

# SHOW RULES for the AMERICAN HAFLINGER REGISTRY

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### PURPOSE

To provide written class standards, and give a written explanation as to the terms used in conjunction with the showing of Haflinger Horses at the American Haflinger Registry's National Show.

### **I. DEFINITIONS**

- A. EXHIBITOR: The owner of a horse entered in the show. The exhibitor must be a member in good standing of AHR.
- B. COMPETITOR: The horse and rider/driver/handler entered in a particular class.
- C. YOUTH COMPETITOR: An individual, who has not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of January 1 of the current competition year. Riders/Driver's age is determined as of January 1 of the current year. Therefore, those 18 on or before January 1 are adults. Those 15-17 years of age on January 1 are senior youths. Those 14 and under on January 1 are junior youths. Youths may not show stallions. Approved helmets with retention harness securely fastened must be worn at all times in jumping and dressage classes and are recommended in all other Youth classes. Junior youth must wear approved helmets in all classes and senior youth at their parent's discretion. Youths may not show in a class designated for adults.
- D. SHOW STAFF: Includes, but is not limited to the following persons: Gate attendants, ring workers, and other persons engaged by the show officials to help with the physical conduct of the show.
- E. SHOW OFFICIALS: Includes, but is not limited to the following persons: Show Manager, Show Committee, Judges, Stewards, Veterinarians, Course Designers, Timekeepers, Announcer, Ring Master, Secretary, and Award Presenter.
  - 1. SHOW MANAGER: The individual acting in this capacity is required to be a member of the AHR and designated by the Board of Directors. No member of the Show Manager's family can officiate as a paid judge in the show.

The Show Manager shall:

    - a. Be the person in charge of the show and may not serve in any other full job capacity at a show for which they are Show Manager; however, they may assist in a brief relief situation until adaptation is made.
    - b. Have authority to enforce all rules referring to the show and he/she may excuse any exhibitor from the show prior to or during the judging.
    - c. Be present on the grounds for the duration of the show.
    - d. Receive written complaints/protests from the Show Committee or from Exhibitors, etc. and convene a hearing to adjudicate the action.
  - 2. SHOW SECRETARY: This individual is directed to perform duties as assigned by Directors, Show Manager or Show Committee Chairpersons. The regular duties consist of keeping records of all class entries, scratches, additions and placings.
  - 3. ANNOUNCER: This individual announces classes, placing, and makes announcements as directed by Show Officials. He/she works directly with the Show Manager, Show Committee, Show Secretary and Ring Master.
  - 4. RING MASTER: This individual is responsible for the conduct of each class as it is performed in the ring. Duties include but are not limited to:

- a. Communicating with the announcer to insure that all eligible entries are assembled before the judging begins.
  - b. Relieve the Judge of unnecessary details: assemble the class promptly, keep the judging program on schedule, eliminate long delays between classes and helps control the conduct of the horses and exhibitors in the ring. The Ring Master has the authority to excuse entries from any class if conditions warrant such action.
  - c. Notify the Judge when all entries are present for each class.
  - d. Assist the Judge, not advise him/her, and refrain from discussing, or seeming to discuss, the horses or exhibitors in the ring.
  - e. Have charge of activities of the ring or arena.
  - f. Assure that all the Judge's directives are communicated and followed.
5. JUDGES and JUDGING: Judges are nominated from the Draft and Pleasure show committees. A contract will be drawn up and signed by both parties after a comprehensive appraisal of the Judge's areas of expertise. The Judge shall not be an exhibitor, driver, technical delegate or manager at any show at which they are officiating. The Judge shall not officiate at any show in which a member of his immediate family, clients, or trainers is competing. A Haflinger may not be shown in front of a judge that is owned by or sold by said judge within a period of ninety days prior to the event or currently leased from said judge. The judge must be clear and free from all Haflingers in the show, including boarding and training of the Haflinger, owner or exhibitor. The judge must maintain clean hands as to distance himself/herself from exhibitors.
- a. In any class, the Judge is the absolute authority. Once a class has been judged, it shall not be re-judged. Once the Judge has marked his/her card and places for awards are made, there shall be no changing of the Judge's record.
  - b. The Judge may order any person or horse from the competition for poor conduct of either and may disqualify any competitor for excessive abuse of the horse. The Judge may at his/her discretion refuse entry into the arena or remove an entry from a class for improper attire and/or equipment or for improper actions, which may include being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
  - c. During the class, excessive use of the voice, shouting, whipping or whistling to the horse may be penalized at the Judge's discretion. In any driving class, the driver should strive to control the horse's movement with discreet use of vocal aids.
  - d. Any request to speak to a Judge during the show must be made through a Show Steward. When an exhibitor makes a request through a Show Steward for the Judge's opinion concerning that exhibitor's horse, it is urged that the Judge will give his/her opinion courteously and sincerely in the presence of a Show Steward. A good rule of thumb would be to always ask your question in a non-blaming, non-threatening way and then be silent and listen. If you feel the need to use words like "but", "if" and "how about", then you are crossing the line. Just listen and then thank the Judge for their time. A negative comment from your perception of the Judge's ability should only be stated on the evaluation questionnaire.
  - e. The Judge must always be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect. No person, exhibitor, owner, parent, show official or otherwise, shall direct abuse, threatening conduct or intimidation toward the Judge or show committee, whether or not the conduct occurs during the show or on the show grounds. At the discretion of the show officials, a violation of this rule may result in disciplinary action up to and including removal of the exhibitor or competitor from the competition, show grounds or future shows. If actions or threats are unlawful, the affected should contact the appropriate legal authorities.
  - f. No exhibitor will visit or socialize with the Judge the day prior to or the day of the show. There will be no fraternization between an exhibitor and the Judge during the show.
  - g. To protest a Judge's decision, a formal protest must be filed as described in these rules.

