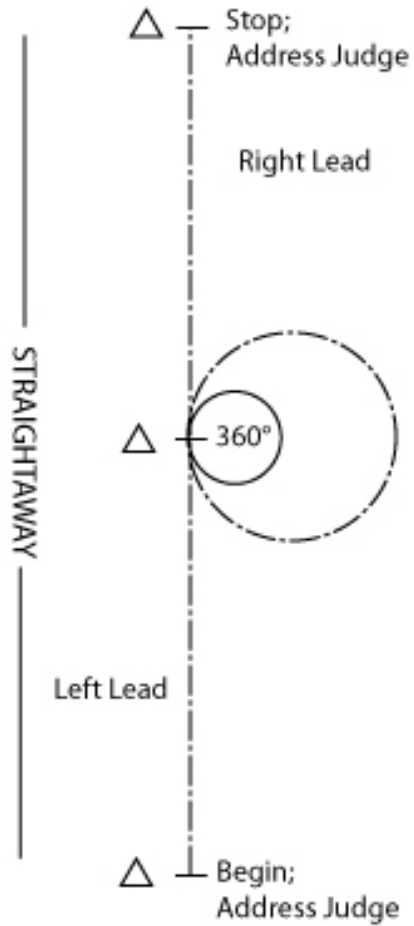


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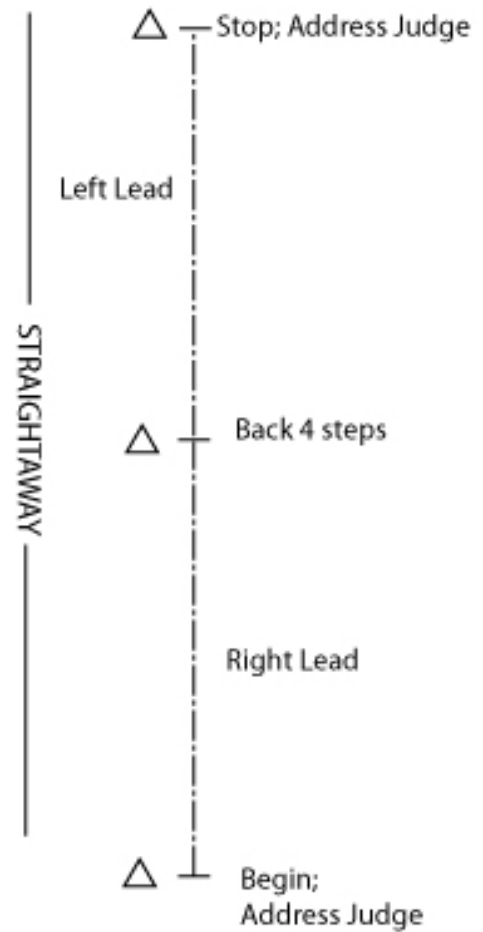




Stock Seat Pattern 3



Stock Seat Pattern 4



Key:

Flatwalk	— — — —
Running Walk
Canter	- - - - -
△	—
Marker	Stop



11. DQPs

11.1 Definition

A DQP is a Designated Qualified Person trained to detect a horse which is sore and to otherwise inspect horses for the purposes of enforcing the HPA and NWA Rules.

The initials DQP in these Rules applies throughout to Recognized DQPs. A Recognized DQP licensed by the NWA is a representative of show or sale management.

Designation as a NWA DQP is bestowed by the NWA according to procedures formulated by it, to individuals, whose equine expertise and personal character merit the designation. An individual's conduct and ability as a DQP must be exemplary and is subject to continual review.

In an effort to eliminate conflicts of interest, real or perceived, NWA will approve only individuals not involved, and whose immediate families are not involved, in the training, showing, breeding, boarding or tutoring of a Walking Horse or its rider as the principle source of income. A person that trains Walking Horses can be approved as a DQP to work shows that do not include Walking Horses.

11.2 Enrollment of DQPs

Application must be made on the official form furnished by the NWA and accompanied by the required fee which is not refundable. No application shall be considered unless and until references are returned.

Fees for a DQP card are as follows: (1) \$25 for initial application, which is not refundable; (2) \$25 for annual renewal.

The NWA shall act upon every application for enrollment and annual renewal of DQPs. The DQP Director will consider only those applications made on the official form and accompanied by the fee which is not refundable. If approved, the applicant will be furnished an examination paper which must be answered and returned to the NWA for review. Each applicant whose examination paper receives a mark of 80% or better and who has apprenticed two or more shows may be issued a DQP card good for the calendar year only.

11.3 Annual DQP Refresher Course

After the first year, all recognized DQPs must attend a four hour refresher course each year conducted by the NWA. It is the DQP's responsibility to attend these classes at their own expense. Failure to attend a four hour refresher course in a calendar year will mean the DQP's license will be automatically revoked.

11.4 Regulations Governing DQPs

- A. A DQP working a particular show is ineligible to serve at that show as President, Chairman, Secretary, other show officer, manager, other show employee or exhibitor.
- B. Failure of a DQP assigned by the NWA without due cause to attend the show or sale or perform his duties in accordance with the Rules shall constitute cause for disciplinary action. (A DQP unable to attend a function to which he/she has been assigned must notify the NWA DQP Director immediately.)
- C. A DQP must be assigned by the NWA DQP Director before he can serve as DQP at an affiliated or non-affiliated show or sale.
- D. A DQP is prohibited from visiting with or communicating with exhibitors while working a horse show except in the course of carrying out his/her official duties. Exhibitors are allowed in the inspection area only when presenting an entry for inspection.
- E. A DQP's immediate family is prohibited from showing at a show where that DQP is working.



