

## **SC1.0 Sports Concepts - American Saddlebred**

### **DRAFT INSIDE THE RING**

#### **SC1.1 Eligibility and Type - American Saddlebred**

##### **SC1.1.2 Pure Saddlebred**

Horses in this division must be registered with the Saddlebred Horse; Breeders Association (ASHBA) or the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC) and shown under the registered name and owner.

The breed standard for the American Saddlebred includes the following characteristics:

- Average height of 15 to 16 hands, with a weight range of 1,000-1,200 pounds.
- Acceptable colors include chestnut, bay, brown, black, gray, roan, Palomino, and Pinto.
- Well-shaped head with large, wide-set expressive eyes.
- Gracefully shaped ears set close together on top of the head and carried alertly.
- Straight face line with a relatively fine muzzle, large nostrils, and a clean and smooth jaw line.
- Long, arched neck well-flexed at the poll with a fine, clean throatlatch.
- Well-defined and prominent withers.
- Deep and sloping shoulders.
- Strong and level back with well-sprung ribs.
- Level croup with a well-carried tail coming out high.
- Front leg should set well forward under the shoulder.
- Hind leg in a natural stance should be vertical from the point of the buttock to the back edge of the cannon bone.
- Forearms and hindquarters are well-muscled to the knees and hocks.
- Straight legs with broad flat bones, sharply defined tendons, and sloping pasterns.
- Good and sound hooves, open at the heel, neither toed in nor toed out.


Penalizations may include:

- Lack of American Saddlebred type.
- Coarse or plain head.
- Roman nose.
- Round jaws.
- Lop ears.
- Wide ears.

- Small eyes (pig eyes).
- Short neck.
- Straight neck.
- Ewe neck.
- Thick throatlatch.
- Flat withers.
- Sway-back.
- Roached back.
- Crooked tail.
- Hollow chest.
- Straight shoulders.
- Crooked legs.
- Calved knees.
- Over at the knee.
- Bow legs.
- Rough joints.
- Round bones.
- Straight pasterns.
- Splay feet or pigeon toes.
- Contracted heels.
- Base stance too wide or too narrow.
- Sickie hocks.
- Cow hocks.
- Dished feet.
- Lack of muscle tone.
- Thinness.
- Obesity.
- Rough coat or overall lack of conditioning.

### SC1.1.3 Half Saddlebred

Horses in this division must be registered with the Saddlebred Horse & Breeders Association (ASHBA). Half Saddlebreds are not permitted to compete in Purebred Saddlebred classes. They should exhibit similarities to the Saddlebred parent, including smooth gaits, a willingness to work with people, intelligence, and versatility. There are no specific height or weight requirements. They may display characteristics of any other breed. An attractive head with wide-set expressive eyes is desirable, along with a flexed neck at the poll and a fine, clean throatlatch. Well-defined withers are also important. Specific details about the back are not provided in the excerpt.

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#### SC1.1.4 GENERAL, SOUNDNESS AND WELFARE

##### SC1.1.5 Movement and Action:

- Horses should demonstrate clean, rhythmic, and fluid action, maintaining a straight and true path.
- Undesirable traits include winging, interfering, traveling wide behind, mixing of gaits, and loss of form.

##### SC1.1.6 Soundness:

- All horses must be serviceably sound, meaning they should not exhibit any lameness or unsoundness that affects their ability to perform.
- In In-Hand classes, only transmissible unsoundness will be taken into consideration.
- Horses should not display evidence of lameness, broken wind, or complete loss of sight in both eyes.

##### SC1.1.7 Shoeing:

- Pads and wedges are allowed to safeguard the feet and limbs from the impact of the horse's natural gait and to maintain the integrity of the hoof wall. Exceptions to this rule can be found in the English Country Pleasure, Western, and Hunter Country Pleasure sections.
- Bands, specifically protective hoof bands, are permitted to preserve the integrity of the hoof and prevent the loss of a shoe, which could otherwise lead to hoof trauma. Exceptions to this rule can be found in the English Country Pleasure, Western, and Hunter Country Pleasure sections.

##### SC1.1.8 Tail Presentation:

- Horses are allowed to be shown with unset tails in any class without facing penalties.
- Surgical release of the ventral sacrocaudal muscle is permissible if conducted by a licensed veterinarian.

##### Chemical or Irritant Use:

- No horse is permitted to compete in the American Saddlebred Division with any chemical or irritant present to modify the horse's tail carriage.

##### SC1.1.9 Judging and Workouts:

- Horses must be exercised in both directions of the ring, performing all required gaits as instructed by the judge(s).

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- Workouts will be evaluated as a distinct class, with horses being tied for placements being considered in that workout.
- Judges retain the authority to excuse unruly horses or exhibitors displaying inappropriate or dangerous behavior.

Penalties/Elimination:

- Various actions and behaviors may incur penalties, such as mixed gaits, unbalanced action, labored movement, poor manners, and others.
- Horses exhibiting signs of inhumane treatment will be eliminated from competition.

**SC1.1.10 Maiden/Novice/Limit Classes:**

- Maiden/Novice/Limit classes are open to horses/riders/drivers who have not won one/three/six first place ribbons respectively in any under saddle/driving class of any breed and/or discipline.
- Any under saddle class counts towards the Maiden/Novice/Limit status of a horse/rider in any under saddle class but does not affect the status of a horse/driver in any driving class. Conversely, status for Maiden/Novice/Limit for Driving classes does not affect the status for Maiden/Novice/Limit in any under saddle classes.
- Equitation, Academy, Lead Line, and/or non-cantering classes will not affect the Maiden/Novice/Limit status of a horse or rider.

**SC1.1.11 Restrictions on Devices and Noisemakers: Attention-getting devices and noisemakers**

Items such as tape measures, blow horns, bamboo poles, explosives, fire extinguishers, baby powder, and whips longer than 6 feet are strictly prohibited in and around the makeup and competition rings during scheduled competition sessions or at any times designated by Competition Management.

**SC1.1.12 Master Classes:**

Classes in this category are exclusively for amateur riders or drivers aged 50 years and older.

They are judged according to amateur class specifications and are not subject to conformation judging where horses are stripped.

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### **SC1.1.13 APPOINTMENTS**

Horses must be presented in traditional tack appropriate for the class type.

In the warm-up areas, leather straps without appendages are permissible as action devices, as well as rubber/elastic devices attached to leather straps. However, chains or rollers as action devices are prohibited.

Certain modifications to the horse's appearance are generally allowed, such as inconspicuously applied hair in the mane or tail, tail braces, and mouth controls.

Quarter boots and bell boots are permitted in specific classes.

Horses with sight loss in one eye may be shown with an artificial eye or contact lens.

In inclement weather, polo boots or bandages may be allowed.

Dress requirements may be adjusted in extreme temperatures or climatic conditions.

Artificial changes of color or markings, other than those to the mane or tail, are prohibited.

The use of electronic communication devices is generally prohibited, except for exhibitors with permanent hearing impairment who may use them with certification.


Competitors may carry or use a whip not exceeding 6 feet in length, including the lash. Failure to comply may lead to disqualification. Whips longer than 6 feet are not permitted in the warm-up area.

### **SC1.1.14 STRIPPING**

At the Kentucky State Fair World's Championship Horse Show and The UPHA/American Royal National Championship Horse Show, stripping is mandatory in all sections except for Park Horse, Pleasure Horse, Three Gaited Junior Exhibitor, Five Gaited Junior Exhibitor, and all Kentucky County Fair Championship classes, unless stated otherwise in the prize list.

However, stripping is compulsory in all Three Gaited and Five Gaited Open Championship classes, except for one horse classes. Horses with extremely low backs are subject to severe penalties in all stripped performance classes.

Only two attendants per horse are allowed in the ring.

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In classes where manners are of utmost importance, such as Ladies, Junior Exhibitors, Amateurs, and Owners classes, riders must remount and return to the lineup before judges can turn in their cards.

### **SC1.1.15 LINE UP**

Entries are required to proceed in a clockwise direction to bring their entries to the lineup. Judges are tasked with penalizing entries that fail to comply with this rule. In classes where backing is necessary, either the judge(s) or ringmaster, under the judge's direction, must walk the lineup.

### **SC1.2 QUALIFYING CLASSES AND SPECIFICATIONS**

#### **SC1.2.1 OPEN, JUNIOR, THREE-YEAR-OLD, TWO-YEAR-OLD, MAIDEN, NOVICE, AND LIMIT CLASSES:**

In these classes, animation, brilliance, and extreme action are key attributes sought in horses, showcased at both ends. Evaluation is based on performance, presence, quality, manners, and conformation, with a strong emphasis on performance.

#### **SC1.2.2 LADIES**

Classes in this category emphasize refinement, expressiveness, and elegance, with gaits performed with brilliance. Suitability of the horse to the rider is carefully considered. The horse should exhibit quiet walking and standing behaviors. Judging criteria include manners, quality, presence, performance, and conformation.

#### **SC1.2.3 JUNIOR EXHIBITORS**

The classes prioritize horses that are mannerly, willing, expressive, and balanced, displaying brilliance and balanced action. Gait execution should be prompt and executed with brilliance upon command, while the horse should also demonstrate quiet walking and standing behaviors. Judging criteria include manners, performance, presence, quality, and conformation.

In cases where Junior Exhibitor classes are unavailable, junior exhibitors may enter Amateur or Ladies classes unless otherwise stated in the prize list.

#### **SC1.2.4 AMATEURS, MASTERS AND OWNERS.**

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Classes in this category prioritize strength, boldness, increased action, and place less emphasis on manners compared to Ladies, Junior Exhibitor, or Youth classes. Judging criteria include manners, performance, presence, quality, and conformation.

### **SC1.2.5 YOUTH:**

Youth classes are judged according to Amateur class specifications and are open to exhibitors aged 16 to 21 years. Stallions are not allowed in these classes.

When Junior Exhibitor and Amateur Championships are combined and there is no separate Youth Championship, youth participants will be included in the combined Championship.

If no Youth Championship is available:

- Horses shown by riders aged 17 and under will qualify for the Junior Exhibitor Championship.
- Horses shown by riders aged 18 and over, holding an amateur card, will qualify for the Amateur Championship.
- Horses shown by riders aged 18 and over, without an amateur card, will qualify for the Open Championship, provided the prize list permits it.