## II. CONDUCT OF SHOWS

- A. ABUSE: Cruelty to or the abuse of a horse by any person at a show is forbidden and renders the offender subject to penalty. The Show Committee must act on any report of cruelty or abuse and if determined to be valid, the violator may be barred from further participation in that show or future shows.
- B. SOUNDNESS: The Judge shall watch for lameness in all horses brought into any class. Obvious lameness shall be cause for disqualification. Obvious lameness is:
  1. Consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances.

2. Marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride.
  3. Minimal weight-bearing in motion and/or at rest or an inability to move.
- C. **SHOW SCHEDULE:** Classes will be called in the order they appear in the show program. If it becomes necessary to cancel or reschedule any class, the change must be announced at least thirty minutes prior to the affected class to allow adequate preparation time for the next scheduled class.
- D. **DELAY OF CLASSES:** When the start of any class requiring horses to be shown individually or collectively is delayed by horses not ready to perform, the class may be closed at the order of the Judge or Show Manager provided a warning is issued and the competitor(s) is given five minutes to appear at the in-gate ready to participate. The Ring Master will give the warning to the announcer as to when the gates will be closed for the class. Tack changes should be built into the schedule but if necessary a five minute tack hold will be permitted upon previous arrangement with the Ring Master or Show Secretary. If a class is in progress and must be stopped due to an accident or other emergency, the Show Manager will decide whether to recommence the class. If it becomes necessary to interrupt a dressage competition for any reason, the unfinished portion may be rescheduled and resumed on the same or following day at the option of the Show Manager with the Judge's consent. All scores recorded before the interruption will stand.
- E. **DIVISION OF LARGE CLASSES:** The Judge or management may split large classes if conditions warrant. The size of the ring and the number of entries will determine when a class should be split. In a small ring, classes may be split at a lower number. The Judge or management has the discretion as to how the division is to be made, keeping in mind the safety of competitors. Final placing can be determined by working off selected entries from each section.
- F. **PROTESTS:** A protest may be made to the Show Manager or any member of the Show Committee by a rider, driver, handler, exhibitor, parent or guardian of a youth competitor. It must be in writing, addressed to the Show Committee, signed by the protester, and accompanied by a check for \$50 payable to AHR. A protest and charge must state the full name of the accused and contain a complete and definite statement of the acts that constitute the alleged violation. Precise details regarding a violation of rules are necessary. The Show Committee Chairmen must hold a hearing within 48 hours and all accused, accusing persons, witnesses, and other persons directly concerned must be given advance notice and be given the opportunity to appear at the hearing. The Show Committee must then adjudicate the issues impartially and make effective its decision upon the parties. If the protest is sustained, the deposit must be returned to the protester. If not sustained, the deposit must be forfeited to the competition. Decisions that cannot be protested are:
1. The soundness of a horse, when determined by a Show Official or by the Judge.
  2. A Judge's decision, representing his/her individual preference unless it is alleged to be in violation of show rules. The protester is to hold all approach (verbal or personal) to show officials except for the Show Manager.
- G. **ENTRIES:** All Haflingers shown must be properly registered with AHR. All Haflingers of members not in good standing with AHR will be refused entry. Late entries are permitted with penalty at the discretion of the Show Secretary/Show Manager. Payment is required at the time of entry. Competitors exhibiting in a class in which they have not been officially entered will result in the competitor's immediate removal from the ring.
- H. **ENTRY NUMBERS:** All entries must have a number before entering any class. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to display the proper number for the correct entry in each class. It is not unusual for exhibitors to have more than one number for a show, due to the fact that they may have more than one entry in a class and each entry will have a separate number. No award will be given to any competitor while displaying an incorrect number or not displaying a number. No time will be given to correct or add numbers once the class is called and the gates are closed.

- I. CLASSES: Up to eight places in premiums can be awarded in each class. Ribbons can be awarded up to 10 places. The exhibitor must check in with the Ring Master, positioned at the entry gate, before entering the ring. The exhibitor will at this time give the correct number to the Ring Master and line up at the Ring Master's instruction. After waiting three minutes for any late arriving entries after the final class call, the announcer will announce "this is your class", then the gates will be closed and the class judged.

