

# INTERNATIONAL WALKING HORSE ASSOCIATION

## Show Rule Book

(Rev. April, 2011)

### Chapter 1

### DEFINITIONS

#### A. CLASSES

**Amateur Class:** Each rider, driver, or handler must be an amateur, as defined in Chapter 1, Section B. Show management may also restrict amateur classes by age, gender or other criteria as stated on the class sheet. Trainers' spouses, who otherwise qualify as amateurs, may not show a customer's horse in an amateur class.

**Local Class:** Entries are restricted to an area of reasonable size described on the class sheet. In classes that restrict entries by location. The word bred is defined as foaled in the location, not necessarily mated.

**Novice Class:** Entries are restricted to horses and/or riders who have not won a first place ribbon at any IWHA affiliated show as of the closing date of entries for that competition. Ribbons won at that competition will not change novice status. Exception is for other novice classes or one-rider-to judge classes.

**Open Class:** Entries are open to horses and riders of any age, sex, size or winnings as specified in the class description.

**Open Tack or Optional Tack Class:** Exhibitors may choose to show in either English or western tack and attire but not a combination of both.

**Owner-Amateur Trained Class:** Horses must be owned, trained and ridden by the amateur exhibitor or a member of his immediate family, as evidenced by the records of the breed registry. The horse shall have had no professional training, other than attendance at open-to-the-public clinics, within 90 days of the class.

**Owners Class:** Each exhibitor must be an owner, co-owner, or immediate family of an owner or co-owner of the horse being exhibited, as evidenced by the records of the breed registry.

#### B. INDIVIDUALS

**Age:** For competition purpose, the age of an individual on January 1 will be maintained throughout the year. An adult is a person who has reached his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of January 1 of the current year.

**Agent:** Any adult or adults acting on behalf of an exhibitor

**Amateur:** An amateur is a person who, after his or her eighteenth birthday does not engage in the following activities:

- Accepting payment in cash or other forms of remuneration for the training of horses, including yearlings and weanlings, the riding of horses for others, or the preparation of horses, including yearlings and weanlings, for exhibition. If these activities are engaged in, even on a part time basis, the person is considered a professional.

A person can retain their amateur status if they give clinics or riding lessons, but do not train horses.

**Breeder:** Owner of the dam at the time of service.

**Exhibitor:** (1) Any person who enters any horse, any person who allows his horse to be entered, or any person who directs or allows any horse in his custody or under his direction, control or supervision to be entered in any horse show or horse exhibition;

(2) any person who shows or exhibits any horse, any person who allows his horse to be shown or exhibited, or any person who directs or allows any horse in his custody or under his direction, control, or supervision to be shown or exhibited in any horse show or horse exhibition;

(3) any person who enters or presents any horse for sale or auction, any person who allows his horse to be entered or presented for sale or auction, or any person who allows any horse in his custody or under his direction, control, or supervision to be entered or presented for sale or auction in any horse sale or horse auction; or

(4) any person who sells or auctions any horse, any person who allows his horse to be sold or auctioned, or any person who directs or allows any horse in his custody or under his direction, control, or supervision to be sold or auctioned.

**Immediate family:** For competition purposes, the term family refers to husband, wife, parent, stepparent, brother, sister, son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, half brother, half sister, stepbrother, stepsister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandmother, grandfather, step grandfather, step grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, step grandson, step granddaughter, and in-laws of the same relation stated above.

**Owner:** The person shown as the owner by the records of the breed registry, or a person who has a legal lease on the horse, dated and notarized prior to the event in question.

**Professional Trainer:** Any adult who accepts remuneration for the riding, driving, showing and/or training of horses, including yearlings and weanlings, for persons outside the immediate family.

**Show personnel:** Gate attendants, ring clerks, office clerks, farriers, announcers, ringmasters and other persons engaged directly by the show management.

**Show officials:** Show managers, judges, DQPs (Designated Qualified Person), USDA VMOs (United States Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Medical Officers), veterinarians and timekeepers

**Youth Exhibitor:** An individual who on January 1 of the show year has not reached his eighteenth birthday. All youth exhibitors are considered amateur riders and may show in amateur classes unless the class list states otherwise. If a Show Committee wishes it may offer classes based on gender and/or age limits. Stallions are prohibited in youth classes except for Walking Pony Classes.

### C. HORSES AND PONIES

**Action:** Movement of the feet and legs.

**Age of horse:** For show purposes, a horse is one year old on January 1 following the foaling date. Exception: Foals born in October, November or December are not considered one year old until the second January 1 following their foaling dates.

**Bad image:** Includes failure to move freely, stiff movement of the front legs, cramped crawling action in the back leg motion, struggling, stumbling, buckling of the knees, lack of rhythmic timing, excessive tail swishing, uneven action or gait, pointing or favoring a particular leg.

**Barefoot:** Unshod.

**Height of Horse:** A horse's height is measured in hands, with one hand being four inches, from the withers to the ground. The measurement includes the shoe and pad or pads.

**Junior Horse:** A horse 4 years of age and under.

**Pony:** For performance purposes, a horse which measures 15.0 hands and under. Measurement includes shoe and pads; for flat shod, a horse that measures 14.2 hands and under which includes the shoe.

**Unsoundness:** Abnormalities that affect the serviceability of the horse.

### D. TERMS

**"A" Show:** A schooling show or fun day show. Attire may be casual attire.

**"AA" Show:** A regular horse show, whether one day or multi day.

**APHIS:** Animal Plant Health Inspection Services, a branch within the USDA.

**DQP:** Designated Qualified Person is an inspector licensed by a USDA certified Horse Industry Organization.

**Disqualification:** Exclusion of an exhibitor or horse, for cause, from participation in a given class, division or competition. If the competitor is disqualified following the completion of a class, any award received must be forfeited.

**Excused:** A judge gives permission to, or requests that a competitor leave the class. Excused entries may not receive an award in that class.

**Fall:** A rider has fallen when he is separated from his horse that has not fallen, in such a way as to necessitate remounting. A horse has fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground or an obstacle and the ground.

**HIO:** Horse Industry Organization.

**Keg Shoe:** Unaltered factory made shoes of the sort normally referred to as a keg shoe, without turned-back caulks, only poured caulks on the originally manufactured shoe.

**Penalize:** The judge will lower placement of the horse consistent with the severity of the condition or action present.

**Shown and Judged:** An animal that has performed all required gaits both ways of the ring and remained in the ring until excused by the judge.

**VMO:** Veterinary Medical Officer employed by the USDA.

**USDA:** United States Department of Agriculture.

## **Chapter 2**

### **DUTIES OF SHOW OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES**

#### **A. DUTIES OF SHOW MANAGEMENT**

1. To provide physical facilities to accommodate the show.
2. To hire IWHA judges from the approved list supplied by the Association. Show management must abide by all decisions made by a judge and in no way try to influence his decision or procedure.
3. To obtain personnel as needed to insure a successful show.
4. To furnish and maintain control over all lubricants used on padded horses at the show or exhibition and to insure that all lubricants are applied under the supervision of the DQP.
5. To provide, without charge, APHIS representatives with unlimited access to the grandstands, sale ring, barns, stables, and grounds of any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction.
6. To insure that the judge, ringmaster or the person that hires/contacts the judge or members of his immediate family do not compete in a show at which he is participating in an official capacity; nor shall any horse owned by any of the above be shown at this show. A show manager may not serve as a judge at his own show.
7. To receive and act upon protests in accordance with the rules, and to report whatever action is taken to the IWHA. If a protest is upheld, the class will be re-tied. In the event that a person participating at a show commits an offense or violation described in the rules, the management of the show may, at their discretion, disqualify that person from further participation in their show only.
8. To disqualify any exhibitor and/or his entries if there is just cause and to rule that he forfeit his winnings and ribbons at that show, and, if necessary, to have the horses of such exhibitor removed from the grounds without being held liable for damage. All such actions must be reported to IWHA.
9. To ensure that all entries in classes where measurements are required are in compliance with the rules. Show officials must resolve any protests regarding measurements of entries.
10. To provide emergency medical aid in some form during the course of the show.
11. Being responsible for paying all debts of the show.
12. Having a veterinarian on the grounds or on call at all times when there are horses present on the grounds.
13. To keep exhibitors and trainers informed of any changes in the show program; posting Judge's cards or copies of the cards during those show which are using a multiple judge system.
14. The show secretary is responsible for completing documents supplied in the IWHA Affiliation packet; providing Judge's cards for each class identical to the classes on Show bill; providing back numbers on request of exhibitors; having a current copy of The IWHA Show Rule Book and the IWHA HPA Enforcement Rule Book; providing the DQPs with a copy of completed class sheets with all information as noted elsewhere and with a copy of the show program.

#### **C. DUTIES OF JUDGES**

1. To report immediately to IWHA any contacts made by any person attempting to influence the judge's opinion in determining how a horse will be placed in any class at that show.
2. To arrive on show grounds no more than 30 minutes prior to show time.
3. To refrain from inspecting or discussing any horse entered in the show prior to the start of the show, unless requested by Show Management. Show Management must be present.

