

# 2024 WALKING/RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE DIVISION

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### **General Division Rules:**

Horses are to be divided into three divisions: Walking, Racking, and Mountain Horse classes.

All horses will show together in Showmanship and in the Equitation Classes. Showmanship is divided according to the age of the 4-H'er. Equitation classes include Jr. & Sr. W/R/M English Equitation, Jr. & Sr. W/R/M Bareback Equitation, and Jr. & Sr. W/R/M Stock Seat Equitation.

Smooth gaited mules are allowed in any division and are expected to follow division rules.

**All 4-H'ers riding or driving horses at 4-H events or activities are required to wear an ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet at all times.**

Cruelty, abuse or inhumane treatment of any horse in the show ring or in the stable area will not be tolerated by the show management, and the offender will be barred from the show area for the duration of the show.

Evidence of any inhumane treatment to a horse including but not limited to blood, whip marks that raise welts or abusive whipping, in or out of the show ring, shall result in disqualification of that horse and that exhibitor for the entire show and shall result in the forfeiture of all ribbons, awards and points won.

### **Walking Horse Classes**

Classic All Day Pleasure Walking (English and Western Attire) – Jr. & Sr.

Country Pleasure Walking (English and Western Attire) – Jr. & Sr.

Trail Pleasure Walking (English and Western Attire) – Jr. & Sr.

Lite Shod Walking (English and Western Attire) – All ages

Open Flat Shod Walking Horse (English and Western Attire) – All ages

Equitation: Jr. & Sr. W/R/M English, Jr. & Sr. W/R/M Bareback, Jr. & Sr. W/R/M Stock Seat

**Walking Horses may enter any of the Walking Horse classes if the shoe size is appropriate.**

**Walking Horse Entries may not cross enter into Racking Horse or Mountain Horse classes.**

For calculation of High Point- Showmanship is mandatory, all Walking Classes are considered, as well as the Equitation Classes. Open Invitational classes are not counted.

### **Racking Horse Classes**

English Country Pleasure Racking – All ages

Western Country Pleasure Racking – Jr. & Sr.

Trail Pleasure Racking Lite Shod (English and Western Attire) - Jr. & Sr.

Flat Shod Racking Horse (English and Western Attire) – All ages

Equitation: Jr. & Sr. W/R/M English, Jr. & Sr. W/R/M Bareback, Jr. & Sr. W/R/M Stock Seat

**Racking Horses may enter any of the Racking Classes if the horse's shoe size is appropriate.**

**Racking Horse Entries may not cross enter into Walking Horse or Mountain Horse classes.**

For calculation of High Point: Showmanship is mandatory, all Racking Classes are considered, as well as the Equitation Classes. Open Invitational Classes are not counted.

### **Mountain Horse Classes**

Country Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse (English and Western Attire) – All ages

Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse (English and Western Attire) – Jr. & Sr.

English Pleasure Mountain Horse – All ages

Western Pleasure Mountain Horse – All ages

Show Pleasure Mountain Horse - All ages

Equitation: Jr. & Sr. W/R/M English, Jr. & Sr. W/R/M Bareback, Jr. & Sr. W/R/M Stock Seat

**All Mountain Horses may enter into any of the Mountain Horse Classes.**

**Mountain Horse Entries are not to cross enter into the Walking Classes or Racking Classes.**

For calculation of High Point: Showmanship is mandatory, all Mountain Classes are considered, as well as the Equitation Classes. Open Invitational Classes are not counted.

## **Walking Horse Division Classes**

### **CLASSIC ALL DAY PLEASURE WALKING Jr. (9-13 years old) & Sr. (14-18 years old)** **(ENGLISH OR WESTERN ATTIRE)**

Exhibitors must be between the ages of **9-13 years old** as of January 1 of the current year to show in the **Junior** division, and between the ages of **14-18 years old** as of January 1 of the current year to show in the **Senior** division. The All Day Pleasure horse is one that is truly a pleasure to use on the trail. The Classic All Day Pleasure horse must stand still on a loose rein at the halt and in the line up, and must back calmly and readily. This horse must not exhibit any nervous tendencies or seem rushed. This horse should move quietly with no balking. The All Classic Day Pleasure horse should transition between gaits smoothly and immediately. There are two gaits associated with the Classic All Day Pleasure horse, the pleasure gait and the trail walk, both performed on a loose rein. The pleasure gait is performed at a moderate speed and can be a variation of any saddle horse gait with no preference given to any particular gait over another. The gait should be consistent, balanced and possess smoothness and manageability to emphasize "all day" longevity making it a comfortable and easy ride. Form must not be sacrificed for speed when judging the gaits of the horse. Excessive animation and stride are not desired in the pleasure gait. It is not necessary for this horse to "walk" or shake their heads. Exhibitors may use two hands with English or Western tack and a cavesson or noseband may be used with English or Western tack. Shoeing: An unaltered, factory stamped keg shoe (poured or cast) hot or cold rolled steel or aluminum light horse breed (non draft breed) non toe-weighted shoe is allowed. Poured or cast clips if poured in the original cast (may not be welded on). Poured or cast heels/caulks if poured in the original cast (may not be welded on). Borium is allowed on the toe 1 ½" wide at the toe and spots on the heels no more than 1/8" thick. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet is mandatory.

### **COUNTRY PLEASURE WALKING Jr. (9-13 years old) & Sr. (14-18 years old)** **(ENGLISH OR WESTERN ATTIRE)**

Exhibitors must be between the ages of **9-13 years old** as of January 1 of the current year to show in the **Junior** division, and between the ages of **14-18 years old** as of January 1 of the current year to show in the **Senior** division. Registered or grade mares and geldings of any size. Tack and attire for the Country Pleasure Walking class may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. The Country Pleasure Horse must display a Flat Walk and a Running Walk – a smooth, easy, comfortable intermediate gait with excessive speed in the intermediate gait to be penalized. The judge does have the option of calling for a third gait, the trail walk. Entries will work both ways of the ring. The English Country Pleasure horse should reverse towards the rail and the Western Country pleasure horse should reverse toward the center of the ring (away from the rail). The horse should back readily upon command. Entries should be well mannered

and manageable on a light rein. Manners are paramount in a country pleasure horse and should be given consideration in judging. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet is mandatory. Shoe size: Up to 3/8" thick x 1" wide - bands optional so long as they are placed at least 1/2 inch below the bottom of the coronary band.

### **TRAIL PLEASURE WALKING Jr. (9-13 years old) & Sr. (14-18 years old) (ENGLISH OR WESTERN ATTIRE)**

Exhibitors must be between the ages of **9-13 years old** as of January 1 of the current year to show in the **Junior** division, and between the ages of **14-18 years old** as of January 1 of the current year to show in the **Senior** division. Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. Tack and attire for the Trail Pleasure Walking class may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. The trail pleasure horse may be asked to complete three different gaits: the flat walk, the running walk and the trail pleasure walk. Horses should enter the ring at a Flat Walk and go counterclockwise and continue at the required gaits, Flat Walk and Running Walk, reverse and repeat. Entries may be asked to do a Trail Walk at the discretion of the Judge. The English Trail Pleasure horse should reverse towards the rail and the Western Trail pleasure horse should reverse toward the center of the ring (away from the rail). At the completion of the class, the entries will be lined up for the Judge to walk the line up and ask each entry to back individually. The English Trail Pleasure Horse may be more up in the bridle than the Western Trail Pleasure Horse and the reins should be held lightly with two hands. The Western Entry must ride on a loose rein at all gaits, have a lower, more natural headset and can be ridden with one or two hands on the reins. The Judge should expect the entries to have effortless gaits geared toward encouraging stamina and longevity on the trail. ASTM SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn. This is a Trail Pleasure Shod class – shoe size maximum 3/8" thick x 3/4" wide – bands optional so long as they are placed at least 1/2 inch below the bottom of the coronary band.

### **LITE SHOD WALKING HORSE (ALL AGES, ENGLISH OR WESTERN TACK & ATTIRE)**

Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9-18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. Tack and Attire for the Lite Shod Class may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. This is a two-gait class in which the judge shall call for a flat walk and a running walk. Exhibitors are to enter the ring at a Flat Walk and go counterclockwise and continue to at the required gaits (Flat Walk, Running Walk), reverse and repeat. The English Lite Shod Walking Horse should reverse towards the rail and the Western Lite Shod Walking Horse should reverse toward the center of the ring (away from the rail). At the completion of the class, the entries will be lined up for the judge to walk the line up and ask each entry to back individually. The English Lite Shod Walking Horse may be more up in the bridle than the Western Lite Shod Horse and the reins should be held lightly with two

hands. The Western Entry must ride on a loose rein at all gaits, have a lower more natural headset and ridden with one or two hands on the reins. When riding with one hand, it cannot be changed during the class. This horse should display a true four beat gait at the flat walk and running walk. The Lite Shod Horse should be light and airy with its front legs and exhibit a long gliding over stride with a defined flat walk and running walk. It should display a cadenced headshake in rhythm with its legs. The Lite Shod Horse can be less animated than the Open Flat Shod Walking Horse. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Riding Helmet is mandatory. This is a Lite Shod Class - a maximum ½” thick and 1” wide hot or cold rolled steel or aluminum shoe (both front and hind feet) with a maximum 1 ½ inch turn back (measured from front to back of the caulk) is allowed. Borium is allowed on the caulks on the caulks and toes of the shoe, but the thickness of the shoe, caulk, and borium must not exceed 11/8” thick. Clips are optional when drawn from the original steel or poured.