### **SC1.2.6 AMATEUR OWNER TRAINER (AOT) CLASSES:**

Ownership:

- Horses must be registered under the competitor's name or a family member's name.
- Joint ownership is prohibited unless all owners are from the same family.
- Horses may be stabled with a professional, but only amateurs can assist in grooming, preparation, and ground assistance.
- Headers and in-ring assistants must be amateurs.
- Professional coaching is not allowed in the warm-up ring or during the class.
- Horses must not have received professional training for at least 90 days prior to the competition.
- Amateurs over trainers (AOTs) are permitted to take lessons and attend clinics, with restrictions on training.
- Trainers or instructors may demonstrate training techniques on horses intended for AOT classes solely to educate the owner.

### **SC1.2.7 CHAMPIONSHIPS/STAKES**

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For Qualifying Classes and Championships:

- Management must identify qualifying classes for championships.
- The prize list can outline that only specific classes qualify for particular championships.
- Horses must undergo stripping and be judged on conformation, following the stripping rule outlined earlier.
- In stripped, harness, and in-hand classes, horses with extremely low backs must face severe penalties.

Uniform Eligibility for Championships:

- Eligibility for all championships must be consistent across all sections offered within each competition.
- However, competition management reserves the right to limit the number of entries advancing to championships from the qualifying classes.

#### **SC1.2.8 Nominations:**

Nominations for championships can be submitted either on the entry blank or through an alternative document supplied by the show office. Alternatively, horses may not need to be nominated until a designated number of hours before the scheduled class time, as determined by competition management.

#### **SC1.2.9 Stakes**

This class may serve as either a qualifying round for a championship or as a final for a specific section. The prize list must clearly indicate whether exhibitors are required to qualify for participation.

#### **SC1.2.10 DIVISION OF CLASSES**

Classes with more entries than specified must be divided as evenly as possible, with competition management retaining the right to adjust numbers if needed. Division methods may include alternate numbering, horse or rider gender, horse size, or rider age. Any alternative method must be clearly outlined in the prize list. The chosen division method and entries distribution must be communicated via the horse show office, PA system announcement, or program publication. Notification of division intent must be provided to exhibitors at least one hour before the session. In divided classes, prize money doubles, and separate trophies and ribbons are presented. In divided Futurities, only up to 12 entries advance to the final class, scheduled at least two days later, where all prize money is distributed.

**SC1.3 GAITS****SC1.3.1 WALK****SC1.3.2 FLAT WALK:**

This four-beat gait is characterized by elasticity, ground coverage, relaxation, and collection, while maintaining proper form and consistency in stride. Executed with a brisk pace appropriate for the class type, it should showcase the horse's good manners, stride type, and attitude.

**SC1.3.3 ANIMATED WALK:**

This highly collected gait, known for its "primp," is executed at a controlled pace, demonstrating excellent action and animation. It possesses snap and offers easy control, and can manifest as either a two-beat or four-beat gait. Performed with flair, elegance, and a sense of lightness, it showcases style and grace in motion.

**SC1.3.4 WALK (FOR HUNTERS)**

This gait involves four beats, maintaining a straight and flat-footed stride. It is characterized by regularity and freedom of movement, with a good reach.

**SC1.3.5 TROT**

This gait is characterized by a two-beat diagonal movement where the front and opposite hind foot lift off and touch down simultaneously. The balanced trot exhibits straight and precise motion in the front legs, with the hocks flexing and carried close together. It is executed with a high level of collection, showcasing the horse's athletic prowess.

**SC1.3.6 PARK TROT:**

The park trot is executed with a high degree of collection, prioritizing animation over speed, with penalties imposed for excessive velocity.

**SC1.3.7 PARADE GAIT:**

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A collected trot, capped at a maximum speed of five miles per hour, showcases the horse's athleticism and animation.

#### **SC1.3.8 ROADSTER JOG-TROT:**

The jog-trot is executed with a significant level of collection, emphasizing animation while penalizing excessive speed.

#### **SC1.3.9 WESTERN JOG-TROT:**

The jog is designed to minimize saddle motion, necessitating only minimal rider input for control. It embodies a relaxed, easygoing two-beat diagonal gait, maintaining its distinctiveness without blending into other gaits.

#### **SC1.3.10 TROT (FOR HUNTERS):**

The trot is a straightforward two-beat gait executed at a moderate pace, characterized by a fluid, ground-covering stride. It should exhibit manners, rhythm, and balance, with each step being cadenced and controlled.

#### **SC1.3.11 GAITED TROT**

During the trot, it's essential to demonstrate speed at the maximum rate the horse can sustain while still upholding proper form, control, and balance.

#### **SC1.3.12 EXTENDED TROT:**

The extended trot is executed with increased speed, strength, and boldness, featuring a more pronounced extension of the stride to achieve the desired velocity. This gait is characterized by a high level of collection, maintaining control and balance even at higher speeds.

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**SC1.3.13 EXTENDED TROT (FOR HUNTERS):**

A two-beat gait characterized by boldness, energy, balance, and ground coverage, with a noticeable elongation of stride. This elongation should naturally lead to a speed increase without any hint of rushing or frantic movement. Throughout, the horse's mouth should remain light, and it must consistently exhibit complete acceptance of control without any resistance.

**SC1.3.14 “SHOW YOUR HORSE”:**

The driver holds the honor of presenting the horse in its optimal form during the trot, with an emphasis on showcasing its best attributes. Excessive speed, however, will result in penalties.

**SC1.3.15 ROAD GAIT:**

The road gait is executed with a significant level of collection, displaying a heightened level of speed, strength, and boldness compared to the jog-trot. This gait involves extending the stride further to achieve the desired velocity. When prompted to "drive on," the horse is expected to accelerate while maintaining proper form, control, and balance. The ideal speed is the highest pace at which the horse can trot while still upholding these essential elements.

**SC1.3.16 CANTER**

A deliberate, graceful, and smooth three-beat rhythm characterizes this description. Emphasizing efficiency in movement, achieving optimal action, and maintaining proper form are essential. The pace is controlled, resembling a gentle gallop where two legs on opposite sides of the horse move together while the remaining two operate independently—specifically, the leading foreleg and its corresponding diagonal hind leg. The primary driving force originates from the hindquarters, with the leading foreleg absorbing the impact of the final phase of each beat. During this sequence, there's a fleeting moment where all four hooves are airborne. This gait is versatile, adaptable for both sides of the horse, and performed with a lead that directs toward the center of the arena, aiding in stability and alleviating strain. Determining the lead depends on which foreleg, whether right or left, bears the brunt of the impact during the final phase of the rhythm, following the propulsion initiated by its diagonal hind leg.

In certain classes where manners are less emphasized or where achieving speed at a specific gait is the goal, a more robust and powerful canter from the horse may be acceptable. Control, speed, and collection can be adjusted based on the requirements of the class. However, in situations where

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manners are of utmost importance, maintaining a deliberate and steady pace is crucial, with minimal visible effort from the rider.

**SC1.3.17 CANTER (FOR HUNTERS):**

A three beat gait, even, smooth, unhurried, correct and straight on both leads.

**SC1.3.18 EXTENDED CANTER:**

The extended canter should display expansive ground coverage, graceful movement, and a fluid motion. It should demonstrate a clear increase in stride length while maintaining control and poise. Excessive speed will result in deductions.

**SC1.3.19 HAND GALLOP:**

The hand gallop involves a lengthy, unrestrained stride that covers ample ground. Variations in the extent of ground covered may occur among horses due to differences in their natural stride lengths. It should demonstrate a distinct elongation of stride while ensuring the horse maintains control, manners, correctness, and straightness on both leads. It's important to note that the hand gallop is not a swiftly collected canter.

**SC1.3.20 LOPE:**

The lope in Western riding, akin to the canter in English riding, should offer a smooth, enjoyable ride with consistent and steady motion. It should maintain a balanced pace, not excessively slow or fast, and executed proficiently on both leads. The gait should exude comfort and feature a clear three-beat rhythm, avoiding any tendency to trot behind.

**SC1.3.21 SLOW GAIT**

The slow gait originated from the pace, evolving into a distinctive four-beat gait where each of the four feet makes individual contact with the ground. During takeoff, the lateral front and hind feet commence almost simultaneously, but the hind foot touches down slightly ahead of its lateral forefoot. This gait is characterized by significant collection, with the majority of propulsion originating from the hindquarters, while the forequarters contribute to the final beats. It's crucial to note that the slow gait is not synonymous with a medium rack. Instead, it is a controlled four-beat gait performed deliberately and precisely, without excessive speed, which incurs penalties. It embodies a lofty, elegant, and restrained style, showcasing the horse's grace and refinement.

**SC1.3.22 RACK**

The rack is characterized by a four-beat gait where each foot touches the ground at equal and distinct intervals. It exhibits smoothness and lively animation, performed with notable action and speed, albeit with a slight degree of freedom. The desired speed and collection are gauged by the maximum rate at which a horse can rack gracefully. Maintaining a well-set head is essential for proper form during racking.

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Transitioning effortlessly from the slow gait, all strides in the rack should become equally rapid and regular. Any tendencies towards a trotty, pacey, or hitchy gait are subject to penalties.

In Pleasure classes, there is more emphasis on the way of going as a pleasure gait with only moderate speed required. Where manners are paramount, there is more emphasis on the ease by which it is performed by the rider.

#### **CS1.4 Performance Division - Fine Harness**

Elegant, refined and motion more animated than speed. Shown with a full mane and tail.

##### **CS1.4.1 Appointments - Performance Fine Harness**

Presented with a suitable vehicle, ideally a small buggy featuring four wire wheels and lacking a top cover.

Light harness equipped with blinkers, a martingale, snaffle bit, and overcheck are mandatory (although the overcheck may remain unfastened during the lineup).

Use of an overcheck bit is discretionary

##### **CS1.4.2 Performance Fine Harness - Gait Requirements**

Begin by entering the ring at a park trot. The permitted gaits include an animated walk, park trot, and "show your horse." However, it's important to note that "show your horse" is exempt from being called in Ladies, Junior Exhibitor, Amateur, Masters, Owners, and Amateur Owners classes.

##### **CS1.4.3 Performance Fine Harness - Line Up**

Entries are expected to stand calmly in place and are not obligated to back up. They may be unchecked during the lineup. An attendant is allowed to assist the entry by keeping it on its feet, but must maintain a distance of at least two paces from the head while the entry is being judged. Only one standard riding crop is permitted for an attendant to carry.

Awards will be presented from the lineup.