4. To conduct each class according to the procedures and rules of that class as they appear in the IWHA rulebook
5. To excuse, eliminate or penalize, at his discretion, any entry for an infraction of IWHA rules or for deviating from the true gaits of the Tennessee Walking Horse.
6. To excuse any bad image horse (see Chapter 1C).
7. To excuse from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger other exhibitors or horses.
8. Judges must be 21 years of age.
9. Judge applicants must complete appropriate training and apprenticeship programs which are provided by the IWHA and must attend IWHA sponsored clinics every two years.
10. Judges must not be convicted of an HPA violation or suspension within the previous 2 years. If after licensing by the IWHA, a judge receives a conviction for an HPA violation or suspension, the privilege to judge is revoked immediately.
11. Judges are a reflection of the Association and their actions should be exemplary at all times; judges should present themselves in a professional, courteous and cooperative manner; judges should be well dressed and well groomed.
12. Judges will not stay or visit with any exhibitor during the show.
13. Judges should not engage in conversations with exhibitors on the show grounds or the ring. Instead, an exhibitor may request a meeting with the judge to take place at the completion of the competition. A show management official must be present and the meeting should be in a private place. The judge should respond to the exhibitor's questions to the best of his/her ability and in a professional manner. However, no placing will be overturned.
14. A judge shall not have conducted any business with any exhibitor for 90 days prior to the show. Should an exhibitor enter the ring in violation of this rule, the judge shall immediately dismiss that exhibitor and advise Show Management of the action.  
Exception: Breeding fees.

### **Chapter 3**

## **SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **A. JURISDICTION**

1. IWHA show rules take precedence over the rules of any other organization with the exception of rules affecting duties and performance of DQPs.
2. Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association (TWHBEA) versatility rules will be adhered to in all versatility classes.
3. Show management may add rules that are more stringent, but not less stringent, as long as they are within the regulations of the Horse Protection Act (HPA).
4. All participants must comply with all Federal and State laws.
5. A show wishing to affiliate with the IWHA may do so by contacting the Association. Contact information will also be listed on the IWHA website. The show agrees to use only IWHA approved judges and DQPs. An affiliation form will be forwarded to the show officials with all the necessary information for completion. Upon receipt of the application form and affiliation fee, the IWHA secretary will return an affiliation packet and judge's list to the show officials.
6. A sale wishing to sanction with the IWHA applies in the same manner as a show and agrees to the same conditions.
7. Both shows and sales must request affiliation at least 35 days prior to the event in order for the IWHA to process the request. A copy of the showbill/premium list must accompany the request.

8. The Show or Sale must within 7 days following the event furnish IWHA with a copy of each completed class sheet as noted elsewhere in the Rules, the HIO Report form which will be included in the IWHA affiliation packet, a copy of the Premium list, Program or Sale catalogue, and copies of the Judges' cards if more than one judge is used. Payment of inspection fees to IWHA must be made in accordance with the IWHA affiliation agreement signed by the Show or Sale with respect to both the fee schedule and timeliness.
9. If an IWHA Show Rule book violation occurs during a show, a complaint should be made to Show Management by the end of the show. Protests may include but are not limited to: height of an entry, legality of pads (non-HPA), age of a horse, attire of an exhibitor or tack on a horse. Protests of these types can only be made to Show Management so that re-measurement, inspections, or documentation can be examined. The decision of Show Management is not appealable to the IWHA. Expertise of any show official, judge, veterinarian or Board Member can be utilized in resolving the issue. Other protests involving events at an IWHA-affiliated show must be made to IWHA. A written protest must be made following the same policies and procedures set forth regarding appeals in the IWHA HPA Enforcement Rulebook.

## **B. PROCEDURE FOR ENTRIES**

- 1., All class entry sheets must contain the following information:
  - Horse's official name and registration number
  - Rider's name
  - Trainer's name and address (if the trainer is also the amateur/owner, put "same as owner" in the trainer column.
  - Owner's name and address
2. The entry blank of each show must contain a certification to IWHA signed by the exhibitor or his representative, to the effect that: "In signing this entry form, I hereby affirm that the owner, lessee, trainer, manager, agent, coach, rider and the horse are subject to the Rules of the IWHA, its designated HIO and the local rules of the show. I further declare that the horse and rider are eligible as entered and that the owner and all his representatives are bound by the rules of the IWHA, its designated HIO and the show. I accept as final the decision of the IWHA on any questions arising under these rules and agree to hold the show, the IWHA and its designated HIO, their officials, directors and employees harmless for any action taken. In presenting my entry, I hereby release the sponsor, its officers, members and co-sponsors of this show from any claim or right for damages which may occur to me or my horse. I also assume and accept full responsibility for any damages done by me or my horse at this show.
3. Should an exhibitor, agent, or trainer fail to sign an entry blank as required, his first entrance into the ring as an exhibitor shall be interpreted as acceptance of the rules of the IWHA, its designated HIO and the Show and shall ipso facto render him subject to said Rules.
4. Violation of the Rules in connection with entries may be cause for disqualification of the exhibitor, agent and/or trainer by the Show Committee.
5. All horses must be registered with the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' & Exhibitors' Association (TWHBEA), except for horses entered in Country Pleasure Classes or specially designated classes. A horse must be entered under its registered name. It must also be entered under the name of the owner of record with the TWHBEA at the time and date of entry unless the horse has been sold/purchased and the transfer not duly recorded. In any case the legal name of the owner must be recorded, and ownership must be documentable.
6. Show Management shall refuse entry to any person who is on suspension with IWHA, the USDA, and/or any USDA Certified Horse Industry Organization (HIO). In addition, Show Management may reserve the right to refuse the entry of an exhibitor who has demonstrated unsportsmanlike behavior at a show or has conducted himself in a manner which brings discredit to the show, its management, officials, or employees, provided the exhibitor so excluded shall have the right to be heard on the issue by Show Management before the refusal of entry is made.

7. Persons on Federal disqualification or disqualification from any USDA-certified HIO cannot transport horses to IWHA affiliated shows and can only participate as spectators. This statement must be disclosed on all show bills also.

## **D. EQUIPMENT FOR HORSES**

### **1. General Equipment**

- a. Plastic wrap on the pastern area is prohibited on the show grounds.
- b. Full blinders are prohibited on horses on the show grounds at all times.
- c. Action devices and/or tail braces are prohibited on flat shod pleasure horses, yearlings and weanlings on the show grounds at all times.
- d. Leg protection such as polo wraps, skid boots, splint boots, and bell boots are prohibited in pleasure classes, but are allowed in TWH over fences, Western riding, reining, barrel racing, pole bending, dressage and trail classes.
- e. Names of horses, trainers, exhibitors or stables are prohibited on show equipment in the show ring, and entries with such names visible will be excused. Exceptions: Inconspicuous nameplates on saddles or bridles for identification purposes are allowed.
- f. Unless otherwise specified, English tack and attire is required in all Tennessee Walking Horse classes
- g. Unless otherwise specified, trail classes, water glass classes and country pleasure classes are optional tack classes.
- h. Martingales and tie downs may be used only in TWH over Fences, Barrel Racing and Pole Bending classes.
- i. Sidesaddles are approved for use in flat shod and versatility classes.
- j. Australian stock saddles are not approved as either English or western tack.
- k. Traditional mane braids are worn with English tack (optional at 'A' shows), but not with western tack.
- l. Unless a specific bit is required in a specific class, any standard bit is allowed with the exception of a gag bit with no shanks. Severe bits are discouraged and bleeding of the mouth or muzzle must be penalized in judging. Shanks longer than 9 ½ inches are prohibited in all pleasure classes. Shanks are measured from the top of the metal to the bottom of the metal, including the rings that attach to the reins and cheek piece.
- m. Curb chains or straps must be at least ½ inches wide and must lie flat against the horse's jaw. Cross chain cavessons are prohibited in all pleasure classes.
- n. Quick change bridles are not allowed in the show ring.
- o. Quick change reins which terminate in snaps at the bit are not allowed in the show ring. Reins must be attached to the bit by lacing or by Chicago screws.
- p. Whips of no more than 4 feet are allowed in any class where English tack and attire are used. Whips of no more than 6 feet are allowed in driving classes. No extra lashes or other appendages are allowed on whips.