### **OPEN FLAT SHOD WALKING HORSE (ALL AGES, ENGLISH OR WESTERN ATTIRE)**

Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9-18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. Tack and attire for the Open Flat Shod Walking class may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. This is a two-gait class in which the judge shall call for a flat walk and a running walk. Exhibitors are to enter the ring at a Flat Walk and go counterclockwise and continue at the required gaits (Flat Walk, Running Walk), reverse and repeat. The English Flat Shod horse should reverse towards the rail and the Western Flat Shod horse should reverse toward the center of the ring (away from the rail). At the completion of the class, the entries will be lined up for the Judge to walk the line up and ask each entry to back individually. The English Open Flat Shod Walking Horse may be more up in the bridle than the Western Horse and the reins should be held lightly with two hands. The Western Entry must ride on a loose rein at all gaits, have a lower, more natural headset and be ridden with one or two hands on the reins. When riding one hand, it cannot be changed during the class. This horse should display a true four beat gait at the flat walk and running walk. This horse will be animated and should include a longer stride with its rear legs and animated in the front with a natural reach, along with a more pronounced head shake. Judge must require entries to back. Excessive speed should be penalized. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet mandatory. This is an Open Flat Shod Class – maximum ½”thick x 1 ½ ” wide - open to Hot/Cold rolled steel or aluminum shoe – bands optional so long as they are placed at least 1/2 inch below the bottom of the cornet band.

## **WALKING DIVISION GENERAL CLASS RULES**

Mules (Smooth Gaited) are allowed to show in the Walking Horse Division and are expected to follow division rules. Walking Horse entries are not to cross enter into the Racking or Mountain Horse Classes and vice versa.

No horse shall be allowed to show if that horse has been administered any forbidden substance by any means. A forbidden substance is any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer or local anesthetic. Also prohibited is the use of “ginger” and any drugs regardless of how harmless or innocuous they might be, which by their very nature mask or screen the presence of the prohibited drugs, or prevent or delay testing procedures.

4-H will not recognize the cross entry rules that may exist in other Walking Horse shows. In 4-H, Walking Horses may show in Classic All Day Pleasure, Country Pleasure, Trail Pleasure, Lite Shod, and Open Flat Shod, if the shoe size permits. Walking Horses may not cross enter into the Racking Horse or Mountain Horse division.

4-H does allow for both registered and grade horses in all classes.

The fall from a horse shall disqualify the entry except when the rider falls because of contact interference from another rider or horse. In this situation, the rider and horse at fault will be excused.

## **WALKING HORSE SHOEING REQUIREMENTS**

**Horses may be shod for Classic All Day Pleasure, Country Pleasure, Trail Pleasure, Lite Shod or Open Flat Shod.**

**Barefooted horses may be shown;** however judges must disqualify lame or tender footed horses.

### **Shoeing Requirements for the Classic All Day Pleasure Horse**

The Classic All Day pleasure shoe is to be an unaltered factory stamped keg shoe (poured or cast) hot or cold rolled steel or aluminum light horse breed horse (non draft breed) non toe weighted shoe is allowed. Poured or cast clips if poured in the original cast (may not be welded on). Borium is allowed on the toe 1 ½ inch wide at the toe and spots on the heel no more than 1/8 inch thick.

### **Shoeing Requirements for the Country Pleasure Horse**

Country Pleasure Horses must wear a factory stamped keg shoe: maximum 3/8 inch thick by 1 inch wide. Poured or cast clips allowed if poured in the original cast or pulled from the original shoe. Poured or cast heels allowed (caulks) if poured in the original cast (may not be welded on), Heel caulks are optional. Borium is allowed on the toe with a maximum of 1 1/2 inch in length and spots on heels no more than 1/8 inch. Bands optional so long as they are placed at least 1/2 inch below the bottom of the coronary band.

### **Shoeing Requirements for the Trail Pleasure Horse**

Shoes for a Trail Pleasure Shod horse should be cold or hot rolled steel (Plain Carbon Steel) or aluminum no wider than 3/4 inch and no thicker than 3/8 inch. Poured or cast clips allowed if poured in the original cast or pulled from the original shoe. Heel caulks are optional. Borium is allowed on the caulks of the shoe but the thickness of the shoe, caulk and borium must not exceed 7/8 inch. Maximum 1 1/2 inch turnback is allowed (measured from front to back of caulk).

### **Shoeing Requirements for the Lite Shod Horse**

Shoes for the Lite Shod Horse are to be a maximum 1/2" thick and 1" wide hot or cold rolled steel or aluminum shoe (both front and hind feet) with a maximum 1 1/2 inch turn back (measured from front to back of the caulk) is allowed. Borium is allowed on the caulks on the caulks and toes of the shoe, but the thickness of the shoe, caulk, and borium must not exceed 1 1/8" thick. Clips are optional when drawn from the original steel or poured.

### **Shoeing Requirements for the Open Flat Shod Horse**

Shoes for an Open Flat Shod horse should be a maximum 1/2" x 1 1/2 " shoe that is open to cold or hot roll steel or aluminum shoe. The caulk must not exceed a 1 5/8" turnback and is measured from the front to back of the caulk. The use of borium is permitted on the caulks of the shoe, but the thickness of the shoe and caulk with the borium must not exceed 1 1/8 inch. Clips are optional when drawn from the original steel or poured.

### **Other Shoeing Rules**

Bands are optional in all walking horse classes as long as they are placed at least 1/2 inch below the bottom of the coronary band. Bands must be a maximum of 3/4 inch & a minimum of 1/2 inch in width. Bands must be made of a 16 gauge or smaller flexible steel.

Clips are optional in all divisions when drawn from the original steel or poured.

Turn back will be measured from the front to rear of the caulk.

Acrylic can be used to repair and mend a foot where the shoe has been thrown and the foot has been damaged. Acrylic or any other material cannot be used for the purpose of extending the



length of the natural hoof in any manner on both feet, which includes the toes or heels. Acrylic can be used to fill in around the nail holes or cracks on the sides of the hoof.

No additional weight shall be allowed on or in the hoof, other than the shoe, nails, and bands.

### **WALKING HORSE TACK AND ATTIRE**

#### **Tack Requirements for Walking Horses**

- All entries shall be clean, neatly trimmed in good flesh presenting a healthy appearance, and outfitted in clean and appropriate tack.
- All horses must use an English Saddle in English Classes (Western tack is addressed in the class description for Western classes).
- Trooper saddles are allowed in English classes, as long as it has English leathers and irons for stirrups. Trooper saddles with fenders and Western stirrups will not be permitted.
- Exhibitor's equipment (& apparel) shall either be English or Western, but not a combination of both.
- Standard Walking Horse Single Rein Bridle and Bit. While any standard Walking Horse Bit may be used, a gag bit with no shanks is not considered a standard Walking Horse Show Bit. Severe bits are discouraged and bleeding of the mouth or muzzle must be penalized in the final judging.
- Shanks in excess of 9 & ½ inches are prohibited in the Walking Horse Division. Shanks are measured from the very top of the metal to the very bottom of the metal, including the rings to which the cheeks and reins are attached.
- Quick change bridles and reins are not permitted.
- Full blinders of any type are not permitted on the show grounds at any time.
- Action devices of any kind and tail braces are prohibited on the show grounds or in the show ring on all Walking Horses.
- An Australian stock saddle is not approved as either English or Western Tack.
- Side Saddles are approved for use in Walking Horse classes.
- Braids shall be worn in English classes, but not in Western classes. Braids shall be attached neatly to the forelock and at the top of the mane next to the bridle path.
- Curb chains or straps must be flat against the jaw and be at least ½ inches wide. Cross chain cavessons are prohibited.
- Martingales and tie downs are prohibited.
- The use of Vet Wrap will be allowed in the cannon bone area on the front legs, and on the cannon bone down onto the ankles on the rear legs. The color is to blend in reasonable with the color of the horse.

- Any change in color of markings other than the mane, tail or hoof is prohibited. Only clear grooming materials are allowed on the hide and hair. Materials may be used to remove stains.

### **Special rules for Western Classes and Horses with Western Tack:**

- Bosals or ordinary ring snaffles may be used on 5-year old or younger western flat-shod pleasure horses. When using a bosal or a snaffle, the rider may use two hands on the reins. The ordinary ring snaffle has a broken mouth piece with conventional O-rings, egg-butt, or D-rings, and the ring must be no larger than 4 inches in diameter. Optional loose chin strap of leather or nylon is permitted. Reins should be attached above the chin strap.
- Cavessons are prohibited in Stock Seat Equitation.
- Romal reins mean an extension of braided material attached to closed reins. This extension is allowed to be carried in the free hand with approximately 16” spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the Romal. The Romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or used to signal or cue the horse in any way. When using the Romal, a hand should be around the reins and a finger between the reins is not permitted.
- In Western Classes, silver mounted equipment shall not count over good working equipment.
- Riding with 1 hand or 2 hands is optional in Walking Classes with Western Tack and Attire, except in Stock Seat Equitation, where Senior Riders must use 1 hand, with the index finger between the reins for split reins, and hand around the reins for Romal Reins. Junior Riders have the Option of riding with 1 or 2 hands in Jr. Stock Seat Equitation. When riding 1 handed, reins must be held in the same hand and cannot be changed during the performance. Walking Horse in Western Tack that are 5 and under may be ridden 2 handed with a snaffle bit.