### III. ATTIRE

All Exhibitors/Competitors/Technical delegates and show officials in the show ring will wear clothing appropriate to the class or duties performed. Exhibitors/Competitors should see the rules in subsequent paragraphs for proper dress associated with their class. Show staff, as defined above, should keep in mind that they represent AHR and wear clothing appropriate to their duties and responsibilities. No blue jeans permitted in show ring during classes.

### IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

EXHIBITORS/COMPETITORS: The Exhibitor is solely responsible for the completeness and correctness of all entry information as well as with the compliance of all rules of the show. It is the Exhibitor's responsibility to have the correct entry at the ring gate at the time the class is called and that the competitor, wearing the correct number for the entry, check in with the Ring Master. The Exhibitor's responsibilities also include:

- A. Responsibility for all attendants and passengers, as well as the appropriateness of dress, attire, conduct and completeness of turnout and its presentation.
- B. Disclosing all medication given to a competing horse to the Show Manager or assistant and making the horse available to the veterinarian if requested. This notification must occur before the class is called. Failure to disclose and then show will result in disqualification from any prize and being dismissed from the show at that point. Dismissal from the show will be immediate and includes all persons associated with the entry being dismissed from the remainder of the show and removal from the grounds. The Show Manager will direct a recommendation for exclusion from future shows to the Board of Directors for action.
- C. The exhibitor will provide the show office with an emergency card, to be kept on file in the office, detailing all phone numbers and room locations of persons to be contacted in case of an emergency.
- D. ALL exhibitors and competitors must sign a Liability Disclaimer Form which is available either from the show committee or at the show office. No competitor will be allowed to enter the ring without a release being signed and on file in the show office. Parent or legal guardian must sign the form for competitors under age 18. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
- E. To make all entries on time.
- F. Tack changes are permitted for those who notify the Ring Master prior to the class. If entries are having trouble, word must be sent to the Ring Master immediately or they will be considered a scratch from the class. If tack changes are necessary, they will be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes, unless an exception is allowed by the Judge or Show Manager. After that time, the gates will be closed and the class will be judged. No time is to be allowed for the warm-up of horses involved in tack changes.

### HALTER (IN HAND) CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

#### I. GENERAL RULES

- A. An exhibitor may enter and show horses in both Draft and Pleasure In-Hand classes, however, an individual Haflinger may not be shown in both the Draft and Pleasure divisions in the halter classes. The Exhibitor shall be responsible for entering their horse(s) in either the Pleasure or Draft In-Hand classes. This includes the group classes.

- B. Draft and Pleasure halter classes may be held concurrently. Should an exhibitor choose to enter horses in classes which are being judged at the same time, or if the timing of classes is such that the classes are unexpectedly showing simultaneously, it is the exhibitors responsibility to choose which class to show in or another handler must be designated for one of the horses. A class will not be held for a horse whose handler is exhibiting in another class.
- C. On entering the ring, competitors are to line up in the location indicated by the Ring Master and after being examined by the Judge are to be worked as the Judge requests, usually at a walk and trot.
- D. Haflingers are not required to be shod. Weanlings in both Draft and Pleasure Division will not be shown with shoes or any other artificial device attached to the foot. Draft yearlings may be shod. Pleasure yearlings will not be shod.
- E. Classes will be judged on conformation and way of going. Manners are judged at the Judge's discretion. In breeding classes, the horses may have their teeth checked along with other parts of the anatomy in regards to breeding. Checking of teeth for correct bite will not apply to geldings.
- F. Group classes are judged on conformation and are not required to be shown moving. Each Haflinger in a group class should wear their ribbons from previous halter classes. The exception will be Matched Pair. Matched Pair is shown without ribbons and judged totally on uniformity.
- G. Champions are selected from the first place of each class under consideration. They may be worked at a walk and or trot at the Judge's request. Once the Champion is selected, the second place horse from the class that the Champion was taken from is moved up for consideration as Reserve Champion with the other class winners. All others are excused at this time.
- H. Haflingers may be shown in a bridle or an appropriate show halter with throatlatch. It is usual for Pleasure Haflingers to be shown in brown halters or bridles. Draft Haflingers are usually shown in white halters or bridles, however clean, well fitted halters of any color are acceptable in either class.

## **II. SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES**

- A. **DRAFT:** Youth participating in Draft Showmanship Classes will compete with the same rules as applied in other halter classes. However, in this class judging is based on the handler's technique of showing the horse. All youth dress is to be proper. Suggested attire includes long pants. Jackets or suits are encouraged. **THIS IS NOT A CONFORMATION CLASS**
- B. **PLEASURE:** To be judged on "turn out" of horse and handler and handler's ability to present his/her animals. If showing English, horse must be presented in an English bridle or halter, and handler must be completely dressed in English attire (should include: hat, jacket, breeches or jodhpurs, shirt, boots, and gloves). If showing Western, horse must be presented in a Western style halter and handler must be completely dressed in Western attire (should include: hat, boots, long sleeved shirt, bolo or tie, long pants, boots). **THIS IS NOT A CONFORMATION CLASS.**
- C. Handler must be able to walk, trot, turn, stop and back the horse as directed by the judge.