Ring attendants are permitted to stand quietly inside the gate during Ladies, Amateur, Masters, Owners, Amateur Owners, or Junior Exhibitor classes, but they must refrain from taking any action that could influence the performance of any horse.

#### **Class Specifications - Performance Fine Harness**

**CS1.4.4 Performance Fine Harness - Junior Horse, Open, Limit**

Horses aged 2 - 4 years old; Maiden or Novice. Exhibited at an animated walk; Park trot (speed to be penalized) and “show your horse”, to stand quietly. Judged on performance, presence, quality, manners and conformation.

**CS1.4.5 Performance Fine Harness - Junior Championship**

Judged 75% on performance, presence, quality and manners; 25% on total conformation.

**CS1.4.6 Performance Fine Harness - Ladies Open or Amateur**

Shown at a park trot and an animated walk, stand quietly. Judged on manners, quality, presence, performance and conformation.

**CS1.4.7 Performance Fine Harness -Ladies Championship**

Judged 75% on manners, quality, presence and performance; 25% on total conformation.

**CS1.4.8 Performance Fine Harness - Juvenile, Youth or Amateur**

Shown at a park trot and an animated walk, to stand quietly. Judged on manners, performance, presence, quality and conformation.

**CS1.4.9 Performance Fine Harness - Juvenile, Youth or Amateur Championships**

Judged 75% on manners, performance, presence and quality; 25% on conformation.

For horses to qualify for the Junior Exhibitor, Amateur (ladies and/or gentlemen), Masters, Owners, Amateur Owners Championships, and Youth categories, they must be entered and shown by individuals corresponding to their respective categories (Junior Exhibitor, Amateur, Masters, Owner, Amateur Owner, and Youth). Additionally, they must participate in at least one other class within this section.


The event management has the discretion to specify in the prize list which classes are eligible for the Championships. For example, Amateur classes may qualify for Amateur Championships, Ladies classes may qualify for Ladies Championship, and so forth.

**CS1.4.10 Performance Fine Harness - Grand Championship**

Horses are required to be entered, presented, and evaluated in any other class within this section. They should be showcased at an animated walk, park trot, and "show your horse" (with penalties for excessive speed), as well as demonstrate the ability to stand quietly. The judging criteria comprise 75% based on performance, presence, quality, and manners, and 25% on overall conformation.

**CS1.5 Performance Five Gaited Division**

Beauty, brilliance, elegance, refinement and speed in an animated form. Entries shall be shown with a full mane and tail.

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### **CS1.5.1 Performance Five Gaited - Appointments**

The required bridle is a double bridle, comprising both a snaffle and curb bit, chosen to suit the individual horse. Horses are not allowed to be shown with only a snaffle bit, breastplate, tie-down, or martingale, except in the case of 2-Year-Olds who may be shown in a snaffle bridle with a running martingale, as specified in the prize list, and only if they compete separately against others using identical equipment.

The saddle should be flat and of an English type, with either leather or web girth.

For attire, riders in morning and afternoon classes are expected to wear informal attire. In contrast, riders in evening classes should wear a dark-colored habit with collars and lapels of the same color, along with appropriate accessories. Gaudy colors are discouraged.

### **CS1.5.2 Performance Five Gaited - Gait Requirements**

Flat or animated walk, trot, slow gait, rack and canter.

### **CS1.5.3 Performance Five Gaited - Class Divisions**

Classes may be divided by sex.

PROHIBITED: Stallions in Ladies and Junior Exhibitor classes.

### **Performance Five Gaited - Class Specifications**

#### **CS1.5.4 Performance Five Gaited - Junior Horse, Open, Limit**

Horses between 2yo to 4yo, Maiden or Novice Judged on performance, presence, quality, manners and conformation.

#### **CS1.5.5 Performance Five Gaited - Junior Championship**

Judged 75% on performance, presence, quality and manners; 25% on total conformation.

#### **CS1.5.6 Performance Five Gaited - Ladies Open or Amateur**

Judged on manners, quality, presence, performance and conformation.

#### **CS1.5.7 Performance Five Gaited - Ladies Championship Open & Amateur**

Judged 75% on manners, quality, presence and performance; 25% on total conformation.

#### **CS1.5.8 Performance Five Gaited - Junior Exhibitor, Youth or Amateur**

Judged on manners, performance, presence, quality and conformation.

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**CS1.5.9 Performance Five Gaited - Jr Exhibitor, Youth or Amateur Championship**

Judging criteria: 75% based on manners, performance, presence, and quality; 25% on overall conformation.

For horses to qualify for the Junior Exhibitor, Amateur (ladies and/or gentlemen), Masters, Owners, Amateur Owners, and Youth Championships, they must be entered and shown by individuals corresponding to their respective categories (Junior Exhibitor, Amateur, Masters, Owner, Amateur Owner, and Youth). Additionally, they must participate in at least one other class within this section.

Event management reserves the right to specify in the prize list which classes are eligible for the Championships. For example, Amateur Classes may qualify for Amateur Championships, Ladies Classes may qualify for Ladies Championship, and so forth.

**CS1.5.10 Performance Five Gaited - Jr Exhibitor, Youth or Amateur Grand Championship**

To qualify, horses must be entered, shown, and judged in at least one other class within this section. Judging will be based on 75% performance, presence, quality, and manners, and 25% on overall conformation.

**CS1.5.11 Performance Five Gaited - Combination Harness & Saddle**

The class begins with horses being shown to a suitable four-wheeled vehicle at an animated walk and trot. Following this, they are presented under saddle, where they perform at an animated walk, trot, slow gait, rack, and canter.

Judging criteria are divided equally: 50% based on suitability for harness and 50% on saddle work, with a particular emphasis on the trot. Light harness with blinkers, a martingale, snaffle bit, and overcheck are mandatory, although the overcheck bit is optional. The prize list should specify whether the driver/rider must be the same individual for both phases of the class.

**CS1.5.12 Performance Three Gaited Division**

The ideal horse is characterized by beauty, brilliance, elegance, refinement, and expressive qualities. Its gaits are collected, with energy focused on animation and precision. The horse is presented with a roached mane and tail, although Two-Year-Olds have the option of showing with a full mane and tail. Both roached and full tails are permitted.

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Stallions are prohibited from participating in Ladies and Junior Exhibitor classes. Classes may be further divided based on sex (Mares, Stallions/Geldings) and height categories, such as Over 14.2 hands and not exceeding 15 hands, 15.2 hands and under, and Over 15.2 hands.

#### **SC1.5.13 Performance Three Gaited - Appointments**

The preferred bridle is a double bridle consisting of both a snaffle and curb bit, chosen to suit the individual horse. Horses are not permitted to be shown with only a snaffle bit, breastplate, tie-down, or martingale. An exception is made for 2-Year-Olds, who may be shown in a snaffle bridle with a running martingale if specified in the prize list and provided they compete separately against others using identical equipment.

The saddle should be flat and of an English type, with either a leather or web girth.

Riders are required to wear informal dress for morning and afternoon classes. For evening classes, formal attire or a dark-colored habit (with collars and lapels of the same color) and appropriate accessories are recommended. Loud or flashy colors should be avoided.

#### **SC1.5.14 Performance Three Gaited - Gait Requirements**

Horses are to be presented at either a flat walk or animated walk, followed by a park trot and canter.

#### **SC1.5.15 Performance Three Gaited - Junior Horse Open, Maiden, Novice**

For horses aged 2yo - 4yo or with Maiden, Novice status. Judged on performance, presence, quality, manners and conformation.

#### **SC1.5.16 Performance Three Gaited - Junior Horse Championship**

For horses aged 2yo - 4yo or with Maiden, Novice status having shown in the qualifier. Judged 75% on performance, presence, quality and manners; 25% on total conformation.

#### **SC1.5.17 Performance Three Gaited - Ladies Open or Amateur**

Judged on manners, quality, presence, performance and conformation.

#### **SC1.5.18 Performance Three Gaited - Ladies Open or Amateur Championship**

Ladies only Open or Amateur Championship. Judged 75% on manners, quality, presence and performance; 25% on total conformation.

#### **SC1.5.19 Performance Three Gaited- Jr Exhibitor, Youth or Amateur**

Judged on manners, performance, presence, quality and conformation.

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**SC1.5.20 Performance Three Gaited - Jr Exhibitor, Youth or Amateur Championship**

Judging for this competition is based on the following criteria: 75% on manners, performance, presence, and quality, and 25% on total conformation.

In order for horses to be eligible for the Junior Exhibitor, Amateur (ladies and/or gentlemen), Masters, Owners, Amateur Owners, and Youth Championships, they must be entered and shown by individuals corresponding to their respective categories (Junior Exhibitor, Amateur, Masters, Owner, Amateur Owner, and Youth). Additionally, they must participate in at least one other class within this section.

Event management has the authority to specify in the prize list which classes qualify for the Championships. For instance, Amateur Classes may qualify for Amateur Championships, Ladies Classes may qualify for Ladies Championship, and so forth. For stripping Championships, please refer to the stripping rule provided above.

**SC1.5.21 Performance Three Gaited - Jr Exhibitor, Youth or Amateur Grand Championship**

In order to be eligible, horses must be entered, shown, and judged in at least one other class within this section. Judging will be based on 75% performance, presence, quality, and manners, with 25% of the score attributed to total conformation.

**SC1.5.22 Performance Three Gaited - Combination Harness & Saddle**

The class begins with horses being presented to a suitable four-wheeled vehicle at an animated walk and park trot. Following this, they are shown under saddle, performing at a walk, park trot, and canter.

The prize list must specify whether the driver/rider must be the same individual for both phases of the class. Entries are to be driven with a liverpool bit with side check.

Judging criteria are divided equally: 50% based on suitability for harness, and 50% on saddle work, with a particular emphasis on the trot.

**SC1.5.23 Performance Park Division**

The American Saddlebred and Half American Saddlebred Park Horse are expected to exhibit style, refinement, and good manners. Their performance should be characterized by animation and grace in all gaits. Horses competing in any class within this section are not eligible to compete in the American Saddlebred/Half American Saddlebred Pleasure Division, including Park Pleasure, at the same event.

However, they may compete in Performance sections (such as Three-gaited, Five-gaited, Fine Harness), as well as In-Hand, Parade, or Model classes. Classes may be offered for horses with either a roached mane and tail or a full mane and tail, but these classes cannot be combined. Horses may have either set or natural tails.