### **Attire for Walking Horses**

It is the tradition of the show ring that riders, drivers and handlers be correctly attired for the classes in which they compete. Correct attire for Walking Horse presentation consists of the following, unless otherwise noted:

- English Riding Habit (Saddle Suit) or Day Coat with Jodhpur Pants in English Classes. Western attire is addressed in the class description for Western Classes.
- Use of Spurs is optional
- Riding Boots
- Pants tie downs, or underpasses.
- Gloves (Optional)
- Whips of four feet or less are allowed in any class where English attire and tack is used.

- The exhibitor's hair must be neat and groomed. Long hair should be styled so the back number can be easily seen.
- ASTM-SEI Approved Equestrian Helmet must be worn for all driving & riding classes.

### **Judging Procedures & Criteria for Judging Walking Horse Classes:**

All horses shall enter the ring at the flat walk, shall go to the right until the class is called. The gate will be closed when the Judge calls for the first gait, and no entry shall be admitted into the ring after the gate is closed. Judging of a class begins when the class is called to order and put on the rail at the close of the gate and continues until the judge has turned in his card.

The Judge shall call for gaits in the following order: flat walk, running walk, flat walk then reverse. When the horses are reversed, the order shall be flat walk, running walk, flat walk. In the Trail Pleasure and Country Pleasure Classes, a trail walk may be called at any time at the judges discretion. Entries in Western Tack & Attire should reverse to the inside of the ring and English entries should reverse toward the rail.

### **Criteria for Judging Lite Shod Walking Classes:**

The Lite Shod horse must display a true four beat gait at the flat walk and running walk. The Lite Shod horse should be light and airy with its front legs and exhibit a long gliding over stride with a defined flat walk and running walk. It should display a cadenced headshake in rhythm with its legs. The Lite Shod horse will be more animated than the Trail Pleasure horse. In English tack, the Lite Shod horse should be higher headed showing brilliance and a presence sought after in the show ring. In Western tack, the Lite Shod horse should have a lower headset and work on a lighter rein.

### **Criteria for Judging Trail Pleasure Walking Classes:**

The Trail Pleasure horse, like the country pleasure horse, should also represent the epitome of the flat shod pleasure horse. Although there are similarities between the two, there should also be distinct differences. A trail pleasure entry should display a true four beat gait at the flat walk and running walk and never have any tendency to trot, rack or pace. These gaits will be more pronounced than that of a country pleasure horse. They should display a more defined flat walk, and running walk, which may include a longer stride and more pronounced head shake. Although animation is not desirable, the trail pleasure horse may be slightly more animated than the country pleasure horse.

### **Criteria for Judging Country Pleasure Walking Classes:**

The Country Pleasure horse should represent the epitome of the flat shod pleasure horses. He displays true pleasure qualities, along with the natural gaits of the walking horse. The gaits required are the Flat Walk and Running Walk. The Trail Pleasure Walk may be asked for at the

Judges discretion. A Country Pleasure Horse should never have a tendency to rack, pace or trot. Animation is not desirable, but they should exhibit a smooth, gliding flat walk and running walk, with a cadenced head shake. The gait should be level with both front and rear legs, never “hitchy”. It should display a balanced, fluid, rhythmic motion. Manners are paramount in this division. The rider may ride with two hands, both English or Western Tack and Attire (not a combination of both), but the reins must be light or relaxed. The cavesson is not prohibited in Western Country Pleasure and is an option. The Country Pleasure horse should stand quietly in the line up, and back readily upon the Judges request.

### **Criteria for Judging Open Flat Shod Walking Class:**

The Open Flat Shod Walking Horse should display elegant and classic beauty while performing the flat walk and running walk effortlessly in a true rhythmic four beat gait. Lots of head shake is quite desirable in this class. Walking Horses in this class will be animated and have a long, gliding overstride, with its hind legs always in a forward motion. This horse should never show tendencies to pace, trot or rack. The English Flat Shod Walking Horse should be high headed and alert with show horse qualities. The Western Flat Shod Walking horse should have a natural head set and work on a loose rein.

### **Classes for Walking Horse Entries**

4-H will not recognize the cross entry rules that may exist in other Walking Horse Shows. In 4-H, as long as the shoe size permits, horses may show in Classic All Day Pleasure, Country Pleasure, Trail Pleasure, Lite Shod and Open Shod Walking Horse. Walking Horses are not to cross enter into the Racking Horse or Mountain Horse Divisions.

Walking Horse exhibitors may show in 1 Showmanship class and up to 4 Performance classes with the same horse/rider combination.

Those classes may be any of the classes designated for Walking Horses as long as the shoeing regulations are met and Walking Horses may show in any of the Equitation Classes. Walking Horses can also show in the Open Invitational Class – Flat Shod Canter Class, and OI Ground Handling Class, however, the OI classes are not used for Highpoint calculation.

## **Racking Horse Division Classes**

### **ENGLISH COUNTRY PLEASURE RACKING LITE SHOD (All ages)**

Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9-18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. The Country Pleasure horse shall be shown with a light rein; both the horse and rider must be relaxed and comfortable. He shall not be required to maintain a high head, but should be alert in the bridle. He shall not be required to maintain a high front leg lift, but should exhibit a smooth stride behind. The Country Pleasure Horse will be required to perform three gaits: Country Pleasure Show Walk, Country Pleasure Slow Rack, and Country Pleasure Fast Rack. Country Pleasure Horses shall stand quietly and must back readily. Horses will work both ways of the ring. The Show Walk shall be a slow, true four beat gait. There shall be a smooth stride behind with a natural rolling motion in the front. The Show Walk will not have the speed or animation of the Slow Rack. The Slow Rack shall be a true four-beat gait, distinguished from the Show Walk. The reins shall be held lightly. The Fast Rack shall be a comfortable, easy-going rack in which speed is not a factor, but easily distinguished from the other two gaits required in this division. Any indication of strain on the part of the horse or rider will be penalized. The Country Pleasure Racking Horse shall enter the ring at a Show Walk prior to the initial judging of the class. Shoe size: Up to 3/8" thick x 1" wide. Bands optional so long as they are placed at least 1/2 inch below the bottom of the coronary band. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet is mandatory.

### **WESTERN COUNTRY PLEASURE RACKING LITE SHOD Jr. (9-13 years old) & Sr. (14-18 years old)**

Exhibitors must be between the ages of **9-13 years old** as of January 1 of the current year to show in the **Junior** division, and between the ages of **14-18 years old** as of January 1 of the current year to show in the **Senior** division. Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. The Country Pleasure horse shall be shown with a light rein; both the horse and rider must be relaxed and comfortable. The Country Pleasure Racking Horse shall not be required to maintain a high head, but should be alert in the bridle. This horse shall not be required to maintain a high front leg lift, but should exhibit a smooth stride behind. The Country Pleasure Horse will be required to perform three gaits: Country Pleasure Show Walk, Country Pleasure Slow Rack, and Country Pleasure Fast Rack. Country Pleasure Horses shall stand quietly and must back readily. Horses will work both ways of the ring. The Show Walk shall be a slow, true four beat gait. There shall be a smooth stride behind with a natural rolling motion in the front. The Show Walk will not have the speed or animation of the Slow Rack. The Slow Rack shall be a true four-beat gait, distinguished from the Show Walk. The reins shall be held lightly. The Fast Rack shall be a comfortable, easy-going rack in which speed is not a factor, but easily distinguished from the other two gaits required in this division. Any indication of strain on the

part of the horse or rider will be penalized. The Country Pleasure Racking Horse shall enter the ring at a Show Walk prior to the initial judging of the class. Western attire including boots, long sleeved shirt or jacket is mandatory. Chaps and spurs are optional. Riders can ride with one or two hands on the reins. Shoe size: Up to 3/8" thick x 1" wide. Bands optional so long as they are placed at least 1/2 inch below the bottom of the coronary band. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet is mandatory.