## **DRAFT PERFORMANCE CLASS SPECIFICATIONS**

### **I. GENERAL RULES**

- A. The Judge must excuse from competition any unsafe vehicle, harness, unruly horse or driver clearly out of control.
- B. It is the responsibility of each driver to insure that harness and vehicle are in good repair and structurally sound.

- C. It is the responsibility of each driver to insure that his horse or horses are physically fit to fulfill the tasks required of them.
- D. Drivers should strive to maintain a safe distance from other vehicles both during the competition and in the warm-up and parking areas.
- E. Bridles should be adjusted to fit snugly to prevent catching on a vehicle or other pieces of harness. A throatlatch and a nose band or cavesson is permitted. Under no conditions shall a bridle be removed from a horse while it is still put to a vehicle. The horse must never be left unattended while put to a vehicle. Failure to comply will incur elimination.
- F. Class Requirements:
  - 1. In the Draft division, the same Haflinger cannot be used in men's and ladies cart classes.
  - 2. Exhibitors in the mare team class must use all mares. In stallion/gelding team classes, a mare is permitted to make 50% of the hitch even if the mare has already shown in other classes.
  - 3. Hitch classes are to be shown both ways of the ring at all required gaits as directed by the judge. Gaits required are the walk and trot. In case of a work off, the judge is not required to work all gaits, nor required to reverse in the work-off.
  - 4. Grooms are optional.

## **II. HARNESS**

Show harness is recommended in all classes. Scotch top collars are preferred but not required in all hitch classes.

## **III. DRESS**

- A. Men shall be attired in jackets, ties, slacks or suits. Whips are required in cart and team classes, optional in others. Hats and gloves are optional.
- B. Ladies shall be attired in appropriate dress, slack suits, dress suits, dress or skirt with blouse. Whips are required in cart and team classes, optional in others. Hats and gloves are optional.
- C. Blue denim jeans are not permitted in draft hitch classes.

## **IV. GROOM**

- A. At least one person may stand or head any hitch.
- B. Attendants or grooms, while in the show ring, shall be appropriately attired. Refer to dress section above.

## **V. VEHICLE**

All wagons in the unicorn, four and six hitch classes must be of a fifth wheel design with stiff tongue.

**VI. DRAFT CLASS CONDITIONS**

- A. JUDGING: All Draft Haflinger Hitches are judged 60% on performance, 40% on driver and equipment.
- B. DRAFT SINGLE: To show the all-round action at the walk and trot. Must show a smooth responsiveness and alertness. Must stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on manners, performance, presence and quality. In Ladies to Drive and Youth to Drive, emphasis is on manners and the horse's suitability to and for being driven by a lady or youth.
- C. DRAFT TEAM: To be shown at the walk and trot. To stand quietly and back readily. At all times to show ability to work as a unit with even pressure on the tugs. Teams will not be asked to fan except at the judge's request. To be judged on performance, presence, quality, manners, and matching. In Ladies and Youth to Drive classes, emphasis is placed on manners and the horse's suitability to and for being driven by a lady or youth.
- D. DRAFT TANDEMS: To be shown at the walk and trot. Horses should at all times convey an image of alertness and style. Lead horse should keep tugs from sagging but they should not be so tight as to pull the greater weight of the vehicle. Tandems should not be asked to back, except at the judge's discretion. The Judge may ask tandems to fan. The lead horse's tug must be attached to the wheel horse's tugs behind the bellyband or to the shafts. At no time shall the lead horse's tug be attached to the hames of the wheel horse. To be judged on performance, presence, quality, manners and matching.
- E. DRAFT UNICORNS: To be shown at the walk and trot. To stand quietly and back readily. At all times to show ability to work as a unit. Lead horse should show an alert and animated way of going and convey an image of style. Unicorn should not be asked to fan except at the Judge's discretion. To be judged on performance, presence, quality, manners and matching.
- F. DRAFT FOUR UP, SIX UP OR MORE: To be shown at the walk and trot. To stand quietly and back readily. At all times to show ability to work as a unit with evenness of tugs. Hitches shall not be asked to fan except at the Judge's discretion. To be judged on performance, presence, quality, manners and matching.