### **2. English Equipment**

- a. Standard English single rein bridle and bit. Colored vinyl or patent brow bands are traditional but not required.
- b. Flat seat or saddle seat saddle. Dressage saddles are acceptable.
- c. Breast strap (optional)
- d. English spurs (optional)
- e. Whip or crop not exceeding 4 feet in length (optional)

### **3. Western Equipment**

- a. Western bridle and bit without a cavesson (except Country Pleasure Classes) or colored brow band
- b. Reins must be either split or romal reins.
- c. Mechanical hackamores and draw reins are prohibited.
- d. Hackamores may be used in barrel racing and pole bending but the timer or judge may prohibit bits or equipment he considers severe.
- e. Western saddle and blanket or pad (silver mounted equipment will not count over good working equipment)

- f. Breast collar (optional)
- g. Spurs (optional)
- h. On a junior (4 years old & under) flat shod western horse, a bosal or ordinary snaffle bit may be used. Riders may use two hands on the reins **only** when using a bosal or snaffle bit on junior horses.  
EXCEPTION: Country pleasure classes. Snaffle rings must be no larger than four inches in diameter. An optional chin strip of leather or nylon only is permitted and reins must be attached above the chin strap.
- i. Whips, bats and crops are prohibited in western classes.

#### **4. Pleasure Driving Equipment**

- a. A snaffle bit is required. A separate overcheck bit is optional.
- b. Recommended harness is black leather with square patent leather blinkers, a snaffle bridle with either side checks or overcheck and running martingale.
- c. Driving vehicle may be two or four wheels, unless limited by show management in the class description.
- d. Breeching is recommended with a wooden wheel vehicle, but not used with wire wheels.
- e. Whips of no more than 6 feet in length are optional.

#### **5. Halter, Model and In Hand Equipment**

- a. Weanlings and yearlings are to be shown in a show halter. A snaffle bit may be used on a yearling at exhibitor's option.
- b. Horses two years old and over must be shown in a show bridle or show halter.
- c. Traditional mane braids in the mane or foretop when shown in English tack is optional.
- d. Whips of no more than four feet long, including snapper, are allowed if the entry is shown in English tack.
- e. Boots and action devices are prohibited in all halter, model halter and in hand classes.
- f. In the performance division, tail braces, switches and humane tails may be used on horses 2 years and over, but not on weanlings or yearlings.
- g. The use of ginger is prohibited.

#### **6. TWH over Fences Equipment**

- a. English equipment, including snaffle, kimberwick or Pelham bit, is required.
- b. Martingales, whips of no more than four feet, spurs and protective leg coverings are optional.
- c. Hard hats for riders are required.

#### **7. Performance Division Equipment**

- a. A single link-type device not exceeding six ounces in weight including fastener may be worn on each front pastern of the horse. An action device cannot touch the coronet band. They may be fastened by a strap of soft leather, nylon, cotton or other similar material. When fastened, the ends of the links cannot be more than three inches apart. A horse may wear link-type devices of different weights as long as neither device exceeds six ounces. Action devices cannot have double links, and each link must be the same size, weight and configuration. Link-type action devices can have no loose ends or dropped links, and the links and fasteners must have a smooth surface. A link-type action device with twisted links is not permitted.
- b. Boots or collar devices not exceeding six ounces each may be worn on each front pastern of the horse. Such device must not have a rough edge in contact with the horse, no seams on top or bottom that are not covered with a soft roll and must be closed and securely fastened with a keeper.
- c. Hardwood, steel or aluminum rollers may be worn on each front pastern of the horse. Devices must be smooth and free of projections, protrusions, rust, and corrosion or rough or sharp edges and must not exceed six ounces in weight
- d. More than one action device of any type on any one leg of a horse is prohibited.
- e. Performance horses may be shown with braced tails or humane tail sets as indicated.
- f. Caps and switches on tails are optional.

#### **8. Fine Harness Equipment**

- a. Fine harness horses are shown to a light, four-wheeled buggy with wire spoke wheels and no top.
- b. The light harness should have a martingale and a blinder bridle with overcheck.
- c. Permitted bits are snaffle, Kimberwick or Liverpool. If a Liverpool is used, the shanks may not exceed 4 ½ inches from top to bottom and a curb chain is permitted.

## **9. Saddle Seat Equitation Equipment**

- a. A standard English Walking Horse bridle with a cavesson and single reins is required. Colored brow bands are appropriate, but rhinestones are not acceptable. Cavessons must be brown or black leather. Breast straps of brown or black leather are optional.
- b. An English cutback saddle of the correct size for the exhibitor must be used. Only white girths may be used.
- c. Traditional braids in mane and foretop must be straight with no butterflies or other ornamentation.
- d. Tack shall be judged for cleanliness and condition. Costly or fancy tack shall not be judged over good working tack

## **10. Stock Seat Equitation**

- a. Western bridle and bit without a cavesson or colored brow band. Reins may be either split or romal style.
- b. Western saddle and blanket or pad (silver mounted equipment will not count over good working equipment)
- c. No braids in the foretop are used in Stock Seat Equitation.
- d. Whips of any kind are prohibited in Stock Seat Equitation.

## **11. Showmanship at Halter**

- a. Unless specified by the class sheet, exhibitors may use English or western tack and attire.
- b. Only halters are allowed for use in Showmanship at Halter classes. Halters may be English or western. Traditional colored vinyl or patent leather brow bands may be used with English halters but not on western halters.
- c. Traditional mane braids may be used with English tack but with not western tack.
- d. Whips up to four feet in length including the snapper may be used with English tack but not with western tack.

## **E. SHOEING**

### **1. General Rules**

- a. Toe length must exceed the height of the heel by one inch or more. The length of the toe is measured from the coronet band, at the center of the front pastern along the front of the hoof wall to the ground. The heel is measured at a 90-degree angle from the coronet band, at the most lateral portion of the rear pastern, to the ground excluding caulks that do not exceed  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in length. That portion of the caulk at the rear of the horseshoe in excess of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch will be added to the height of the heel in determining the heel-to-toe ratio.
- b. Hollow shoes or artificial extensions filled with mercury or other substances are prohibited.
- c. The breakover point of a shoe cannot be any further back than the tip of the natural toe.
- d. Shoeing or trimming a horse's hoof in any manner that will cause the horse to suffer, or can reasonably be expected to cause the horse to suffer pain or distress, inflammation or lameness is strictly prohibited. This includes, but it not limited to, trimming into the quick of the hoof, drilling holes in the sole of the hoof, placing foreign objects under the shoe, in holes in the hoof sole or wall, or around the coronet band, constricting the hoof in any way, and standing a horse on any objects that put pressure on the hoof in any way.
- e. Acrylic or other materials can be used to repair or mend a damaged hoof or to fill in cracks or nail holes on the sides of the hoof, but may not be used to extend the length of the natural toe or heel of the hoof in any manner.
- f. Rear sliding plates used on reining horses shall be allowed in all classes provided that the horse is entered in a reining class at that competition.
- g. In Park Pleasure and all other flat shod pleasure classes shoes may only be attached to the hoof with nails. No other substance or device of any kind may be on the bottom of the foot.
- h. All shoes made of tungsten are allowed only in those classes so designated by Show Management and identified as such on their class sheets.

### **2. Classic Park Pleasure Shoe (also known as Classic Plantation Pleasure)**

The shoes must be made of iron and must not be wider than 1-½ inch, or thicker than ½ inch with no other weight inside the shoe. The use of borium is permitted on the caulks of plantation shoes, but the thickness of the shoe and caulk with the borium must not exceed 1-1/8 inches. Welded on clips are not permitted on flat-shod horses. Clips that are drawn from the shoe itself are permitted. No additional weight shall be allowed on or in the hoof, other than the shoe and nails. The turnback caulk must not exceed a 1-5/8 inch (from front to back of the caulk) and the shoe must not extend more than 1/4 inch beyond the hoof at the toe. The heel of the shoe must not extend beyond the bulb of the horse's heel when a perpendicular line is drawn from the bulb of the horse's heel to the ground. The weight-bearing surface of the shoe must be level. Pads of any kind are prohibited. Bands are optional.

### **3. Light Shod Shoe**

The shoes must be made of iron and be no thicker than ½ inch nor any wider than 1 (one) inch with the exception of the caulk, which must be no thicker than 1 inch. The use of borium is permitted on the caulks of light shod shoes, but the thickness of the shoe and caulk with the borium must not exceed 1-1/8 inches. The turnback caulk shall not exceed 1-½ inches (from front to back of the caulk) and the shoe must not extend more than 1/4 inch beyond the hoof at the toe. The shoe is not to extend beyond the bulb of the horse's heel when a perpendicular line is drawn from the bulb of the horse's heel to the ground. The weight-bearing surface of the shoe must be level. Pads of any kind are prohibited. Bands are optional.

### **4. Trail Pleasure Shoe**

The shoes must be made of iron and be no thicker than 3/8 inch and no wider than ¾ wide. The thickness of caulk and borium must not exceed 7/8 inch, and turnback caulk is limited to 1 ½ inches (from front to back of the caulk). Bands are prohibited.

### **5. Country Pleasure Shoe**

Keg factory stamped iron shoes for all four feet, with no alterations of the front or rear shoes. The measurement must be no thicker than 3/8 inch and no wider than ¾ inch. Borium is allowed on the toe not to exceed 1-½ inch in width and allowed on heels not to exceed 1/8 inch. Clips and heel caulks are allowed if poured or cast in the original casting. Bands are prohibited.

