

Friesian Show Horse - DRAFT of Sports Concepts

SC4 - Sports Concepts - Friesian & Part-Bred Friesian Show Horse

These Equine Sports Council Sports Concepts are for the Friesian Show Horse divisions which include English Park and Saddle Seat, Hunt Seat, Western Seat and Driving divisions of Pleasure and Park Harness. Equitation, Carriage Driving and Sport Horse Classes are specified in ESC general division sports concepts.

SC4.1 Type & Eligibility

The Friesian is classified as one of the Show Horse Trotting Breeds in the United States and known for its high stepping, naturally collected moving trot with muscular well defined rear quarters. The Friesian has a distinguished black coat and thick flowing mane and tail.

The Friesian horse originated from the Netherlands in the province of Friesland between the 16th and 17th centuries and is the result of cross breeding between the Arabian and Andalusian. This cross gave the Friesian high stepping motion, smaller head and craning neck. The Friesian because of temperament is considered warmblooded. The Friesian bloodlines were distinguished by its separation from the English Thoroughbred bloodlines. The Dutch government to protect the Friesian bloodline in 1939 issued horse laws which set rules for a stud book with quality inspections of foals. The original Dutch registry known as FPS has reciprocity to the Friesian Horse Association of North America (FHANA). ESC accepts registration through DNA testing from FPS or FHANA.

In North America cross breeding of the purebred Friesian stallion with another horse breed is permitted resulting in the part-bred Friesian. Part-bred Friesians with at least 50% Friesian heritage can be registered through DNA testing. ESC accepts Friesian heritage registration through DNA testing from the following registries:

- [Friesian Horse Association of North America](#) - Purebred Friesians only
- [American Saddlebred Registry](#) - Half-bred Friesians only
- [Friesian Heritage Horse & Sporthorse International](#) - Purebred & Half-bred Friesians
- [Friesian Horse Society](#) - Purebred & Half-bred Friesians
- [Frisian Sport Horse Registry](#) - Purebred & Half-bred Friesians
- [Friesian Blood Horse Registry](#) - Purebred & Half-bred Friesians (includes Baroque)

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All registered Friesian horses must have an animal identifier applied to their body; this due to their all black coats with minimal natural body markings that can make individual identification complex. The body marker identification numbers correspond with registration documentation. These ID types are; frezemarks, tattoos, brands, tongue codes, microchips or RFID that have certificates of administration by a licensed Veterinarian. At show management discretion any Friesian horse whose identification has been questioned or cannot be verified by human eye comparing animal identifier to registration papers may be allowed to compete after paying \$100 processing fee and collection of mane or tail samples by show vet which are then processed at ESC direction. Show management to coordinate with ESC by calling 855-Equine1.

- Any refusal to cooperate may result in immediate loss of ribbons and/or points.
- Any Friesian identification misrepresented for competition whose identity is correctly discovered by show management examination or through ESC lab testing is subject to immediate disqualification and Severe ESC Penalty.

SC4.2 Friesian Conformation - The Friesian horse is known for its elegant and striking appearance, characterized by a strong build, graceful movements. The Friesian has a solid black coat that is shiny and lustrous, often with a thick mane and tail that can be left long and flowing. The Friesian has a strong and powerful hindquarters and has high stepping trot and animation, an honest character, eager to work and stamina. Friesian conformation standards, including height and size guidelines are as follows:

1. **Height:** The Friesian breed typically stands between 15.2 to 17 hands (62 to 68 inches) at the withers, with some individuals exceeding 17 hands. Height can vary slightly depending on the individual horse and the specific registry guidelines.
2. **Body:** The Friesian has a compact and well-muscled body with a deep chest, strong shoulders, and a short, strong back. The hindquarters are powerful and well-developed, providing the horse with strength and agility.
3. **Head and Neck:** The Friesian has a refined head with a straight or slightly concave profile, expressive eyes, and small, alert ears. The neck is long, arched, and set high on well-defined withers, giving the horse a proud and noble appearance.
4. **Legs:** The Friesian has clean, strong legs with well-defined joints and hard, dense bone. The legs are covered in long, flowing feathering, particularly on the lower legs, adding to the breed's distinctive appearance.

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5. **Movement:** The Friesian is known for its high-stepping, animated trot with excellent suspension and extension. The horse moves with grace and elegance, showcasing its natural athleticism and presence.
6. **Penalized:** Oversized head, fallen or uneven ears, short neck or disproportionate body. High or delayed back with discontinuous profile. Pasterns too long or short. Movements displaying poor elevation, motion or winging.

SC4.3 Friesian Junior Horses - Friesians must remain in the junior horse division until 6 years of age. Junior horses are aged 3 to 5 years old, and under saddle horses must be at least 3 years old.

SC4.4 Friesian Stallions & Part-Bred - Purebred and Part-breds may not show against each other in performance classes except for Equitation, Showmanship and Academy classes where only the rider is being judged. Stallions may be shown in all divisions except; Ladies, Equitation, Showmanship or Academy.

SC4.5 Appliances & Substances - Not allowed are any artificial appliances, especially those that alter the natural movement of the horse such as but not limited to; chains, shackles and tongue ties. Foreign substances are strictly prohibited as well as injections into the ears or tail, cutting the tail ligaments. Bits not permitted include; bicycle chain, burr, gag, mule, twisted wire, and spiked bits. Artificial hair or dyes that alter the hair color, Use of whips that leave welts or marks on the horse especially for in-hand classes, for which a judge may disqualify an entry with whip marks.