11.5 Cancellation of DQP Approval

The NWA, having a DQP program certified by the USDA, shall issue a written warning to any DQP who violates the Rules, regulations, bylaws or standards of conduct promulgated the NWA pursuant to this section, or who carries out his duties and responsibilities in a less than satisfactory manner, and shall take any DQP off of the NWA Approved DQP List after a second violation. After a DQP has been dropped from the approved list, the DQP may, within 30 days thereafter, request a Hearing before the Independent Hearing Committee. If the committee upholds the dismissal of a DQP, the DQP may appeal the decision of such committee to the USDA Deputy Administrator within 30 days from the date of such decision, and the Deputy Administrator shall make a final determination in the matter. If the Deputy Administrator finds, after providing the DQP who has been dismissed with a notice and an opportunity for a hearing, that there is sufficient cause for the committee's determination regarding the DQP's dismissal, he shall issue a decision sustaining such determination. If he does not find that there was sufficient cause to dismiss the DQP, the NWA shall reinstate the DQP.

The NWA shall dismiss any DQP in its program who has been convicted of any violation of the Act or regulations or of any DQP who has paid a fine or civil penalty in settlement of any alleged violation of the Act or regulations if such alleged violation occurred after July 13, 1976.

A DQP may be suspended from his/her official duties by the NWA DQP Director or otherwise disciplined with or without formal notice.

11.6 Authority

- A. A DQP should clearly understand that he has no authority in connection with the management or the judging of a show. He/she is the representative of the NWA and should point out in a diplomatic manner any instance where NWA Rules are not enforced. He/she should not dictate to the Judges or management but should immediately report to the appropriate officials any violations of the Rules, which provide that only sound horses are shown. He/she should keep himself/herself available to Judges, exhibitors and management at all times to investigate any alleged violation of the Rules.
- B. A DQP has the authority and will disqualify from competition or sale any horse found in his /her opinion to be in violation of the HPA or NWA regulations.
- C. All horses become subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the DQP when they are brought upon the show grounds, except when same are under judgment inside the show ring.
- D. The method and manner of determining the eligibility of horses to show shall be within the sole discretion of the DQP.
- E. In shows using both a and a DQP, any horse declared ineligible to show by either one shall not be allowed to show.

11.7 Duties

- A. To assist Show Management.
- B. To report to the Show Committee any misrepresentation or substitution of entry without waiting for a Protest.
- C. To report to the Show Committee, any offense or violation of the Rules and prefer charges against the violator.
- D. To report to the NWA DQP Director any violation of the rules that is not properly handled by Show Management in the opinion of the DQP.
- E. To report to the NWA DQP Director any exhibitor or trainer who has failed to comply fully with the provisions of the Rules of the NWA regarding the showing of only sound horses.
- F. To appear upon the request of the NWA at any and all Hearings involving the DQP program.



- G. To transmit to the NWAH DQP Director by mail, within 48 hours of the conclusion of the show, the following information:
1. Class sheets on every class inspected.
 2. A total number of the different breeds inspected at each show.
 3. A written report of any offense or violation of the HPA or the NWAH Rules on every show or sale inspected.
 4. A written report if there were no violations found on every show or sale inspected.
 5. A copy of the premium list and/or program on each show.
 6. A program or catalog on every sale.
 7. A total number of the horses inspected at each sale.

Note: All reports must be turned in to the NWAH DQP Director within two days after completion of every show or sale on forms furnished by the NWAH. Failure of a DQP to get his report in the office on time could result in disciplinary action up to the loss of the DQP's license.

11.8 Responsibilities

- A. A DQP shall keep him/herself well aware of all USDA and NWAH Rules and regulations and have an updated copy with him/her at the shows or sales in which he/she works.
- B. A DQP shall not work a sale or show without prior notification and assignment from the NWAH DQP Director.
- C. A DQP shall maintain and have present at each show, sale or event, the equipment and tools necessary for DQP inspection procedures such as DQP Tickets, DQP Reports, hoof testers, a flexible tape measure, a driving hammer, calipers and a ruler.

11.9 Inspection procedures

- A. The only persons allowed in the inspection areas are the exhibitor and one assistant, the assigned DQPs, clerical assistant to the DQP, DQP apprentices who are apprenticing at that show, NWAH officials, USDA/APHIS personnel with legal authority as set fourth by the HPA.
- B. The exhibitor/rider must be dismounted during the inspection of the horse.
- C. The DQP will inspect horses no more than three classes ahead of the time the inspected horses are to be shown, when the show has 150 horses or more.
- D. The DQP will inspect horses no more than two classes ahead of the time the inspected horses are to be shown, when the show has less than 150 horses.
- E. Inspected horses will be held in a designated area that is under observation by the DQP or APHIS representative.
- F. Horses will not be permitted to leave the designated area after they have been inspected and before showing. Horses leaving the designated area after being inspected and prior to exhibition, showing, or sale will be subject to re-inspection.
- G. The DQP will have the horses walked and turned in a figure eight, allowing the DQP to observe for signs of soreness.
- H. The DQP will instruct the custodian of the horse to hold the reins no less than 18 inches from the shank of the bit.
- I. The DQP will do a physical examination of the horse's pastern area on both front limbs and may inspect the pastern area of the hind limbs.
- J. The DQP will check the horse for pressure shoeing with a small hammer and/or hoof testers.