### **6. Classic Plantation Pleasure Shoe – see E(2) above**

### **7. Park Pleasure Shoe**

Same as E(2) above except the shoe may be made of any steel, including tungsten.

### **8. Plantation Pleasure Shoe**

The shoe may not exceed ½ inch in thickness or more than ¾ inch in width, and may be made of any steel, including tungsten.

### **9. Performance Shoe and Pads (including Show Pleasure)**

- a. Shoes in the performance division may not exceed 1- ½ inches wide or ½ inch thick with a 1-½ inch turnback (from front to back of the caulk). The breakover point of the shoe cannot be any further back than the tip of the toe on the natural hoof.
- b. Pads made of leather, plastic, or a similar pliant material used to artificially extend a horse's hoof are allowed on performance horses. The amount of pad, or artificial extension, permitted on a performance horse two years old and older will be determined by the natural hoof length. The amount of artificial extension, whether accomplished with pads, acrylics or any other material or combination thereof, must not exceed 50% of the natural hoof length. Natural hoof length is measured from the coronet band at the center of the front pastern along the front of the hoof wall, to the distal portion of the hoof wall at the tip of the toe. The thickness of the pad, or artificial extension, is measured at a 90-degree angle from the hoof wall at the tip of the toe to the top of the shoe. No portion of the pads (artificial extension) or shoe may extend beyond the bulb of the heel more than one inch. Rockback pads are permitted on padded horses (with the exception of Park Performance) but cannot extend below the weight-bearing surface of the shoe.
- c. Metal hoof bands used to stabilize pads and shoes must be placed at least ½ inch below the bottom of the coronet band
- d. Insertion of any material between the pad and/or shoe and hoof is prohibited with the exception of acceptable hoof packing between pads and hoof. Acceptable hoof packing includes pine tar, oakum, live

rubber, sponge rubber or commercial hoof packing used to maintain adequate frog pressure or sole consistency.

- e. Lead or other weights may not be attached to the outside of the hoof wall, the outside of the horseshoe or any part of the pad except the bottom part of the pad within the horseshoe. Pads may not be hollowed out for inserting weights and weights may not extend below the weight-bearing surface of the shoe. Lead plates are prohibited in-between the pads.

#### **10. Park Performance**

Shoe size is limited to a maximum of 1-½ inches by ½ inch with a 1 ½ inch turnback (from front to back of the caulk), a maximum of 1 inch pad measured at the heel, and an action device of no more than 6 ounces. Bands are optional. Braced tail and rock back pads are prohibited. **Tungsten shoes are prohibited.**

#### **11. Yearling and Weanling Shoes**

- a. No shoes of any kind are permitted on weanlings.
- b. Shoes on yearlings are limited to 3/8" in thickness and ¾" in width and may not weigh more than 16 ounces. Unless the class specifies "flat shod", yearlings are allowed a pad of no more than one inch in thickness at the heel. No additional weight may be added to the shoe or pad.

### **F. ATTIRE FOR EXHIBITORS**

#### **1. General attire**

- a. Exhibitor's hair must be neat and well groomed. Long hair should be styled so the back number can be seen easily.
- b. Horse and/or stable advertising will not be allowed in the ring on exhibitors or attendants
- c. Safety helmets are allowed in all divisions and judges will not penalize riders for wearing them. It is strongly recommended that all juvenile riders wear safety helmets. Any juvenile rider not wearing a safety helmet, the legal guardian will assume all liability for any injuries of the juvenile rider and hold the show management harmless.
- d. Judges will penalize riders who are not neatly and correctly attired. Show management may refuse to allow any exhibitor or person to enter the ring if they are not suitably dressed to appear before an audience.
- e. Exhibitor's attire must be either western or English, but not a combination of both. Western attire is worn with western tack and English attire is worn with English tack
- f. Grooms and headers entering the ring must be neatly and appropriately attired.
- g. **Note: A judge may decide, on the basis of extreme weather conditions, to relax or modify attire requirements at any show. Attire requirements may be relaxed at "A" shows.**

#### **2. English Attire**

- a. Saddle seat suit or day coat and jodhpurs. Jodhpurs or pants must have tie downs or underpasses. A formal tuxedo suit may be worn in evening championships as appropriate.
- b. Shirt and tie
- c. Jodhpur or ankle high riding boots.
- d. English Spurs (spurs are optional)
- e. Gloves (optional) Note: Gloves are required in equitation and showmanship classes.
- f. Hats (derby, snap-brim, homburg, or helmet), optional. Top hats should only be worn in championship classes with formal attire.

#### **3. Western Attire**

- a. Western style long pants
- b. Western style long sleeve shirt
- c. Western hat (In barrel racing and pole bending, a western hat or helmet is required to be on the exhibitor's head the entire time the exhibitor is in the ring. Hats held on the head with stampede strings is permitted)
- d. Western style boots
- e. Gloves (optional) Note: Gloves are required in stock seat equitation and showmanship classes.
- f. Chaps (optional)

- g. Coat, vest, and/or jacket (optional)
  - h. Western type tie or pin at collar.
- 4. Halter, Model and In Hand Attire**
- a. In the pleasure division, unless otherwise specified, halter, model, and in hand exhibitors may wear proper English or western attire. Handlers must wear a collared shirt and tie (optional long or short sleeves shirts).
  - b. In the performance division, English attire is required, including long or short sleeve shirts with a collar and long pants.
- 5. Pleasure Driving Attire**
- a. Ladies should wear conservative dress, blouse and skirt, shirt and jodhpurs, saddle suit or day coat and jodhpurs.
  - b. Men should wear business suit, saddle suit, sport jacket and slacks.
  - c. Gloves are recommended, apron and hats are optional.
- 6. Fine Harness Attire**
- a. Men must wear riding suits, business suits, formal wear or dress pants with sports jackets and hats. Gloves are recommended but not required.
  - b. Ladies must wear riding suits, formal or cocktail wear, or dresses with skirts or slits in the skirt not to be above the knee without the use of a lap robe. Long skirts or lap robes are encouraged. Gloves are recommended, but not required.
- 7. Walking Seat Equitation Attire**
- a. The exhibitor must wear a neat, well-fitted saddle suit/habit of a solid color or conservative pinstripe. Suggested colors are black, blue, grey, green, beige or brown with coordinated accessories. Vests in a matching or contrasting color are required. Careful attention should be given to the fit of the suit. Coat length should be at least 3 inches below the fingertips when standing. Jodhpurs should be long enough to rest on the exhibitor's boot top and allow only the toe of the boot to be visible when mounted. Underpasses must be worn snugly against the boot. Expense and "newness" of attire shall not be judged over neat, well-fitted attire.
  - b. A matching or coordinating derby, homburg or snap-brim hat must be worn and should be clean and rolled to shape.
  - c. A four-in-hand tie matching or coordinating with the suit color should be worn with a men's style white or pastel shirt.
  - d. English style boots may be either calf or patent leather and should coordinate with the color of the suit. English type slip on spurs are optional.
  - e. Gloves matching the suit must be worn.
  - f. Exhibitor's hair must be neat and well groomed. Long hair must be styled above the collar. Small post earrings will be worn.
  - g. A formal or semi formal tuxedo suit may be worn in evening classes after 6:00 p.m. A top hat or homburg, dark bow tie, cummerbund, gloves and dark boutonniere are worn with semi formal suits. A top hat, white bow tie, cummerbund or formal vest, matching or white gloves and a white boutonniere are worn with a formal suit.
- 8. Stock Seat Equitation Attire**
- a. Western style pants
  - b. Long sleeved shirt with western type tie or western type pin at collar
  - c. Western hat (shaped and clean)
  - d. Gloves
  - e. Boots
  - f. Vest, coordinating western chaps, and western type jacket are optional.
  - g. Formal attire such as tuxedo type shirts and bow ties are only acceptable after 6:00 p.m.
  - h. Exhibitor's hair must be neat and well groomed, with long hair styled above the collar.
- 9. Showmanship at Halter Attire**
- a. English or western clothing as appropriate for the horse's tack as described above.

- b. Gloves are required
- c. Long hair must be neat and styled above the collar.

## **G. PRESENTATION**

1. Horses should be clean, neatly trimmed and in good flesh presenting a healthy appearance. Each horse should be outfitted in clean and appropriate tack.
2. The exhibitor should be neat, attired in properly fitting riding attire and shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.
3. The Tennessee Walking Horse should move freely and in a smooth, fluid, rhythmic manner in each of the three gaits. Form is not to be sacrificed for speed. At all gaits, the horse should be flexed at the poll with the horse's face near, but not behind vertical. The horse must exhibit a true, four-beat walking gait with a cadenced head nod. Racking, pacing, trotting or otherwise deviating from the true walking gait will be penalized in judging.
4. Any horse exhibiting a cramped way of going, crawling backend or twisting of hocks SHALL be disqualified.
5. A horse exhibiting a bad image in the show ring, even though it may not be a violation of the HPA, SHALL be excused from the ring by the judge and must report to the DQP upon leaving the ring (if present). Bad image includes stiff front leg or crampy rear leg motion, struggling, stumbling, buckling knees, lack of rhythmic timing, pointing, or favoring a particular leg.
6. Pumping or bumping of the reins at any gait SHALL be penalized.
7. All pleasure horses SHALL be required to back. All pleasure horses demonstrating excessive resistance, gaping of the mouth and/or tossing of the head, SHALL be penalized.
8. Any change in color of markings is prohibited.
9. Any exhibitor who demonstrates unnecessary movement in the saddle will be penalized.

