

TRI COUNTY HORSE ASSOCIATION SHOW RULES

SECTION 1. GENERAL RULES

- A. All shows require exhibitors to present a current “original” negative Coggins test for each horse brought onto the show grounds. Current original negative Coggins required for all horses six months and over. A legible copy of Coggins test to be left with show committee.
- B. Contestants must be T.C.H.A. members in order to be eligible for year-end awards. Membership fees will be determined annually by the board. Must be a paid member to vote.
- C. All clubs, organizations, and individuals must apply to the T.C.H.A. directors for applications to hold, sponsor, or stage a show under T.C.H.A. rules. A program of events must be submitted to the T.C.H.A. secretary by the April meeting, along with the sanction fee. In event any club feels a need to revise their program, it will have until May 1<sup>st</sup> to re-submit the changed program.
- D. All shows start promptly at nine o’clock AM C.S.T., except as noted on show bill.
- E. All judging will be in accord with T.C.H.A. rules. The judge must be approved by the Board of Directors. A judge may judge only one T.C.H.A. show per year. The name of all judges should be submitted by the March meeting.
- F. All exhibitors and contestants will be permitted the opportunity to join T.C.H.A. before the start of a class and by noon of the third show to be eligible for points and year-end awards. Failure of Exhibitor to join T.C.H.A. before entering the ring will result in no year-end points awarded for that show.
- G. No two sanctioned shows shall be held on the same day.
- H. The arena is to be enclosed by board fencing for all speed events.
- I. Points are not transferable at any time for any circumstance.
- J. Six places will be awarded in each class. Points will be determined by placing. The following point system is established: 1<sup>st</sup> place-6 points; 2<sup>nd</sup> place-5 points; 3<sup>rd</sup> place-4 points; 4<sup>th</sup> place-3 points; 5<sup>th</sup> place-2 points; 6<sup>th</sup> place – 1 point. First place shall receive six points no matter how many entries are in the class. Accumulated points will be tallied toward the Champion and Reserve awards for the T.C.H.A. year end banquet. In case of a tie, both horse and rider combinations shall receive an award.
- K. Point records must be submitted to the T.C.H.A. Point Secretary the day of any approved show. Point records and show results will be published by the T.C.H.A. point secretary. Master show sheets are to be kept until the end of the year.

- L. Age of contestants at any T.C.H.A. sanctioned show will be as follows:  
12 years of age and under  
13 - 16 years of age  
17 - 29 years of age  
30 years of age and over
- M. The age of the horse will be determined as of January 1st of the year following its birth. For example, a horse born in May of 2004 will be considered a one year old on January 1, 2005.
- N. Points will be awarded to the HORSE AND RIDER COMBINATION. Horse and rider combination must show a minimum of three (3) times in a class to be eligible for year-end awards. **Must join TCHA by noon of third show to be eligible for year-end awards.**
- O. Any riding class with 15 or more (especially the 12 and under groups) may be split. This will be up to the discretion of the show committee.
- P. All shows MUST offer the following classes. Any optional class may be held. Classes must run in the following sequence:

#### SPEED EVENTS

1. Pole Bending 30 years and older
2. Pole Bending 17 – 29 years
3. Pole Bending 13 – 16 years
4. Pole Bending 12 years and under
5. Barrels 30 years and older
6. Barrels 17 – 29 years
7. Barrels 13 – 16 years
8. Barrels 12 years and under
9. Lead Line Barrels 4 yrs – 8 yrs (Not a point class)(Leaders must be 18 & older)  
Rider cannot enter any riding classes
10. Midwest Flag Race 30 years and older
11. Midwest Flag Race 17 – 29 years
12. Midwest Flag Race 13 – 16 years
13. Midwest Flag Race 12 years and under
14. Plug Race 30 years and older
15. Plug Race 17 – 29 years
16. Plug Race 13 – 16 years
17. Plug Race 12 years and under
18. Keyhole Race 30 years and older
19. Keyhole Race 17 – 29 years
20. Keyhole Race 13 -16 years
21. Keyhole Race 12 years and under