- K. The DQP will not be required to examine a horse if it is presented in a manner that might cause the horse not to react to a DQP's examination or if it is unruly or dangerous to the DQP or to persons in the area. Such horses will be disqualified without inspection.
- L. The DQP may carry out additional inspection procedures as he/she deems necessary to determine whether the horse is in compliance with the HPA and its regulations and the rules of this association.
- M. No one may touch the lower limbs of the horse (from the knee to the hoof) after it has been inspected and prior to entering the event unless under the supervision of the DQP.
- N. The DQP will not take an unreasonable amount of time to perform the inspection procedures.
- O. When the class is over, the first place horse must return to the DQP area for post-show inspection immediately upon leaving the ring area. If an entry is found to be in violation of the HPA or NWHHA rules, the class will be retied.
- P. The DQP may request that any horse report to the inspection area for inspection, post show or event.
- Q. The DQP has the right to inspect all non-trotting breeds of horses and any records pertaining to such horses that enter the event, for the purpose of enforcing the HPA.
- R. The DQP may monitor such areas at various times during the time he/she is on the grounds officiating.
- S. The DQP will discriminate in the allocation of his/her time and will not deter from his/her primary duty of examining each horse prior to entry into the event, nor in any manner delay the event, solely for the purpose of monitoring the above areas/activities.
- T. In the case of large or multi-day shows or events, requiring or providing the stabling of horses, the DQP should arrive on the show or event grounds no less than one hour prior to the event's scheduled starting time, for the purpose of monitoring the unloading, preparation, warm-up, and barn areas. The DQP should arrive on the show or event grounds no less than one hour prior to the event's scheduled starting time, for the purpose of monitoring the unloading, preparation, warm-up, and barn areas. The DQP should continue to monitor these areas throughout the length of the event.
- U. The DQP will be observant for the use of prohibited substances and is empowered to inspect leg wrappings and shipping boots only in the presence of show management and the owner/agent of the horse.
- V. For the purposes of examining those horses showing signs of soreness, while in the preparation area, warm-up arenas, or anywhere on the show grounds, the DQP may require the custodian of the horse to bring the horse directly to the inspection area for the purpose of examining the horse for compliance with the HPA.
- W. DQP has the authority to require the removal of all hoof coatings that may disguise the amount of acrylic used for hoof repair. Further, the DQP has the authority to require the removal of shoes if his/her inspection causes reasonable suspicion of evidence of pressure shoeing.



12. Violations, Penalties, Charges, Protests, and Hearings

12.1 Affected Individuals, Firms, Corporations or Partnerships

The provisions of these Rules shall apply to all owners, exhibitors, agents, trainers, managers, riders, show officials, show employees, members of the families or employees of the above, participating either individually, or as a member of an entity, or any person at a show or sale affiliated with the NWHHA who acts in a manner in violation of the Rules of the NWHHA .

- A. Any act at a show in violation of the Rules by a member of the family or employee of a person participating in the show who is described in the previous sentence, may be deemed to have been committed by such person and subject him to penalties.
- B. Any person, firm, corporation or partnership or any other entity granted any right, privilege, authorization, or license, or accepting any benefit from the NWHHA shall be deemed to have contractually agreed to fully cooperate with all duly appointed committees, agents, and employees in enforcement of all Rules, regulations, and order of the NWHHA.
- C. Any person, firm, corporation, partnership, or other entity granted any right, privilege, authorization, or license, or accepting, receiving, or exercising same, may be required to give evidence or testimony in any investigation, hearing, trial, or other proceeding held by duly appointed representatives of the NWHHA in connection with investigation of possible violation and enforcement of these Rules.
- D. Any violations and penalties applicable by the NWHHA shall apply equally to all horse shows, sales and exhibitions affiliated with the NWHHA.

12.2 Violations

A violation is any act committed at an affiliated event prejudicial to the best interest of the NWHHA, including but not limited to the following specific acts:

- A. Failing to settle unpaid fines.
- B. Showing or exhibiting or attempting to show or exhibit while under suspension.
- C. Showing or exhibiting or attempting to show or exhibit a horse that is under suspension.
- D. Penalization by another Horse Affiliating or Sanctioning Association that has a USDA DQP certification program, or Court of Law for violation of NWHHA Rules or HPA.
- E. Acting or permitting any other to act in a manner contrary to the Rules of the NWHHA, or in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike or intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interest of the NWHHA.
- F. Committing any act or making any remark considered offensive and/or having been made with intent to influence or cast aspersions on the judging.
- G. Failing, as an exhibitor or his representative, to sign the entry blank of a show in which he competes.
- H. Treating a horse cruelly.
- I. Failing to observe any penalty imposed by the NWHHA.
- J. Influencing or attempting to influence by any means or manner any DQP in determining the eligibility of any horse entering any class at any affiliated show or event.



12.3 Penalties for Violations Reported by the DQP

- A. Violations and penalties will be applicable at all shows, sales, and exhibitions where there is a licensed DQP. (See accompanying Penalties Charts.)
- B. Any horse turned down for unsoundness, open lesions, or bad image (to include Scar Rule and Sore violations) cannot be presented for inspection to be shown for the remainder of the show or sale.
- C. For suspension purposes, one month equals 30 days. Penalties are applied to the exhibitor (unless 17 years of age or under), trainer, and owner. Penalties for scar rule, bad image, unilateral and bilateral soreness have a 3-year time limit. Individuals with no additional violations for 3 years after a suspension has been served will be treated as first offenders for any subsequent offense of a similar nature. Penalties for the remaining violations in the Penalties Chart will be similarly removed after the end of each calendar year. All penalties in the Penalties Chart are cumulative and cannot be served concurrently.