**PLEASURE DRIVING CLASS SPECIFICATIONS****I. GENERAL RULES**

- A. The Judge must excuse from competition any unsafe vehicle, harness, unruly horse or driver clearly out of control.
- B. It is the responsibility of each driver to insure that harness and vehicle are in good repair and structurally sound.
- C. It is the responsibility of each driver to insure that his horse or horses are physically fit to fulfill the tasks required of them.
- D. The driver should always be the first person to enter the vehicle and the last to leave. Passengers must never be left on the vehicle while the driver is dismounted unless the passenger has taken control of the reins.
- E. Drivers should strive to maintain a safe distance from other vehicles both during the competition and in the warm-up and parking areas.
- F. Bridles should be adjusted to fit snugly to prevent catching on a vehicle or other pieces of harness. A throatlatch and a nose band or cavesson is mandatory. Under no conditions shall a bridle be removed from a horse while it is still put to a vehicle. The horse must never be left unattended while put to a vehicle. Failure to comply will incur elimination.

- G. Unless otherwise stated, ADS rules will be applied to Pleasure Driving Classes.

## **II. THE DRIVER**

- A. The driver should be seated comfortably on the box so as to be relaxed and effective. Either the one or two-handed method of driving is acceptable. Drivers should not be penalized or rewarded for using one style over another. However, in a reinsmanship class, in order to evaluate a driver's versatility the Judge may request an appropriate test involving driving with one hand. When there are passengers, the driver should sit on the off (right-hand) side of the vehicle.
- B. An appropriate whip shall be carried in and at all times while driving. The thong on the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the farthest horse.
- C. The whip salute is used to acknowledge the Judge at the start and finish of an individual test, or at the beginning and end of a dressage test. The whip salute is performed in one of the following ways:
  - 1. A lady: by moving the whip, held in the right hand, to a vertical position, the butt end even with the face, or
  - 2. By moving the whip, held in the right hand, to a position parallel with the ground, the handle before the face.
  - 3. A gentleman may place the whip in his left hand and remove his hat.
- D. Only the driver may handle the reins, whip, or brake during a competition. Failure to comply will incur elimination.

## **III. GROOMS**

- A. Two grooms are required for four-in-hand or unicorns to assist in the event of difficulty.
- B. One groom is required for a pair or tandem to assist in the event of difficulty.
- C. A groom is optional for a single horse turnout.
- D. Where grooms or passengers are required, failure to comply incurs elimination.
- E. Grooms assisting a turnout must be on the vehicle and attired properly.

## **IV. THE HORSE**

- A. If shod, the horse should be suitably shod for pleasure driving.
- B. Tails tied to vehicles or traces are prohibited.
- C. In Pleasure driving classes, bell boots, shin boots and wraps are prohibited.

## **V. THE HARNESS**

- A. Black harness is considered appropriate for painted vehicles and natural wood vehicles having black trim (i.e. shaft coverings, ironwork, dash or upholstery). Brown or russet harness is considered appropriate with natural wood finished vehicles trimmed in brown.
- B. All metal furnishing should match, be secure and polished.

- C. Breast collars are appropriate with lightweight vehicles. Full collars are suggested for heavy vehicles such as coaches, brakes, phaetons, dogcarts, etc.
- D. A correctly fitting harness saddle is important for the comfort of the horse. A wide saddle is suggested for two wheeled vehicles as more weight rests on the horse's back. Narrow saddles are more appropriate for four wheeled vehicles.
- E. Martingales and overchecks are prohibited in dressage classes for all vehicles. Sidechecks are optional.
- F. Snaffle bits and other types of traditional driving bits are allowed. Bits may be covered with rubber or leather.

## **VI. THE VEHICLE**

Drivers should strive to present an appropriate turnout. Appropriate indicates the balance and pleasing appearance of the combination of horse and vehicle. Factors determining the above include compatible size, type, and weight of horse and vehicle.

## **VII. WORKING CLASS**

A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the suitability of a horse to provide a pleasant drive.

- A. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and a strong trot. To stand quietly, both on the rail and while lined up, and to rein back. All entries chosen for a work-off may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the judge and be asked to execute a figure eight.
- B. To be Judged:
  - 1. 70% on performance, manners and way of going.
  - 2. 20% on the condition and fit of the harness and vehicle.
  - 3. 10% on neatness of attire.

## **VIII. TURNOUT CLASS**

A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the performance and quality of each turnout.

- A. To be shown both ways of the arena at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. To stand quietly and rein back. All drivers chosen for a work-off may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a figure eight and/or perform other appropriate tests.
- B. To be judged:
  - 1. 40% on performance, manners and way of going.
  - 2. 30% on the condition, fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle.
  - 3. 15% on neatness and appropriateness of attire.
  - 4. 15% on overall impression.

**IX. REINSMANSHIP CLASS**

A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the ability and skill of the driver.

- A. To be shown at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. Drivers shall be required to rein back. All drivers chosen for a work-off may be worked at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a figure eight and/or perform other appropriate tests. In order to evaluate a driver's versatility, the judge may request a test involving driving with one hand.
- B. The driver should be seated comfortably on the box so as to be relaxed and effective. Either the one or two hand method of driving is acceptable. Common to both methods, the elbows and arms should be close to the body with an allowing but steady hand enabling a consistent "feel" with the mouth of the horse(s). Drivers should not be penalized or rewarded for using one general style over the other.
- C. To be judged:
  - 1. 75% on the handling of reins and whip, control, posture, and overall appearance of driver.
  - 2. 25% on the condition of harness and vehicle and neatness of attire.