SC4.6 Friesian Turnout - Altering or changing the natural color of the coat, mane, hooves or natural markings is strictly prohibited and must result in elimination from the class, except for use of glitter or temp body paint permissible in the costume classes. Black or clear hoof polish is permitted. Friesians should be exhibited in full mane and tails, with feathers required in Purebreds. Braiding of the mane and/or tail is permitted in some class divisions. Clipping of whiskers permitted around the face, muzzle and ears except for eye guard hairs/whiskers. Body clipping is permitted except for leg hairs. Bridle paths cannot be clipped longer than two (2) inches. Tail trimming or “banging” is permitted in divisions where horses are required to back or the sport horse division. Use of artificial hair in the mane or tail is not permitted and results in disqualification. The leg hair of half-Friesians may be clipped from the back of the coronary to the upper cannon bone. Judges may not penalize unclipped horses.

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SC4.7 Friesian Horse Welfare - Must adhere to Equine Sports Council's Standards & Guidelines of Animal Welfare and randomized drug testing. All horses must be serviceably sound, horse lameness should be severely penalized or disqualified. Horses must have full sight in one eye. Second eye loss is permitted with or without prosthetics, which judges may not penalize in performance or equitation classes.

SC4.8 Friesian Horse Hoof & Shoeing Allowances - Horses must be at least 2 years of age before being shod. Horses >2 years old may be shown shod or barefoot. Maximum toe length is 5 inches (hoof only) or 5 ½ inches (includes hoof, shoe and pad).

ONLY the following are allowed:

- Shoes made of keg, magnetic steel or aluminum
- Shoes of uniform thickness from toe to heel
- Shoes may be a maximum width of 1 ½ inches wide
- Shoes may be a maximum ½ inch total thickness
- Shoes may not extend ¼ inch beyond the front toe
- Shoes may not extend ¼ inch beyond the bulb of the heel
- Only hoof packing materials may be used in/around the hoof
- Hoof packing materials include; oakum, pine tar, silicone & foam rubber
- Hoof clips <1 inch permitted, no more than 3 per shoe
- Hoof clips on side must be ahead of widest part of hoof
- Borium permitted on toe and heel for traction
- Borium not to exceed ½ inch in height 1.5 inch total width
- Corrective single full or rim pad of leather, plastic or rubber permitted
- Corrective wedge permitted
- Corrective pad or wedge for mending of original length of hoof only
- Corrective pads, wedges may NOT contain security bands, weights or leds

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SC4.9 Friesian Description of Gaits

1. **Walk** - A four beat gait where one foot is on the ground at all times. The slowest of all gaits should be collected yet ground covering.
2. **Normal Walk** - A more energetic gait than the walk allowing the horse to move forward.
3. **Extended Walk** - Moving at a pace that covers as much ground as possible, where the back foot hits the ground in front of the prints left behind from the front foot. Horses are allowed to stretch their head and neck forward and down allowing riders to maintain control of the bit and the horse's pole.
4. **Flat Walk** - A gait characterized by four beats, moving at a controlled pace with deliberate movements.
5. **Animated Walk** - The gait is a rhythmic movement, typically in either two or four beats, that involves being well-coordinated and showing gracefulness at a controlled pace. This should include sharpness and smooth maneuverability while conveying a sense of sophistication and lightness in motion.
6. **Trot** - The rider consistently maintains gentle contact with the horse's mouth throughout the ride while the horse moves diagonally in a two-beat gait that is characterized by being free-flowing, well-balanced. All trotting gaits must be exhibited with balance and cadence, and judges must heavily penalize or disqualify lameness.
7. **Jog Trot** - The collected and slow two beat gait for western horses.
8. **Normal Trot** - Two beat gait that exhibits freedom of motion and elasticity. High action must be penalized and riders must post this gait.
9. **Animated Trot** - In a highly collected manner, a two-beat gait should focus on animation over speed to avoid penalties. The extended trot, being faster and stronger with a fuller stride extension, is performed in a similar collected fashion to achieve the desired pace.
10. **Extended Trot** - While keeping a consistent rhythm and moving at a moderate pace, the horse increases its step length due to enhanced propulsion from the hind legs. It is important for the rider to maintain a light contact with the horse's mouth as it elongates its body, ensuring equilibrium, comfort, and fluidity in motion. Certain horses may require varying speeds to execute movements effectively when extending and such variations should be understood without imposing penalties.
11. **Strong Trot** - This is a more powerful trot, characterized by an extended stride that is forceful and far-reaching. The speed of this trot can differ among horses as each horse should achieve their own robust trot in alignment with their individual maximum natural stride. It is important that the horse does not appear stretched out behind. Additionally, the horse should display moderate collection without overly exaggerated front leg action. It is crucial for the

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horse to exhibit a cooperative attitude while upholding proper form. The strong trot should be graceful, rhythmic, well-balanced, and fluid in movement.