PENALTIES for VIOLATION OF THE HORSE PROTECTION ACT AND NWAH RULES

Category		Penalty for Each Offense			
		First	Second	Third	Subsequent
I.	Pressure Shoeing*	5 years	Life		
II.	Bilateral Soreness, Bad Image	8 months	2 years	5 years	Life
III.	Scar rule	2 weeks	2 months	1 year	2 years
IV.	Unilateral soreness	2 months	6 months	1 year	3 years
V.	Bilateral Open Lesions	2 months	6 months	1 year	3 years
CATEGORY I, II, III, IV, AND V post-show violations will result in forfeiture of prizes and re-tying class					
VI.	Pre-show Technical violations:	Disqualified from showing/exhibiting/selling			2 weeks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Illegal shoeing b. foreign substance on pasterns or hooves, which includes odors as well as visible signs of a foreign substance c. Scurfing on the pastern area d. Presenting a horse in any manner or the custodian doing anything that might cause the horse not to react to DQP's examination. Horse's tail must hang free. A horse presented for inspection shall be controlled by the custodian holding the reins approximately 18 inches from the bit shank. Using whips, cigarette smoke and/or actions and paraphernalia in an attempt to distract a horse during examination is prohibited. 					
VII.	Post-show Technical violations:	2 weeks	4 weeks	6 weeks	8 weeks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Illegal shoeing b. Failure to present a first-place winner or any other horse requested by Show Management, the DQP, or USDA for re-inspection immediately following a class c. Presenting a horse in any manner or the custodian doing anything that might cause the horse not to react to DQP's examination. Horse's tail must hang free. A horse presented for inspection shall be controlled by the custodian holding the reins approximately 18 inches from the bit shank. Using whips, cigarette smoke and/or actions and paraphernalia in an attempt to distract a horse during 					



Category		Penalty for Each Offense			
examination is prohibited.					
VIII.	Unruly/Fractious horse (does not carry over to subsequent shows) Unilateral Open Lesions	Disqualified from class Disqualified from show/sale	Disqualified from show Disqualified from show/sale		
IX.	Other Violations	Penalty assessed at the discretion of the Director of Operations			
a. Giving false information b. Failure to have a horse inspected before entering the show/sale ring c. Refusal to provide requested information to DQP d. Presenting for inspection or being in control of a serviceably unsound horse not associated with soring or abuse					
X.	Show/Sale Grounds violations - Working a flat-shod horse on show/sale grounds with any action device	2 weeks	4 weeks	6 weeks	8 weeks

*** Pressure Shoeing: Abusive Shoeing: Abusive shoeing of a horse that causes it to suffer pain or distress or lameness when walking, trotting or otherwise moving, or inflammation or soreness regardless of movement. Insertion of any object or material between the shoe and the hoof.**

12.4 Verbal or physical abuse

Verbal or physical abuse to anyone representing NWHHA, Show Management, Judges, DQPs, USDA, Employees or Directors, while functioning in any official capacity at, or pertaining to, any horse show, sale, etc. will require mandatory appearance before the Hearing Committee.

12.5 Reports filed by show management

Any report filed by Show Management, or any Judge or Judges, showing that a horse was excused or dismissed from the ring for a violation as provided herein will be penalized in the same manner as violations reported by a DQP. Exception: Bad image in the show ring that is not a sore horse.

12.6 Jurisdiction of NWHHA

The NWHHA shall have final jurisdiction in all matters pertaining to restrictions levied for any violation of the Rules, or any prejudicial act, and may order suspensions and penalties including but not limited to the following. Failure of any person, firm, or corporation to comply with any penalty or punishment assessed hereunder, shall result in automatic suspension of all licenses and privileges until said order is complied with.

12.7 General

- A. Any person found guilty of a violation of the NWHHA Rules may be subject to suspension for any period from showing or having others show, exhibit or train for them. A suspended person is forbidden for the time specified in the sentence to hold or exercise office in the NWHHA or any Affiliated Show, and may be excluded from all show grounds during Affiliated Shows, as an exhibitor, participant or spectator. Any person on probation cannot serve on NWHHA Board or committees during the duration of probation.



- B. Any person suspended by the USDA is automatically suspended by the NWHHA for the period of the USDA suspension. The NWHHA may levy any other such penalty against the person as deemed appropriate. A person suspended by USDA cannot present a horse for inspection or warm the horse up on the show grounds.
- C. On receipt of official notice that disciplinary action has been taken by another Horse Association, or Court of Law against a person for an Act which may be a violation of NWHHA Rules, an officer of the NWHHA may make a charge against such person, and the NWHHA may take such action as it deems in its own best interest.
- D. A horse or horses, completely or partly-owned, leased or of the stable of such person may be suspended for any period. The NWHHA may at a later date remove the suspension of said horse or horses if a sale thereof is made in such manner as to be a bona fide transaction and not with the intention of relieving the suspended owner of penalty.
- E. Any volunteer or any employed person who assists, rides, exhibits, or grooms for the benefit, credit, reputation or satisfaction of the person disciplined may be suspended for any period.
- F. Any Show Official, not in compliance with NWHHA Rules, may be suspended from his official duties by the NWHHA.

12.8 Suspensions

- A. The suspension shall begin on the first day after the violation is entered on the permanent record of the NWHHA. All suspensions will be assessed so as to run during the show season, beginning March 1st and ending November 31st.
- B. Any suspension which has not been satisfied at the conclusion of the current show year must be completed in the succeeding year before that person is eligible to resume showing or exhibiting at affiliated events.
- C. Any person who desires his/her suspension to commence running before the twenty day period allowed for requesting a Hearing shall file a written statement with the NWHHA stating that he/she accepts the charge and requests the suspension begin immediately. In this event, the applicable suspension days will begin running on the postmarked date of the letter or facsimile (FAX) transmission to the NWHHA.
- D. Horses will be suspended from showing or exhibiting on the same basis provided herein for the suspension of persons, with the exception that no monetary fine will be levied against the owner of a horse which receives such accumulation of weeks as to be suspended for the remainder of the calendar year. All suspensions against the horse will be assessed so as to run during the show season, beginning March 1st and ending November 31st. Any suspension assessed against a horse shall continue for the prescribed period regardless of the location of said horse during the period of suspension. If said horse is sold, traded or otherwise disposed of, the weeks accumulated and/or any suspension shall remain against said horse. Upon receipt of a Transfer/Bill of Sale, the NWHHA shall notify the new owner of the penalty that's assessed against the horse. The new owner shall have the same rights regarding protesting the assessment of weeks as prescribed herein above for persons. Exception: Horses shall not be assessed weeks for responsible person having provided false information.
- E. In classes where professionals can show, the rider of the horse, if he/she is a professional, shall be responsible for the condition of the horse, and shall be considered to be the responsible person.
- F. All weeks entered against a person's or horse's record shall be removed at the end of the calendar year. This does not affect suspensions carried over into the next year.