**X. DESCRIPTION OF GAITS**

The following descriptions constitute approved standard for performance of each of the required gaits in a pleasure driving competition.

- A. WALK: A free, regular and unconstrained walk of moderate extension is required. The horse should walk energetically but calmly with evenly and determined pace.
- B. SLOW TROT: The horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The trot is slower and more collected but not to the degree required in the dressage-collected trot. The horse should indicate willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence.
- C. WORKING TROT: This is the pace between the strong and slow trot and more rounded than the strong trot. The horse goes forward freely and straight; engaging the hind legs with good hock action; on a taut but light rein; the position being balanced and unconstrained. The steps should be as even as possible. The hind feet touch the ground in the print of the fore feet. The degree of energy and impulsion displayed at the working trot denotes clearly the degree of suppleness and balance of the horse.
- D. STRONG TROT ("TROT-ON"): This is a clear, but not excessive, increase in pace and lengthening of stride while remaining well balanced and showing appropriate lateral flexion on turns. Light contact to be maintained. Excessive speed will be penalized. The term "Trot - On" should be used to call for the gait.
- E. HALT: The horse(s) and vehicle should come to a complete square stop without abruptness or veering. At the halt, horses should stand attentive, motionless and straight with the weight evenly distributed over all four legs and be ready to move off at the slightest indication from the driver.
- F. REIN BACK: Rein back is defined as a backward movement in which the legs are raised and set down simultaneously in diagonal pairs with the hind legs remaining well in line. To be performed in two parts:
  - 1. The horse must move backward at least four steps in an unhurried manner with head fixed and straight, pushing the carriage back evenly in a straight line. The driver must use quiet aids with light contact.
  - 2. Move forward willingly to the former position using the same quiet aids.

**CONTESTING CLASS SPECIFICATIONS****I. GENERAL**

- A. These classes are timed events. The exhibitors will enter the arena and the gate will be closed before starting their run. Exhibitors will compete in order listed in show book unless other arrangements are made with the Ring Master prior to the class.
- B. Late entries will be placed at the front of the order and are the first to compete. Once the starting line is crossed, broken equipment will not be a reason for a re-run. Malfunction of the timer will entitle the exhibitor to a rerun.
- C. In traditionally Western gymkhana classes (such as barrels or poles), Western attire is strongly suggested. ASTM/SEI safety helmets with chinstraps are highly recommended for all gymkhana events.
- D. Dress must be appropriate with the style of saddle. Proper riding shoes with heels are required.
- E. Tiedowns, hackamores, martingales, splint boots, polo wraps, and bell boots are allowed.
- F. Prohibited equipment includes: wire curb straps, twisted wire mouthpiece bits, and wire nosebands.

**II. POLE BENDING**

- A. Competition pattern will be in the show book or will be posted one hour before event.
- B. Each competitor will begin from a running start and time shall begin and end as the horse's nose crosses the line. An electric timer or at least two stop watches shall be used. The time indicated by the electric timer or the average time of the watches used by official timers will be the official time.
- C. The pole bending pattern is to be run around six poles. Each pole is to be 21 feet apart, and the first pole is to be 21 feet from the starting line. Poles shall be set on top of the ground and approximately six feet in height.
- D. A horse may start either to the right or to the left of the first pole and then run the remainder of the poles accordingly.
- E. Knocking over a pole shall carry a five second penalty. Failure to follow the course will result in disqualification. A contestant may touch a pole with his or her hand in pole bending, but may not hold it up to keep it from falling over.
- F. The judge, at his/her discretion, may disqualify a competitor for excessive use of a bat, crop, whip or rope, especially in front of the cinch.

**III. BARREL RACING**

- A. Competition pattern will be in the show book or posted one hour before event. Order of competition will be listed in the show book, with late entries being added to the front of this order.
- B. An electric timer or at least two stop watches shall be used. The time indicated by the electric timer or average time of the watches used by official timers will be the official time.
- C. Timing shall begin as soon as the horse's nose reaches the starting line and will be stopped when the horse's nose passes over the finish line.
- D. Three barrels will be set in a triangular (or cloverleaf) pattern. The competitor is allowed a running start. At a signal from the starter, the competitor will run to barrel number 1 (barrel on the right), make a right hand turn around it, then go to barrel number 2 (barrel to the left of the starting line), make a left turn around the barrel, then go to barrel number 3, make a left turn around the barrel; then sprint to the finish line, passing between barrels number 1 and 2. This barrel course may also be run to the left. For example, the competitors will go to barrel number 2, turning to left around this barrel, then to barrel number 1, turning to the right around the barrel, then to barrel number 3, again turning right around the barrel, followed by the final sprint to the finish line crossing between barrels number 1 and 2.