**TRAIL PLEASURE RACKING LITE SHOD Jr. (9-13 years old) & Sr. (14-18 years old)**  
**(ENGLISH AND WESTERN ATTIRE)**

Exhibitors must be between the ages of **9-13 years old** as of January 1 of the current year to show in the **Junior** division, and between the ages of **14-18 years old** as of January 1 of the current year to show in the **Senior** division. Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. Tack and attire for the Trail Pleasure Racking class may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. A Trail Pleasure Racking Horse shall not be required nor expected to maintain qualities such as a high head or high front leg lift, but should be the ultimate of a trail type horse, and should show evidence of being collected in his gaits. He shall stand quietly and back readily. A Trail Pleasure horse will be required to perform two gaits: Trail Pleasure Walk and Trail Pleasure Rack. The Trail Pleasure Walk is a true walk in which the rider and his mount are at complete ease. The rein is light and there is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider. The Trail Pleasure Rack is considered to be a true four-beat gait. It is recognized as being the ultimate for a pleasure horse in which ease of riding and comfort are paramount. There is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider, and the reins are lightly held in two hands (or one if desired by riders with Western Attire). Speed shall not be a factor in judging. The Trail Pleasure Racking Horse shall enter the ring at a Trail Pleasure Rack prior to initial judging of the class. Horses will work both ways of the ring. This is a Light Shod class and the shoe must not exceed 3/8 of an inch in thickness, nor be any wider than 3/4 of an inch. The caulk must not be any thicker than 3/4 of an inch. Bands are not allowed. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet is mandatory.

**FLAT SHOD RACKING HORSE (All ages, ENGLISH AND WESTERN ATTIRE)**

Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9-18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. English tack and attire or Western Tack and Attire are allowed, but not a combination of both. Reins are held with both hands when riding in an English tack, and either one or two hands when riding in a Western tack. The Flat Shod Racking Horse shall be a dependable and pleasurable to ride. Emphasis on judging should be placed on manners, quality and compatibility of horse and rider. In the execution of its three gaits, the horse should exhibit smoothness of ride a high head with animation rewarded. Bumping and pumping of the reins will be penalized. This horse must back readily. Any

indication of strain on the part of the horse or rider will be penalized. A Flat Shod Racking Horse will be shown at three gaits: Show Walk, Slow Rack and Fast Rack. The Show Walk is a smooth, collected slow and easy gait. It is a distinctive four-beat gait displaying both style and grace. The horse is alert and mounted well in the bridle. The Slow Rack is a relaxed four-beat gait with both style and action, either a pace or a trot. The neck is arched with the head and ears alert. The gait should be straight, smooth and in forma all times. The Fast Rack is in the same in form as the Slow Rack, displaying style, speed and action. The Fast Rack will be a comfortable easy going rack in which speed is not a factor, but should be easily identifiable from the other two gaits required in this division. The Flat Shod Racking Horse shall enter the ring at a Show Walk prior to initial judging of the class. The judge will call for the performance of gaits in the following order: (1) Show Walk (2) Slow Rack (3) Fast Rack. This is a Flat Shod Racking Horse Class. Flat shod shall be construed as being hoof-to-shoe with no pad being used for any purpose. Shoe must not exceed ½ inch in thickness and 1 ½ inches in width with no bare plates or other weight inside the shoe. The caulk must not exceed 1 inch and the shoe must not extend more than ¼ inch beyond the hoof at the toe. The use of welded clips is prohibited, however clips that are drawn from the shoe itself are allowed. Bands optional so long as they are placed at least 1/2 inch below the bottom of the coronary band. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet is mandatory.

### **RACKING DIVISION GENERAL CLASS RULES**

Mules (Smooth Gaited) are allowed to show in the Racking Horse Division and are expected to follow division rules. Racking Horse entries are not to cross enter into the Walking or Mountain Horse Classes and vice versa.

### **RACKING SHOEING REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Racking Light Shod/Lite Shod**

Light Shod shall be construed as being hoof-to-shoe with no pad being used for any purpose, which shall include corrective shoeing. Factory stamped keg shoe, as well as weighted shoes are allowed. Shoe must not exceed 3/8 inch in thickness and 3/4 inch in width. The caulk must not exceed 3/4 inch in thickness. Shoeing bands are not allowed in all light shod classes. The use of welded clips is prohibited in all classes. However, clips may be used when drawn from the original steel or poured. No additional weights shall be allowed in or on the hoof other than shoe and nails.

#### **Racking Flat Shod**

Flat shod shall be constructed as being hoof-to-shoe with no pad being used for any purpose, which shall include corrective shoeing. Weighted shoes are allowed. Shoe must not exceed ½ inch in thickness and 1½ inches in width with no bare plates or other weight inside the shoe. The

caulk must not exceed 1 inch and the shoe must not extend more than ¼ inch beyond the hoof at the toe. Shoeing bands are allowed in all flat shod classes including Pleasure classes except those designated as light shod. The uses of welded clips are prohibited in all classes. However, clips that are drawn from the shoe itself are allowed. No additional weights shall be allowed in or on the hoof other than shoe and nails.

### **RACKING TACK AND ATTIRE**

#### **Tack**

- All tack must be neat and clean and fit the horse correctly.
- Horses may not be exhibited with tail braces, boots, chains or any other apparatus that would restrict the natural movement of the Racking Horse.
- **Bridles:** Hackamores, martingales and tie downs are prohibited. Bridles should be the type commonly used by Racking Horses with single reins.
- Shanks over 9½ inches are prohibited. Shanks are measured from the top of the metal to the bottom of the metal, including the rings.
- Gag bits without shanks are not allowed. Severe bits must be penalized in the final judging.
- Cross chain cavessons are prohibited.
- **Saddles:** Should be the flat English types. Forward seat saddles are prohibited. Trooper saddles are allowed with English leathers and irons, but prohibited with fenders and western stirrups. Western saddles are prohibited except in designated classes where Western tack is permitted or required.
- **Breast Straps:** May be used, but must be free of any imprinting of names or symbols.
- **Braids:** Should be attached neatly at forelock and at the top of the mane next to the bridle path. Braids are not worn in classes with Western Tack & Attire.

#### **Attire**

- **Dress:** Following the tradition of the show ring, it is necessary that the exhibitors be neatly attired for competition. Exhibitors will wear an English Riding Habit, with the exception of designated western attire in Western Country Pleasure and choice of tack/attire in the Trail Pleasure. All riding attire shall be neat and properly fitted. Rider's hair must not obstruct back number.
- ASTM-SEI Equestrian helmets are required whenever riding or driving.

### **CRITERIA FOR JUDGING RACKING HORSE CLASSES**

In some horses, the rack is considered to be an artificial gait, but to the true Racking Horse, this gait comes just as natural as walking or striking a bold trot for some horses.



The Racking horse requires no special training to perform this air-float, four-beat action which creates a comfortable shock-absorbed ride. The rack is often called the single-foot because a single foot strikes the ground at a time. At a rack, the horse should display style, speed and action.

The racking horse must not exhibit an exaggerated head nod in the Slow Rack or Fast Rack. The racking horse must not exhibit an exaggerated hock action with the rear legs, but its stride should be long and natural. The front leg action must exhibit a curved rolling motion rather than the legs following a straight line, commonly termed pitching or pointing. The racking horse must exhibit good conformation and be free of blemishes and unsoundness, other than healed permanent scars.

**Racking Gaits include the Show Walk, Slow Rack and Fast Rack.**

- Show Walk – The show walk is a smooth collected, slow and easy gait. It is a distinctive four-beat gait displaying both style and grace. The horse is alert and mounted well in the bridle.
- Slow Rack – The slow rack is a relaxed four-beat gait with both style and action, neither a pace nor a trot. The neck is arched with head and ears alert. The gait should be straight, square and in form at all times.
- Fast Rack – The fast rack is the same in form as the slow rack, displaying style, speed and action. The fast rack is faster than either of the other gaits, but form may not be sacrificed for speed.

Exceptions to the three gaits are found in Trail Pleasure and Country Pleasure Classes. In each of the three gaits the horse must be collected and presented well, and the rider must be relaxed and smooth in the saddle. At no time may the horse exemplify a gait with animated hock action. The Racking Horse must not exhibit an exaggerated head nod in the Slow Rack or Fast Rack. It must not exhibit an exaggerated hock action with the rear legs, but its stride should be long and natural. The front leg action must exhibit a curved rolling motion rather than the legs following a straight line, commonly termed “pitching” or “pointing”.

**Classes for Racking Horse Entries**

4-H will not recognize the cross entry rules that may exist in other Racking Horse shows. In 4-H, Racking Horses may show in any of the classes designated for Racking Horses. If the shoe size permits – a racking horse may show in Trail Pleasure Racking Light Shod, Western Country Pleasure Lite Shod, or the Flat Shod Racking Horse Class. Racking Horses may not cross enter into the Walking Horse or Mountain Horse division.

Racking Horse exhibitors may show in 1 Showmanship class and up to 4 Performance classes with the same horse/rider combination.

Those classes may be any of the classes designated for Racking Horses as long as the Shoeing regulations are met and can show in any of the Equitation Classes. Racking Horses can also show in the Open Invitational Class – Flat Shod Canter Class, and OI Ground Handling Class, however, the OI classes are not used for Highpoint calculation.