12.9 Immediate disqualifications

Penalties resulting in immediate disqualifications-qualifications and/or return of premiums include but are not limited to:

- A. Misrepresentation of a horse's identity, name, height, age, eligibility for the class, registered or recorded name, owner of record, or other information on any entry blank, or substitution in the show ring of an entry other than the one named for the class in question which shall result in the exhibitor's forfeiture of any ribbon, trophy, cash prize and other award won by such misrepresented or substituted animal, and shall render the exhibitor liable for further penalty. The class will be re-tied.
- B. Voluntarily removing a horse from the ring without the permission of a Judge, for which the rider and all animals under his care and training may be disqualified from all future classes at that show by the Show Committee and caused to forfeit all prizes and entry fees for the entire show.

12.10 Additional penalties

Any person, firm, or corporation found guilty of violating any rule or regulation of the NWHHA shall be subject to any or all of the following penalties as may be prescribed by the NWHHA:

- A. **Censure:** The NWHHA executive committee may vote to censure a person. If found guilty of a further violation, the defendant shall be subject to a heavier penalty than for a first offense.
- B. **Expulsion:** Expulsion from all Affiliated Shows, sales or exhibitions.
- C. **Forfeiture:** Forfeiture of any prizes or premium won by an exhibitor while in violation of these rules and regulations.
- D. **Fine:** Fine of not less than \$10 nor more than \$5,000.
- E. **Probation:** Probation for any period of time up to one year from the date of decision or, if suspension is levied, from the date the suspension is terminated. Probation shall be a time during which the conduct of the person is scrutinized carefully by the NWHHA and should violation be filed against said person he is automatically suspended from all rights and privileges until the Hearing, without action of the Hearing Committee.
- F. **Suspension or cancellation** of any privileges issued or granted by the NWHHA.

12.11 Notification:

- A. Any notice, document, instrument, or other paper required to be served on any person, unless otherwise specifically provided, shall be served upon such person by certified United States mail addressed to the last known post office address of such person. When the same has been deposited in the United States mail it shall be considered delivered and served.
- B. The NWHHA shall notify the management of every Affiliated Show of persons on suspension.
- C. The NWHHA may report disciplinary action taken to another Horse Association if in their opinion such course is advisable for the protection of mutual interest.



12.12 Jurisdiction of Show Management, Complaints, Hearings:

Whenever any person, firm or corporation, hereinafter called and referred to as the complainant, believes that his, her or its rights have been infringed upon, or that another person, firm or corporation, hereinafter referred to as the accused, has violated the rules and regulations of the NWHHA, the following procedures shall be followed:

- A. Violations of rules pertaining to the following matters shall be subject to jurisdiction of Show management as hereinafter provided.
 - Action devices used by an exhibitor which are prohibited by these rules.
 - The exhibiting of any horse in a class which said horse or exhibitor is ineligible to participate or compete in.
 - The exhibiting of any horse which is shod in a manner found to be in violation of these rules.
 - It is mandatory that any complaint or protest regarding the measurement of a horse be heard by Show Management.
- B. If a complainant has reason to believe that an accused has violated any of the foregoing rules and wishes that matter investigated, he must file a written statement with Show Management stating the following:
 - The name and number of the exhibitor and horse.
 - The class in which the horse was exhibited.
 - The rule that the complainant believes was violated.
 - The manner in which the rule was violated.
 - The name and address of the complainant.
- C. The complainant shall submit his written statement to Show Management, along with the sum of \$200 before the completion of the final class of the show. If the complaint concerns an infraction in the last class, the complainant shall immediately notify Show Management that he intends to file a complaint and he shall have 30 minutes thereafter to submit said written statement the day of the show.
- D. Show Management shall then take such steps as it deems necessary to make a determination of the matter and shall render a decision as quickly as possible.
- E. If the decision of Show Management is in the favor of the complainant, the \$100 shall be returned to the complainant. Show Management shall also order the accused disqualified and to forfeit any prizes or money which the accused may have received. Any exhibitor who was placed or tied below the accused shall be advanced one place in the final order. If only one judge was used in the class, then he shall immediately tie one more exhibitor for last place.
- F. If either the complainant or the accused objects to the decision of Show Management, an appeal may be taken to the NWHHA.
- G. After making its decision, Show Management shall cause a written report to be filed with the office of the NWHHA. The report shall contain a short statement of the procedure followed by Show Management in the handling of the matter and a finding of facts, and the decision arrived at. Said report shall be filed whether or not an appeal is taken.
- H. If the decision of Show Management is appealed, the Hearing Committee shall hear the matter following the procedure as prescribed in these Rules for filing an initial Complaint, **Section 14, F.2** at its next scheduled meeting, or at some later meeting if it determines that more time is needed. The Hearing Committee shall hear the matter on the written statement and findings of facts filed by Show Management and determine if the decision arrived at was proper, based on the facts found by Show Management. If the written findings of facts submitted by Show Management are incomplete or unclear, the Committee may continue the matter and ask Show Management to submit additional findings of facts.