- E. Knocking over a barrel carries a five second penalty. Failure to follow the course will result in disqualification. A competitor may touch the barrel with his or her hands in barrel racing, however may not hold it up to keep it from falling over.
- F. The judge, at his/her discretion, may disqualify a competitor for excessive use of a bat, crop, whip or rope, especially in front of the cinch.

#### **IV. EGG AND SPOON**

No foreign matter may be used to aid the egg staying in the spoon, this includes your thumb. Exhibitors are worked on the rail. Judge calls the direction and gaits. Entries are disqualified if change in gait is not initiated in five (5) seconds after request. When the egg falls from the spoon, the horse should immediately be moved to the center of the ring to avoid interfering with the other riders. Last egg on spoon wins.

#### **V. CONES SCURRY**

- A. The course will be in show book or posted at least one hour before start of event. Order of competition will be listed in show book with late entries being added to the front of this order. Clock starts when the Haflinger's nose crosses the line of gate one and stops as the nose crosses the line on the last gate.
- B. To be driven over a prescribed course of numbered obstacles consisting of pairs of cones and balls, or the equivalent, not to exceed ten obstacles.
- C. After the competitor enters the arena, the gate will be closed. After passing through the start gate, the competitor will proceed through each pair of numbered cones in order, as numbered and shown on the course diagram.
- D. Penalties:
  - 1. Knocked down ball – 3 second penalty.
  - 2. Knocked over cone – 10 second penalty.
  - 3. Missing gate – 10 second penalty.
  - 4. All penalty points are added to time.
- E. Option to or not to canter will be in the entry book and the show program. Proper show attire is expected with exception of driving aprons and gloves, which are optional. Grooms are also optional. Course walk through is permitted. If a horse is driven in a manner deemed to be reckless or unsafe to either the horse or the driver, the judge will eliminate this horse and driver from the competition

### **JUMPING CLASS SPECIFICATIONS**

#### **I. HUNTER OVER FENCES**

##### **A. GENERAL RULES**

- 1. A hunter is judged on manners, suitability, performance and soundness rather than how high the horse can jump. Refusals or knockdowns incur major penalties. There is a limit of three (3) refusals before elimination. Being off course results in elimination.
- 2. Proper English show attire and tack are compulsory. This would include: dark colored hunt jacket, hunt boots, conservative tailored blouse or shirt with choker, tie, or stock, hunt breeches and gloves. In extreme heat, management may allow jackets to be removed. A transparent or conservative color raincoat may be worn in inclement weather.

3. All horses must be serviceably sound. All horses being considered for an award may be jogged for soundness with rider dismounted. Horses that are not serviceably sound are ineligible for an award.
4. Horse and rider combinations are limited to one division. Entries in division 3 or 4 may enter individual classes in the other division.
5. Unless otherwise stated, USEF rules for Hunter Over Fences will be applied.

## **B. CLASS SPECIFICATIONS:**

### **Beginner Hunter Over Fences**

1. The Beginner Hunter Over Fences class is open to riders who have never competed in any class requiring jumps over 18".
2. Riders competing in this class are not eligible for any other classes over fences.
3. Jumps will be cross rails.
4. May trot or canter without penalty.

### **Green Hunter Over Fences**

1. The Green Hunter Over Fences class is open to riders of any ability.
2. Horses can only be in their first or second year of jumping.
3. Horses entered in this class will be precluded from being in any other jumping class.
4. Jumps will be cross rails.
5. May trot or canter without penalty.

### **Adult Working Hunter Over Fences**

1. Open to adult riders.
2. Jumps will be 2'6" in height.

### **Youth Working Hunter Over Fences**

1. Open to youth riders.
2. Jumps will be 2'3' in height.

## **II. JUMPING CLASSES**

- A. The course is designed to test the horse's ability to jump a variety of obstacles. One round will be jumped followed by a jump-off for all competitors having a clean first round. The jump-off will be over a shortened course and timed.
- B. USEF rules for penalties and faults will be applied. Heights of fences in first round will be 2'6" and 3' on the jump-off.
- C. This class will be scored according to USEF rules for Knockdown Classes (Table II-Section 2a), meaning the first round is scored for knockdowns, refusals and exceeding the time allowed. In the event of equality of faults after the first round, a timed jump-off will determine the winner, with time as the deciding factor or tiebreaker.
- D. The jump-off will be held after all competitors have completed the first round.
- E. The course for the first round and jump-off will be posted one hour before the class at the entrance to the arena. Competitors will be given the opportunity to walk the course, and at the same time the jump off

course. For the shortened course, all other jumps not being used from the first round will be removed from the arena.

- F. There will be **NO SCHOOLING** over the course prior to the jumper class.
- G. Attire will be consistent as for working Hunters over Fences, and Equipment is as follows:
  - 1. There is no restriction on the English style saddle, girth, or bridle.
  - 2. The misuse of any bit will result in being severely penalized, including the possibility of disqualification.
  - 3. Blinkers and hoods are prohibited.
  - 4. Nose bands when used with a snaffle, dropped, crossed, or flashes, must be correct in position, fit and composed of leather entirely.
  - 5. Only unrestricted running martingales are permitted.
  - 6. Hard hat is required.