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Stallions are not permitted to compete in Ladies and Junior Exhibitor classes. Horses are to be presented at an animated walk or flat walk, park trot, and canter, with the addition of slow gait and rack in Five-Gaited classes. In Fine Harness classes, the gaits will be park trot and animated walk.

Horses are expected to stand quietly. Classes may be divided based on the size of the horse (15.2 hands and under, Over 15.2 hands), the age or sex of the rider, and the sex of the horse (Stallion, Gelding, and Mare classes).

### SC1.5.24 Performance Park - Appointments

Under Saddle:

- Bridle: A double bridle consisting of both a snaffle and curb is preferred, tailored to suit the individual horse. Horses are not permitted to be shown with only a snaffle bit, breastplate, tie-down, or martingale, except for 2-Year Olds as specified in the prize list, and only if they compete separately against others using identical equipment.
- Saddle: The saddle should be flat and of an English type, with either a leather or web girth.
- Attire: Riders are required to wear informal Saddle Seat attire for morning and afternoon classes. For evening classes, formal Saddle Seat attire or a dark-colored habit (with collars and lapels of the same color) and appropriate accessories are recommended. Gaudy colors should be avoided.

Driving:

- Horses are to be presented to a suitable vehicle, preferably a small buggy with four wire wheels and no top.
- Light harness with blinkers, a martingale, snaffle bit, and overcheck are mandatory. The use of an overcheck bit is optional.

## Performance Park Classes

### SC1.5.25 Performance Three Gaited Park - Open

Horses participating in the Open, Junior, Maiden, Novice, Limit, and respective Championships classes are required to be shown at a walk, trot, and canter. They will be judged on performance, manners, presence, quality, and conformation.

### SC1.5.26 Performance Three Gaited Park - Jr Exhibitor, Youth, Ladies or Amateurs

In the Owners, Amateur Owners, Masters, Junior Exhibitors, Youth, and Championship classes, horses are to be shown at a walk, trot, and canter. During the lineup, horses are expected to stand quietly. Judging will be based on manners, performance, presence, quality, and conformation.

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**SC1.5.27 Performance Five Gaited Park**

Shown at a walk, trot, canter, slow gait and rack. To be judged on performance, manners, presence, quality and conformation.

**SC1.5.28 Performance Fine Harness Park**

Horses are to be presented at an animated park trot, with penalties for excessive speed, as well as at an animated walk. They should stand quietly during evaluation. Judging will be based on performance, manners, presence, quality, and conformation.

**SC1.6.0 PLEASURE DIVISIONS**

The American Saddlebred/Half Saddlebred should embody quality, style, presence, and suitable conformation, with prompt, comfortable gaits that suggest it is a pleasant mount to ride. Desired traits include easy, ground-covering action.

Manners and suitability as a Pleasure mount are of utmost importance. A true, flat walk is emphasized, while laboring action, pulling, tossing the head, going sideways, and tail-switching should be penalized. Show Pleasure is exclusively open to amateur riders and drivers.

Horses competing in other sections within the American Saddlebred/Half American Saddlebred division are ineligible to compete in the American Saddlebred/Half American Saddlebred Pleasure horse section at the same event, with the exception of In-Hand and Parade Horse classes if shown by an amateur.

Cross-entered horses between the Parade and Pleasure sections at the same competition are not allowed to use artificial appliances or devices and must adhere to the pleasure appointment and tails rules while on the competition grounds, before and during competition.

American Saddlebred and Half American Saddlebred Pleasure horses may participate in other divisions or multi-breed classes at the same competition for which they are qualified. Professionals may show the American Saddlebred/Half Saddlebred Pleasure horse in In-Hand, Model, another division, or multi-breed classes, and the horse would still be eligible to compete in Pleasure horse classes at the same competition. Cross-entering between Show Pleasure and Country Pleasure, Three-gaited Pleasure, and Five-Gaited Pleasure at the same competition is prohibited.

Entries must be shown with a full mane and tail. Tails must not be put in any device that alters their carriage while on the competition grounds, except for horses showing in the Show Pleasure division, where tail sets or bustles are permitted, but the tail may not be tied or braced, and unset tails will not be penalized.

The use of artificial appliances or devices such as chains, shackles, rubber bands, blinkers (except when driving), or blindfolds is prohibited on the grounds before or during competition. Any animal

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with prohibited equipment must be disqualified from further competition and forfeit all entry fees and winnings.

The use of protective equipment such as non-weighted bell boots, shin boots, etc., is allowed on the grounds and in the warm-up areas prior to entering the competition ring. Stallions are prohibited except in Weanling and Yearling In-Hand classes.

Horses must be shown by an amateur or by a Junior Exhibitor. Amateurs and Junior Exhibitors may not compete in the same class, except in restricted classes and Championships, and at competitions where there are insufficient entries to fill two classes.

Model, Side Saddle, Antique Carriage with Period Costume, etc., classes may be offered for Show Pleasure. Classes may be divided based on the sex or age of the horse, height, sex or age of the rider, with or without Championships, and according to Maiden, Novice, Limit, Junior (Four-Year-Olds & Under), Masters, Owners, and Youth classes in all classifications and Amateur-Owner-Trainer.

**In-Hand Classes:**

- Ungelded colts are allowed only in Weanling and Yearling classes.
- Weanlings and Yearlings must be shown barefoot.
- Two-Year-Olds and older should be shod to conform with Show Pleasure or Country Pleasure rules.
- Curb bits on Weanlings and Yearlings are prohibited.
- Entries are to be led into the ring and shown in bridle or halter, without quarter boots, blinkers, blindfolds, or other appliances.
- Only two Amateur/Juvenile attendants per animal are permitted, dressed in clean, well-fitted conservative clothes.
- Entries must stand squarely on all four feet with the front legs perpendicular to the ground. The rear legs may be placed slightly back, but the handler may be asked to move hind legs up under the animal for inspection.
- Judging is based 50% on conformation and finish, and 50% on way of going and natural action.

**SC1.6.1 Show Pleasure**

The English Show Pleasure horse typically exhibits less animation than the Three-Gaited, Five-Gaited, and Fine Harness Performance horses, but should remain alert and responsive. High, natural, free-moving action is desirable.

Penalties will be applied for laboring action caused by excessive weight of shoes or length of foot. Entries must be shown with a full mane and tail. Horses in this division may wear tail sets or bustles,

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but may not show with the tail tied or braced, and unset tails will not be penalized. Braids and inconspicuously applied hair in the mane and tail are permitted. Shoe bands and pads are also permitted. Quarter boots and bell boots are only allowed in Five-Gaited classes.

Horses are to be shown at a flat walk, trot, and canter, with the addition of slow gait and rack in Five-Gaited classes. In Driving classes, the gaits are flat walk, trot, and extended trot. Manners and suitability as a Pleasure mount are of paramount importance, with smooth and effortless transitions between gaits. Light contact with the horse's mouth must be maintained. Special emphasis is placed on a true flat walk. Entries must stand quietly and back readily in the lineup. Penalties will be applied for pulling, head tossing, laboring action, going sideways, and tail-switching.

**Show Pleasure Appointments:**

**Under Saddle:**

- Bridle: A double bridle consisting of both a snaffle and curb is preferred and must suit the horse. Horses are not allowed to be shown with only a snaffle bit, breastplate, tie-down, or martingale. An exception is made for 2-year-olds, who may be shown in a snaffle bridle with a running martingale when specified in the prize list, and only if they compete separately against others using identical equipment.
- Saddle: The saddle should be flat and of an English type, with either a leather or web girth.
- Attire: Riders are required to wear informal attire with a coat and hat or protective headgear. Gaudy colors should be avoided.

**Driving:**

- Entries are to be shown with the driver only to a two-wheeled jog cart. Light harness with blinkers, a martingale, snaffle bit, and overcheck are required. The use of an overcheck bit is optional. The driver is to dress conservatively (not in period attire).

**Show Pleasure Classes:**

**SC1.6.2 Show Pleasure - Three Gaited**

Shown at a flat walk, trot and canter. Judged 75% on manners, performance, presence and quality; 25% on total conformation.

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### **SC1.6.3 Show Pleasure - Walk/Trot**

For riders 12 years of age and under, who have never been judged in a class at a licensed or non-licensed competition that required a canter, the class will consist of showing at a flat walk and trot. Riders will not be asked to back their horses. Horses must stand quietly in the lineup.

Headers will be permitted in the lineup and will be called in by the announcer after the class has lined up and before they are judged. One attendant without a whip will be allowed to head each horse during the lineup.

Judging will be based on manners, performance, presence, quality, and conformation.

### **SC1.6.4 Show Pleasure - Five Gaited**

Horses are to be presented at a flat walk, trot, slow gait, rack at moderate speed, and canter. Judging will be based on 75% on manners, performance, presence, and quality, with 25% on total conformation.

### **SC1.6.5 Show Pleasure - Driving**

The class requires horses to be shown to a two-wheeled jog cart with the driver only. They should be presented at a flat walk, trot, and extended trot, with penalties for excessive speed. Light harness with blinkers, a martingale, snaffle bit, and overcheck are mandatory, with the overcheck bit being optional.

Judging will be based on 75% on manners, performance, presence, and quality, with 25% on total conformation.

### **SC1.6.6 English Country Pleasure Division**

The English Country Pleasure horse may possess less showiness compared to the Show Pleasure horse but should still embody the typical characteristics of the breed. Easy, ground-covering action is preferred, with the emphasis on showcasing the best quality specimens of the American Saddlebred breed.

English Country Pleasure horses must be plain shod or unshod. Permissible shoeing includes a shoe (inclusive of caulks), which may be thicker at the heel and may include toe clips and side clips. An eggbar shoe is also permissible. Not allowed as plain shod are bands, bars, pads of any kind, wedges, lead, springs, any attachment that extends below the bottom of the shoe, and any foreign substance not specified as permissible. The entire sole and frog of the foot must be visible. Horses with prohibited shoeing will be disqualified from further competition and forfeit all entry fees and winnings. Quarter boots and bell boots are permitted only in Five-Gaited classes.

Entries must be shown with a full mane and tail. Tails must not be gingered or put in any device that alters their carriage while on the grounds. However, participation is not excluded if a horse's tail has been set previously. Braids and artificial manes are prohibited, although inconspicuously applied hair in the tail is permitted.

In classes, horses are to be shown at a flat walk, trot, extended trot, and canter, with the addition of slow gait and rack in Five-Gaited classes. In Driving classes, the gaits are a flat walk, trot, and extended trot.