12. **Park Trot** - The park trot should be performed with a focus on collection, where speed is not the priority. It is important that the horse's energy is channeled towards displaying animation rather than emphasizing speed.
13. **Show Your Horse** - For the Open Pleasure Driving and Park Harness classes the horse is shown at the trot type and speed that best displays abilities.
14. **Canter** - The gait should consist of three beats, be gathered, slightly animated, yet seamless in execution of the correct lead in both directions. Penalties will apply for a compromised form caused by excessive speed.
15. **Lope** - The same three beat gait as the canter but called for in the western classes which must be slow and rolling. Four beat lope should be highly penalized.
16. **Extended Canter/Lope** - The collected canter is distinguished by the lightness in the forehead, engagement of the hindquarters, and supple shoulders. In this gait, the neck becomes more elevated and arched compared to a regular canter, with the head approaching but never going beyond the vertical line.
17. **Hand Gallop** - A pace faster than a canter, with an extended stride that is controlled, straight, and accurate on both sides. It involves a long, unrestricted stride that varies depending on the natural length of the horse's stride. The key difference between a hand gallop and an extended canter lies in the latter achieving maximum linear extension within the rider's control, while a hand gallop exhibits a more relaxed elongation of stride and frame. The horse should demonstrate a noticeable increase in stride length while maintaining control, correctness, and straightness on both leads. Excessive speed should be discouraged through penalties.

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SC4.10 Friesian Class Types: May be divided between Pure-bred and Half-bred and into the following types with natural motion of the horse scoring the highest with various other traits listed in order of importance.

- **Open, Maiden, Novice, Limit, Stallions, Mares, Geldings** - Horses are judged on natural motion, performance, presence, quality, type, manners and conformation.
- **Amateur, Amateur Owner, Ladies, Gentlemen, Masters, Juvenile** - Horses are judged on natural motion, performance, manners, type, quality, and conformation.
- **Junior Horses 3-5 years old** - Horses are judged on natural motion, quality, performance, type, conformation and manners.

SC4.11 Sport Concepts - General Class Divisions - Equitation, Dressage, Carriage Driving, Showmanship, Working Ranch and Trail divisions follow class and judging specifications as defined in divisional sports concepts for Equine Sports Council.

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CS - Class Specifications - Friesian & Half-Bred Friesian

CS0 - Class by Division - The Friesian and Half-Bred Friesian versatility as a show horse trotting breed allows for competitiveness and is uniquely defined by class with judging specifications for; Costume, Driving, English Saddle Seat, Hunter Pleasure, Show Hack, In-Hand and Western Pleasure. Unless otherwise specified below, class specifications are the same for Half-Bred Friesians which must exhibit separate from Purebred Friesians in performance classes.

CS0.1 Cross Division Entering - Cross entry of divisions by a single horse at an ESC show must be kept at a minimum. At ESC shows Friesian horses may cross compete in the these divisions; (English Park or Pleasure) **OR** (Country English, Hunt or Western Pleasure). Additionally may enter either a Costume or In-Hand class but not both at same show if having competed in a Pleasure class. Horses may **NOT** be asked to compete in more than 3 pattern classes or 5 classes in total per day which also includes leadline or academy.

CS0.2 Point Tabulations - Available to Performance horses (including in-hand) or Equitation riders. Academy and Leadline winnings do not receive points. To be awarded based on one (1) point received for each horse that an individual placed above in a specific class. If there are 5 placings awarded in a class, the first place horse would receive 4 points, the second place horse would receive 3 points. The fifth place horse would not receive any points because no additional placings were awarded below 5th. When tabulating annual end of season awards points received from Championship or National Show Series are doubled.

To qualify annually under a specific performance or equitation division for any Championship or National Show Series governed by ESC at least four (4) points must be earned by an individual or horse that exhibits in an English Saddle Seat, Driving or Hunt/Western division class at any show under a sanctioning or governing body with published prize list and online published results from commercially available horse show management software. Purebred and half-bred Friesians must not have competed in the same pleasure classes. The qualification period begins the day after a Championship or National Show Series ends (until) the next year on the day the Championship or National Show Series starts.

Open shows that qualify for point tabulations must have a total of at least 50 entries, an online published prize list with location, date and names of show manager, judge and class schedule, specifications of qualifying classes and championships. Show results must be available online through the use of commercially available horse show management software that displays class name, entry numbers, names of horses, class placings and judge. Horse show manager may not judge classes. A single class may not be judged by two different people with two sets of placings distributed for additional points.

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CS1 Friesian Costume

Costume creativity, uniqueness and overall presentation are crowd pleasing at any show. Costumes are categorized as; Century, Make-Believe or Armor-Clad and to be judged on creativity, uniqueness, suitability of horse and rider and manners. Safety of rider, horse and exhibitors of most importance. Exhibitors enter the ring to the right and are shown at the walk and trot both directions. Lined up at judges discretion. Exhibitors do not back.