- I. If an appeal is taken from Show Management's decision, then the matter shall be held in abeyance until the appeal is heard and Show Management's decision shall not be put into effect until instructed to do so by the Hearing Committee.
- J. Any exhibitor who fails to return any prize or money ordered forfeited by Show Management shall be disqualified from showing until said order is obeyed, unless an appeal is taken to the Hearing Committee.

12.13 *Disciplinary Policies and Procedures*

- A. The NWA Executive Committee is the responsible body within NWA for the administration of justice concerning NWA matters as promulgated through NWA Rules and Regulations.
- B. The Executive Committee, though ultimately responsible, shall delegate to the Hearing Committee the process of hearing and reviewing evidence of alleged wrongdoings and meting out disciplinary action relative to NWA Rules and Regulations and the Horse Protection Act. The Executive Committee shall retain jurisdiction over Re-Hearings, including the corresponding disciplinary action.
- C. The Hearing Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee at the annual meeting or as soon as practicable thereafter. The Hearing Committee shall be comprised of 15 members of which the composition shall be, as nearly as practicably possible, 1/3 trainers, 1/3 owners, and 1/3 exhibitors. Of the members, 5 shall be designated to sit as the Hearing Panel for a particular matter on a rotation system as established and maintained through the administrative office.
- D. The 5 person Hearing Panel shall select a chairperson to preside over the panel and shall act in this capacity until the work for which the 5 person Hearing Panel was convened is finalized and acted upon by the Board of Directors.
- E. When convened, the Hearing Panel shall be provided with copies of all documents pertinent to the matter including, but not limited to, alleged charges or violations, evidence, and the identity of the parties and witnesses.
- F. The actual Hearing shall be held at the NWA office in Lexington, Kentucky or such other location in Lexington, Kentucky as may be necessary due to the number of persons attending the Hearing.
- G. The functions of the Hearing Panel as well as any other person participating in the functions of the Panel, including NWA staff, shall be conducted in an impartial manner, ethically, and with respect for the person(s) against whom the allegations have been raised.
- H. All 5 of the Hearing Panel members must be present during the entire Hearing process, must consider all evidence, and must deliberate and decide the outcome of the matter, except and unless there is an agreement otherwise made by all parties to the proceeding, including the 5 person Hearing Panel.
- I. Any member of the Hearing Committee may disqualify himself/herself due to conflict of interest or for any reason that elicits a concern for the integrity of the Hearing process.
- J. A party may request the identity of the persons who will participate in the Hearing and who will sit on the Hearing Panel. The disclosure shall be made by the NWA Administrative Office as soon as practicably possible after receiving said request and reasonably in advance of the Hearing. On the submission in good faith, of a timely affidavit of personal bias or other grounds for disqualification of a participating person or Hearing Panel member, the Hearing Panel will consider and decide the matters raised as part of the record and decision in the case being heard.
- K. The Hearing Panel or any persons presiding at any Re-Hearing shall prepare a written record of the proceedings which shall include: the evidence introduced and considered; each finding of fact base on the evidence; the conclusions and decisions regarding the allegations; and a statement of penalties and/or relief granted or denied. The written record shall be the official record and decision which shall be issued within ten (10) business days of the Hearing.



- L. As to all Hearings conducted by NWHHA, the parties shall be accorded:
 - 1. Written notice of the allegations, with specificity, and the possible consequences if found to be true;
 - 2. Reasonable time between notice of allegations and a Hearing date in order to prepare a defense;
 - 3. A Hearing before a panel of impartial fact finders where the proponent of the allegation(s) must substantiate the allegation(s) by a preponderance of the evidence;
 - 4. The right to be assisted in presenting one's case by either lay assistance or legal counsel;
 - 5. The right to call witnesses, present evidence and present argument;
 - 6. The right to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses;
 - 7. The right to have a record made of the Hearing, at the party's expense, if desired;
 - 8. The right to a timely written decision, with reasons, based solely on the evidence of record; and
 - 9. Right to Re-Hearing upon new evidence with written request within 15 days of the date of the Hearing Panel's official decision.
- M. The decision of the Hearing Panel shall be final with the exception of a re-Hearing upon the discovery of new facts per the Rules and Regulations of NWHHA.
- N. Prior to a Hearing, the Complaint may be withdrawn but must be in writing and submitted to the NWHHA Administrative Office.

12.14 Jurisdiction of Hearing Committee, Complaints, Hearings

When a Complaint is made as described in these Rules, or when sufficient information is received by the NWHHA, or any official thereof, that any person is violating any rule, order or regulation of the NWHHA that involves the safety, welfare, or health of a person, member or horse and the NWHHA or official deems such charge or information warrants immediate action, then he/she may suspend all licensing and privileges of such accused person pending a Hearing of the matter.

- A. If the decision of the Hearing Committee is against the Accused, the Committee may order the Accused to pay all or a portion of the cost of the Hearing in addition to other punishment or penalties hereinafter set forth.
- B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to be in conflict with violations and penalties reported by the DQP which shall remain within the jurisdiction of the DQP, the Hearing Committee, and the NWHHA.
- C. If any Complaint or protest is filed concerning a violation which may also be the subject of a report being filed by the DQP, then said Complaint shall be adjudicated concurrently with the violation which was reported by a DQP.
- D. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the NWHHA or its duly authorized representative from filing a Complaint or bringing charges against any person or business entity when sufficient information is received to indicate that a violation of these rules might have occurred.
- E. If a Complaint concerns a violation of a rule which was within the jurisdiction of Show Management and no Complaint was filed with Show Management, then said violations can be properly filed as a Complaint under the jurisdiction of the NWHHA.
- F. Whenever any person or business entity, hereinafter Complainant, believes his, her or its rights have been infringed or that another person or business entity, hereinafter Accused, has violated the Rules and Regulations of NWHHA, the following shall be followed:
 - 1. Violation of Rules and Regulations of NWHHA, not specifically delegated to Show Management, shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Executive Committee and delegated to the Hearing Committee through the NWHHA's Administrative Office.