Manners and suitability as a pleasure mount are of utmost importance. Smooth and effortless transitions between gaits are expected, with horses being obedient and showing prompt transitions. There is a special emphasis on a true, flat walk.

Entries must be asked both ways of the ring to halt and stand quietly on the rail. Horses must stand quietly and back readily in the lineup. Penalties will be applied for pulling, head tossing, laboring action, going sideways, and tail-switching.

### SC1.6.7 English Country Pleasure Appointments

#### For saddle seat classes:

- Bridle: A double bridle consisting of both a snaffle and curb is preferred and must be suitable for the horse. Horses are not permitted to be shown with only a snaffle bit, breastplate, tie-down, or martingale. An exception is made for 2-year-olds, who may be shown in a snaffle bridle with a running martingale when specified in the prize list, and only if they compete separately against others using identical equipment.
- Saddle: The saddle should be flat and of the English type, with either a leather or web girth.
- Attire: Riders are required to wear informal saddle seat attire with a coat and hat or protective headgear. It is advised to avoid bright or flashy colors.

#### For driving classes:

- Entries are to be shown to a two-wheeled jog cart with the driver only.
- Light show harness with blinkers, a martingale, and a snaffle bit (straight or jointed) are required. An overcheck or sidecheck is also necessary, with the overcheck or sidecheck bit being optional.
- The driver is expected to dress conservatively and avoid wearing period attire.

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## **English Country Pleasure Classes**

### **SC1.6.8 Three Gaited - English Country Pleasure**

The class requires horses to be shown at a flat walk, trot, extended trot, and canter. Judging will be based on 75% on manners, performance, presence, and quality, with 25% on total conformation.

### **SC1.6.9 Driving - English Country Pleasure**

In this class, horses are to be presented to a suitable two-wheeled jog cart with only the driver. Light show harness with blinkers, a martingale, and a snaffle bit (straight or jointed) are required. Additionally, an overcheck or sidecheck is necessary, with the overcheck or sidecheck bit being optional. The driver should dress conservatively, avoiding period attire.

Horses are to be shown at a flat walk, trot, and extended trot, with penalties for excessive speed. Judging will be based on 75% on manners, performance, presence, and quality, with 25% on total conformation. During any workout, headers are permitted for those not participating on the rail.

### **SC1.6.10 Five Gaited - English Country Pleasure**

The class entails presenting horses at a flat walk, trot, extended trot, slow gait, rack at moderate speed, and canter. Evaluation criteria include 75% on manners, performance, presence, and quality, with 25% on total conformation.

### **SC1.6.11 Trail - English Country Pleasure**

In this class, horses will be required to navigate through a minimum of five obstacles while maintaining a flat walk, trot, and canter on a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. Judging will be based on 75% on manners, performance, presence, and quality, with 25% on total conformation.

### **SC1.6.12 English Pairs**

In this class, horses are to be exhibited at a flat walk, trot, and canter. Judging will be based on 75% on manners, performance, presence, quality, and conformation, with an additional 25% on the uniformity and neatness of attire.

### **SC1.6.13 English Combination**

In this class, horses will be presented both in harness as a driving horse and under saddle as a Three-Gaited horse, using English equipment. There will be a change of equipment made in the ring between the two phases of the competition. Each phase of the competition will count for 50% of the overall score.

The prize list should specify whether the driver and rider must be the same individual for both phases of the class.

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### **SC1.6.14 English & Western Versatility**

In this class, horses will be presented first with Western Equipment at a flat walk, jog-trot, and lope in both directions of the ring. Then, they will be shown with English Equipment at a flat walk, trot, extended trot, and canter in both directions of the ring. There will be a change of equipment for both horse and rider made in the ring between the two phases of the competition. Each phase of the competition will count for 50% of the overall score.

The prize list should specify whether riders must be the same individual for both phases of the class.

### **SC1.7.0 Western Division**

In Western Equipment and Trail classes, a less elevated head carriage should not be penalized. The Western Equipment horse should have more substance, especially in the quarters, be close-coupled, and have well-defined withers. As with all American Saddlebred/Half American Saddlebred divisions, the emphasis is on presenting the best quality specimens of the breed.

Western Country Pleasure horses must be plain shod or unshod. Permissible shoeing includes a shoe (inclusive of caulks), which may be thicker at the heel and may include toe clips and side clips. An eggbar shoe is also permissible. Not allowed as plain shod are bands, bars, pads of any kind, wedges, lead, springs, any attachment that extends below the bottom of the shoe, and any foreign substance not specified as permissible. The sole and entire frog of the foot must be visible.

Horses must be shown with a full mane and tail. Tails must not be put in any device (such as a tailset, bustle, or brace) that alters their carriage while on the grounds. However, participation is not excluded if a horse's tail has once been set. Braids and artificial manes are prohibited, though inconspicuously applied hair in the tail is permitted.

If judges need to inspect bridles, it is their duty alone to carry out this task. They may assign a steward to perform bridle checks at the exit gate, necessitating riders to dismount.

Professionals are eligible to participate in American Saddlebred division classes labeled as Open in Western Country Pleasure Prospect, Junior Horse, Maiden/Novice/Limit Horse, and Western Country Pleasure categories, provided that two additional Western classes exclusive to amateurs are available at the same event. Exhibits are expected to demonstrate a flat walk, jog-trot, and lope with a reasonably slack rein, emphasizing good manners and suitability as a pleasure mount. Smooth and effortless transitions between gaits are encouraged.

Entries should exhibit obedience with prompt transitions, with a particular emphasis on maintaining a true, flat walk. Upon request, horses must halt and stand quietly on the rail in both directions of the ring. Additionally, they must stand calmly and back willingly in the lineup. Undesirable behaviors such as pulling, head tossing, laboring action, sideways movement, and tail-switching will be penalized.

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Regarding appointments, entries will be penalized for incomplete appointments but not necessarily disqualified. Attire for riders includes a Western hat, a long-sleeved shirt or jacket with a collar, and a necktie, kerchief, bolo tie, bow tie, peddle-tie, rosette-tie, or pin used as a tie. Trousers or pants are required, with chaps, shotgun chaps, or chinks and boots also mandatory. Optionally, a vest, coat, or sweater may be worn. Protective headgear with a harness is optional in all classes not requiring Western-style attire. Spurs are at the discretion of the rider, while whips are prohibited except for those riding side saddle.

For side saddle riders, an apron of closed or button type with a belt under loops is mandatory. It is recommended to use an apron with a waistband cut similarly to chaps and double thickness in classes where chaps are compulsory.

Regarding equipment, entries must be shown with a stock saddle, with silver equipment not factored into judging decisions. A side saddle is considered legal equipment, while tapaderos are prohibited, and hobbles and riata are not required.

In terms of bridles and bits, there should be no bias against any standard Western bit. A standard Western bit is defined with specific measurements for the shank and mouthpiece. Prohibited bits include slip or gag bits, rigid donut mouthpieces, and flat polo mouthpieces. Tongue ties are not allowed. The use of snaffle bits and hackamores is permitted in certain circumstances, with strict guidelines provided for their use.

Overall, judges do not have the authority to modify the specified standard equipment.

## **Western Country Pleasure Classes**

### **SC1.7.1 Western Country Pleasure**

For classes such as Open, Amateur, Masters, Maiden, Novice, Limit, Mares, Geldings, Junior Horse, OTR, Ladies, Gentlemen, Junior Exhibitor, and Youth, exhibits are expected to demonstrate a flat walk, jog-trot, and lope. They should stand quietly and back readily. Riders are permitted to use only one hand on the reins, and hands must not be switched except when necessary to navigate an obstacle in a Trail Horse Class. The rider's hand should encircle the reins. In cases where the split reins' ends fall on the side of the reining hand, one finger between reins is allowed. However, when using a romel or holding the ends of split reins with the hand not used for reining, no finger between reins is permitted. The rider may hold the romal or the ends of split reins to prevent swinging and adjust their position, provided there is at least 16 inches of rein between the hands. Exhibits will be evaluated based on manners, performance, quality, and conformation.

### **SC1.7.2 Western Country Pleasure - Walk/Jog**

For riders aged 12 and under, horses will be shown and judged following the guidelines of other Western Country Pleasure classes, with the exception that horses will not be required to halt on the rail or back. Riders in this category must not have previously participated in a class at any licensed or

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non-licensed competition that involved cantering or loping. Headers will be allowed in the lineup and will be announced by the announcer after the class has lined up and before judging commences. Each horse may have one attendant without a whip to assist with heading during the lineup.

### **SC1.7.3 Western Country Pleasure - Prospect**

This class is exclusively open to horses competing in their first or second competition years as Western Country Pleasure horses, as verified by ASHBA records. Exhibitors may include professionals, amateurs, or junior exhibitors. Hackamores and snaffle bits are allowed. Horses are expected to demonstrate a flat walk, jog-trot, and lope, and should stand quietly and back readily. Only one hand may be used on the reins, except for riders using hackamores and snaffle bits, who are permitted to use two hands. Hands must not be changed during the performance. The rider's hand should encircle the reins, with one finger between the reins permitted when the split reins' ends fall on the side of the reining hand. However, when using a romel or holding the ends of split reins with the hand not used for reining, no finger between reins is allowed. Riders may hold the romal or the ends of split reins to prevent swinging and adjust their position, provided there is at least 16 inches of rein between the hands. Exhibits will be evaluated based on manners, performance, quality, and conformation.

### **SC1.7.4 Western Country Pleasure - Championship**

This class is reserved for horses that have participated in the Amateur, Masters, Junior Exhibitor, and Youth Western Country Pleasure classes. To qualify, the horse must have been entered, shown, and judged in a specified qualifying class. Exhibitors are expected to demonstrate a flat walk, jog-trot, and lope with a reasonably slack rein, without undue restraint (ridden with one hand on reins). They should stand quietly and back readily. Judging criteria will include manners, performance, quality, and conformation.

### **SC1.7.5 Western Show Pleasure**

This class is reserved for entries in the Amateur, Masters, Junior Exhibitor, and Youth. This class will be presented at a flat walk, jog-trot, and lope, with riders using only one hand on the reins. Judging will be based on a 75% assessment of manners, performance, presence, and quality, with the remaining 25% attributed to overall conformation.

### **SC1.7.6 Shatner Western Pleasure**

Please refer to the website for “Saddle & Bridle” Magazine at [www.saddleandbridle.com](http://www.saddleandbridle.com).