## **H. CLASS PROCEDURE**

1. Exhibitors must enter the show ring promptly when the class is called. Exhibitors are given three minutes to enter the ring from the time the class is called, at which time the gate will be closed. No entry will be admitted after the gate is closed.
2. In under saddle classes, unless otherwise instructed, competitors will enter the gate at a flat walk and proceed to the right, on the rail. Horses will work both ways of the ring at the flat walk, running walk, flat walk and canter (as specified in the class list). All pleasure horses will be asked to back in the line-up. Workouts may be held at the discretion of the judge. Numbers selected for the workout will be read by the announcer and exhibitors whose numbers called will ride to the center of the ring while the remainder of the class will work on the rail. Other numbers may be called in by the judge, after which the remaining entries will be excused. Numbers called to the center of the ring will then take the rail and work both ways of the ring as specified by the announcer. In the case of shows with multiple judges, numbers of first horses called in for the workout must be on at least 2 judges' cards. Once the workout commences, a horse may be called in by one judge.
3. All horses shown at a show must be serviceably sound and the final determination will be at the discretion of Show Management.
4. Stallions may not be shown in youth classes.
5. Championship Classes:
  - a. A Show Committee must designate all qualifying classes and may require all winners in a qualifying class to compete in a Championship Class provided it is so stated in the prize list. An exhibitor who fails to comply shall forfeit all winnings in the qualifying class. If an exhibitor qualifies more than one horse for a Championship Class, he may choose to show only one horse without penalty.
  - b. An entry shall have qualified for a Championship Class if, in an appropriate qualifying class, it has completed the class or it is excused by a Judge after a workout.
  - c. To be "shown and judged" in any class in which horses compete together, an animal must perform all required gaits both ways of the ring in the original workout and must remain in the ring until excused by the Judge.

- d. A horse showing in a “two gait” or “no canter” class is not qualified to show in a championship class requiring three gaits.
  - e. Competing in halter, model, or in-hand classes does not qualify a horse for an under saddle championship class.
6. A stake class does not require qualifying for exhibitors.
  7. If a class in which horses compete, whether collectively or individually, is stopped while in progress due to storm, accident or other emergency, the following procedure shall govern:
    - a. The class when recommenced shall be held over in its entirety and no consideration shall be given to the performance during the original session.
    - b. If classes are postponed until a day not included in the original show dates, exhibitors are not required to show back in postponed classes and are entitled to a refund of entry fees.
  8. Time-outs interrupt a show; therefore, unauthorized time-outs will not be permitted.
    - a. An exhibitor needing a time-out will ride to the center of the ring and request it from the ring steward. If the reason for the time-out is valid, the judge will grant the request and inform the ring steward, who will in turn inform the exhibitor. The rider must remain mounted until permission to dismount is granted by the ring steward. If the judge finds the reason for a time-out is not valid, the entry must be ordered back to the rail immediately
    - b. Time-outs may be granted by the Judge for replacement of shoes, replacement of broken equipment, or in other instances the Judge deems appropriate. In any division, a shoe thrown in the ring must be presented immediately to the steward for examination and weighing. If a violation is found, the horse is disqualified and be so noted by the steward and judge. The shoe is to be retained and turned over to the HIO as evidence. The shoe may be returned to the owner, at the discretion of HIO.
    - c. Time-outs for adjustments of equipment, such as curb chains, bridles, and action devices, are not allowed, while in the ring. Loss of lead weights attached to the bottom of pads is not considered breakage of equipment.
    - d. A total of ten minutes in total shall be allowed for each entry for authorized time-outs, but no more than one time-out per class.
    - e. All time-outs begin when are acknowledged by the steward, except for replacement of shoes, in which event the time-out shall begin when the farrier (if present) lifts up the horse’s foot. Time will be allowed prior to the beginning of time-out for locating the thrown shoe.
  9. Physical assistance over the rail for horse or rider is not permitted; and any entry receiving such assistance SHALL be excused.
  10. Unruly horses (rearing, balking or running off) SHALL be excused. Entries exhibiting in an unsafe manner SHALL be excused.
  11. An exhibitor has the right to request to be excused from a class at any time prior to the lineup. Once the lineup has been called, only a judge may excuse an exhibitor. An exhibitor will pull into center ring and request permission from the ring steward to be excused. The exhibitor may choose to remain mounted or to dismount.
  12. All horses excused from the show ring for any reason, whether by the judge’s request or by their own request must report back to the DQP (if present). Exception: Entries excused by the judge in a workout.
  13. Grooms or handlers may be called in during the line up in youth classes or driving classes or in the case of handicapped riders at the discretion of the judge.

## CHAPTER 4 DIVISION AND CLASS RULES

**Note:** A horse can switch between the Performance and Pleasure division only once during the year and the switch cannot be made during the same show.

### A. GENERAL CRITERIA

In all Tennessee Walking Horse classes, the horses must perform the true walking gaits of the breed.

1. **Flat Walk:** The flat walk is a bold, effortless, even, four-beat gait. The horse should drive with the rear legs and appear to pull with the front legs. The fore legs should move straight, breaking at the knees and reaching forward. The horse should be balanced in the degree of knee height to the amount of reach. The hind legs should reach up under the horse's body with minimal hock action, overstepping the print left by the front foot on the same side. Each foot should leave and strike the ground independently, and the head and neck should have a pronounced vertical nod of the head and neck in rhythm with the footfall. Head nod should come out of the shoulders as a result of timing of the back-end of the horse, and not from simple flexion at the poll. A pronounced head nod is highly desirable. Speed should be consistent and animation should not be preferred over gait quality, timing and consistency.
2. **Running Walk:** The running walk should have the same footfall, gait quality and general motion as the flat walk, but with additional speed and stride. The horse will exhibit a smooth, free and easy, gliding, overstriding, four-beat gait, with greater stride and accelerated head motion. The tendency toward being trotty, fox trotting, racking or pacing should be penalized. Head motion must be maintained and form is not to be sacrificed for speed. Some horses will click their teeth and/or flop their ears in time with their head nod and should not be penalized for such. Horses with an exaggerated, hesitating way of going and/or a tendency to "point" WILL be penalized. Head tossing, going sideways, laboring and tail switching are not desirable. Transitions between gaits should be smooth and effortless. A distinct change in speed between the flat walk and running walk is mandatory.
3. **Canter:** The canter is a smooth, controlled and straight three-beat gait. The horse should not be walking behind, but cantering on both ends with a rolling, rocking chair motion. A horse that is on the wrong lead or cross cantering must be penalized. Excessive pulling or pumping the reins at the canter SHALL be penalized.
4. **Conformation:** In general, the Tennessee Walking Horse should have a neat head with well-shaped ears, alert eyes and a tapered muzzle. The expression should be intelligent and kind. The neck should be long and graceful, rising from muscular, sloping shoulders. The horse should be deep in the girth and well ribbed and the chest should be well proportioned. The back should be short and well coupled at the loins. The croup should be sloping and the hips well muscled. The legs should be flat and cordy, with hoof enough to support the weight of the horse. The horse should be well balanced without extremes in any one component.

## B. FLAT SHOD PLEASURE DIVISION

A flat shod pleasure horse performs the three gaits of the breed without pads, boots, action devices, lubricants or braced tails

### 1. Classic Plantation Pleasure Classes (Also known as Classic Park Pleasure)

- a. The Plantation Pleasure horse should display show presence and brilliance while maintaining the four beat walking gaits of the breed in a collected, up-headed and stylish manner. The Plantation Pleasure horse should be well mannered and manageable on a light rein. He must perform all gaits without bumping and pumping of the reins and must stand quietly and back readily upon request.
- b. Suggested Classic Plantation Pleasure classes:
  - Plantation Pleasure - Classic
  - Plantation Pleasure Specialty - Classic
  - Amateur Owned and Trained Plantation Pleasure - Classic
  - Plantation Pleasure, Riders 17 and under - Classic
  - Plantation Pleasure, Riders 11 and under - Classic
  - Junior Plantation Pleasure - Classic
  - Two Year Old Plantation Pleasure - Classic
  - Three Year Old Plantation Pleasure - Classic
  - Western Plantation Pleasure - Classic

Classes may also be divided by size, sex of horse or rider, and may be divided by open and amateur riders.

**2. Plantation Pleasure Classes** - same as 1. above, but with tungsten shoes allowed per shoeing rules for these class (see E(8)).