## *Mountain Horse Division Classes*

### **COUNTRY TRAIL PLEASURE MOUNTAIN HORSE (All ages ENGLISH AND WESTERN ATTIRE)**

Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9-18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. Tack and attire for the Country Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse class may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. The reins are lightly held in two hands if riding in English attire. Junior and Senior riders can ride with one or two hands if riding in Western attire. The horse should exhibit an evenly timed, consistent four-beat gait. A Country Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse shall exhibit a gait that is effortless and extremely smooth, with no animation. The head and neck must be relaxed and show little to no elevation, and the horse in gait should be ridden with a minimum of bit contact. The horse should remain relaxed at all times. The horses will be asked to perform the following gaits: Trail Walk and Show Gait. The Country Trail Pleasure Mountain horse will enter the ring at the Show Gait and then both gaits shall be called for; the horse will work both ways of the ring. The reins at the trail walk shall be loose and preferably on the buckle. In this pleasant frame, the horse should display evident self-carriage, and must move in an efficient manner that depicts a dependably smooth trail riding mount. The Country Trail Pleasure Horse is expected to be the epitome of smooth; having evenly timed footfalls and a very consistent slow speed. The headset should be somewhat relaxed and natural to the conformation of the horse, having slight flexion at the poll; without nosing out, over-tucking, or evading the bit, whether behind or above. The hindquarters should softly bob showing elasticity in the back. The overall look of the horse and rider should exhibit as “floaty” and extremely comfortable for both. Animation is not desirable. Consistent, even footfalls in a relaxed manner is the goal. The transitions from walk to gait to halt are expected to be smooth and relaxed. The horse should show a willing nature to go forward on a loose rein at the trail walk; without rushing and should halt and back-up smoothly at least 3 steps in the lineup without resistance and display patience. This type of horse needs to depict itself as the most dependable and trustworthy mount, appearing to give the rider a nearly effortless ride. Shoes must be factory made keg shoes and all four feet, if shod, must be of the same material. Either all four feet should be shod, or all four feet should not be shod. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet is mandatory.

### **TRAIL PLEASURE MOUNTAIN HORSE Jr. (9-13 years old) & Sr. (14-18 years old) (ENGLISH AND WESTERN ATTIRE)**

Exhibitors must be between the ages of **9-13 years old** as of January 1 of the current year to show in the **Junior** division, and between the ages of **14-18 years old** as of January 1 of the current year to show in the **Senior** division. Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. Tack and attire for the Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse class may be English or Western, but not a

combination of both. The reins are lightly held in two hands if riding in English attire. Junior and Senior riders can ride with one or two hands if riding in Western attire. The horse should exhibit an evenly timed, consistent four-beat gait. A Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse shall be presented as dutifully and purposefully engaged in a working frame. The horse and rider should exhibit a well-balanced and comfortable ride; having soft contact on the bridle, flexion at the poll should allow for the profile to be nearly vertical in headset with an elegantly rounded neckline. Self-carriage is desirable. Emphasis should never be for animation or brilliance: rather for, consistency, forward-reaching and exceptionally smooth, rolling movement. Momentum propelled from the hindquarters and the signature tail flounce indicates a “happy” moving frame. Horse and rider shall perform slow and steady at the show gait and exhibit obvious speed increase in the pleasure gait. The trail walk must be calm, relaxed and ridden with clearly observable slack in the reins. The reins at all times must be in a “U” with the lowest point noticeably lower than the point of attachment to the bit. Horses must be well-mannered, quiet, and manageable on a light rein at all gaits. The horses will be asked to perform the following gaits: Trail Walk, Show Gait and Pleasure Gait. The Trail Pleasure Mountain horse will enter the ring at the Show Gait and then all three gaits shall be called for; the horse will work both ways of the ring. Horses will be asked to back and should do so readily in the lineup, backing at least 3 steps. Shoes must be factory made keg shoes and all four feet, if shod, must be of the same material. Either all four feet should be shod, or all four feet should not be shod. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet is mandatory.

### **ENGLISH PLEASURE MOUNTAIN HORSE (All ages)**

Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9-18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. Registered and grade mares and geldings. This is an English Tack and Attire class for those horses that are described as Mountain horses. The horse should exhibit an evenly timed, consistent four-beat gait. The horse should exhibit the appropriate headset carriage of a Mountain horse. The horse must demonstrate a characteristically calm, intelligent, sensible, willing temperament. Reins should be held in both hands. The horses will be asked to perform the following gaits: Trail Walk, Show Gait and Pleasure Gait. The Mountain horse will enter the ring at the Show Gait and then all three gaits shall be called for and the horse will work both ways of the ring. The horse will turn towards the rail when asked to reverse. Horses will be asked to back and should do so readily in the lineup, backing at least 3 steps. Shoes must be factory made keg shoes and all four feet, if shod, must be of the same material. Either all four feet should be shod, or all four feet should not be shod. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet is mandatory.

### **SHOW PLEASURE MOUNTAIN HORSE (All ages ENGLISH AND WESTERN ATTIRE)**

Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9-18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. Tack and attire for the Show Pleasure Mountain Horse class may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. The reins are lightly held in two hands if riding in English attire. Junior and Senior riders can ride with one or two hands if riding in Western attire. The Show Pleasure Horse is meant to be the picture of brilliance, precision, and fluidity. In this division, horse and rider present themselves in a performance frame; where the horse is forward moving and collected up in the bridle, having powerful yet light strides that are propelled by the hindquarters. The gait should have an elastic rolling quality that is free-flowing from the shoulder; where the rider is not over-riding, extremely heavy handed or compensating for choppy stride. At both speeds, the overall frame should appear supple, showy, smooth, and enjoyable. In the show gait, the horse shall exhibit controlled collection, while the pleasure gait allows for the showcase of animated speed and athleticism. There should be a significant difference between the two speeds. The horse should never be squatting in the hindquarters, strung-out, or reined-in to the point of creating forced, choppy upright motion rather than forward motion. Stride should be consistent and evenly timed at all speeds, and frame should never be sacrificed for speed or animation. There should be no evidence of marching in the front end at the trail walk. The horse and rider shall present a relaxed forward moving walk that is purposeful and as equally timed as the gait. Smooth transitions are desirable and indicate suppleness and fluid dynamic between horse and rider. Any indication of nervousness, bad manners, or tongue or mouth distress shall be penalized. The horses will be asked to perform the following gaits: Trail Walk, Show Gait and Pleasure Gait. The Show Pleasure Mountain horse will enter the ring at the Show Gait and then all three gaits shall be called for; the horse will work both ways of the ring. Horses will be asked to back and should do so readily, backing at least 3 steps in the lineup. Shoes must be factory made keg shoes and all four feet, if shod, must be of the same material. Either all four feet should be shod, or all four feet should not be shod. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet is mandatory.

### **WESTERN PLEASURE MOUNTAIN HORSE (All ages)**

Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9-18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. Registered and grade mares and geldings. This is a Western Tack and Attire class for those horses that are described as Mountain horses. The horse should exhibit an evenly timed, consistent four-beat gait. The Western Pleasure Mountain horse works quietly exhibiting a smooth and comfortable ride without excessive action or animation. The Western horse is forward-moving, ground-covering yet relaxed, and may be somewhat less “contained” in frame than horses in other divisions. The headset of the horse must be relaxed and steady; any tendency to be up in the bridle will be penalized. Junior and Senior riders can ride with one or two hands if riding in Western attire. The horses will be asked to perform the following gaits:

Trail Walk, Show Gait and Pleasure Gait. The Western Pleasure Mountain horse will enter the ring at the Show Gait and then all three gaits shall be called for and the horse will work both ways of the ring. The horse will turn towards the center ring when asked to reverse. The judge may ask for a halt and the horse must stop promptly and stand quietly on a light rein. Horses will be asked to back in the lineup and should do so readily, backing at least 3 steps. A 360 degree turn in the lineup is at the Judge's discretion. Western tack includes a western saddle, any style (including Australian Stock Saddle) and a western bridle with no cavesson or colored brow band. Bits with shanks should not exceed 8 1/2 inches. Western attire includes boots and a long sleeved shirt (or jacket) and pants. Chaps and spurs are optional. Shoes must be factory made keg shoes and all four feet, if shod, must be of the same material. Either all four feet should be shod, or all four feet should not be shod. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet is mandatory.

### **MOUNTAIN HORSES GENERAL CLASS RULES**

The Mountain Horse classes are for those horses known as: Rocky Mountain Horses, Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horses, Mountain Pleasure Horses, Spotted Mountain Horses, and all other horses recognized as a smooth-gaited Mountain Pleasure-type horse. 4-H will not recognize the cross-entry rules that may exist in other horse shows, nor the limitation on classes in which spotted mountain horses may show.

Mules (Smooth Gaited) are allowed to show in the Mountain Horse Division and are expected to follow division rules. Mountain Horse entries are not to cross enter into the Walking or Racking Horse Classes and vice versa.

### **SHOEING REQUIREMENTS**

- Shoes must be factory made keg shoes and all four feet, if shod, must be of the same material and same manufacturer.
- Showing barefoot is allowed, but if choosing to wear shoes, all four feet should be shod.
- Shoes must be factory made keg shoes and MUST not exceed 3/4 inch in width at all locations on the shoe and must not exceed 3/8 inch in thickness at all locations on the shoe. With borium/drill tech up to 1/4 inch thick or caulk up to 1/2 inch thick. Total thickness may not exceed 7/8 inch at caulks.
- Horses may wear a combination of flat and caulked shoes but must be of the same material and manufacturer.
- Trailers are not permitted.
- Clips drawn from the body of the shoe, or factory made clips on the shoe, are permitted. Welded on clips are prohibited, as is the addition of any other substance or device to add weight to the shoe.
- Drill tech, borium, and dowels are permitted.