### **SC1.7.7 Shatner Working Western Pleasure**

Please refer to the website for “Saddle & Bridle” Magazine at [www.saddleandbridle.com](http://www.saddleandbridle.com).

### **SC1.7.8 Western Trail**

Exhibits will navigate a minimum of five obstacles and demonstrate a flat walk, jog-trot, and lope with a reasonably slack rein, without undue restraint. Only one hand may be used on the reins, with hands

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not to be changed except when negotiating an obstacle in a Trail Horse Class (two hands are permitted for Hackamores and snaffle bits). Judging will be weighted 75% on manners, performance, presence, and quality, with the remaining 25% focused on total conformation.

#### **SC1.7.9 Western Pairs**

Exhibits will be presented at a flat walk, jog-trot, and lope, with riders using one hand on the reins, as specified. The judging criteria will emphasize manners, performance, presence, quality, and conformation, accounting for 75% of the evaluation. Additionally, 25% of the assessment will consider the uniformity and neatness of attire.

#### **SC1.7.10 Western & English Versatility**

Horses will be presented first with Western Equipment, demonstrating a flat walk, jog-trot, and lope in both directions of the ring. Subsequently, they will transition to English Equipment, showcasing a flat walk, trot, extended trot, and canter in both directions of the ring. The change of equipment for both horse and rider will occur in the ring. Each phase of the competition will be weighted equally at 50%. The prize list will specify whether riders must remain the same for both phases of the class.

#### **SC1.8.0 Hunter Country Pleasure Division**

The American Saddlebred and Half American Saddlebred Hunter Country Pleasure Horse are expected to convey a distinct sense of being pleasurable to ride, displaying a relaxed attitude. They should exhibit a longer frame compared to other American Saddlebred and Half American Saddlebred Country Pleasure Horses, with the neck carried lower and the head positioned in a more relaxed manner with minimal bend at the poll.

High-headed horses and those behind the vertical will incur penalties. As with all divisions of American Saddlebred/Half American Saddlebred, the emphasis is on showcasing the highest quality specimens of the breed.

Hunter Country Pleasure horses are to be shown plain shod or unshod. Permissible plain shod options include shoes (including caulks) that may be thicker at the heel, with toe clips and side clips allowed. Eggbar shoes are also acceptable. Prohibited plain shod features include bands, bars, pads of any kind, wedges, lead, springs, and any attachment extending below the shoe's bottom, with the sole and entire frog of the foot required to be visible. Any horse with prohibited shoeing will be disqualified from further competition at that event.

Competitors may choose to show their horses with a conservative braided mane and tail. However, horses will not be penalized for presenting with a full, unbraided mane and tail. The use of devices like tile sets, bustles, or braces, which alter tail carriage, is not allowed on

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the grounds. Artificial manes are also prohibited, though inconspicuously applied hair in the tail is permitted.

Professionals may compete in the American Saddlebred/Half American Saddlebred division in Hunter Country Pleasure Prospect or open Hunter Country Pleasure classes, provided two additional Hunter classes restricted to amateurs are available at the same event.

Exhibitors are expected to demonstrate a walk, trot (forward-moving stride), extended trot, canter, and extended canter in both directions of the ring. Judges may limit the number of horses shown at extended canter for safety reasons. Entries are required to halt and stand quietly on the rail in both directions of the ring. Manners, suitability as a pleasure mount, smooth and effortless transitions between gaits, and obedience with prompt transitions are all paramount.

Specifically for Hunter Country Pleasure Horses, competitors enter the ring at the trot in a counterclockwise direction. Light contact with the horse's mouth must be maintained at all gaits, with judges giving equal consideration to performance at each gait when evaluating the class.

#### **SC1.8.1 Hunter Country Pleasure Appointments**

Entries will be penalized for incomplete appointments and may face disqualification. Hunter pleasure horses are required to be presented with traditional hunter-style equipment, including a browband and cavesson of hunter type.

Hunter pleasure horses must be shown with the following hunter-style equipment:

**Bridle:** Options include a snaffle bridle, pelham with two reins, kimberwick bits, or a full bridle (curb and snaffle). If a full bridle is used, it must adhere to the hunter style, with curb shanks and pelhams not exceeding five and a half inches (5.5"). Breastplates are permitted, but martingales are prohibited.

**Saddle:** A forward or balance seat saddle is required. An appropriate style side saddle is permitted as an exception.

**Attire:** Riders should wear traditional hunter-style attire, including a jacket, breeches or hunter jodhpurs, a dark hunting cap, derby, or protective headgear, along with appropriate boots. Tall dress or tall field boots are preferred, with paddock or jodhpur boots and matching half chaps also permitted. A stock, choker, or four-in-hand tie with any color shirt is acceptable. Shadbellies are prohibited. Jackets should be of traditional colors and materials suitable for hunting, with discrete patterns allowed. Brocades, raised patterns, glossy/metallic/shiny fabrics or materials are prohibited and will be penalized. Ornamentations on attire items are also prohibited, except for certain exceptions like a stock

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or lapel pin, tie clip, number magnets, or tie tack. Side saddle riders may wear a skirt, divided skirt, or apron.

In all classes, gloves, a hunter crop or bat, spurs, and appointments are optional. Junior riders must wear headgear with a protective harness attached when mounted, and wearing protective headgear is permitted without penalty. Members of the Armed Services or the Police may wear the Service Dress Uniform.

### **Hunter Class Specifications**

#### **SC1.8.2 Hunter Country Pleasure**

Classes are available in various categories including Open, All Ages, Ladies, Gentlemen, Adult Amateur, Master, Juvenile, Maiden, Novice, Youth, Limit, Junior, Championship, or Stake. Exhibits are expected to demonstrate a walk, trot, extended trot, canter, and extended canter in both directions of the ring. For safety considerations, the judge may restrict the number of horses allowed to perform an extended canter simultaneously. Entries will be required to halt and stand quietly on the rail in both directions of the ring. Judging criteria will include manners, performance, suitability as a Hunter, quality, and conformation. While in line, horses must stand quietly with all four legs perpendicular to the ground, and they should readily back up when required.

#### **SC1.8.3 Hunter Country Pleasure Prospect**

This class is exclusively open to horses competing in their first or second competition years as Hunter Country Pleasure horses, as verified by the records of ASHBA. Exhibitors may include professionals, amateurs, or junior exhibitors. Exhibits are expected to demonstrate a walk, trot, extended trot, canter, and extended canter in both directions of the ring. For safety considerations, the judge may limit the number of horses required to extend the canter at one time. Entries will be required to halt and stand quietly on the rail in both directions of the ring. Judging will focus on suitability as a Hunter, manners, performance, quality, and conformation. While in line, horses must stand quietly with all four legs perpendicular to the ground, and they should readily back up when required.

#### **SC1.8.3 Hunter Seat Classic - Saddle & Bridle**

Please refer to the website for “Saddle & Bridle” Magazine at [www.saddleandbridle.com](http://www.saddleandbridle.com).

#### **SC1.9.0 Park Pleasure Division**

The emphasis is on elegance, finesse, and polished performance across all paces. Participation is open to both seasoned equestrian competitors and enthusiasts.

Horses exhibited in any class within this category are not eligible to compete in the American Saddlebred Performance Division, including Three-Gaited, Five-Gaited, Fine Harness, and Park Horse classes, or the American Saddlebred Pleasure and Country Pleasure divisions at the same event, except for participation in In-Hand or Model classes.

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**Eligibility is limited to mares and geldings.**

**Shoeing** - Country Park Pleasure horses must be fitted with plain shoes, which may include certain specifications such as thickness at the heel, toe clips, and side clips. Eggbar shoes are also permitted. Prohibited shoeing features include bands, bars, pads, wedges, and any extensions below the shoe. The horse's sole and entire frog must be visible. Disqualification applies to any animal with unauthorized shoeing.

**Equipment** - Entries must maintain a full mane and tail. Park Pleasure horses may utilize tail sets or bustles but are not permitted to have their tails tied or braced. Unset tails will not incur penalties. The use of artificial aids like chains, shackles, rubber bands, blinkers (except during driving), or blindfolds is strictly forbidden on the showgrounds before or during the event. Any animal found with prohibited equipment will be disqualified from further competition, resulting in the forfeiture of entry fees and winnings.

**Judging Criteria** - include manners, performance, presence, quality, and conformation. Country Park Pleasure horses should exhibit obedience with prompt transitions and must halt and stand quietly on the rail in both directions of the ring. Park Pleasure horses are to be presented at a flat walk, trot, and canter, while Country Park Pleasure horses should showcase a true flat walk, trot, extended trot, and canter.

#### **Appointments**

In terms of bridle, a double bridle comprising of both snaffle and curb is required, tailored to suit the individual horse. No horse is permitted to be shown solely with a snaffle bit, breastplate, tiedown, or martingale. (Exception: Two-year-olds may use a snaffle bridle with a running martingale if specified in the prize list and if they compete separately from others using identical equipment).

The saddle should be a flat, English-style saddle with either leather or web girth.

As for attire, riders should opt for informal attire, including a coat and hat, or protective headgear. Vibrant or gaudy colors should be avoided.

### **Park Pleasure Class Specifications**

#### **SC1.10.1 Park Pleasure - Three Gaited**

For horses qualified to compete in the OPEN, JUNIOR, THREE-YEAR-OLD, MAIDEN, NOVICE, LIMIT, AMATEUR, or MASTER classes: They are to be exhibited at a flat walk, trot, and canter. During line-up, horses must display quiet standing and readiness to back. Judging criteria are divided as follows: 75% for manners, performance, presence, and quality; and 25% for overall conformation.

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### **SC1.10.2 Park Pleasure - Driving**

For horses eligible to compete in the OPEN, JUNIOR, THREE-YEAR-OLD, TWO-YEAR-OLD, MAIDEN, NOVICE, LIMIT, AMATEUR, or MASTER divisions: They are to be presented in a two-wheeled jog cart with driver only. Horses should demonstrate a flat walk, trot, and extended trot, with penalties applied for excessive speed. The equipment should include a light harness with blinkers, martingale, snaffle bit, and overcheck, with the overcheck bit being optional. Horses are also expected to back upon request. Evaluation criteria comprise 75% for manners, performance, presence, and quality, and 25% for overall conformation.