2. Complainant must initiate action by filing a Complaint through the Administrative Office which provides:
 - Name and address of the person or entity making the Complaint (if business entity a natural person must also be identified);
 - Name (and address if known) of the person or entity against whom the Complaint is filed;
 - Rule(s) believed to be violated; and
 - Complete statement of the acts which constitute the violation.
- G. The nonrefundable fee to file a Complaint is \$200.00 and must accompany the Complaint.
- H. The Complaint will be presented to the Executive Committee to determine if the charge is sufficient to warrant further action. If it is determined the Complaint is not sufficient to warrant a Hearing, the Complainant will be notified in writing of the decision. If it is determined the charge is sufficient to warrant further action, NWHHA, through the Administrative Office, shall notify the Accused that said Complaint has been filed.
- I. Notice shall be given per Notice Rules of NWHHA identified in these Rules. "Notice: Anyone formally accused, as identified by the NWHHA Rules, of any wrongdoing shall be given notice of the formal accusation by certified mail within 20 calendar days of the date the formal accusation is received by the NWHHA Administrative Office. All parties to a Hearing shall be given, by certified mail, not less than 20 calendar days' notice of the time and place for the Hearing. Notice for all matters is deemed received when sent by certified U.S. Mail or by private traceable expedited carrier and is deemed received when delivered according to this Notice rule."
- J. All parties shall be notified in accordance with these Rules of the time and place of the Hearing.

12.15 *Hearing Committee and Procedures*

- A. The Hearing Committee, through the Executive Committee, shall conduct all Hearings relative to Complaints of alleged violations of the Rules and Regulations of NWHHA. The Hearing Committee shall have such other duties and responsibilities as may be set forth in these Rules and Regulations as prescribed by the NWHHA.
- B. Any person or business entity against whom a Complaint is filed shall be entitled to a Hearing. Such Hearings shall be held only after written notice as prescribed in these Rules is given to the Accused.
- C. All Hearings may be recessed from time to time, and place to place, as the convenience of all parties and the interest of justice may demand, but the Hearing Committee of the NWHHA shall not cause unnecessary delay.
- D. The Order of the Hearing shall be: introduction of the matter; introduction of all persons in attendance; introduction of the parties; statement of charges by the Hearing Chairperson; opening statements by the Complainant and then the Accused; Complainant's case presentation with cross-examination by Accused; Accused's case presentation with cross-examination by Complainant; and closing statement by Accused and then Complainant.
- E. The Complainant bears the Burden of Proof.
- F. Proceedings before the Hearing Committee shall be informal. No formal rules of evidence or procedure are required. The Hearing Panel has the sole discretion in terms of evidentiary matters, objections, and length of time permitted for opening and closing statements, and witness questioning.
- G. As an NWHHA member, the owner or lessee of a horse, participant at all NWHHA affiliated or approved events, or person appearing before the Executive Committee or Hearing Committee agrees that all witnesses and participants in such a Hearing or adjudication of any type shall be immune from any civil liability whatsoever, including but not limited to, libel, slander, defamation, invasion of privacy, product disparagement or tortious interference with business for information or testimony given in the course of the investigation, preparation for the Hearing, or at the Hearing.
- H. Upon completion of the Hearing, a final decision shall be rendered in writing as provided for in these Rules.



12.16 Re-Hearing

- A. Either party may file a request for Re-Hearing with the NWHHA within fifteen days of the date of the Hearing Committee's decision. This request must be based upon evidence which was not known at the time of the Hearing and must be supported by a sworn affidavit setting out the nature of the newly discovered evidence and the reason(s) that it was not presented at the Hearing, as well as a sworn statement that the party did not know of its existence at the Hearing. The NWHHA has sole authority to grant or deny a Re-Hearing. The decision shall be based on: (1) whether NWHHA believes the evidence is newly discovered; and (2) whether the evidence, if presented, would likely affect the decision. If Re-Hearing is granted, the Hearing Committee shall conduct the Re-Hearing on the record of the initial Hearing plus the new evidence and any opposing evidence to the new evidence.
- B. The penalty imposed on the initial Hearing is suspended when Re-Hearing is granted. The Hearing Committee, after Re-Hearing, may impose more, but not less penalty, if it sustains the initial Hearing decision.

12.17 Adjudication without Hearing, Plea Agreement

- A. The Hearing Panel, upon receiving a Complaint, may investigate the matter, and if the action appears warranted, attempt to settle the matter in lieu of proceeding to a Hearing.
- B. After investigating the situation, including all evidence proffered by Complainant and Accused, the Hearing Panel, in its sole discretion, may make a determination to offer a Plea Agreement or dismiss the Complaint.
- C. In the event the Hearing Panel determines to offer a Plea Agreement, the Hearing Panel shall be authorized to offer any or all of the penalties allowed under these Rules as if a Hearing had taken place. The Plea Agreement shall set forth the terms and conditions for compliance. A written disposition of the matter shall be filed by the Hearing Panel in accordance with these Rules as if a Hearing had taken place.
- D. A Plea Agreement accepted by the Accused in lieu of a Hearing is not subject to negotiation or Re-Hearing. A Plea Agreement shall have the same force and effect as would a finding of violation by the Hearing Panel following a Hearing.
- E. In no way does the offer and subsequent refusal of a Plea Agreement in lieu of a Hearing disenfranchise the Accused of his/her right to a Hearing as prescribed by these Rules. However, once a Plea Agreement has been agreed to by the Accused, the right to a Hearing shall be deemed to be permanently waived. Once the offered Plea Agreement is accepted by the Accused, it shall be effective immediately, final, and not subject to further review under any circumstances.