## HALTER/PERFORMANCE CLASSES

22. Hunter in Hand
23. Weanlings and Yearlings at Halter
24. English Breed Mares & Fillies at Halter
25. Stock Breed Mares & Fillies at Halter
26. English Breed Geldings, Stallions, Colts at Halter
27. Stock Breed Geldings, Stallions, Colts at Halter
28. Solid Horse at Halter
29. Color Horse at Halter
30. Showmanship 30 years and older
31. Showmanship 17 – 29 years
32. Showmanship 13 – 16 years
33. Showmanship 12 years and under
34. Lead Line **4 years – 8 years** (Not a point class) Rider cannot enter any riding classes
35. Open Walk-Trot English Pleasure (Non-restricted)
36. Junior Horse English Pleasure (horses 5 yrs. and under)
37. Senior Horse English Pleasure (horses 6 yrs. and older)
38. English Pleasure Hunt Seat 30 years and older
39. English Pleasure Hunt Seat 17 – 29 years
40. English Pleasure Hunt Seat 13 – 16 years
41. English Pleasure Hunt Seat 12 years and under
42. Open English Breed English Pleasure
43. Open Stock Breed Pleasure Hunt Seat
44. English Equitation 30 years and older
45. English Equitation 17 – 19 years
46. English Equitation 13 – 16 years
47. English Equitation 12 years and under
48. **Open Novice Walk-Trot English Pleasure (RESTRICTED)**
49. Walk-Trot English Pleasure 11- 17 years
50. Walk-Trot English Pleasure 10 & Under
51. Open Walk-Trot English Equitation
52. Walk-Trot English Equitation 11 – 17 years
53. Walk-Trot English Equitation 10 & Under
54. Open Hunter Hack
55. **Open Novice Walk-Trot Western Pleasure (RESTRICTED)**
56. Walk-Trot Western Pleasure 11- 17 years
57. Walk-Trot Western Pleasure 10 & under
58. Open Walk-Trot Western Horsemanship
59. Walk-Trot Western Horsemanship 11- 17 years
60. Walk-Trot Western Horsemanship 10 & under
61. Open Walk-Trot Western Pleasure (Non-restricted)
62. Junior Horse Western Pleasure (horses 5 yrs. and under)
63. Senior Horse Western Pleasure (horses 6 yrs and older)
64. Western Pleasure 30 years and older
65. Western Pleasure 17 – 29 years
66. Western Pleasure 13 – 16 years
67. Western Pleasure 12 years and under
68. Open English Breed Western Pleasure
69. Open Stock Breed Western Pleasure
70. Western Horsemanship 30 years and over

71. Western Horsemanship 17 – 29 years
72. Western Horsemanship 13 – 16 years
73. Western Horsemanship 12 years and under
74. Open Trail Class
75. Open Ranch Horse Class

- Q. Exhibitors shall be responsible for any accident caused by their animal
- R. T.C.H.A. is not responsible for any loss, injury, or damage to any person, article or animal.
- S. Animals improperly registered in a class may be disqualified.
- T. PROFANITY, improper language, gestures, or abusive actions will be cause for disqualification.
- U. Horse is not to be hit in front of the girth in any class. Violation will cause disqualification in that class.
- V. A two minute gate time, from when the first horse enters the arena will be maximum for all classes except speed or when a five minute tack change is taken. (A tack change must be requested in writing two classes prior, to the announcer).
- W. A person may show more than one horse in a class as long as each horse/rider combination is entered separately.
- X. A horse may be ridden more than one time in the same age group by different riders if registered as a different TCHA horse/rider combination. For example, brother and sister may ride the same horse in a class.
- Y. The SHOW CHAIRPERSON RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL OR POSTPONE any classes or show if dangerous ring conditions or adverse weather conditions exists.
- Z. All or any rules may be changed at any time during the course of the year with the exception of age groups and classes and will be effective the following year.
- AA. No stallions will be shown by anyone under 18 years of age in any class. EXCEPTION: Mini Stallions and colts (colts-born in the same calendar year) can be shown by exhibitors 13 years and older.
- AB. All contestants must wear approved riding boots (no riding tennis shoes allowed).
- AC. A lunch break of one-half hour is required. This will normally be after Lead Line and before Open English Pleasure.
- AD. Judge's placing cards shall be filled out and signed for halter and performance classes.
- AE. Only one horse/exhibitor allowed in the arena once the gate is closed. Any exceptions will need prior approval.
- AF. If a situation occurs that is not specifically covered by these rules, the judge's decision will be final.

## SECTION II. JUDGING RULES

### A. General Judging Rules

1. Ringmaster or steward shall not take part in judging or discuss judging procedures with the judge. Ringmaster must remain neutral at all times.
2. The judge, ringmaster, or steward may call out any contestant at any time as to improper attire, horse, or tack for safety reasons.
3. The judge's decision in each class will be final.
4. The ringmaster is in charge of all activities in the show arena. Ringmaster is to admit animals to and from the ring and to see that animals registered in the class are present. Ringmaster is to observe and enforce safety precautions and assist the judge only in situations where the decisions of judging are not involved.
5. All protests must be filed with the TCHA secretary within forty-eight (48) hours of the show in which it occurred. A protest or charge must state the full name and address of the accused and contain a complete and definite statement of the acts which constitute the alleged violation. Precise details regarding a violation of the rules are necessary. The maker must be prepared to substantiate the protest or charge by personal testimony at a hearing or by sworn statements, witnesses, or other evidence. The maker of the protest must be a contestant or guardian. A protest shall be accompanied by a five dollar (\$5.00) fee to be refunded in event the protest is validated. A hearing shall be held within seven (7) days of a protest. The hearing will be conducted by the Board of Directors in a closed meeting. All members wishing to address the Board regarding the protest will be given an opportunity to speak at the meeting. The Board will announce its decision at the conclusion of the meeting.