### **SC1.10.3 Park Pleasure - UPHA Classic 3 Year Old**

Exhibited at a flat walk, trot, and canter, horses are required to stand quietly and back readily during the line-up. Evaluation is based on 75% for manners, performance, presence, and quality, with the remaining 25% focused on overall conformation. In the Park Pleasure division, horses are permitted to wear tailsets or bustles, but they are not allowed to exhibit with the tail gingered, tied, or braced. Additionally, unset tails will not incur penalties.

### **SC1.10.4 Park Pleasure - Country Three Gaited**

For horses qualified to participate in classes such as OPEN, JUNIOR, THREE-YEAR-OLD, MAIDEN, NOVICE, LIMIT, AMATEUR, or MASTER, they are to be presented at a true flat walk, trot, extended trot, and canter. During the course, horses must be asked to halt and stand quietly on the rail in both directions of the ring. Additionally, they are expected to stand calmly and back readily during the line-up. Judging criteria allocate 75% of the score to manners, performance, presence, and quality, with the remaining 25% focusing on overall conformation.

### **SC1.11.0 In-Hand & Model Division**

In-Hand classes, including open and futurity categories, are governed by specific regulations. Additional guidelines apply for Pleasure In-Hand and Youth Showmanship classes. Only two individuals per animal are allowed in the ring. Handlers and attendants must be neatly attired in clean, well-fitted clothing. Each may carry or use a whip not exceeding 6 feet, including the lash, which should remain unaltered except for the attachment of no more than two ribbon streamers, each eight inches or less in length. The whip must adhere to standard specifications.

Conformation and finish contribute 50% of the total score. All entries are assessed based on the standards for the ideal American Saddlebred/Half American Saddlebred type and conformation. Defects and undesirable traits are to be penalized accordingly. The way of going and natural action also account for 50% of the total score, with severe penalties for any signs of labor.

Entries are evaluated based on the standards for the walk and trot. Each entry enters the ring individually, trotting upon entry. They are judged individually while standing, walking, and trotting on the lead. Horses should stand squarely on all four feet, with the front legs perpendicular to the ground. While the rear legs may be slightly positioned backward, handlers may be requested to adjust the hind legs for inspection if necessary.

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If a judge decides to conduct a second workout, selected horses must perform a walk and trot on the lead.

### **In-Hand & Model - Appointments**

Entries are required to be led into the ring and presented either in bridle or halter, without the use of quarter boots, blinkers, blindfolds, or any other appliances. Specifically prohibited for weanlings and yearlings are curb bits and tail sets.

The use of artificial appliances or devices such as chains, shackles, rubber bands, or blindfolds on weanlings and yearlings is strictly forbidden both before and during competition. Smooth, round leather straps are permissible prior to entering the competition ring.

Blinker hoods with half cups mounted in a vertical position, allowing forward vision, are permitted on weanlings and yearlings before entering the competition ring.

Weanlings and yearlings must exhibit with unset tails; the use of tail sets and bustles on the competition grounds, in preparation for the event, is explicitly prohibited for weanlings. However, bustles are permitted on yearlings.

Any entry found with prohibited equipment will be disqualified, resulting in the forfeiture of all entry fees and winnings for that competition.

### **In-Hand & Model - Class Specifications**

#### **SC1.11.1 Open and Amateur**

For horses that are weanlings, colts and/or fillies.

#### **SC1.11.2 Yearlings**

For horses that are colts, geldings and/or fillies.

#### **SC1.11.3 Two-Year-Olds**

For horses that are colts, geldings and/or fillies.

#### **SC1.11.4 Three-Year-Olds**

For horses that are; Three-Gaited, Five-Gaited/Fine Harness, Stallions & Geldings and/or Mares.

#### **SC1.11.5 Four-Year-Olds and Over**

For horses that are; Three-Gaited, Five-Gaited/Fine Harness, Stallions & Geldings and/or Mares.

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#### **SC1.11.6 Three-Year Olds - Stallions Suitable to Get**

#### **SC1.11.7 Sire & Get**

Stallion to be shown with two or more of Get

#### **SC1.11.8 Get of Sire**

Two or more of Get to be shown without Sire

#### **SC1.11.9 Broodmares**

May be divided into mares that have produced foals and mares that have been bred but have not produced

#### **SC1.11.10 - Not Applicable - Future Class**

#### **SC1.11.11 Dam and Produce**

Mare to be shown with two or more of produce.

#### **SC1.11.12 Produce of Dam**

Two or more of produce to be shown without Dam.

#### **SC1.11.13 Model**

In Model classes, entries are exclusively evaluated based on conformation and finish, with no assessment of movement while on the line. The way of going is not taken into consideration.

For Three-Gaited classes, entries are to have a roached mane and tail and are led into the ring wearing either a bridle or halter, without the use of quarter boots.

In Fine Harness and Five-Gaited classes, entries are required to have a full mane and tail and are led into the ring wearing either a bridle or halter, without the use of quarter boots.

#### **SC1.11.14 In-Hand - Youth Showmanship**

The exhibitor's performance is evaluated based on their skill in showcasing the horse in the ring to its best advantage, effectively minimizing any conformation faults. The judging criteria consist of: 50% for presentation and showmanship skills, 40% for the horse's condition, grooming, and fitting, and 10% for the exhibitor's appearance.

Participants are required to enter the competition ring at the designated gait and follow the direction indicated by the ringmaster until instructed to line up the horse for inspection.

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Maintaining a distance of at least ten feet between entries is advised both when circling the ring and during the line-up. The horse should stand squarely with its weight evenly distributed on all four feet, hooves facing forward, and front legs perpendicular to the ground.

Handlers may adjust the horse's position by using the lead rein and applying pressure to the shoulder if necessary. However, using a foot or whip to move the horse's feet will result in penalties. Handlers must position themselves in front of the horse to ensure the judge has a clear view, avoiding obstruction.

Handlers should remain attentive to both the horse and the judge, disregarding distractions outside the ring. The lead rein should be held in the right hand, approximately 12 to 24 inches from the halter or bit, with the other end held neatly in the left hand. Changing hands is permissible for convenience during positioning or presentation.

Handlers should maintain a well-balanced body posture to allow for fluid movement and proper presentation of the horse. When the judge is examining other entries, handlers should position themselves at the horse's head on the opposite side of the judge whenever possible. Promptly following instructions and making mild adjustments to the horse are allowed.

#### **In-Hand Youth Showmanship Workouts**

A suitable standard routine for the required individual workout:

The handler should position themselves to the left of the horse and begin leading with a loose rein if feasible, guiding from the left side. In cases where needed, a gentle touch of the whip is permitted.

The horse should move forward briskly and in a straight line. When moving away from the judge, the horse should maintain alignment with the judge for proper observation of its movement.

At each end of the line, the horse should come to a complete stop before turning. Turning should be executed to the right, away from the handler, at the end of the line.

During periods when the judge is assessing other horses, the horse should stand reasonably well-presented. The handler should remain attentive and poised until the entire class has been evaluated and the judge has completed their assessment.

Handlers should adopt a natural approach and refrain from excessive handling, unnecessary fussing, or over maneuvering. They should promptly respond to requests from the judge or other officials, maintaining courtesy and good sportsmanship throughout.

Penalties will be applied for incorrect or unkempt attire, inadequately groomed or trimmed horses, improper or dirty equipment (such as keepers out or twisted cheek pieces), excessive use of whips or

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reins, interference with other exhibitors, receiving coaching from outside the ring, adopting exaggerated, stiff, or rigid positions, and failing to follow instructions.

### **SC1.12.0 Parade Division**

The Parade horse should embody the desirable conformation traits of American Saddlebred or Half American Saddlebred breeds and possess adequate size and substance to comfortably support the rider's weight and Parade equipment.

Variations in color are acceptable, and the horse should showcase a full mane and tail, which may be set. Desirable attributes include action, collection, and brilliance, with conformation being a crucial consideration in Championship Classes.

Stallions are not permitted in Ladies and Junior Exhibitor classes.

### **Parade Class Specifications**

#### **SC1.12.1 Parade Open**

This class division is open to various categories including Ladies, Junior Exhibitor, Amateur (Ladies and/or Gentlemen), Youth, Owners, Amateur Owners, Pinto, Palomino/Golden, and Solid Color other than Palomino/Golden.

### **Parade Appointments**

Rider and equipment must be comparable to the size of the horse. Stock saddle with silver, Mexican or other appropriate equipment. Riders to wear colorful and typical of the Old West, and/or American, Mexican or Spanish origin attire to include fancy cowboy suit, hat and boots. Spurs, guns, serapes, etc., are optional.

Horses in this class should be presented at an animated walk and a parade gait, with a maximum speed limit set at 5 MPH. It's important to demonstrate a noticeable distinction between these two gaits. Horses may be asked to halt on the rail during the performance to exhibit their willingness to stand quietly.

Undesirable traits include exhibiting excessive speed, poor manners, a bad mouth, failure to stand quietly, and irregular gaits. The judging criteria for this class emphasize 75% for performance, manners, quality, and conformation, with the remaining 25% dedicated to evaluating the appointments of both horse and rider.

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### **SC1.13.0 Roadster Division**

The Roadster class requires horses to possess good American Saddlebred or Half American Saddlebred conformation and to be presented with a full mane and tail. It's crucial to note that tails must not be put in a tail brace or any other device.

Wagon Roadsters are expected to have more scale and height compared to Bike Roadsters. They should be hitched to a bike or wagon that displays good appearance and stability. The harness, which includes a martingale, should consist of bridles with square blinkers, a snaffle bit and overcheck, a breast collar with straight flaps, and traces made round with flat ends. Reins should be made of tan leather and rounded up to the handpieces. Quarter boots are optional.

During the performance, Roadsters must enter the ring clockwise at a jog-trot, then transition to the road gait. On the reverse, they should be shown at the jog-trot, road gait, and then at speed. All three gaits must be demonstrated.

Horses should remain on the rail at all times except when passing and should go to the far end on every corner without side-reining. They should exhibit light mouthedness, be capable of being collected at any time, and be willing to walk and stand quietly when being judged in the center of the ring.

Judging criteria focus on performance, speed, quality, and manners, with an emphasis on manners in Amateur and Junior Exhibitor classes.

At all speeds, Roadsters should maintain proper form, with chins set and legs working beneath them, moving collectedly. They should exhibit animation, brilliance, and competition ring presence while working at the jog-trot and road gait. Undesirable traits include long, sprawling front action, dragging or trailing hind legs, and straddle-gaited action behind, all of which indicate imbalance. Pacey or mixed gait, pacing and racking on turns, or breaking and running on turns will be penalized.