- Dowels are limited to a total of 4 per shoe, two in front of the shoe and two in the rear of the shoe.
- Two dime-sized dots of borium or drill tech, not to exceed ¼ inch in thickness are permitted on the toe and/or heel of the shoe. NO ridges or lines are allowed. Shoes may have drill tech, borium or dowels, but not a combination of these materials. Dowels are allowed. The horse's natural toe length shall not exceed 4/5 inches, including the shoe. The measurement is obtained by placing the hoof on a flat level surface and then measuring from the coronet band where the soft flesh meets the hard part of the hoof at the center of the front pastern along the hoof wall to the ground and includes the shoe.
- The use of acrylic and/or filler shall be restricted to hoof repair and is restricted to one hoof only.
- No pads of any type or for any reason are allowed.
- No pressure shoeing (a shoe smaller than the natural hoof with the hoof filed down to fit the shoe shall be considered a form of pressure shoeing.) The shoe must fit the natural hoof.

## **MOUNTAIN HORSE TACK AND ATTIRE**

### **Mountain Horse Tack**

Entries and exhibitors in classes other than those specifically designated as “Western,” or other description denoting required tack, may be presented in either English or Western tack. Mixing of tack and attire is not permissible.

### ***Western Tack***

- Western tack includes saddle with horn, silver, one-ear, or brow band headstalls, closed reins with romal or Western-style split reins of leather or hair, saddle blanket and/or pad, cord, leather or neoprene girth, and breast collar.
- Spade bits or Western bits with rollers or crickets are permissible unless their use causes mouth discomfort.
- Running or standing martingales, ties downs, figure 8 or dropped nosebands are not allowed.
- Cavessons are not allowed in Western classes.

### ***English Tack***

- English tack includes Cutback, English all purpose, plantation, trooper, or dressage style saddles of leather or synthetic materials, English style single rein bridles, stitched or buckled, with cavessons and browbands, leather cord, neoprene, webbing, or fabric girth, black or white saddle pads, either square or shaped, and leather breast strap.

- Tradition fillis style (offset stirrups), including safety stirrups are acceptable.
- Rhinestone and metallic browbands are permissible except in Equitation.
- Snaffle or shank style bits are allowed in English classes.

### *Miscellaneous*

- Any noseband and/or curb chain may not be tightened whereby two fingers cannot be inserted between the jaw and curb chain or jaw and noseband.
- Curb straps or chains of less than ½ inches are not allowed. Curb chains should be flat against the chin groove, and should be free of any wire, rawhide or other material used in conjunction with the approved curb strap or chain.
- Cross chain cavessons, bicycle chain and other severe mouthpieces, gag bits without shanks, shanks that exceed 8 ½ inches when measured from the top of the bit attached to the bridle to the bottom of the shank including the rings are not allowed.
- Braids or ribbons in manes and tails are not permitted.
- Tail sets are not allowed.

### **Mountain Horse Attire**

#### *English*

- At a minimum, saddle seat attire includes a long-sleeved shirt (or short sleeve dress shirt covered by a coat) with a collar and tie, jodhpur breeches with tie-downs, and solid color boot with heels.
- English saddle seat suit or day coat and jodhpurs, are recommended, but not required.
- Gloves and vests are optional, but strongly encouraged.
- Long hair should be neatly confined and must be off the collar, not covering the entry number.
- ASTM-SEI approved Equestrian helmet is required when riding.

#### *Western*

- Western slacks, Jodhpur breeches may be worn if covered by Western style chaps.
- Western style jacket, bolero or vest is optional.
- Any solid colored pants are acceptable under chaps.
- Western long sleeve shirt or slinky (sleeve length may vary under a jacket).
- Neckwear such as a tie, bolo, or neck scarf (not required with a slinky).
- Gloves are optional.
- Western style boots or jodhpur boots when worn with chaps.
- Chaps, spurs, and gloves are optional.
- Hair should be neatly restrained above the collar line and not cover the entry number.
- ASTM-SEI approved Equestrian helmet is required when riding.



## **CRITERIA FOR JUDGING MOUNTAIN HORSE CLASSES**

Gaits include the Trail Walk, Show Gait and Pleasure Gait.

- Trail Walk – The trail walk should be a calm, natural walk. The horse should have a headset that is natural and lower than the other gaits.
- Show Gait– The show gait is a four-beat gait that is performed at medium speed. The show walk is performed in a smooth rhythmic fashion. The head is carried proudly in the bridle and the feet should move forward in an even form. This gait has less speed and action than the mountain pleasure gait.
- Pleasure Gait – The pleasure gait is a four beat gait with increased speed and action. There is a distinct change in speed from the show walk to the mountain pleasure gait.

### **Classes for Mountain Horse Entries**

4-H will not recognize the cross entry rules that may exist in other Mountain Horse shows. In 4-H, Mountain Horses may show in any of the classes designated for Mountain Horses. A Mountain horse may show in Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse, Country Pleasure Mountain Horse, English Pleasure Mountain Horse, Western Pleasure Mountain Horse or Classic Pleasure Mountain Horse Classes. Mountain Horses may not cross enter into the Walking Horse or Racking Horse division.

Mountain Horse exhibitors may show in 1 Showmanship class and up to 4 Performance classes, with the same horse/rider combination.

Those classes may be any of the classes designated for Mountain Horses and may show in any of the Equitation Classes. Mountain Horses can also show in the Open Invitational Class - Flat Shod Canter Class and O.I. Ground Handling Class, however Open Invitational classes are not used for Highpoint calculation.

## *Classes Open to All Walking/Racking/Mountain Horses*

**SHOWMANSHIP Jr** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9-13 years old as of January 1 of the current year. Class judged on appointments, fitting, grooming and method of showing.

**SHOWMANSHIP Sr** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 14-18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. Class judged on appointments, fitting, grooming and method of showing.

### **STANDARDS FOR SHOWMANSHIP**

The real purpose of showmanship is to learn the best way to fit and train a horse or pony so that the best attributes of the horse/pony can be seen by the judge or potential buyer. Showmen are reminded that they are being judged on the fitting, training and showing of their horse/pony. The horse/pony's conformation is not to be considered in the judging of this class. Showmen must wear the appropriate attire for the division in which they are participating.

The procedure for judging classes and the pattern to be used will be left to the discretion of the judge. Patterns are to be posted at least 1 hour prior to the show or in the State Show Pattern Book.

### **SCORING FOR SHOWMANSHIP CLASS**

#### **I. Appointments - 25%**

- **Personal Appearance:** Youth should be neat, clean, well groomed, attentive, courteous and wearing appropriate attire for the type of horse being shown.
- **Walking/Racking/Mountain:** Attire for this class may be either English or Western, but not a combination of both, and must be clean and neat.
- **Equipment:** Clean and properly adjusted equipment should be used.
- Whips are not permitted if showing with Western Attire. Youth may carry a whip or crop which is no more than thirty-six (36) inches in length. The use of the whip or crop will only be as an extension of the showman's arm to alert, signal and/or direct the horse/pony. Youth are not permitted to touch any part of the horse/pony with the whip or the crop.
- Walking/Racking/Mountain division youth may use either an English bridle or an English halter when wearing English attire. Western attire is worn if a western halter is used.

## II. Horse and Pony (fitting and grooming) - 25%

- The horse or pony should be clean and well groomed. Fitting for show is a year-round job. Daily grooming and good nutrition are very important to the hair coat and fitness of the horse/pony. Just before entering the ring, the showman should rub the horse/pony down with a grooming cloth to remove any dust which may have accumulated since brushing. Avoid using an oily grooming cloth since oil will attract dust. Wipe the ears, around the eyes, nostrils, lip, sheath and anus with a damp cloth or sponge; or with a cloth that has a small amount of baby oil or Vaseline on it to add luster to eyes, ears and muzzle.
- Horses and ponies should be clipped approximately one week before showing to allow for some regrowth to cover up any minor mistakes. The long hairs inside the ears, around the muzzle, under the chin and jaw, on the bridle path, fetlocks and lower legs should be clipped.
- Walking/Racking/Mountain Horse Division: Horses/ponies will show with a full mane and tail. Horses shown under English Tack can have braids and if used, should be attached neatly in the forelock and at the top of the mane next to the bridle path. Braids are not worn with Western Tack & Attire.
- Mountain horses are not required to trim the bridle path.

## III. Method of showing - 50%

- **Leading**: Youth must be able to walk, gait, turn, stop and back as directed by the pattern or ring officials.
- Always lead from the left side at an alert walk following the judge's direction, never in front of the horse/pony. The horse/pony's head should be about even or slightly in front of your shoulder. The horse/pony should travel willingly with his body in a straight line in the same direction being traveled. Youth must have the right hand on the lead when leading their horse/pony. The left hand will contain the remainder of the reins or lead in a loosely coiled loop or in a figure eight. The youth should walk in a brisk, alert manner and give the appearance that you and your horse or pony are a team.
- Run by the left side of the horse/pony when you are gaiting with the horse. The horse/pony should be traveling alertly and willingly with his head up (not too high). The youth should run with good posture and vitality.
- The horse/pony should always be reversed by turning to the right (away from the handler). Turn in as small an area as possible and attempt to keep his hind legs in one place while turning. This allows you to keep the horse/pony lined up with the judge
- Any turn requiring more than 90 degrees should also be made to the right.
- Always move your horse/pony directly toward or away from the judge unless specific instructions are otherwise given by the judge.