1. **Eligibility** - Open to purebred or part-bred Friesians exhibited in separate classes. Classes may be offered by sex. Available to divisions of Open, Amateur and Juvenile. Stallions may not be exhibited by juveniles under 14.
2. **Attire** - All costumes must be made of durable material that does not become unattached during the class. Guns, ammunition or any banned weaponry by location or state governments are not allowed. Costume weaponry made of plastic or rubber is highly desired. Only costume guns are permitted. Any type of metal blade weapon is dangerous and highly undesired and at show management discretion must be removed from costume. All metal blade weapons must be inside the sheath with secondary guards. Weapons may not be removed from protective sheath or holsters at any time including inside ring performances. Lances may not exceed 6 feet in length with blunt points and are carried upright. Juveniles may not show in classes with authentic weaponry, or Lances and may only carry costume weaponry.
3. **Tack** - Bridle can be of english, hunt, western or bosals (except Armor must show with bit). Curb chains flat ½ inch permitted. Running martingales with snaffle bits permitted. Military martingales permitted with like presentations. Any others prohibited. Saddle - can be of english, hunt, western or side saddle.
4. **Standards of Judging** - Emphasis on creativity and uniqueness - horse costume 40%, rider costume 40%, horse movement, manners, and quality 20%.

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CS2 Friesian Driving - Fine Harness

The Friesian Fine Harness Horse represents refinement and quality of the breed that naturally moves with animation and expression versus speed. Horses enter the ring at the Park Trot going to the right, and are shown at the Animated walk, Park Trot and Show Your Horses in open classes. Horses are shown both directions, and reverse at the Animated Walk. Horses line up at judges discretion but are not required to back, however must stand quietly. Headers may join the line-up and assist in squaring up the horse, horse may be unchecked. Headers must stand two paces back while the horse is being judged. Awards are given in the line up, exhibitors must not retire at the end of the ring.

1. **Eligibility** - Open to purebred or part-bred Friesians exhibited in separate classes. Classes may be offered by sex. Stallions may not be exhibited by juveniles under 14. Classes available for Open, Amateur, Ladies, Juvenile and Junior Horses. May not be cross entered from the Country or Western divisions.
2. **Attire** - Evening or formal suit with top hat for men and a formal long evening dress for women. Women wear gloves. Driving whip 6 feet long is required. Headers may wear a smock or duster containing no logos or appropriate show clothes.
3. **Harness & Vehicle** - 4 wheeled open park harness buggy without top connected to light show harness. Buggy should be serviceably sound and noise free. Headstall with noseband, throatlatch and snaffle bit with martingale. Side Checks and Overchecks with bits are permitted.
4. **Conformation & Movement** - Judges assess both the conformation and movement of the horse. Friesians competing in fine harness classes are expected to exhibit the breed's characteristic traits, including a well-arched neck, strong hindquarters, and fluid movement with good action and extension. The horse should demonstrate energy, animation, and presence while being driven.
5. **Manners & Performance** - The horse should demonstrate excellent manners, responsiveness to the driver's aids, and an overall pleasurable performance. This includes steady, consistent gaits, smooth transitions, and obedience to the driver's commands.
6. **Judging Criteria** - Judges evaluate various aspects including conformation, movement, manners, suitability as a harness horse, and the overall impression of the turnout. Emphasis is often placed on brilliance, animation, style, and performance under harness.

Mares, Geldings, Stallions, Limit, Maiden, Novice, Jr Horse & Open - judged on performance, presence, quality, manners and conformation. Championship judged 75% on performance, presence, quality and manners; 25% on total conformation.

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Ladies Open or Ladies Amateur Only - judged on manners, quality, presence, performance and conformation. Championship judged 75% on manners, quality, presence and performance; 25% on total conformation.

Amateur, Amateur Owner, Ladies, Gentlemen, Masters, Juvenile - judged on manners, performance, presence, quality and conformation. Championship judged 75% on manners, performance, presence and quality; 25% on conformation.

Championship Eligibility - Must have competed in and completed the same class type. Juveniles & Amateur Championships may be combined.

CS2 Friesian Driving - Country Pleasure

The Friesian Classic Pleasure Driving class is a traditional exhibition of elegant style. The horse should exhibit a smooth and steady gait while maintaining good carriage and self-carriage. The driver should demonstrate control and precision in their handling of the horse. Extreme motion or speed must be penalized. Horses are shown both directions at the Walk, Normal Trot and Strong Trot.

1. **Eligibility:** Horses entered in the class must be registered Friesians or half-bred Friesians, offered to Open Amateur and Juvenile Exhibitor drivers. Headers must be 16 years of age. Cross entering between Country Pleasure and English Pleasure is permitted.
2. **Attire:** The driver's attire is usually formal, traditional, and appropriate for driving classes. This often includes a suit or jacket, tie, gloves, and a driving hat or helmet. The attire should be neat and in good condition.
3. **Harness and Vehicle:** The horse should be hitched to a suitable two wheeled carriage or cart, Meadowbrook styled with full or breast collared properly fitted harness that is safe and appropriate for pleasure driving. The vehicle should be clean and well-maintained. Driving snaffle, half cheek with over or side check configuration standard. One or two bits permitted. A running martingale must be used with a snaffle bit. Driving whip must have a thong long enough to reach the shoulder of the horse.
4. **Conformation and Movement:** Judges typically evaluate both the conformation and movement of the horse. Friesians are expected to exhibit the breed's characteristic traits, including a well-arched neck, strong hindquarters, and fluid movement with good extension.
5. **Manners and Performance:** The horse should demonstrate excellent manners, responsiveness to the driver's cues, and an overall pleasurable performance. This includes steady, consistent gaits, appropriate transitions, and willingness to work.