### B. Halter Classes

1. Judging will be based on 50% conformation, 25% grooming; 25% manners and way of going.
2. Handlers of stallions must be 18 years of age or older. EXCEPTION: Mini stallions and colts (colts born in the same calendar year) can be shown by exhibitors 13 years and older.
3. Mares are not to be shown with foals at side and foals are to be shown without mares in the arena.
4. Lamé horses may be shown at the judge's discretion.
5. Open face bridle or halters may be used.
6. Horses under saddle are not allowed in halter classes.
7. Stallions must be shown with lead chain curb on halter. (In event an open-faced bridle is used, chain curb must be a minimum of one-half inch flat chain).
8. Exhibitors must wear proper attire (see performance).
9. Showmanship will be based on 50% showing; 10% exhibitor; 40% appearance of horse.

### C. Hunter In Hand

#### Equipment:

English headstall equipped with any acceptable single-rein English and that complies with appropriate equipment rules for the age of the horse shown. Notwithstanding the above, English bridle is mandatory on horses two years and older and plain leather halter is required on weanling and yearling horses. For horses one year old and younger, halters are mandatory. The halter and lead must be of plain leather. The chain on the lead may be over the nose or under the chin; however no chains are allowed in the horse's mouth and no lip chains are allowed. The use of a crop or bat is optional.

#### Attire:

Attire of the handler should permit free movement. Color may be chosen to compliment horse but should be conservative. Suitable attire shall be a collared polo shirt or collared dress shirt (solid colored and either white or another conservative color, vest, tie and gloves (optional). Dress pants should be loose enough in which to run. If a belt is worn, it should be a plain belt, not of western type or style. Jeans are forbidden. Running shoes or paddock boots are required.

#### Class conduct:

Horses will be judged individually on the triangle. The horses will approach the judging area (A) and set up for inspection in the "open" position (i.e. with all four legs of the horse visible by the judge standing on either side of the horse). The judge shall inspect each horse from the front, rear and both sides. Transmissible weakness and/or conditions shall be counted strongly against animals. At the judge's request, the horse will then walk the small triangle ABCA. The horse will continue on at a trot following the large ADEA. At the completion of the judging, the handler will lead the horse away from the judging area. As one horse leaves, the next one will enter the judging area promptly. An exhibitor may show more than one horse in a class.

#### D. Solid/Color Halter Class

Qualifications/Judging for solid and color halter class will be 60% color and 40% conformation. The entire class will be ran and judged by walking a circle in both directions, followed by a line up for inspection.

#### E. English Pleasure Classes (Pleasure)

1. Judging will be based on 60% performance and manners; 30% of type and quality; 10% on appointments.
2. To be shown under flat saddle (English type) with leather or web girth. Bridle shall be light show type with English bit. Double or single reins optional. No martingale, tiedown, or draw reins. Spurs, crops or whips are optional.
3. Horses are to be shown at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the arena, and at the judge's discretion, shall change from any gait to a flat-footed walk. May also be required to back.
4. Attire: Hunter type: Hunt style jacket or blazer in a conservative color; riding breeches or jodhpurs, hunting cap and hunter boots. A regular tie, choker or stock tie must be worn. Spurs of the unrowelled type, crops or bats optional. Saddle or Walking horses: saddle suits or Kentucky jodhpurs with day coats, collared shirt with tie, derby or soft hat, and jodhpur boots. Spurs, crops or whips are optional.
5. Individual test (optional): Mount or dismount. Individual performance on rail. Figure eight at the trot. Canter and stop. Ride without irons. Change of leads down center of ring demonstrating simple changes of lead. Figure eight at canter on correct lead demonstrating simple change of lead. (One figure eight demonstrates two changes of lead and is completed by closing up the 1<sup>st</sup> circle and stopping in the center of the eight).