**3. Light Shod Pleasure Classes**

a. The Light Shod pleasure horse must perform the four beat walking gaits of the breed effortlessly while displaying an elegant and classic beauty. They should display show presence and animation while still exhibiting the true pleasure qualities. Form is never to be sacrificed for speed. The English horse is to have a high head set and long gliding overstride.

The Western Light Shod horse should have a lower head set, work on a loose rein, and neck rein (over 4 years of age).

b. Suggested Light Shod pleasure classes:

- Light Shod Pleasure
- Light Shod Pleasure Specialty
- Amateur Owned and Trained Light Shod Pleasure
- Light Shod Pleasure, Riders 17 and under
- Light Shod Pleasure, Riders 11 and under
- Junior Light Shod Pleasure
- Two Year Old Light Shod Pleasure
- Three Year Old Light Shod Pleasure
- Western Light Shod Pleasure

Classes may also be divided by size, sex of horse or rider, and may be divided by open and amateur riders.

**4. Trail Pleasure Classes**

a. The Trail Pleasure horse must display the correct four beat walking gaits with overstride in a manner geared toward covering ground, stamina and riding for long periods on a trail. Trail Pleasure horses shall be penalized for lack of stride and overstride. Animation typical of a Light Shod horse is not desirable in a Trail Pleasure horse, and should be penalized. The head should be carried in a natural, relaxed position and must have a pronounced and cadenced head nod which comes out of the shoulders as a result of timing out of the back-end of the horse, and not from simple flexion at the poll. The Trail Pleasure horse must be extremely well mannered, responsive and quiet at all gaits and in the lineup. A Western Trail Pleasure horse should exhibit all of the foregoing characteristics, but should go with a slightly lower, more relaxed headset. It should go on a loose rein, and must neck rein (if over 4 years of age).

b. Trail Pleasure horses may be asked for a halt on the rail from any gait and may be asked for a trail walk on a loose rein, which is an ordinary relaxed “dog walk.” The Trail Pleasure horse should give an appearance of suitability for the rider, and horse and rider should work together effortlessly.

c. Horses entered in Trail Pleasure classes are eligible to show in Light Shod, Park, Plantation, Halter and Versatility classes, but may not show in Country Pleasure classes at the same show.

d. Suggested Trail Pleasure classes:

- Trail Pleasure
- Trail Pleasure Specialty
- Amateur Owned and Trained Trail Pleasure
- Trail Pleasure, Riders 17 and under
- Trail Pleasure, Riders 11 and under
- Junior Trail Pleasure
- Two Year Old Trail Pleasure
- Three Year Old Trail Pleasure

Classes may also be divided by size, sex of horse or rider, and may be divided by open and amateur riders, English and western.

**5. Country Pleasure Classes**

a. The Country Pleasure horse must display a walk and a comfortable, easy, smooth intermediate gait without excessive speed. The Country Pleasure horse should not have a tendency toward the trot, pace or

rack. Animation is not desired, but they should exhibit the smooth, gliding flat walk and running walk with a cadenced head shake. Overstride is not to be penalized. Manners are paramount in this division and entries should stand still in the line-up and back readily. Two hands are allowed in the country pleasure class. The Country Pleasure horse should be the type of horse that would be taken out for a relaxing ride on a country road or trail. Unless otherwise stated on the class sheet, Country Pleasure is an optional tack class and any neat, appropriate attire is allowed.

- b. The shoe for the Country Pleasure horse must be a keg (factory-stamped) shoe. Borium is allowed on the toe, not to exceed 1-½ inches in width, and allowed on the heels, not to exceed 1/8 inch. Clips and heel caulks are allowed if poured or cast in the original casting. Bands are prohibited
- c. Horses entered in Country Pleasure classes are **not** eligible to compete in other Tennessee Walking Horse classes (Light Shod, Park, Plantation, or Trail Pleasure) at the same show, but may compete in Versatility classes if other requirements are met.
- d. Suggested country pleasure classes:
  - Country Pleasure
  - Amateur Country Pleasure
  - Amateur Owned and Trained Country Pleasure
  - Country Pleasure, Riders 17 and under
  - Country Pleasure, Riders 11 and under

## 6. Western Classes

- a. In all classes that specify “western”, the entry should emphasize the suitability of the Tennessee Walking Horse as a western working horse with qualities suitable for ranch work. The western horse must work quietly on a loose rein with a relaxed and natural head position. The western pleasure horse must be exceptionally smooth with a flowing, free and easy motion without excessive action and animation. The western horse must perform the correct four beat walking gaits with pronounced and cadenced head motion. Head tossing, going sideways, laboring and tail switching **SHALL** be penalized and transitions between gaits should be smooth and effortless. A distinct change in speed between the flat walk and running walk is **MANDATORY**. High headedness and heads behind the vertical **WILL** be penalized.
- b. In western classes, horses must reverse away from the rail (toward center ring) and must stand quietly and back readily upon request by the judge.
- c. Horses may be asked for a halt on the rail from any gait. The horses should respond quickly to the signal to stop and come to a halt without shaking of the head or gaping of the mouth. The horses must stand quietly on a loose rein until the judge asks the entries to perform the next gait
- d. Horses may be asked to perform a 360-degree neck reined turn to either the right or left during the lineup. The turn should be a pivot on the hindquarters with the body relatively straight and the pivot (inside) foot well under the body and remaining in the same spot during the turn. The horse should turn willingly, without tossing or shaking the head or gaping of the mouth.
- e. In western classes, reins must be held in one hand and cannot be changed during the class, except in Country Pleasure.
- f. When using split reins, the reins should come over the hand with the thumb resting on top and the rein ends coming out the bottom of the hand and falling free on the same side as the hand holding the reins. Only one finger may be placed between the reins.
- g. When using romal reins, the reins should enter the bottom of the hand with the excess rein coming out the top of the hand and the thumb resting on top of the reins. A finger between the reins is not allowed with romal reins. The extension is carried in the free hand, falling either straight or neatly coiled. The hand holding the romal must be at least 18 inches away from the rein hand. The romal may not be used forward of the cinch or used to signal or cue the horse in any way.
- h. If a rider uses two hands on the reins of a western horse at any time, the entry will be eliminated, except in Country Pleasure. The exception is when using a bosal or ring snaffle on a junior horse, the rider may use both hands on the reins. When using both hands, the reins should be crossed with the ends falling on either side of the horse.

## **7. Pleasure Driving Classes**

- a. Pleasure driving is judged on the horse, not the equipment turnout. The horse must perform the true four-beat walking gaits of the breed and should exhibit the same general qualities as in any flat shod pleasure class. Horses shall be worked on the rail at the flat walk and the running walk. When asked to reverse, entries should cut across the arena, taking care not to interfere with another exhibitor. Good manners are of utmost importance in a pleasure driving horse, and the horse must stand quietly and back readily.
- b. A header may be called in during the lineup and is allowed to loosen or unfasten the overcheck and wipe the horse off, but may not hold the horse unless it becomes necessary for reasons of safety. If the handler holds the horse, the horse will be penalized.
- c. The judge will excuse an uncontrollable horse or an entry with unsafe equipment immediately.
- d. Show management may offer pleasure driving classes such as Light Shod, Trail Pleasure, Period Costume, Drive and Ride, etc.

## **8. Versatility Classes**

- a. Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association versatility rules will be followed. Detailed rules are available in their current versatility handbook, available from TWHBEA, P.O. Box 286, Lewisburg, Tennessee 37091.
- b. Classes include
  - Barrel Racing
  - Basic Reining
  - Competitive Riding
  - Dressage
  - Endurance Riding
  - English Pleasure
  - Good Seat & Hands
  - Judged Pleasure Ride
  - Model
  - Pleasure Driving
  - Pole Bending
  - Showmanship at Halter
  - TWH over Fences
  - Trail Obstacle
  - Two Gaited TWH Pleasure
  - Versatility Driving
  - Water Glass
  - Western Pleasure
  - Western Riding

## **C. HALTER DIVISION**

### **1. General rules and procedures**

- a. The class sheet should specify whether a given class is for performance or pleasure horses.
- b. Emphasis in halter classes will be placed on conformation, type, substance, quality and condition. Entries should exemplify the best in conformation as described in the general criteria. Transmissible weaknesses and/or unsoundness must be penalized. Minor blemishes may be considered but are not necessarily penalized. Entries should be in good flesh and immaculately groomed.
- c. Entries may be asked to line up side by side or head to tail at the discretion of the judge
- d. Entries should park with all feet under them with ears forward and be alert but stand quietly.
- e. Entries showing obvious outward signs of being sedated or tranquilized (such as limp sheaths when walking or the dropping of sheaths on male horses while standing, unless they are urinating) must be excused by the judge.

- f. No ginger or other medication may be applied to any entry.
- g. Any exhibitor who, in the opinion of the judge, abuses an entry with a whip or other equipment will be excused from the class.
- h. If, in the opinion of the judge, an entry's behavior poses a threat or obstacle to other entries, that entry may be excused from the class.