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6. **Judging Criteria:** Judges will assess various aspects including performance, manners, suitability as a pleasure driving horse, and the overall impression of the turnout. Shown: Walk, Normal trot, and Strong Trot both directions of the ring.

Open Classes (except Jr Horse) - judged on attitude, manners, performance, type, quality and conformation. To be shown at the walk, normal trot, and strong trot in both directions.

Amateur, Juvenile or Ladies Classes - judged on manners, performance, type, attitude, quality, and conformation. To be shown at the walk, normal trot, and strong trot in both directions.

Junior Horse Classes - judged on quality, type, attitude, performance, conformation, and manners. To be shown at the walk and normal trot in both directions.

CS2 Friesian Driving - Show Pleasure

The Friesian Show Pleasure Driving class is a traditional exhibition of country style. The horse should exhibit a smooth and steady gait while maintaining good self-carriage. The driver should demonstrate control and precision in their handling of the horse. Extreme motion or speed must be heavily penalized. Horses are shown both directions at the Walk, Normal Trot and Strong Trot.

1. **Eligibility:** Horses entered in the class must be registered Friesians or half-bred Friesians, offered to Open Amateur and Juvenile drivers. Drivers 14 and under must be accompanied by knowledgeable adult driver in a cart designed for two people. Headers must be 16 years of age.
2. **Attire:** The driver's attire is usually traditional informal saddle seat or Dutch driving suits are appropriate in black or brown colors with tie, gloves - brown in color, and a driving hat or helmet. Hats should not be floppy. The attire should be neat and in good condition.
3. **Harness and Vehicle:** The horse should be hitched to a suitable two wheeled carriage or cart, Meadowbrook styled with full or breast collared properly fitted harness that is safe and appropriate for pleasure driving. The vehicle should be clean and well-maintained. Driving snaffle, half cheek with over or side check configuration standard. One or two bits permitted. A running martingale must be used with a snaffle bit. Driving whip must have a thong long enough to reach the shoulder of the horse.
4. **Conformation and Movement:** Judges typically evaluate both the conformation and movement of the horse. Friesians are expected to exhibit the breed's characteristic traits, including a well-arched neck, strong hindquarters, and fluid movement with good extension.

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5. **Manners and Performance:** The horse should demonstrate excellent manners, responsiveness to the driver's cues, and an overall pleasurable performance. This includes steady, consistent gaits, appropriate transitions, and willingness to work.
6. **Judging Criteria:** Judges will assess various aspects including performance, manners, suitability as a pleasure driving horse, and the overall impression of the turnout. Shown: Walk, Normal trot, and Strong Trot both directions of the ring.

Open Classes (except Jr Horse) - judged on attitude, manners, performance, type, quality and conformation. To be shown at the walk, normal trot, and strong trot in both directions, must back quietly in line up.

Amateur, Juvenile or Ladies Classes - judged on manners, performance, type, attitude, quality, and conformation. To be shown at the walk, normal trot, and strong trot in both directions, must back quietly in line up.

Junior Horse Classes - judged on quality, type, attitude, performance, conformation, and manners. To be shown at the walk and normal trot in both directions, must back quietly in line up.

CS4 Friesian English Country Pleasure

Must appear a pleasure to ride along a country setting. Light rein contact required at all times. Horses are exhibited in both directions of the ring at: Walk, Normal Trot, Strong Trot, Canter and Hand Gallop. Only one direction - horses must halt on the rail, stand quietly then ask to back up. Horses must walk forward on a loose rein. Horses must give the impression they are a pleasure to ride, with a quiet mouth. Extreme motion or speed to be penalized. Exhibitors may NOT be asked to ride from the snaffle or curb only.

1. **Eligibility:** Horses entered in the class must be registered Friesian or half-bred Friesian which must not show in the same class. Classes are available in Open, Amateur and Juvenile divisions. Country Pleasure entries cannot cross enter into English Pleasure, Park or Harness divisions.
2. **Attire:** Riders typically wear traditional, formal attire appropriate for saddle seat classes. This often includes a suit or conservative attire, gloves, and a derby or appropriate headgear. Attire should be neat, clean, and in good condition.
3. **Tack & Apparel:** The horse should be equipped with a suitable saddle seat saddle and English bridle with snaffle, pelham bit or Full English bridle with curb bit and bridoon. Junior horses to be shown in a light, show type bridle; either single curb or single snaffle, curb and snaffle or pelham bit. The saddle should fit the horse properly and be appropriate for saddle seat riding. The bridle should be clean, well-fitted, and include a suitable bit for the horse's comfort and control.

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4. **Conformation and Movement:** Judges evaluate both the conformation and movement of the horse. Morgans are expected to exhibit the breed's characteristic traits, including a well-arched neck, strong hindquarters, and animated, high-stepping movement with good extension.
5. **Manners and Performance:** The horse should demonstrate excellent manners, responsiveness to the rider's cues, and an overall pleasurable performance. This includes steady, consistent gaits, appropriate transitions, and willingness to work.
6. **Judging Criteria:** Judges assess various aspects including performance, manners, suitability as a pleasure saddle horse, and the overall impression of the turnout. Shown: Walk, Normal Trot, Strong Trot, Canter, Hand Gallup both directions. Asked to back on the rail one direction. Extreme motion, speed, and an unquiet mouth must be penalized.

Open (excluding Jr horses) judged on attitude, manners, performance, type, quality, and conformation.