#### **Roadster classes are offered for:**

The classes available include Amateurs, Junior Exhibitors, Youth, Open, Under Saddle, and Championships. It's important to note that Under Saddle classes are not eligible for Bike/Wagon Championships. However, classes may be offered for horses shown to a wagon.

### **SC1.14.0 Ladies Side Saddle Division**

The American Saddlebred Ladies Side Saddle horse should exemplify the typical characteristics of the American Saddlebred breed.

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Competitors are required to enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction at the trot or jog-trot, with all gaits to be considered equally. Classes may be divided into English or Western if there are sufficient entries.

Emphasizing safety, both in tack and attire, is paramount.

Judges are instructed to penalize exhibitors who do not adhere to good safety practices.

Horses participating in the Ladies Side Saddle section may also compete in the American Saddlebred Pleasure sections or the Half American Saddlebred Pleasure section, provided they meet the requirements of their respective sections, including considerations such as the use of artificial appliances, shoeing, tail sets, tack, and attire.

The side saddle horse should convey the impression of being a comfortable mount to ride. A ground-covering walk, a comfortable trot or jog-trot, and an easy, flowing canter or lope are desirable. Transitions between gaits should be smooth and effortless, and riders may choose to either sit or post to the trot.

### **Ladies Side Saddle Class Specifications**

**SC1.14.1** Ladies English Side Saddle

**SC1.14.2** Ladies Hunt Side Saddle

**SC1.14.3** Ladies Western Side Saddle

Horses in this class are required to be shown at a walk, trot or jog-trot, and canter or lope in both directions of the ring. They should readily back up if requested by the judge and stand quietly throughout the performance. The judging criteria allocate 85% of the score to manners, performance, suitability, quality, and conformation, with the remaining 15% dedicated to evaluating appropriate side saddle attire. Emphasis is placed on manners and suitability of purpose, with suitability referring to the horse's suitability as a side saddle mount.

### **SC1.14.4 Ladies Side Saddle Championships**

For eligibility, a horse must have been entered, shown, and judged in a designated qualifying class within the Ladies Side Saddle section. During the competition, horses are expected to perform at a walk, trot or jog-trot, and canter or lope in both directions of the ring. They should readily back up if requested by the judge and maintain quiet standing. The judging criteria allocate 85% of the score to manners, performance, suitability, quality, and conformation, with the remaining 15% dedicated to evaluating appropriate side saddle attire. Emphasis is placed on manners and suitability of purpose, with suitability referring to the horse's compatibility as a side saddle mount.

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### **SC1.15.0 Dressage Division**

In Dressage Suitability, horses should exhibit the potential to excel as dressage mounts. Horses that have competed at First level Dressage or above are ineligible for this class. Emphasis is placed on form to function.

American Saddlebreds/Half American Saddlebreds suitable for Dressage typically have a higher set-on neck than Hunter types, with adequate length and flexibility of the poll. Movement should be free, elastic, active, and regular, with a good push from behind without tension, and a tendency toward an uphill balance.

The objective is to confirm that the horse's muscles are supple and loose, and that it moves freely forward in a clear, steady rhythm, while accepting contact with the bit. The horse should exhibit lightness of the forehand and engagement of the hindquarters.

Penalties will be applied for resistance and tension in the horse. The horse's potential as a Dressage mount is paramount. Entries must have full mane and tail, with tails not being altered by any devices on the show grounds. Artificial manes are prohibited, but manes and tails may be braided or secured with thread, yarn, or bands. Decorations such as ribbons are not allowed, though inconspicuously applied hair in the tail is permitted.

Professionals may compete in Open classes, and the class is open to stallions, mares, and geldings. However, junior exhibitors may not show stallions.

Trot work should be ridden rising. Horses are placed based on their innate quality of movement, with all gaits being pure in rhythm, without tension or resistance. Transitions should be balanced and without hesitation.

The walk should have a regular, free, and unconstrained rhythm. The trot should be free, active, and regular, with balanced and elastic steps demonstrating a supple back, suspension, and well-engaged hindquarters. The canter should be light, cadenced, and regular.

During the rein-back, the horse should remain calm and obedient, lifting and setting down its feet without shuffling. When lengthening the stride at the walk, trot, or canter, the horse should maintain rhythm, regularity, and balance while reaching with its frame and stride, with the rider maintaining contact with the bit and allowing the lengthening. The strides should cover more ground, while the horse remains calm and supple.

### **Dressage Appointments**

**Bridle:** Horses must be shown in either a Dressage-type or Hunter-type snaffle bridle with a smooth

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snaffle bit. The noseband options include a regular cavesson, a drop noseband, a flash noseband, or a figure-eight noseband. Martingales of any type, draw reins, mouth controls, artificial appliances, boots, and bandages are prohibited in competition.

**Saddle:** Saddles must be either an English Dressage or all-purpose English type saddle. Dressage-type saddle pads are required and should be white or of a conservative color.

**Attire:** Riders are required to wear a traditional short riding coat in a conservative color, with either a tie, choker, or stock tie, or an integrated stand-up collar. Breeches should be white or light-colored, or hunter jodhpurs, along with boots or jodhpur boots. Protective headgear is mandatory. A cutaway coat (modified tailcoat) with short tails is permitted. Gloves in a conservative color are recommended. Half chaps, gaiters, and/or leggings are not permitted.

**Spurs:** Spurs must be made of metal and only English-style spurs are allowed. The shank can be either curved or straight, pointing directly back from the center of the spur on the rider's boot. If the shank is curved, it must be worn with the shank directed downwards, although swan-necked spurs are allowed with the curved shank directed upwards. The inside arm of the spur must be smooth, and one or both arms may have rubber covers. If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth and free to rotate. Metal spurs with round hard plastic knobs on the shank are allowed (known as "Impuls" spurs). "Dummy" spurs with no shank are also permitted. The maximum length for spurs is 5.08 inches (2 inches), including rowels. This restriction applies to warm-up and training areas, as well as during competition.

**Whip:** Riders may carry one whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120cm), including the lash, in all classes. An adjustable-length whip is not permitted for mounted riders.

## Dressage Class Specifications

### SC1.15.1 Dressage Suitability

This class is open to horses qualified to compete in various class types, including Open, Amateur, Junior Exhibitor, Youth, Junior Horse, Stallions, Geldings, and Mares. Horses are required to perform at the walk, trot, and canter in both directions of the ring. They may be asked to lengthen stride at any gait, with transitions into and out of the canter called for through the trot. Horses will also be asked to reverse direction at the trot. Additionally, a free walk on a long rein with the horse stretching forward and down should be performed in at least one direction. During the lineup, horses should stand quietly and may be asked to back at the judge's discretion.

Judging is based on 70% for the performance of gaits and transitions, with attention to impulsion and submission, using the specified objectives as reference points. The remaining 30% is allocated to the rider's position, seat, and effective use of aids.

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### **SC1.16.0 American Saddlebred Type Pony Division**

The ponies in this class should closely resemble the American Saddlebred breed and possess the graceful trot and easy canter typical of the breed, regardless of whether they are registered with the ASHBA.

Classes in this category will adhere to the standards and specifications set forth in comparable American Saddlebred classes. Ponies must be ridden by Junior Exhibitors, emphasizing manners and agreeable attitudes.

These classes are restricted to mares and geldings measuring 14.2 hands and under. Owners must provide proof of height, and the ponies must be measured according to the following rules:

- Ponies aged five and under must be measured annually to participate in classes restricted to American Saddlebred-type ponies.
- A pony's height is considered permanent after its sixth year of measurement.
- Ponies must be unshod when measured but may have a ¼" pad or plate (to be subtracted from measurement) left on the foot for protection.
- If a pony, regardless of age, measures up to 1 inch over 14.2 hands, it will be considered legally sized to compete in these restricted classes.
- Registered American Saddlebred ponies may enter the American Saddlebred horse division only if there are no pony classes offered at that particular competition. This does not affect the pony's status for the remainder of the competition year. If ownership is transferred during the competition year, the horse/pony may be shown in either division according to the above rules.

Classes may be further divided by the age of the rider or the size of the pony, with categories for those 12.2 hands and under, and those over 12.2 hands but not exceeding 14.2 hands.

### **Class Specifications - American Saddlebred Type Pony**

#### **SC1.16.1 Three Gaited Saddlebred Pony**

Shown at a walk, trot and canter. Judged on manners, performance, presence, quality and conformation.

#### **SC1.16.2 Five Gaited Saddlebred Pony**

Shown at a walk, trot, slow gait, rack and canter. Judged on manners, performance, presence, quality and conformation.

#### **SC1.16.3 Fine Harness Saddlebred Pony**

Displayed at a lively pace within a park setting, with penalties for excessive speed, as well as at a gentle walk, and the ability to stand calmly. Evaluation is based on manners, performance,

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presentation, demeanor, and conformation. Pont to pull a four-wheeled carriage equipped with proper light harness, including a martingale, a bridle with square blinkers, and a snaffle bit. The use of an overcheck bit is discretionary.

#### **SC1.16.4 Three Gaited - Country Pleasure Saddlebred Pony**

Participants have the option to exhibit with either English or Western gear. The trot or jog should match the type of equipment chosen. Competitors are required to showcase at a walk, trot or jog-trot, extended trot, and canter or lope. Additionally, they must stand calmly along the rail and while lined up, and readily back up when requested. Evaluation criteria consist of 75% based on manners, performance, presence, and quality, with the remaining 25% focused on conformation and the tidiness of attire.

#### **SC1.16.5 - Country Pleasure Saddlebred Driving Pony**

Participants are to be presented alongside a suitable two-wheeled vehicle equipped with proper harnessing, including a martingale and blinkers. Drivers who are under 14 years of age may be accompanied by an adult. Exhibits are required to perform a flat walk, trot, and extended trot, with penalties for excessive speed. They must also demonstrate the ability to stand quietly along the rail and while lined up, and to back up readily. The use of quarter boots is not permitted. Evaluation is based on manners, performance, presence, quality, and conformation.

#### **SC1.16.6 - Three Gaited Saddlebred Show Pleasure Pony**

Participants are to be displayed performing a flat walk, trot, and canter. They must also exhibit the ability to stand quietly and back readily while in the line-up. Evaluation criteria include manners, performance, presence, quality, and conformation.