## **2. Model Classes**

- a. Entries are judged on conformation, condition and presentation, including show ring presence.
- b. Entries are led into the ring, lined up as directed and not judged until parked.

## **3. In-Hand Classes**

- a. Entries are led into the ring and proceed counterclockwise until instructed to reverse. Entries are normally lined up head to tail for final judging.
- b. Entries are judged on overall way of moving, presentation and conformation.
- c. In Mare and Foal classes, entries will be judged 50% on the mare and 50% on the foal.
- d. In Get of Sire classes, the stallion is shown in hand with as many as three but not more than five of his get. The class is judged on the get.
- e. In Produce of Dam classes, a mare shall be shown at halter with at least 2 and no more than 5 horses of any sex or age that have been foaled by that mare.
- f. Weanlings and yearlings are shown in hand at a walk, reversed and walked, lined up and judged.

## **D. EQUITATION AND SHOWMANSHIP DIVISION**

In equitation and showmanship classes, the rider/handler is judged rather than the horse. The term "equitation" means "The art of riding horseback."

### **1. General provisions**

- a. Horses used in this division should be well groomed and properly tacked.
- b. While entries are judged at all times on ability, exhibitors in this division must conform to the requirements for personal appointments, which are based on good taste, and judges will penalize those not properly appointed.
- c. The judge will dismiss any exhibitor who does not have his or her mount under sufficient control.
- d. No attendant will be allowed in the ring except at the judge's request. The exception is Lead line Equitation, which is a class in which young riders are judged on their horsemanship skills while their mount is led by a handler at a walk only.
- e. Exhibitors should be familiar with the parts of the horse and the use and parts of the tack.
- f. In championship classes, exhibitors may be asked to mount and dismount and/or change horses, at the discretion of the judge.
- g. Stallions may be shown in adult equitation classes, but not in youth classes.

### **2. Walking Seat Equitation**

- a. To be shown in English tack and attire.
- b. Classes may be restricted to performance horses, flat shod horses or a combination of both. It is strongly suggested that equitation classes be restricted to either performance or pleasure horses. Horses may be from any division including but not limited to Trail Pleasure, Light Shod, Performance, Show Pleasure, etc.
- c. The basic appearance of the equitation rider should be in no way exaggerated but must be calm, comfortable, balanced, effective and controlled. The rider should display good ring showmanship of the horse. A complete picture of the whole entry is of major importance.
- d. The rider should sit straight and square on the horse. Slumping of the upper back, excessive arch in the lower back, sitting too far forward or back in the saddle, or sitting off to one side will be penalized. Cues to the horse should be subtle with little change in the rider's form. The rider should maintain calm if his horse misbehaves or does not perform a movement correctly. Excessive body movement when cueing the horse, hitting or kicking the horse in anger or frustration, and yanking on the reins will be severely penalized.

- e. The rider's head should be held high and look forward. The shoulders should be square, the waist supple, and the seat deep, in the deepest part of the saddle. Thighs and knees should be in close contact with the horse, with toes pointing forward. The ball of the foot should rest squarely on the stirrup iron with the heel lower than the toe. When the foot is out of the stirrup, the iron should hit the rider just below the ankle. The rider's arm should fall naturally from the shoulder with the elbow on the vertical or slightly forward. The rider's forearm should be parallel to the ground or slightly angled upward. The hands and forearm should form a "V" when viewed from above. They should be held over the withers so that the thumbs almost touch when extended. When the rider is in correct position, one should be able to draw a vertical line through the ear, shoulder, hip and heel.
- f. Each rein should be held between the thumb and index finger with the remaining fingers closed lightly around the rein. Reins should be crossed and the bight (the excess rein) should be on the right side.
- g. When in motion, rider should use light bit contact with required leg aids and correct speed. There should be very little motion in the saddle and no obvious movement of the hands. Starts and stops should be gradual and smooth with no kicking or jerking. The flat walk and running walk should be smooth and square with head motion. The canter should be smooth, slow and straight on both leads. The rider should initiate the canter with outside leg pressure slightly behind the girth and the inside leg at or slightly in front of the girth. In saddle seat equitation, the horse should reverse toward the rail in a well-collected manner. Light pressure should be applied with the legs to cue the turn and even rein pressure should be used after the turn to set the head in the correct position for the gait required. When lined up, the horse should stand on all four feet with head up and jaw flexible.
- h. Entries will enter the ring to the right at a flat walk and continue in a counterclockwise direction for all gaits. Upon direction of the judge, entries will reverse and repeat the gaits. Entries should line up for individual judging. The judge may ask each exhibitor to address the reins, back their horse, drop and pick up stirrups or answer questions about the anatomy of the horse, the tack or equitation. Performance horses will not be asked to back in the lineup. A pattern may be required by the judge and must be both publicly announced and posted before show time. Suggested patterns are:
  - Circle performed at any or all gaits
  - Straight line performed at any or all gaits
  - Serpentine performed at any or all gaits, must have a minimum of 2 half circles
  - Figure eight performed at any or all gaits
  - Ride without stirrups at any or all gaits
  - Change of canter lead
- i. Suggested classes in Walking Seat Equitation:
  - Walking Seat Equitation, riders 18 and over
  - Walking Seat Equitation, riders 17 & under
  - Walking Seat Equitation, riders 15-17 years
  - Walking Seat Equitation, riders 12-14 years
  - Walking Seat Equitation, riders 11 & under, 2 gait
  - Lead line Equitation, riders 6 & under
  - Walking Seat Equitation Championship

### **3. Stock Seat Equitation**

- a. Flat shod horses from any division may be shown in this division.
- b. Horses are shown in western tack and attire as described in Chapter 4.
- c. The performance of the horse is not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining the results.
- d. The general rules and provisions of Walking Seat Equitation will apply to Stock Seat Equitation. The gaits and rules of the Western Pleasure division will apply to Stock Seat Equitation.
- e. The basic appearance of the rider should be in no way exaggerated but must be calm, comfortable, balanced, and relaxed. The rider should display good ring showmanship of the horse. A complete picture of the whole entry is of major importance.

- f. The rider should sit straight and square on the horse. Slumping of the upper back, excessive arch in the lower back, sitting too far forward or back in the saddle, or sitting off to one side will be penalized. Cues to the horse should be subtle with little change in the rider's form. The rider should maintain calm if his horse misbehaves or does not perform a movement correctly. Excessive body movement when cueing the horse, hitting or kicking the horse in anger or frustration, and yanking on the reins will be severely penalized.
- g. The rider's head should be held high and look forward. The shoulders should be square, the waist supple, and the seat deep, in the deepest part of the saddle. Thighs and knees should be in close contact, with toes pointing forward. The ball of the foot should rest squarely on the stirrup with the heel lower than the toe. Consideration should be given to the width of the stirrup, which may vary on western saddles. When the foot is out of the stirrup, the stirrup should hit the rider just below the ankle. When the rider is in correct position, one should be able to draw a vertical line through the ear, shoulder, hip and heel.
- h. Arms are in a straight line with the body, the one holding the reins bent at the elbow. Reins may be held in either hand but may not be switched during the class. With a split rein, the rider may place only the index finger between the reins and the bight of the rein must fall on the same side as the hand holding the reins. The remainder of the rein must not be touched by the off hand during the class. The hand holding the reins should be placed slightly in front of the horn at about the horn level. The position of the hand not holding the reins is options but must be free of the horse and equipment and held in a relaxed manner. Elbows should be quiet and close to the rider's side.
- i. With romal reins, the reins may be held in either hand with the remainder of the rein coiled neatly in the off hand. There should be approximately 16 inches between the hands with the off hand behind the cinch. No fingers are allowed between romal reins and the hand should be held in a fist position just in front of the saddle horn.
- j. When in motion, rider should use light bit contact with required leg aids and correct speed. There should be very little motion in the saddle and no obvious movement of the hands. Starts and stops should be gradual and smooth with no kicking or jerking. The flat walk and running walk should be smooth and square with head motion. The canter should be smooth, slow and straight on both leads. The rider should initiate the canter with outside leg pressure slightly behind the girth and the inside leg at or slightly in front of the girth. In saddle seat equitation, the horse should reverse toward the rail in a well-collected manner. Light pressure should be applied with the legs to cue the turn and even rein pressure should be used after the turn to set the head in the correct position for the gait required. When lined up, the horse should stand on all four feet with head up and jaw flexible.
- k. Entries will enter the ring to the right at a flat walk and continue in a counterclockwise direction for all gaits. On command, entries will reverse and repeat the gaits. The judge may ask for a halt during any gait. Riders should respond quickly and quietly without altering the basic position. Entries should line up for individual judging and back at the judge's request. Judges may ask entries to back out of the lineup and execute a 360 neck reined turn before returning to the lineup. A pattern may be required by the judge and must be both publicly announced and posted before show time. Suggested patterns include:
- Circle performed at any or all gaits
  - Straight line performed at any or all gaits
  - Lope and halt
  - Lead change
  - Figure 8 performed at any or all gaits
  - Rollback to left or right
- l. Suggested classes for Stock Seat Equitation
- Stock Seat Equitation, riders 18 and over
  - Stock Seat Equitation, riders 17 & under
  - Stock Seat Equitation, riders 15-17 years
  - Stock Seat Equitation, riders 12-14 years
  - Stock Seat Equitation, riders 11 & under, 2 gait