Amateur, Ladies & Juveniles judged on attitude, manners, performance, type, quality, conformation, and suitability of horse to rider

Junior Horses judged on attitude, manners, quality, type, and performance

CS5 Friesian English Pleasure Saddle Seat

Horses should give the appearance of a pleasurable ride and riders should maintain light rein contact at all times. Horses must be collected with animation at the trot. Energy should be focused on animation versus speed. Artificial motion must be penalized. Horses enter the ring to the right at the Normal Trot and shown at the Flat Walk, Animated Trot, Strong Trot and Canter. Excessive speed must be penalized.

1. **Eligibility:** Horses entered in the class must be registered Friesian or half-bred Friesian which must not show in the same class. Classes are available in Open, Amateur and Juvenile divisions. English pleasure horses may cross enter into ONLY the Park Saddle or Fine Harness divisions.
2. **Attire:** Riders usually wear traditional English riding attire, which includes a fitted show coat, vest, jodhpurs, a show shirt with a tie or choker, and a derby or top hat. Gloves are optional. Attire should be neat, clean, and in good condition. After 6pm dress attire is considered formal.
3. **Tack & Apparel:** The horse should be equipped with a suitable English saddle seat saddle, full bridle with curb and bridoon or pelham bit. Junior horses may be shown in snaffle bits until use of full bridles or pelham bits. The saddle should fit the horse properly and be comfortable for both horse and rider. The bridle should be clean, well-fitted, and include a bit suitable for the horse's comfort and control. Spurs and whips are optional. Horses may have one single braid with red

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ribbon next to the bridle path. Tails may not be braided.

4. **Conformation and Movement:** Judges evaluate both the conformation and movement of the horse. Friesians are expected to exhibit the breed's characteristic traits, including a well-arched neck, strong hindquarters, and animated, balanced movement with good extension. The horse should move freely and willingly in a balanced frame.
5. **Manners and Performance:** The horse should demonstrate excellent manners, responsiveness to the rider's aids, and an overall pleasurable performance. This includes steady, consistent gaits, smooth transitions, and obedience to the rider's commands.
6. **Judging Criteria:** Judges assess various aspects including performance, manners, suitability as an English pleasure horse with natural movement, and the overall impression of the turnout. Shown: Flat Walk, Normal Trot, Strong Trot, Canter both directions. Horses must be brought back to the walk before being asked to canter from the trot. Horses may not be asked to perform a gait using only the snaffle or curb bits. Extreme motion, speed, and an unquiet mouth must be penalized.

Open (excluding Jr horses) At judge's discretion, horses may be asked to extend any gait. To be judged on movement natural to the horse, brilliant performance, presence, quality, type, manners and conformation.

Amateur, Ladies & Juveniles At judge's discretion, horses may be asked to extend any gait except in Juvenile classes. To be judged on movement natural to the horse, brilliant performance, manners, type, quality, and conformation.

Junior Horses To be judged on movement natural to the horse, quality, brilliant performance, type, conformation, and manners.

CS6 Friesian English Park Saddle

Park saddle horses exhibit great expression and animation in their movements that are natural. All gaits are performed with cadence and balance. Artificial motion or extreme speed must be penalized. Horses must perform transitions with eagerness and ease. Horses are shown with collection at the animated walk, animated trot and canter in both directions of the ring. Horses enter the ring to the right at the animated trot. Horses are asked to line up at judges discretion, and may ask horses to back.

1. **Eligibility:** Horses entered in the class must be purebred or half-bred registered Friesian. Park Saddle classes may have divisions based on age, gender, or other criteria. Open to professionals, amateurs and Juvenile Exhibitors. Park Saddle entries may cross enter into the English Pleasure Saddle Seat or Pleasure Driving divisions.

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2. **Attire:** Riders usually wear traditional park saddle attire, which includes a formal show coat, light-colored jodhpurs or breeches, tall boots, a derby or appropriate headgear, and gloves. Attire should be neat, clean, and in good condition. Formal attire after 6pm is most appropriate.
3. **Tack & Apparel:** The horse should be equipped with a suitable park saddle and bridle. Saddle must be saddle seat styled. The full English bridle should be clean, well-fitted, and include a suitable curb bit and bridoon for the horse's comfort and control. Junior horses may be shown in a snaffle, but may not return to snaffle after showing in full bridle. Spurs and whips permitted, martingales, bell boots, braided mane or action devices are not.
4. **Conformation and Movement:** Judges assess both the conformation and movement of the horse. Friesians competing in park saddle classes are expected to exhibit the breed's characteristic traits, including a well-arched neck, strong hindquarters, and animated, high-stepping natural movement with good extension. The horse should move with energy, brilliance, and collection.
5. **Manners and Performance:** The horse should demonstrate excellent manners, responsiveness to the rider's aids, and an overall pleasurable performance. This includes steady, rhythmic gaits, smooth transitions, and obedience to the rider's commands. In a Park Saddle class, horses typically perform at a collected, high-stepping trot and canter. The pace should showcase the horse's athleticism, presence, and ability to perform in a showy manner.
6. **Presentation:** Presentation of both horse and rider is important. This includes grooming, turnout, and overall presentation of the turnout as a polished and harmonious team. The horse should be neatly trimmed and braided if appropriate.
7. **Judging Criteria:** Judges evaluate various aspects including conformation, movement, manners, suitability as a park saddle horse, and the overall impression of the turnout. Emphasis is often placed on brilliance, style, and presence. Shown: Animated Walk, Animated Trot and Canter both directions. Horses must be brought back to the walk before being asked to canter from the trot. Horses may not be asked to perform a gait using only the snaffle or curb bits. Extreme speed, and an unquiet mouth must be penalized.