## F. Junior Horse English Pleasure

1. The horse must be five years and under as of January 1<sup>st</sup> pursuant to Section 1 of General rules, Letter M. To be shown at a walk, trot and lope.
2. This class will be judged on substance, performance, manners, in that order. Substance is a full bodied appearance which gives the horse a look of powerful, muscular strength. Performance is the manner in which a horse performs all gaits and maneuvers required of him. He should respond to commands instantly and smoothly and execute each gait in proper form. Manners are the behavior and attitude of this horse towards other horses, his rider, and his surroundings. A horse which has good manners is willing, steady, obedient, and cheerful. He keeps his attention on his work. He does not carry sour ears, tail, shy, fight the bit, threaten to kick, or appear nervous.
3. Any humane English type snaffle bit shall be allowed and open to inspection by the judge.
4. Two hands may be used during the calls with the snaffle.
5. English dress shall be as in any other English class.

## G. English Performance classes (Equitation)

1. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, performance of horse, appointments of horse and rider, and suitability of horse to rider.
2. To be shown under flat saddle (English type) with leather or web girth. Bridle shall be light show type with English bit. Double or single reins optional. No martingale, tiedown, or draw reins. Spurs, crops or whips are optional.
3. Attire: hair must be neat and securely fastened if long, so as not to cover rider's number.  
Hunter type: Hunter style jacket or blazer in a conservative color riding breeches or jodhpurs, hunting cap and hunter boots. A regular tie, choker or stock tie must be worn. Spurs of the unrowelled type, crops or bats optional. Saddle or Walking horses; saddle suits or Kentucky jodhpurs with day coats, collared shirt with tie, derby or soft hat, and jodhpur boots. Spurs, crops or whips are optional. Judges may eliminate or penalize contestants who do not conform.
4. Entries are to enter the ring at a walk or trot and are to be judged at a walk, trot and canter. After the pattern, at the judge's discretion, they may be excused or may be worked one or both ways of the ring.
5. Individual test (optional): Mount or dismount. Individual performance on rail. Figure eight at the trot. Canter and stop. Ride without irons. Change of leads down center of ring demonstrating simple lead changes. Figure eight at a lope on correct lead demonstrating simple change of lead. (One figure eight demonstrates two changes of lead and is completed by closing up the 1<sup>st</sup> circle and stopping in the center of the eight).

## H. Open Hunter Hack

**\*\*NEW\*\***

**Minimum of two entries for class to be held. Exhibitors must sign up for class by English Equitation 30 & Over. If class is cancelled, exhibitor will receive a refund of the entry fee.**

Appointments – Exhibitors and Judges should bear in mind that, at all times, entries are being judged on ability rather than on personal attire. However, riders should wear traditional shades of buff, grey, rust, canary or navy blue for jackets and britches. High English boots or jodhpur shoes

are required. Dark blue, black or brown hunting cap is mandatory. Stock, tie or choker is required. Spurs of the unrowelled type, crops or bats optional. Hair must be neat and contained (as in a net or braid). Judges must penalize contestants who do not conform.

Tack appointments – The following is required: English snaffle (no shank), Pelham (with two reins), Kimberwick and /or full bridle, all with cavesson nosebands and plain leather brown bands. Any deviation from regulation bits is prohibited. Saddle: hunting or forward seat, may have suede seat and/or suede insert on skirt.

Prohibited Appointments – Boots of any description on the horse, also draw reins, martingales or rowelled spurs.

**ASTM/SET approved helmets required for all jumping classes for all age groups.**

The hunter horse should move in the following style:

1. The horse should begin and end with the same speed, which should be neither excessively slow or fast: the horse should present a flowing ride over the fences without refusals or change of pace.
2. The horse should round itself over the jump, and should take off and land approximately the same distance from the jump. The horse should also take the center of the jump, even if approaching the jump at an angle, well away from the standards or wings.
3. Horses that have bad form should be penalized as to the extent of the error. Examples of bad form are:
  - A. Hanging one or both front legs when over a jump.
  - B. Twisting in the air over a jump.
  - C. Stalling in the air over a jump.
4. Distance will be **60 feet** between fences/jumps.

Horses are required to jump a minimum of two (2) fences, 18 inches (18”) in height. A ground line is recommended for each jump. Circling once upon entering the ring and once upon leaving is permissible.

The class will be judged on style over fences, even hunting pace, flat work, manners and way of going.

Soundness-All horses must be serviceably sound. Any horse showing lameness, broken wind, or impairment of vision shall be refused an award.

Elimination:

A total of three disobediences which can include any of the following: refusal, stop, runout, or extra circle.

- Jumping an obstacle before it is reset
- Bolting from the arena
- Failure to keep proper course
- Deliberately addressing an obstacle
- Horse and/or rider falling in competition



A horse is considered to have fallen when shoulder and haunch on the same side touch the ground or the obstacle hit the ground.