- Stock Seat Equitation Championship

#### 4. Showmanship at Halter

- To be judged on the handler's skill in preparing and showing a flat shod conformation horse. No consideration is given to the horse other than his grooming and fitness
- Horses must be 2 years old or older.
- Tack and attire can be either western or English, but not a combination of the two.
- Primary consideration will be given to the performance of the handler in showing the horse. Handlers must walk on the horse's left side, with handler's shoulder even with the horse's throatlatch, holding the lead shank in the right hand near the halter. The remainder of the lead shank is held neatly and safely in the left hand. A tightly coiled or rolled lead shank or one with fingers through the coils will be considered a fault. The horse should lead easily at the flat walk and running walk with his head held at a height appropriate for his conformation. Exhibitors should never crowd other entries, whether lined up head to tail or side by side. Always leave a horse's length between you and the next horse.
- Each exhibitor will be expected to perform a pattern, either posted prior to the class or announced at the beginning of the class. When moving the horse, the exhibitor must be sure the judge has a clear, unobstructed view of the horse's action. The horse should move freely in a straight line with his head carried at a height appropriate for his conformation. In turning the horse, always turn to the right, with the horse turning directly over his hocks with the hind feet staying nearly in place.
- If the exhibitor is asked to back the horse, he should back smoothly, one step at a time, as straight as possible for as many steps as required. Do not change hands on the lead shank and use a press and release technique to ask the horse to back. Do not touch the horse.
- When posing the horse, the exhibitor should stand toward the front facing the horse with his toes pointed toward the horse's neck. The exhibitor should never stand directly in front of the horse. He should always be a position to keep an eye on the horse and an eye on the judge. Keep alert and do not be distracted by activity outside the ring. The exhibitor should do most of the showing with the lead shank, not touching the horse with a hand, changing hands on the lead shank or kicking the horse's leg into position.
- When the judge is examining an exhibitor's horse, the exhibitor should pretend the horse is divided into four quadrants. Draw one imaginary line down the horse's back and another across the middle. When the judge is looking at either hindquarter of the horse, the exhibitor should be on the same side as the judge, with his toes pointed toward the horse's eye or neck. When the judge looks at either front quarter, the exhibitor crosses to the opposite side of the horse to allow the judge an unobstructed view. See TWHBEA Versatility Handbook for additional information.

### E. PERFORMANCE HORSE DIVISION

#### 1. Performance Classes

- A Performance horse is one that uses pads and action devices to exaggerate the natural gaits of the Tennessee Walking Horse. Performance horses must show in pads. They also wear chains, rollers, boots or collars. Performance horses are shown with braced tails, either Walking Horse or humane type; caps and switches optional. Action and animation are never to replace overall gait quality. Consistency and timing, and a change in speed **MUST** be noticeable between the flat walk and running walk. Performance horses are not required to back in the lineup, but should stand quietly. Entries are shown in appropriate English tack and attire.
- Suggested Performance horses classes:
  - Two Year Old, No Canter (Maximum 10 minutes total workout time)
  - Three Year Old, No Canter
  - Four Year Old
  - Five Year Old and Over
  - Fine Harness
  - 15.2 and under Class
  - Championship Class

- Walking Horse Stake  
Classes may be further divided into open and amateur, by gender of horse and/or rider, age of rider, novice or any other way show management may devise.

## 2. Show Pleasure Classes

- The Show Pleasure horse is allowed the use of acceptable action devices and pads. Braced and humane tails are prohibited. The horse should exhibit natural animation and give the appearance of an easy, pleasurable ride. Manners, responsiveness and suitability to the rider in all gaits are emphasized. Entries are shown in appropriate tack and attire.
- Horses in a show pleasure driving class are shown in an appropriate two or four wheeled cart. Fine harness buggies are not appropriate in show pleasure division. The horse should exhibit good manners and present an appearance of ease and responsiveness to the driver.
- Cross chain cavessons are prohibited. Bit length maximum is 9 ½ inches tip to tip.
- Suggested Show Pleasure classes:
  - Junior Show Pleasure
  - Open Show Pleasure
  - Show Pleasure Driving
  - Show Pleasure, Riders 17 & under
  - Show Pleasure Championship

Classes may be further divided into open and amateur, by gender of horse and/or rider, age of rider, novice or any other way show management may devise.

## 3. Park Performance Classes

- Shoe size – see Shoeing Section (E).
- Braced tail and rock back pads are prohibited.
- Cross chain cavessons are prohibited, and bit length maximum is 9 ½ inches measured from tip to tip.
- Action and animation are never to replace overall gait quality, consistency and timing, and a change in speed must be noticeable between the flat walk and running walk. Park Performance horses are not required to back in the lineup but should stand quietly. Entries are shown in appropriate English tack and attire.
- Horses in a Park Performance driving class are shown in an appropriate two or four wheeled cart. Fine harness buggies are not appropriate in the Park Performance division. The horse should exhibit good manners and present an appearance of ease and responsiveness to the driver.
- Suggested Park Performance classes:
  - Open Park Performance
  - Junior Park Performance
  - Park Performance, Riders 17 and under
  - Park Performance Driving
  - Park Performance Championship

## F. SPECIAL CLASSES

Special classes can take any form decided by show management or the sponsoring organization. They would be open to exhibitors and horses in keeping with the general requirements in Chapters 4 and 5. Such classes are not limited to but might include:

- Antebellum Costume Class
- Game Classes such as Egg and Spoon, Musical Sacks, Back to Back, etc.
- Heritage Driving or Carriage Driving
- Drive and Ride

- Go As You Please Class
- E-Z Rider Class
- Leadline

## G. RACKING HORSE CLASSES

Entries may be shown with pads unless the class is designated as “Flat Shod”. Braced tails are not allowed. Performance racking horses can be shown with action devices.

Classes include:

Open classes: Entries can be further qualified according to age of horses, gender of horses or exhibitors or size of horse.

Amateur Classes: Entries can be further divided according to age of horse or exhibitors, gender of horses or exhibitors or size of horse.

Youth exhibitor classes : Entries can be further divided according to age of horses or exhibitors, gender of horses or exhibitors or size of horse.

Style Classes: Entries may be further qualified according to age of horses or exhibitors, gender of horses or exhibitors or size of horse.

### Shoeing and Equipment:

Performance Racking Horse: Shoeing includes use of pad and artificial extensions between the hoof and shoe in accordance with USDA regulations. There is no difference in shoeing between Walking Horses and Racking Horses.

Flat Shod Racking Horse: Uses no pad and the shoe must not exceed ½” in thickness or 1 1/2” in width. No bare plate or other weight is allowed inside the shoe. The caulk must not exceed 1” turnback and the shoe must not extend ¼” beyond the hoof at the toe. The heel of the shoe must not extend beyond the bulb of the horse’s heel when a perpendicular line is drawn from the bulb of the horse’s heel to the ground. Borium is permitted on the caulks of the flat shoe as long as the thickness of the borium, shoe and caulk does not exceed 1 1/8”. No other weight is permitted on or in the hoof other than the shoe and nails.

Affiliated racking horse association rules and regulations should be consulted in of questions regarding other shoeing and equipment requirements.

## H. SPOTTED SADDLE HORSE CLASSES

Entries are shown flat shod and braced tails are not allowed. Western attire is required unless the show program states otherwise. Classes include:

Open classes; Entries can be further qualified according to age of horses or exhibitors, gender of horses or exhibitors or size of the horse.

Amateur classes: These may be further divided according to age of horses or exhibitors, gender of horses or exhibitors or size of horse.

Youth exhibitor classes: These can be further divided according to age of horses or exhibitors, gender of horses or exhibitors or size of the horse.

### Shoeing and Equipment:

The shoe cannot be more than ½” thick or more than 1 1/2” wide. There is to be no bare plate or other weight within the shoe itself. The caulk cannot exceed a 1 1/2” turnback and the shoe cannot exceed ¼” beyond the toe. The caulk will not be thicker than 1” excluding the shoe. The heel of the shoe will not extend beyond the bulb of the horse’s heel when a straight line is drawn from the bulb of the heel to the ground. Borium can be used on the caulks of the flat shod shoes, but the shoe and

The caulk with the borium must not exceed 1 1/8". No additional types of weight shall be added to the hoof except for the shoe and nails. After the horse is inspected, lubricants can be applied.

Affiliated Spotted Saddle Saddle Horse Association Rules and Regulations should be consulted in case of questions regarding other shoeing and equipment requirements.