12.18 Hearing Procedure for Violations Reported by the DQP

- A. When a report is filed by the DQP showing a violation that accumulates weeks, the NWHHA DQP Director shall immediately notify the person against whom said violation is reported. The person shall have twenty days after the date of the letter of notification was mailed to ask for a Hearing on the matter. If the NWHHA should determine that any Protest filed by the owner, exhibitor or other responsible person should be frivolous and filed for the purpose of keeping said person eligible to show at a particular show, the organization will levy such additional penalties against the person for filing said Protest as it shall deem appropriate.
- B. If no request is received by NWHHA within twenty days from date the notice was mailed, it shall enter the violation on the permanent record of the respondent.
- C. If a Hearing is requested concerning a DQP matter within the time period, the respondent shall send to the organization the sum of \$200 in order to have the Protest filed. The organization shall then set a date for the Hearing before the Hearing Committee and shall notify the respondent of the date, time and place of said Hearing. The matter shall be set for Hearing as soon as possible. The Hearing shall be conducted by the Hearing Committee according to the Rules of NWHHA for procedure, but in no case in contravention of this agreement.

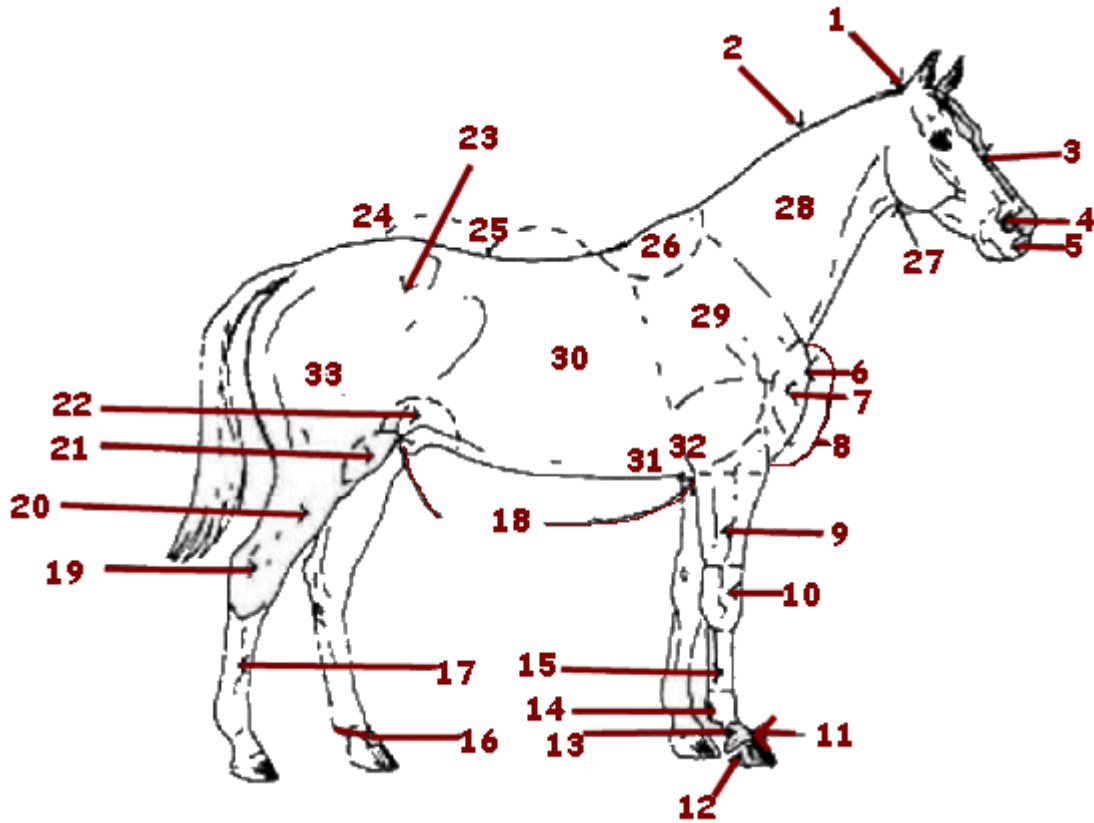


12.19 *Decisions Not Subject To Protest*

- A. The soundness of a horse, or horse deemed representative of bad image per NWHHA Rules, when determined by an official veterinarian or DQP of the show or by a Judge, is not subject to Protest.
- B. A Judge's decision, representing his individual preference, is not subject to Protest unless it is alleged to be in violation of the Rules.
- C. A Protest with respect to the height of a horse or the length of a horse's foot may be made only to the Show Committee. Re-measurement shall take place immediately, to the end that there shall be no change in height by re-shoeing. The decision of Show Officials shall not be overturned by the NWHHA.
- D. Plea Agreements agreed upon and signed by the Hearing Panel and Accused are final and not subject to Protest.



13.PARTS OF THE HORSE



1) Poll	19) Hock
2) Crest	20) Gaskin
3) Forehead	21) Stifle
4) Nostrils	22) Flank.
5) Muzzle	23) Loin
6) Point of Shoulder	24) Croup
7) Breast	25) Back
8) Chest	26) Withers
9) Forearm	27) Throat Latch
10) Knee	28) Neck
11) Coronet	29) Shoulder
12) Hoof	30) Barrel
13) Pastern	31) Girth
14) Sesamoid	32) Elbow
15) Flexor Tendons	33) Hindquarters
16) Fetlock	
17) Cannon	
18) Underline	



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