Open (excluding Jr horses) shown at an animated walk, animated trot and canter both directions of the ring. To be judged on movement natural to the horse, brilliant performance, presence, quality, type, manners and conformation.

Amateur, Ladies & Juveniles To be judged on movement natural to the horse, brilliant performance, manners, type, quality, and conformation.

Junior Horses To be judged on movement natural to the horse, quality, brilliant performance, type, conformation and manners.

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CS7 Friesian Hunter Pleasure

Horses should appear to give a pleasurable ride and cover distance as if on the hunt. At a lower head collection than the Saddle Seat division the movement at the trot is forward going from the shoulder and ground covering. High animated motion is undesired with unnatural motion to be penalized. Horses enter the ring to the right at the trot and are shown both directions at the walk, trot and canter. An extension to any gate may be called in an OPEN class of horses 6 years and older. No more than 8 horses at once may perform at the gallop. Horses are called to line-up at the judges discretion, and must stand quietly. Horses may be asked to back.

1. **Eligibility:** Horses entered in the class must be purebred or half-bred registered Friesian. Hunter classes may have divisions based on age, gender, or other criteria. Open to professionals, amateurs and Juvenile Exhibitors. Hunt seat entries may cross enter into the Country Pleasure Saddle Seat, Western Seat and Country Pleasure Driving divisions.
2. **Attire:** Riders typically wear traditional hunter attire, which includes a conservative show coat, light-colored breeches, field boots or dress boots, a show shirt with a choker or stock tie, and hunt seat helmet. Attire should be neat, clean, and in good condition. Formal attire (shadbelly) is optional for all female exhibitors after 6 p.m. or in Championship classes held at any time. Formal attire consists of a hunter shadbelly with buff or canary breeches, stock tie, canary vest, top hat and hunt boots. Riders, including Juvenile Exhibitors, in Hunter Pleasure classes are not required to wear headgear.
3. **Tack & Apparel:** The horse should be equipped with appropriate hunter Tack & Apparel, including a well-fitted hunt seat saddle, bridle with a snaffle bit or suitable hunter bit, pelham, kimberwick or full bridle including curb and snaffle. Curb or pelham bits with cheek pieces cannot exceed 5 and ½ inches. Breast plates are permitted; however martingales are not. The Tack & Apparel should be clean and well-maintained. Horses' mane and tail should be hunter braided. No penalties for unbraided horses.
4. **Conformation and Movement:** Judges assess both the conformation and movement of the horse. Friesians should exhibit the breed's characteristic traits, including a well-arched neck, strong hindquarters, and balanced, ground-covering movement. The horse should move freely and comfortably, with a relaxed and flowing stride.

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5. **Manners and Performance:** The horse should demonstrate excellent manners, responsiveness to the rider's aids, and an overall pleasurable performance. This includes steady, rhythmic gaits, smooth transitions, and obedience to the rider's commands.
6. **Judging Criteria:** Judges assess various aspects including conformation, movement, manners, suitability as a hunter pleasure horse, and the overall impression of the turnout. Shown: Walk, Trot and Canter both directions. Judge may extend any gait in OPEN classes for horse 6 years and older. No more than 8 horses may gallop at once. Horses must be brought back to the walk before being asked to canter from the trot. Horses may not be asked to perform a gait using only the snaffle or curb bits. Horses must stand quietly in the line up and may be asked to back. Extreme speed, and an unquiet mouth must be penalized.

Open (excluding Jr horses) judged on performance, manners, type, quality, and conformation

Amateur, Ladies & Juveniles judged on manners, performance, type, quality, and conformation.

Junior Horses 3-5 years - judged on quality, type, performance, conformation, and manners.

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CS9 Friesian In Hand

1. **Eligibility:** Horses entered in the class must be purebred or half-bred registered Friesian. In-hand classes can include various categories such as weanling, yearling, two-year-old, three-year-old, mares, stallions, or geldings. Open to professionals, amateurs or Juvenile Exhibitors. Unless specified otherwise, horses are shown in English saddle seat bridles with curb bits only. Curb bits are prohibited for weanlings and yearlings.
2. **Handler Attire:** Handlers usually wear attire that is neat, clean, and appropriate for showing horses in-hand. This often includes conservative attire such as dress pants or khakis, a collared shirt or blouse, and closed-toe shoes. Some handlers may opt for more formal attire, particularly in championship or higher-level competitions.
3. **Horse Presentation:** The horse should be presented in-hand, meaning it is led by a handler (typically on a lead shank) rather than ridden. The handler should maintain proper position and present the horse to the judge in a professional manner. The horse's mane and tail should be neatly groomed, and any excess hair may be trimmed for a tidy appearance.
4. **Conformation:** Judges assess the horse's conformation, looking for structural correctness, balance, breed type, and overall quality. This includes evaluating the horse's proportions, angles, muscling, bone structure, and movement.
5. **Manners and Temperament:** The horse should display good manners and a cooperative temperament while being presented in-hand. It should stand quietly for inspection and move freely and smoothly when asked by the handler.
6. **Foot Handling:** In some in-hand classes, judges may inspect the horse's feet and legs for correctness, soundness, and quality of hoof care. The horse should be comfortable with having its feet handled and stand quietly for this examination.
7. **Presentation to the Judge:** The presentation of the horse to the judge is crucial, occurring at the appropriate moment and location within the show ring. This positioning enables the judge to thoroughly evaluate the horse from various angles and perspectives. Handlers must exhibit courtesy and attentiveness to the judge's directives.
8. **Upon the judge's discretion,** horses shall enter the ring and align themselves. Entries undergo individual assessment, initially while standing, then proceeding to a walk and trot on the line. Throughout, horses must demonstrate serviceable soundness. While standing, they should position themselves squarely on all four feet, ensuring the front legs are perpendicular to the ground. Though the rear legs may be slightly back, horses must not appear stretched, as they will also be judged in this state during the class.

