

CLASSES

CONFORMATION CLASSES (Classes 1–4, 18–19, 28–31)

1. Personal appearance of the club member: neat, clean, well groomed, attentive, courteous, and in appropriate attire as described in each division. An SEI or SEI/ASTM approved equestrian helmet with fastened chin harness is required in all divisions.
2. Horses judged on conformation, condition, heritable defects, soundness, and way of going at discretion of judge.
3. Horses will be judged individually while standing, at a walk, and a trot (or natural gait*) on the line.
4. Horses may be shown in halters made of leather, rope, or other suitable material. (In English classes horse may be shown in halter or bridle.)
5. Whips or bats of any type are not permitted in conformation classes.
6. Horses will be handled and shown by one club member only.
7. Horses should enter the ring as specified by the official. Subsequent procedures will be as directed by judge and/or ring steward.
8. When the top 10 horses are placed (top 6 for areas), ring steward shall line them up in order of placing so that the public may see how the horses are placed.

SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES (Classes 5–6, 20–21, 32–33)

1. Showmanship classes are not conformation, model, or grooming classes, although grooming and fitting is certainly part of the judging criteria. This is a performance class with emphasis to be placed on the exhibitor's ability to show the animal.
2. Club member and equipment:
 - A. Personal appearance of the club member: neat, clean, well groomed, attentive, courteous, and in appropriate attire as described in each division. An SEI or SEI/ASTM approved equestrian helmet with fastened chin harness is required in all divisions.
 - B. Equipment:
 - (1) Hunter: Clean, adjusted, and acceptable hunter bridle or halter. No crops or bats are permitted.

* Gaited horses in Saddle Seat Gaited Performance Division only

- (2) Saddle Seat: Clean, adjusted halter or bridle (full, pelham, curb or snaffle). No whips are permitted.
 - (3) Western: Clean, adjusted halter to fit the horse. Fancy halters shall not be given preference over good working halters. No whips or bats permitted.
3. Horse (fitting and grooming):
 - A. The horse should be clean, well groomed, and fitted for its type.
 - B. The horse's feet should be cleaned and either trimmed or properly shod.
 4. Method of showing (Showmanship):
 - A. Walk, trot (or natural gait*) turn, stop, back, and pose your horse as directed by the judge or ring steward.
 - B. Lead from the left side of your horse with your right hand on the lead shank or bridle reins. When showing your horse at a walk, walk by his side – never directly in front of him. His head should be about even with your shoulder. When moving, keep your horse's neck, head, and body in a straight line and maintain precise control. Move him directly toward or away from the judge, unless the judge indicates that he wishes to see him from the side.
 - C. Show the horse with a shank short enough to assure maximum control and responsiveness from the horse. The basic position of the exhibitor should allow constant observation of the horse's feet and also permit observation of the judge and ring officials.
 - D. Never obstruct the view of the judge and do not stand directly in front of the horse.
 - E. Run by the left side of your horse when you are showing him at the trot (or natural gait*). He should move willingly toward or away from the judge with his head, neck, and body in a straight line. He should trot freely, fast and be alert with head up but not too high.
 - F. When a particular show ring procedure being used by a judge requires horses to be reversed, they should be turned to the right. Turn in as small a space as possible and attempt to keep the horse's hind feet planted in one place while turning. All turns should be made natural. Any turn requiring more than 90 degrees should be made to the right.
 - G. Keep your horse posed at all times and know where the judge is and what he wants. A good showman always gives the judge the best view of the horse. You cannot change your horse's type and conformation but you can improve his style and appearance. Make it easy for the judge to see your horse to its best advantage.
 - H. Keep your proper position in line, and allow reasonable space (at least six feet) between your horse and the other horses. Never let your horse interfere with another horse.

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- I. Be alert when leading in a circle – observe the horse in front of you; bumping this horse from the rear is a serious fault in showmanship and very unsafe.
- J. If asked to change positions in the line, back your horse out of the line and approach the new position from behind. Space horses adequately.
- K. Move easily, quietly, and with confidence when showing your horse. Be courteous, respond promptly to directions, and demonstrate good horsemanship at all times.
- L. Do your showing with the lead shank or bridle reins.
- M. Faults in showing at showmanship:
 - (1) Allowing the horse to remain out of position.
 - (2) Standing directly in front of your horse.
 - (3) Kicking horse's feet to move them.
 - (4) Failure of the horse to lead properly.
 - (5) Failing to stop before turning when showing at the walk or trot.
 - (6) Failure to back.
 - (7) Loud voice commands to your horse or other unnecessary actions.
 - (8) Picking up the horse's feet for positioning purposes.

WESTERN DIVISION (Classes 1–17)

APPOINTMENTS:

PERSONAL: Clothing must be clean and neat. Riders shall wear western boots (no tennis shoes or sport shoes are acceptable) and western dress pants or jeans. Shirts must have a collar and long sleeves or be appropriate show attire (i.e. slinky's, band collars, turtlenecks). Spurs, chaps, and similar equipment are optional. All exhibitors are required to wear an SEI or SEI/ASTM approved equestrian safety helmet with fastened chin harness in every class (see rule #3 on page 8).

TACK: Horse shall be shown with a stock saddle; silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. Martingales, tie-downs, nose bands, or draw reins are prohibited. No wire curbs, regardless of how taped or padded, nor curb strap narrower than 1/2" will be permitted. A non-mechanical hackamore may be used in any class but only by junior horses (5 years of age and under). Mechanical hackamores are prohibited except in timed events. Carrying of a rope is optional. A judge shall have the authority to require the removal or adjustment of any piece of equipment which in his opinion would give a horse an unfair advantage or constitute excessive harshness or cruelty.

BITS: IMPORTANT - See Contest Rules, Regulations and Procedures (page 11) for description of legal bits for Western Division.