## I. Hunter over Fences/Equitation over Fences

ASTM/SEI approved helmets required for all age groups. It is the responsibility of the rider, parent or guardian, or trainer to comply with the helmet rule. The headgear must be secure and properly fitted.

### WARM UP OVER FENCES

A designated warm up period for over fences shall be established and announced at each show. Only those exhibitors registered for the Hunter Hack or Hunter/Equitation over fences classes shall be permitted to warm up over the fences. Courtesy and safety of other horse/riders should be given and all efforts should be made to keep warm up minimal. Unruly horses shall discontinue warm up.

### ATTIRE AND APPOINTMENTS

Personal Attire – Exhibitors are being judged on ability, not personal attire. Riders should wear hunt coats, breeches or jodhpurs and boots. Conservative colored protective headgear is mandatory. Riders should wear traditional English dress/field boots or paddock boots for juniors. Spurs of the unrowelled type, crops or bats are optional. Judges may penalize contestants who do not conform. When management permits riders to ride without jackets, riders must wear traditional short sleeve, or long sleeve riding shirts with chokers or ties. Sleeveless shirts without jacket are unacceptable. Polo shirts and chaps/half chaps are not permitted except in the warm up periods.

Tack – Regulation snaffles, pelhams and full bridles, all with cavesson nose bands are recommended. A judge may penalize a horse with nonconventional types of bits or nose bands (flash, dropped, etc.). Saddle should be a hunting or forward seat. Martingales are prohibited on the flat in any class. Draw reins, rowelled spurs, and any type of boots on the horse will be considered prohibited tack.

In case of broken equipment or loss of shoe, the competitor must continue or be eliminated from the class.

### GENERAL RULES

Cross entry between Hunter/Equitation over fences classes and hunter hack class will be allowed.

The horse should begin and end with same speed and gait, which should be neither excessively slow or fast. The horse should present a flowing ride over the fences without refusals or change of pace.

The horse should round itself over the jump, and should take off and land approximately the same distance from the jump. The horse should take the center of the jump even if approaching the jump at an angle, well away from the standards or wings.

Horses that have bad form/faults should be penalized to the extent of the error. The following faults are scored according to the judge's opinion – these may be considered major or minor

faults:

#### BAD FORM

Hanging one or both front legs when over a jump  
Twisting in the air over a jump  
Stalling in the air over a jump

#### MINOR FAULTS (can be considered major when cumulative)

Showing an obstacle to a horse  
Missing a lead change  
Spooking  
Jumping into corners of obstacles  
Kicking out  
Jumping out of form

#### MAJOR FAULTS

Knock down of any part of an obstacle  
Trotting while on course when it is not specified  
Stopping for loss of shoe or broken equipment  
Dangerous jumping  
Refusals  
Bucking  
Circling while on course

The following may or may not be considered as faults, depending on their severity and frequency:

Light rubs  
Late lead changes  
Adding or eliminating a stride in a line  
Swapping leads in a line  
Excessive show of animation

#### ELIMINATION

Three refusals  
Jumping a fence before it is reset  
Off course  
Bolting from the ring

Fall of horse and/or rider – (A horse is considered fallen when shoulder and haunch on the same side touch the ground or the obstacle).

\*\*An eliminated competitor may make one attempt to jump an additional single obstacle but may not continue thereafter. A competitor who is eliminated is ineligible to receive an award regardless of the number of competitors in the class. If the elimination occurs during a ride off, if deemed necessary by the judge, the competitor is placed last.

## OPEN HUNTER/EQUITATION OVER FENCES CLASS DESCRIPTION

The course for the class shall be posted at each show. The class is open for all ages and levels. although normally considered a canter class, participants may choose the option to either trot or canter the course and will be judged accordingly. Riders will be penalized for inconsistencies of their chosen gait. (If rider chooses to trot-two necessary canter strides between fences 2 and 3 are acceptable, rider to resume trotting throughout the remainder of the course).

The course to be judged shall consist of a minimum of four (4) obstacles to a maximum of six (6) obstacles in crossrail form, with the height in the center to be no higher than 18 inches. A minimum of a six (6) fences course will be required for proper completion, with a maximum of eight (8) fences. A ground pole shall be inclusive with fence and with an additional ground pole added to opposite side of the fence, if fence is to be jumped from both directions. There will be a four (4) stride line sixty (60 feet) between fences placed on/near the rail and a three (3) stride line forty-eight (48) feet between fences placed on the diagonal.