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9. **Evaluation** primarily centers on type and conformation, with a secondary focus on the horse's ability to move correctly while led. Unnatural tail carriage warrants penalization.
10. **Handlers:** Furthermore, only two handlers are permitted in the ring per horse. Each handler may carry one whip without appendages.
11. **Judging Criteria:** Judges evaluate various aspects of the horse's presentation, including conformation, movement, manners, breed type, and overall presence. Horses are typically scored based on how well they conform to the breed standard and their performance relative to other entries in the class. Shown: Standing; at the walk and trot. Judged: Type and conformation; with consideration given for the horse's ability to move correctly on the lead.

CS11 Friesian Western Pleasure

Horses must exhibit manners, quality and presence while performing with collection at all gaits. Light rein contact required at all times. The western jog is a collected 2 beat diagonal slow trot, and the lope is 3 beat slow rolling canter, with 4 beat lopes to be heavily penalized. Horses are shown both directions of the ring, and enter to the right at the jog. Horses are shown at the walk, jog and lope. The judge may extend any gate in the OPEN division for horses 6 years or older. Judge may call for the line up at discretion where horses must stand quietly, and must be asked to back in a straight line collected and on a loose rein. Western horses must display a quiet mouth and excellent manners at all times.

1. **Eligibility:** Horses entered in the class must be purebred or half-bred registered Friesian. Western Pleasure classes may have divisions based on age, gender, or other criteria. Open to professionals, amateurs and Juvenile Exhibitors.
2. **Attire:** Riders typically wear traditional Western attire, which includes a Western hat, long-sleeved shirt with western neck tie or pin. Western-style pants and chaps, and boots. Attire should be neat, clean, and in good condition. Gloves are an option, however preferred in equitation. Whips are not allowed, spurs are permitted.
3. **Tack & Apparel:** The horse should be equipped with suitable Western Tack & Apparel, including a Western saddle, breast harness, bridle, and standard western bit, defined as not exceeding 8 and ½ inches with the mouthpiece bar not exceeding 5/16" to ¾" inches in diameter. Jointed bits are allowed with 2-3 joints. Slip, gag, rigid donut, or reining or polo bits not allowed. Hackamores and snaffles permitted on junior horses 4 years and younger. Nosebands or cavesons are not permitted. The saddle should fit the horse properly and be comfortable for both horse and rider. The bridle should be clean, well-fitted, and include a suitable bit for the horse's comfort and control. Curb chains are required to be flat ½ inch width. Romel or split reins may be used, neither may be weighted which results in disqualification. Riders using Romel reins may not use

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two hands or insert fingers between reins, judges must heavily penalize for misuse. Western horses may not be touched by the rider in front of the cinch or girth until judges cards are turned in.

4. **Conformation and Movement:** Judges assess both the conformation and movement of the horse. Morgans competing in Western Pleasure classes should exhibit the breed's characteristic traits, including a well-arched neck, strong hindquarters, and smooth, relaxed movement. The horse should move freely and willingly in a relaxed frame.
5. **Manners and Performance:** The horse should demonstrate excellent manners, responsiveness to the rider's cues, and an overall pleasurable performance. This includes steady, consistent gaits, smooth transitions, and obedience to the rider's commands. In a Western Pleasure class, horses typically perform at a controlled, relaxed jog and lope. The pace should be suitable for a comfortable ride and allow the horse to demonstrate its movement and style while maintaining a relaxed and collected frame.
6. **Presentation:** Presentation of both horse and rider is important. This includes grooming, turnout, and overall presentation of the turnout as a polished and harmonious team. The horse should be neatly groomed, with a clean and well-maintained appearance.
7. **Judging Criteria:** Judges evaluate various aspects including conformation, movement, manners, suitability as a Western pleasure horse, and the overall impression of the turnout. Emphasis is often placed on the horse's ability to perform comfortably and willingly at the jog and lope gaits. Shown: Walk, jog-trot, and lope. May ask for extension of any gait. Required to back.

Open (excluding Jr horses) judged on performance, manners, type, quality, and conformation.

Amateur, Ladies & Juveniles judged on manners, performance, type, quality and conformation.

Junior Horses 3-5 years - judged on quality, type, performance, conformation and manners.