- **Stance of the horse/pony:** Horses/ponies in the Walking/Racking/Mountain Horse Division can be either parked or set up squarely. Parked horses/ponies may be either led up or backed out of the stretch before being asked to move.
- **Working the Judge:** When setting up your horse/pony, stand out diagonally from the horse/pony's shoulder but never directly in front of the horse/pony. Always be in a position where you can observe your horse/pony and the judge at the same time. As the judge moves around the horse, the youth must respond accordingly. When the judge is in front of the horse/pony the youth should be on the opposite side away from the judge, so as not to block the judge's view. When the judge moves down one side of the horse/pony and passes the middle of the withers the youth should cross over in front of the horse/pony so that he/she is now on the same side as the judge. This allows you to see your horse/pony and continue to have eye contact with the judge. As the judge passes behind the horse/pony and crosses over to the other side, the youth should cross in front of the horse/pony to remain on the same side with the judge. Once again when the judge approaches you and crosses the middle of the withers the youth should cross over to be on the opposite side from the judge, so as not to obstruct his/her vision of the horse/pony. This procedure allows the judge an unobstructed view of the horse/pony and allows the youth to show their horses/ponies to the best of their ability. It also will allow youth to keep an eye on their horse/pony and the judge without having to look through, under or over their horse/pony.

**IV.** Keep your position in line and allow reasonable space between your horse/pony and others. Never allow your horse/pony to interfere with other horses/ponies.

**V.** If asked to change positions in line, back your horse/pony out of line and approach the new position from the rear. Be careful when walking up behind other horses/ponies and allow yourself plenty of room to enter.

**VI.** Quickly recognize and correct any faults in your horse/pony. All communication between the youth and the horse/pony shall be through the lead shank or reins which may be accompanied by subtle voice commands. Youth can not directly touch any part of their horse/pony unless the judge touches (i.e. disturbs the mane or moves the halter or bridle) the horse in front of the shoulder. At such time, the youth should correct the disarray created by the judge.

**VII.** Remember - Move quickly, quietly and with confidence when showing your horse/pony. Youth should keep their eyes on the judge the entire time in the ring & continue to “work” the judge at all times. Be courteous, respond promptly to directions and display good horsemanship at all times.

## **EQUITATION CLASSES OPEN TO ALL WALKING/RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSES**

**JUNIOR OR SENIOR W/R/M ENGLISH EQUITATION** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9 – 13 years old (Jr.) or 14-18 years old (Sr.) as of January 1 of the current year. This is an English tack and attire class for exhibitors in the Walking/Racking/Mountain Horse division. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine.

**JUNIOR OR SENIOR W/R/M BAREBACK EQUITATION** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9 -13 years old (Jr.) or 14-18 years old (Sr.) as of January 1 of the current year. Walking, Racking and Mountain Horse exhibitors may enter this class. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine.

**JUNIOR OR SENIOR W/R/M STOCK SEAT EQUITATION** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9 – 13 years old (Jr.) or 14-18 years old (Sr.) as of January 1 of the current year. This is a Western tack and attire class for exhibitors in the Walking/Racking/Mountain Horse division. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine. Junior Stock Seat Equitation Riders have the option to ride with one or two hands. If they choose to ride with one hand on the reins, either right or left hand, with index finger between the reins. The free hand is not allowed to touch the reins. The bight of the rein should fall on the side of the horse opposite of the free hand. Senior Stock Seat Equitation Riders are expected to ride with one hand. Horses 5 years of age, or below, are allowed to wear a snaffle bit, and rider can hold the reins with 2 hands.

### **General Rules for the Equitation Classes**

Walking, Racking & Mountain Horse entries will all show together in Equitation Classes.

#### **Gaits for All WRM Equitation Classes:**

Exhibitors will enter the ring at the Trail Walk (Regular Walk) and then be asked to show their Favorite Gait.

Exhibitors will be expected to do the Favorite Gait that is appropriate for their breed Favorite Gait.

Walking Horse: Flat Walk  
Racking Horse: Show Walk  
Mountain Horse: Show Gait

Exhibitors will enter the ring at a Trail Walk and then be called to do a Favorite Gait and back down to a Trail Walk. Exhibitors will reverse and Trail Walk, then asked to Favorite Gait, then back down to the Trail Walk and line up.

Addressing the reins: Exhibitors will not be asked to address their reins in Stock Seat Equitation or Bareback Equitation. In the In English Equitation, Riders are expected to address their reins in the line-up and back.

Stock Seat Equitation Class, the judge may call for a halt at any time and can ask for a 360 degree turn in the line-up. Senior Stock Seat Equitation Riders are expected to ride with one hand on the reins while Junior Riders can ride with one or two hands for safety.

The canter will not be called in any Walking/Racking/Mountain horse Equitation class.

**Exhibitors will work on the rail in all equitation classes and it is at the judge's discretion to work an individual test (pattern) in any or all of the equitation classes.** Patterns will be posted no later than 1 hour prior to equitation class. All Equitation Horses are expected to back readily.

### **STANDARDS FOR W/R/M ENGLISH EQUITATION**

Equitation is the art of horsemanship. In this class, the rider demonstrates skill and talent to control and guide a horse to achieve maximum performance. Although the horse is not judged in the division per se, the ability of the rider to influence the horse to smoothly execute gaits, commands and ring figures depends in large part on the training the horse has had by the rider. In addition to the functional skills the rider must demonstrate good riding form, to include an elegant and correct seat, proper use of hands, and overall balanced body position. Both horse and rider must be turned out to an exceptional standard in order to compete in the equitation division.

- Horses used in this class should be well groomed and properly tacked.
- All exhibitors in Equitation classes must conform to the rules for personal appointments or be severely penalized.
- Fall of the exhibitor will eliminate the entry.
- Any exhibitor not having his mount under sufficient control shall be dismissed from the ring.
- Exhibitors should be familiar with various parts of the horse, tack, and rules on Equitation.
- Judges should penalize those exhibitors who do not conform to proper appointments. Appointment requirements are based on good taste, which is always in style and always correct.
- Patterns will be at the discretion of the judge.
- Riders will not be asked to canter or to mount and dismount.
- Riders will be asked to address their reins and back readily.

### *Appointments-Personal*

- The exhibitor is to be judged on his or her skill and form on a horse. Horse and exhibitor should be groomed to meticulous perfection. The exhibitor should exercise good taste right down to the smallest, most minute detail. The exhibitor is required to choose a neat, well-fitted habit with accompanying accessories within the guidelines based on tradition and present-day customs.
- A saddle suit/habit of a solid color or conservative pinstripe, as well as a Day Coat with Jodhpur pants is acceptable. Vests should be worn and may either match or contrast with the saddle suit/habit color. Careful attention should be given to the fit of the habit. The coat length should be at least 3 inches below the fingertips when standing. The jodhpurs should be long enough to rest on the exhibitor's boot top and the bottom of the boot heel showing only the toe of the boot when mounted. A moderate fullness is better than a suit that fits too snugly. Underpasses must always be worn snugly against the boot. Small post earrings can be worn to add to the look
- A four-in-hand tie matching or coordinating with the suit color should be worn with a man's style white or pastel shirt.
- Boots should be of the English type in either calf or patent leather.
- Gloves shall be worn and should match the suit.
- English type slip on spurs and a short riding whip are optional
- The exhibitor's hair must be neat and well groomed. Long hair must be styled above the collar.
- ASTM-SEI equestrian approved helmet is required.

### *English Equitation Appointments & Tack*

- **Saddle:** English saddles with a four inch cutback are preferred. Standard cutback or straight head saddle with plain, straight front flaps, and spoon or square cantle. Trooper saddles with English leathers and irons are allowed. Bounce pads are not allowed. Dressage or forward seat saddles, or trooper saddles with fenders and western stirrups are prohibited. Regular, Fillis, or safety stirrups are permitted. Standard leathers with ends pulled back behind the leg are proper. The girth should be leather, linen or patent. White is considered traditional, although other dark colors may be used.
- **Bridle and Reins:** Standard, simple English bridles fitted with hooks and studs or buckles is proper. Colored brow bands are appropriate; however, rhinestones, etc., are not acceptable. Cavessons may be leather or match the browband, which may be leather or colored patent. Reins shall be single plain or simple laced rein connected at the end by buckle or stitching. The bight of the reins always falls on the right side.
- **Saddle Pads:** No pad is preferred, but if used pads should be dark and follow the form of the saddle. They should not protrude beyond the saddle so as not to detract from the rider.
- All tack should be clean and well kept with shining bits and stirrup irons.
- Breast straps of brown or black leather are optional.

- Whether of the flat or deep seat variety, the saddle should be the correct size for the exhibitor.
- Braids should be of the straight plaited variety with no butterflies or other ornaments and only required if appropriate for breed requirements.