The performance begins when the horse enters the ring and is given the signal to proceed after entering the ring. A courtesy circle shall be mandatory at the beginning of the course and is optional at the courses' completion. If the riders choose to canter while on the courtesy circle, it is expected that he/she shall complete the course in a canter gait and respectively for the trot. upon completion of the courtesy circle the rider will take the fences in the numbered order per posted course drawing and optional ending courtesy circle. There shall be no rail work for the hunter course and the rider will exit the ring upon completion and/or signal to exit.

## CLASS ROUTINE

The horse should begin and end with same speed and gait presenting a flowing ride without refusals or change of pace, round itself over the jump, should take the center of the jump even if approaching the jump at an angle. The horse should not hang one or both front legs when over a jump, twist or stall in the air over a jump.

Equitation Over Fences - The rider is being judged, therefore, except for refusals, jumping faults of the horse are not to be considered unless it is the result of the rider's ability.

## POSITION

GENERAL – Rider should have a workmanlike appearance, seat and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control.

HANDS – Hands should be over and in front of horse's withers, knuckles thirty degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from horse's mouth to rider's elbow. method of holding reins is optional and reins may fall on either side; however, all reins must be picked up at the same time.

BASIC POSITION – The eyes should be up and shoulders back. Toes should be at angle best

suited to rider's conformation; ankles flexed in, heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse and slightly behind girth. Iron should be on the ball of the foot and must not be tied to the girth.

POSITION IN MOTION – At the walk, sitting trot and canter, body should be a couple of degrees in front of the vertical, posting trot, inclined forward, galloping and jumping, same inclination as the posting trot.

Outside assistance – Outside assistance will be penalized at the judge's discretion.

J. Western Pleasure Classes (Pleasure)

1. Judging will be based on 75% manners and way of going; 25% western seat and attire.
2. Only humane bits, curbs, spurs, etc. will be used. ALL horses six years and older must be shown with a shanked bit.
3. Curb strap must be loose enough to slide two fingers between strap and horse's chin.
4. Chain curb must be a minimum of one-half inch flat chain.
5. Western Pleasure will be judged at a walk, trot and lope on a reasonable loose rein. Reverse will be away from the rail. Western tack is required, along with a Western hat and boots. Rope, chaps, spurs, etc. are optional. Tiedown prohibited, but breast strap allowed. Horse is judged as to leads, response to commands, and control over excessive speed.

K. Junior Horse Western Pleasure

1. The horse must be five years and under pursuant to Section 1 of General Rules, Letter M.  
To be shown at a walk, trot, and lope.
2. This class will be judged on substance, performance, manners –in that order. Substance is a full bodied appearance which gives the horse a look of powerful, muscular strength. Performance is the manner in which a horse performs all gaits and maneuvers required of him. He should respond to commands instantly and smoothly and execute each gait in proper form. Manners is the behavior and attitude of this horse towards other horses, his rider, and his surroundings. A horse which has good manners is willing, steady, obedient, and cheerful. He keeps his attention on his work. He does not carry sour ears, tail, shy, fight the bit, threaten to kick, or appear nervous.
3. Any humane bit or bosal shall be allowed and open to inspection by the judge.
4. Two hands may be used during the class with the SNAFFLE or BOSAL
5. If a shanked bit is used, the rider must use one hand.
6. Western dress shall be as in any other western class.

L. Western Performance Classes (Horsemanship)

1. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, performance of horse, appointments of horse and rider and suitability of horse to rider.
2. Equipment: refer to Western Pleasure rules 2, 3 and 4.
3. Attire: A belt, western hat, and boots are required. Spurs and chaps are optional. Hair must be neat and securely fastened if long, so as not to cover rider's number. Judges may eliminate or penalize contestants who do not conform.
4. Entries are to enter the ring at a walk or jog and are to be judged at a flat-footed four beat walk, jog, and lope. They may be worked one or both ways of the ring, after the pattern at the judge's discretion and shall always be on the correct lead.  
The order to reverse may be executed by turning either toward or away from the rail.

5. Individual test (optional): Mount or dismount. Individual performance on rail. Figure eight at the jog. Lope and stop. Ride without stirrups. Change of leads down center of ring demonstrating simple changes of lead. Figure eight at a lope on correct lead demonstrating simple change of lead. (One figure eight demonstrates two changes of lead and is completed by closing up the 1st circle and stopping in the center of the eight).

M. Lead Line

1. Leader must be at least 18 years of age, wear workmanlike clothing, and appropriate boots.
2. Rider must wear appropriate attire (See English/Western attire).
3. A halter must be worn over or under the bridle with attached lead.
4. Rider may be required to walk, back, trot and reverse. (Pattern may be asked for by judge).
5. Rider may not enter any riding classes.
6. Rider must be 4 yrs. to 8 yrs. of age.
7. Rider is required to wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.

N. Walk-Trot 10 and Under

1. Rider will be judged on Equitation an ability to handle horse.
2. Rider may show either English or Western and must wear proper attire.
3. Rider will be required to walk, trot and go both ways of the ring. Patterns are not permissible.
4. Martingales and humane snaffle bits are permissible.
5. Rider to never have entered any other sanctioned TCHA class required to canter, excluding speed.

O. Walk-Trot English Pleasure/Western Pleasure

1. Horse will be judged on performance at a walk and trot.
2. Rider will show English or Western, depending on the class chosen and wear proper attire.
3. Rider will be required to walk, trot, and go both ways of the ring. A pattern may be asked for.
- \*4. Horse and rider combination to never had entered any other sanctioned TCHA class required to canter, excluding speed.  
\* **EXCEPTION: Open Walk-Trot English/Western Pleasure – Non restricted - #4 doesn't apply**  
\***EXCEPTION: Open Novice Walk-Trot English/Western Pleasure-Restricted #4 doesn't apply**  
**ONE YEAR MAX-Can only show in class for one year**

P. Walk-Trot English Equitation/Western Horsemanship

1. Rider will be judged on Equitation/Horsemanship and ability to handle horse.
2. Rider will show English or Western, depending on the class chosen, and wear proper attire.
3. Rider may be required to walk, trot and go both ways of the ring. A pattern may be asked for.
4. Rider to never have entered any other sanctioned TCHA class required to canter, excluding speed.

Q. TRAIL CLASS

1. Judging will be based on the performance of the horse negotiating the obstacles with emphasis on manners, attitude and response to the rider. Judging will be done by the judge of the day.
2. Class will be held in an enclosed area either outside of the main ring or in the main ring and be posted by 8:30 AM
3. **Prohibited:** Mechanical hackamore, draw reins, tie downs, martinagles, cavesson noseband in western bridle, protective leg wraps or boots, crop or whip in western tack.

4. Horses are not required to work the rail, but the course must be designed to require each horse to walk, trot, and/or lope somewhere on the course (No loping in Walk-Trot class). Horses will be penalized for delays in doing an obstacle or if a refusal, will be asked to go on to the next with no points given for that obstacle. Excessive speed or carelessness in negotiating obstacles will be penalized.
5. Except for junior animals shown in a bosal, or snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, except that it is permissible to change hands when working an obstacle.
6. A minimum of four (4) obstacles will be used, maximum of six (6); a minimum of four (4) obstacles selected from the following list and the remaining one to two at the discretion of the sponsoring club, keeping in mind safety and age appropriateness. All clubs are encouraged to use wooden poles instead of PVC pipes. T.C.H.A approved list:
  - a. Opening, passing through and closing gate
  - b. Ride over at least four poles, either in a straight line, zig-zagged or raised. The distance between poles is to be:
    - Walk Over – 16 inches – 24 inches
    - Jog Over - 36 inches – 42 inches
    - Lope over - 6 feet – 7 feet
  - c. Back through an “L” with 28 inches minimum spacing, or back through and around three markers (no barrels) set in a line or triangle. If using the “L”, must first walk through and then proceed to back through.
  - d. Carry an object from one area of the arena to another
  - e. Put on and remove a slicker
  - f. Remove and replace items from a mailbox
  - g. Side pass over an obstacle
  - h. Ground tie
  - i. Ride over a wooden bridge at least 3 feet wide by 6 feet long (no tarps permissible)
  - j. Execute a 360 degree turn on the forehand or haunches with all four feet within a box. The turn specified the day of the show. The square box of rails is to be 5 to 7 feet square.
7. Riders must wear proper riding attire (See Western or English Pleasure class rules)

Failure to follow the course shall be disqualification. In the case of a tie, contestants will be required to work another obstacle. It is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle before it is started; hands to be around the reins, index finger only between reins, except when using a romal. Rider’s hands to be clear of horse and saddle. No spurs or romal shall be used forward of the cinch.

#### R. RANCH HORSE CLASS

1. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse.
2. The horse’s performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse’s ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control of the rider. Light contact should be rewarded, the horse does not have to be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements, and the horse’s quality of movement are the primary considerations.
3. No horses less than 3 years of age.
4. Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers, and scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance.
5. The required maneuvers will include the walk, jog, and lope both directions, and the extended

- jog and lope at least one direction, as well as stops, turn to change directions, and back.
6. Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, jog, or lope over a pole (s), or a simple combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform.
  7. The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing and ground covering all gaits. Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.
  8. No time limit.
  9. One of the 4 patterns included in TCHA rules will be selected by the judge.
  10. Failure to perform a required maneuver will result in a horse placing below all other horses that perform all maneuvers.
  11. No hoof polish. No braided or banded manes, tail extensions. Trimming inside ears is discouraged. Trimming the bridle path, trimming of fetlocks or excessive facial hair is allowed.
  12. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged.