### *Position in the Saddle*

The general appearance of the English Equitation exhibitor should be one of calm, supple workmanship, in perfect balance with effective and easy control of him or herself and mount. The exhibitor should show his horse well and should exercise good ring showmanship. The basic position should be as follows:

- Head held high looking forward.
- Shoulders square with rib cage drawn up out of the belt.
- Waist should be very supple.
- Buttocks should be neatly tucked (avoid sway back).
- Seat deep, close, in deepest part of the saddle.
- Thighs and knees should be in close contact, with toes pointed forward.
- With foot out of the stirrup, the iron should strike the exhibitor just below the ankle.
- Ball of foot should rest squarely on the stirrup iron with the weight of the leg lowering the heel below the toe.
- Arm should fall naturally from the shoulder with the elbow on the vertical or slightly forward. Forearm should be parallel to the ground or angling up slightly.
- Hands and forearms should form a “V” when viewed from above. They should be held well over the withers and far enough apart so that the thumbs almost touch when extended. The hands should be light and in unison with the horse, showing adaptability as well as control.
- Rein should be held between the thumb and index finger with the rest of the fingers closing gently around the rein. Closed (or crossed) reins shall be used with both hands on the reins, and the bight of the rein should be on the right side.
- One should be able to draw a vertical line through the ear, shoulder, hip, and heel.

### *Position in Motion*

- **Start:** Should be gradual, smooth. Use necessary leg aids with slight release or rein pressure.
- **Gaits: Trail Walk, Equitation Walk (Flat Walk/Show Walk/Show Gait), and Favorite Gait (Intermediate Gait showing an increase in speed – Not a canter).**
- **Stop:** To be gradual and easy with no jerking. Increase rein pressure evenly, keeping weight well down in saddle, with yielding legs, and light foot pressure applied to irons.
- **Park or Square:** Horse to stand on all four feet with head up, neck crested, jaw flexible. Feet even front and rear. Light pressure on bit.



- **Reverses:** Toward the rail. Well collected reins so as not to lose mouth contact. Light pressure applied with legs when turning. Even rein pressure after turn, setting head in correct position for gait requested.
- **Whip:** Should the rider choose to carry a whip, it is proper for it to be carried to the inside of the ring for rail work (in the left hand going to the left and switch to the right hand while going to the right). Whip is returned to the left hand for the line-up.

### **STANDARDS FOR W/R/M BAREBACK EQUITATION**

The term "Equitation" specifically means the act or art of riding horseback. The Junior & Senior Bareback Equitation classes are performed without the benefit of a saddle. Exhibitors will work on the rail and it is at the judge's discretion to work an individual test (pattern) in the bareback equitation classes. Patterns will be posted no later than 1 hour prior to equitation class. A canter is not required and exhibitors will not be asked to address their reins. Horses should back readily.

- **Tack and Attire:** Appointments, attention to detail and basic body position all apply to the bareback equitation class. In this class, riders may elect to wear English or Western tack and attire, but not a combination of both. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet is mandatory.
- Please see standards for English Equitation if English tack & attire is used.
- Please see standards for Stock Seat Equitation if Western tack & attire is used. Western Entries are to be ridden with one hand on the reins.
- **Gaits: Trail Walk, Equitation Walk (Flat Walk/Show Walk/Show Gait), and Favorite Gait (Intermediate Gait showing an increase in speed – Not a canter).**

### **STANDARDS FOR W/R/M STOCK SEAT EQUITATION**

The term "Equitation" specifically means the act or art of riding horseback. Exhibitors will work on the rail and it is at the judge's discretion to work an individual test (pattern) in the bareback equitation classes. Patterns will be posted no later than 1 hour prior to equitation class. A canter is not required and exhibitors will not be asked to address their reins. The gaits to be called by the judge will be Equitation Walk and Favorite Gait. The judge can call for a halt at any time and will ask all exhibitors to back individually, and may ask them to do a 360 degree turn (rider may choose direction of turn).

- **Personal Attire:** The horse and exhibitor should be groomed to meticulous perfection and should exercise good taste. Stock Seat Equitation Attire must include: ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet, long sleeved shirt, western type tie, bolo or pin at the collar, gloves, western belt, long pants and boots. The total outfit should coordinate well together - both with the horse and the saddle blanket. Western chaps are quite acceptable although not mandatory. A coordinating vest and/or short western type jacket is optional. The exhibitor's hair must be neat and well groomed. Long hair must be styled above the collar.

- **Tack:** The tack should be very clean and well kept. No braids should be used in the horse's mane and forelock in stock seat equitation. A western bridle with no cavesson must be used. Either a split or Romal rein will be acceptable. The shanks of the bit must not exceed 9 & 1/2 inches (Walking/Racking horses) or 9 inches (Mountain Horses). The saddle should be of the western type and should be the correct size to fit the exhibitor (No Australian stock saddles are permitted). Saddle blanket under the saddle is mandatory. Consideration should be given to the saddle blanket. The colors should complete the overall look in coordination with the exhibitor's attire. Silver on the bridle and saddle are quite acceptable and should be well cleaned, but should not count over good working equipment.
- **Basic Position:** Head held high, looking forward. Shoulders square with rib cage drawn up out of the belt. Waist should be supple. Buttocks should be neatly tucked (no sway back). Seat deep, close, in deepest part of the saddle. Thighs and knees should be in close contact, with toes pointed forward. With the foot out of the stirrup, the stirrup should strike the exhibitor just below the ankle. Ball of foot should rest squarely on the stirrup with the weight of the leg lowering the heel below the toe. Elbows should be quiet, staying close to exhibitor's side. One should be able to draw a vertical line through the exhibitor's ear, shoulder, hip and heel.
- **Proper Split Rein Position:** Reins may be held in either the right or the left hand, but may not be switched during the class. With a split rein, the exhibitor may only place the index finger between the reins and the remainder of the rein must fall on the same side as the hand that the reins are in. The free hand during the class must never touch the remainder of the rein. The hand holding the rein should be placed slightly in front of the horn at about the level of the horn. The position of the hand not holding the rein is optional, but it should be kept free of the horse and equipment and held in a relaxed manner, with the exhibitor's body straight at all times. Senior Stock Seat Riders are expected to ride with one hand on the rein while Junior Riders have the option of riding with one or two hands for safety. Any horse 5 and under may be ridden two handed with a snaffle bit.
- **Proper Romal Rein Position:** The right or left hand may hold the reins, with the remainder of the rein coiled neatly in the off hand. There should be approximately 16 inches between hands with the off hand behind the cinch. The rein hand can have no fingers between the reins and should be held in a fist position just in front of the horn.
- **Horses Five & Under:** Bosals or ordinary ring snaffles may be used on five-year old or younger western flat-shod pleasure horses. When using a bosal or a snaffle, the rider may use two hands on the reins. The ordinary ring snaffle has a broken mouth piece with conventional O-rings, egg-butt, or D-rings, and the ring must be no larger than 4 inches in diameter. Optional loose chin strap of leather or nylon is permitted. Reins should be attached above the chin strap.
- **Position in Motion:** This will be the same as the English Equitation with the exception of the horse being worked on a loose rein and reversing away from the rail. The judge may ask for a halt during any gait. The exhibitor should respond quickly without altering his or her basic position.

- **Gaits: Trail Walk and Favorite Gait that is appropriate the horse's breed (Flat Walk, Show Walk, Show Gait), not a canter.**

### **WALKING/RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE – OPEN INVITATIONAL**

#### **FLAT SHOD CANTER CLASS – OPEN INVITATIONAL**

Registered and grade mares and geldings of any age. No stallions are allowed. This class is open to horses (including smooth gaited mules) that would be considered as Walking, Racking, Mountain Pleasure, Spotted Saddle Horses, as well as any other smooth gaited type of horse. Tack and attire may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. Entries may choose to use one or two hands when riding Western and have the option of using a cavesson. Tack and attire should conform to breed standards.

Gaits to be executed according to breed standards and gaits will be announced as:  
Trail Walk, Favorite Gait & Canter

- The Trail Walk is expected to be a relaxed, smooth, natural walk – an authentic four beat walk.
- The Favorite Gait is expected to be a collected, evenly timed four beat gait, performed at moderate speed, with stride and action appropriate for the breed.
- The canter must be a three beat gait that is relaxed and ground covering, but not fast – the gait must be smooth and controlled. Pumping of the reins is severely penalized. Canter departs must be clean and executed without steps of intermediate gait. The horse shall pick up the correct lead for the way of the ring. Cross cantering shall be severely penalized, as shall any tendency to four beat while at the canter.

The judge shall call for the gaits in the following order: enter the ring at a trail walk, favorite gait, trail walk, canter and back to the trail walk. When the horses are reversed, the order shall be: continue at the trail walk, favorite gait, trail walk, canter and back to the trail walk prior to entries being called to line-up. English entries should reverse to the rail and Western entries should reverse to the center. Horses must perform all required gaits both ways of the ring. A horse that has not performed all required gaits shall not be placed over a horse that has performed all gaits.

Horses that are not under the rider's complete control will be excused from the ring. Horses will be asked to back and should do so readily, backing at least 3 steps. Horses are to be flat shod without action devices and bands are optional.

**GROUND HANDLING OPEN INVITATIONAL:** The rules for ground handlings will be posted separately.