## SECTION III. SPEED EVENTS

### TIMED CLASS RULES

1. No horse or rider combination may run more than once in any event when involved in a tie. Ties must be run within three seconds of the original time.
2. Western type saddle is required with any humane bit or hackamore allowable.
3. Lameness will not be shown.
4. Speed events will be run in a closed arena, starting and stopping inside gate area.
5. All starts must be through an approved timer gate. Upon signal from announcer to contestant, the contestant must start their run. In the event the horse balks or refuses, the contestant has one minute to start a time or will be disqualified (stopwatch will be started immediately by the gate person at the first refusal).
6. Board of Directors may disqualify any contestant if equipment is considered unsafe or inhumane.
7. An electric timer will be used. In case of timer failure, rerun will be allowed for that rider only.
8. Excessive spurring, whipping, etc. will not be permitted. No hitting will be allowed in front of the cinch.
9. Equipment breakage entitles contestant to a rerun after inspection of the faulty equipment. If after inspection by the Board of Directors or show committee, the equipment breakage is, in their opinion, due to lack of care and maintenance, no rerun will be allowed.
10. Cowboy boots are required for speed events.
11. ASTM/SEI certified safety approved helmets must be worn and properly secured for all speed events for riders 19 and under.
12. Proper stirrup length is required for rider's safety.
13. Only horse show officials should be allowed in the booth during the running of timed events. The show committee is required to time each contestant.
14. If a horse hits/runs into the gate on their way out of the arena, the horse/rider will be disqualified for that event.

#### A. Barrel Racing

1. Barrels will be spaced in a triangular pattern. The first being 25 yards from the starting line; the second barrel being 35 yards; and the furthest barrel being 40 yards and return to start. (consult diagram)
2. It is permissible to start with either the right or left barrel.
3. If the barrel is metal, it must be protected with rubber rings or tires at the top. Plastic barrels may be used if within specifications.
4. When starting with the right barrel, the pattern shall be as follows: right barrel clockwise; left barrel counterclockwise; further barrel counterclockwise.
5. The contestant will lose five seconds per barrel if knocked down.
6. If reduction of course is required, the reduction is to be in 5 yard increments.



#### A.1 Lead Line Barrels

1. Leader must be at least 18 years of age, wear workmanlike clothing and appropriate boots.
2. Riders must be 4 years to 8 years of age.
3. Rider is required to wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet.
4. Rider cannot enter any other speed class that day.
5. Rider cannot enter any riding classes.

#### B. Pole Bending

1. The pole bending pattern is to be run around six poles. Each pole is to be twenty-one feet apart and the first pole is to be twenty-one feet from the starting line. Poles will be supplied by TCHA.
2. A horse may start to the right or left of the first pole and run the remainder of the pattern accordingly. (see diagram)
3. The contestant will lose three seconds per pole if knocked down.
4. Pole bending is a timed event. A clearly visible starting line is used.
5. In the event of a tie, the horse declared the winner in the runoff must run the pattern within three seconds of its original time or the runoff must be held again.

#### C. Plug Race

1. The plug race is run down the arena and around one single barrel.
2. The contestant may start with either the right or left side of the barrel and run the pattern accordingly.
3. The plug race is a timed event. The contestant will lose five seconds if the barrel is knocked down.

#### D. Midwest Flag Race

1. The Midwest Flag Race is set up with same dimensions as the barrel race. The first barrel to the right and to the left will have a can with a flag in it, according to the rider's discretion.
2. The contestant shall run the pattern by going to either side to start. He/She shall travel on the outside of all these barrels. He/She shall go to the first barrel and take the flag, travel to the next barrel on the outside and then to the third barrel to place the flag he/she carried into that can.
3. Dropping or missing the can with the flag shall result in a broken pattern with disqualification.
4. Touching or hitting the horse with the flag shall result in disqualification.
5. The contestant will lose five seconds per barrel if barrel is knocked down. Cannot circle the barrel, rider will be disqualified if barrel is circled.

E. Texas Keyhole Race

There will be two (2) cones placed for the opening. The opening will be four (4) feet across; four (4) feet between the inside of the two cones. From the opening, measure ten (10) feet to where the third cone will be placed. This cone would be placed in the middle of the four foot opening. Exhibitor will start by going through the four foot opening, between the two cones, race down and around the third cone and come back through the four foot opening to complete the run. If a cone is knocked over, the exhibitor is disqualified.