### **III. KNOCK DOWN AND OUT CLASS**

- 1. The course is designed to test the horse's ability to jump height.
- 2. The first round jumps will be set at 2'6".
- 3. Horses are eliminated when they knock down or refuse a jump. Jumps are raised by 3" increments for each subsequent round until only one horse remains. Subsequent rounds may be shortened at the discretion of the judge. Horses eliminated at the same jump will be decided via jump-off.
- 4. Attire will be consistent as for section II "Jumping Classes" above.

## **DRESSAGE CLASS SPECIFICATIONS**

### **I. DRIVEN DRESSAGE**

- A. The object of Dressage is the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse. As a result it makes the horse calm, supple, loose and flexible as well as confident, attentive and keen in his work.

These qualities are revealed by:

- 1. The freedom and regularity of the paces.
- 2. The harmony, lightness and ease of the movements.
- 3. The lightness of the forehand and engagement of the hindquarters, originating in a lively impulsion.
- 4. The acceptance of the bridle with submissiveness throughout and without any tenseness or resistance.

The horse, confident and attentive, submits generously to the control of his handler remaining absolutely straight in any movement on a straight line and bending accordingly when moved on a curved line. His walk is regular, free and unrestrained. His trot is free, supple, regular, sustained and active.

Because the horse has impulsion and is free from resistance, he will obey without hesitation and respond to the various aids calmly and with precision, displaying a natural and harmonious balance both physically and mentally.

In all his work, even at the halt, the horse should be "on the bit". A horse is said to be "on the bit" when the hocks are correctly placed, the neck is more or less raised and arched according to the stage of training and the extension or collection of the pace, and he accepts the bridle with a light and soft contact and submissiveness throughout. The head should remain in a steady position, as a rule slightly in front of the vertical, with a supple poll as the highest point of the neck, and no resistance should be offered to the driver.

**B. ATTIRE.**

1. Competitors are reminded that neatness should be the first requisite. The dress of the competitor and grooms must conform to the style of carriage and harness used. Period costumes, however, are not desirable.
2. Driving aprons, hats, gloves and whip in hand are obligatory for competitors using light harness. They are optional if using draft harness, however, the whip in hand is highly recommended and competitors may be counted down for not carrying it. The whip must be of suitable style and adequate length.
3. Grooms are subject to ADS rules according to the style (draft or pleasure). Article 73 of the ADS rule book applies to the draft and Article 13 applies to pleasure.

**C. Draft or light harness is acceptable with the following exceptions applied:**

1. Martingales and overchecks are prohibited in dressage classes for all vehicles.
2. A throatlatch and a noseband or cavesson is mandatory.
3. Wire wheeled and pneumatic tire vehicles are not acceptable.

**D. ADS and FEI rules will be applied unless otherwise stated. Drivers may use either the one or two handed method of driving without being penalized or rewarded for using one general style over another.**

**E. The arena should be on a level ground as possible. The small arena is 80 meters long and 40 meters wide. When available arena sizes differ from this, the actual sizes will be published in the prize list and will be uniform for all competitors. Tests will also be published in the prize list in accordance with ADS tests.**

**F. Youth competitors may not show stallions.**

**II. RIDDEN DRESSAGE**

**A. GENERAL: The object of Dressage is the harmonious development of the physique and ability of the horse. As a result it makes the horse calm, supple, loose and flexible but also confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with his rider.**

These qualities are revealed by:

1. The freedom and regularity of the paces.
2. The harmony, lightness and ease of the movements.
3. The lightness of the forehand and engagement of the hindquarters, originating in a lively impulsion.
4. The acceptance of the bridle with submissiveness throughout and without any tenseness or resistance.

The horse thus gives the impression of doing on his own accord what is required of him. Confident and attentive, he submits generously to the control of his handler, remaining absolutely straight in any movement on a straight line and bending accordingly when moved on a curved line. His walk is regular, free and unrestricted. His trot is free, supple, regular, sustained and active. His canter is united, light and cadenced. His quarters are never inactive or sluggish. They respond to the slightest indication of the rider that gives life and spirit to the rest of his body.

No horse may be shown in more than three tests per day.

No changes may be made to the show schedule unless authorized by the show manager.

## B. ATTIRE

1. Short riding coat of conservative color, with tie, choker or stock tie, breeches or jodpurs, boots or jodpur boots. Half chaps or leggings are not allowed. Exception: Riders through First Level may wear half-chaps, gaiters or leggings in solid black or brown, without fringe, matching the color of their boots, and made of smooth leather or leather-like material. Gloves of conservative color are recommended. Wearing a hardhat or appropriate dressage headgear is compulsory for anyone riding a Haflinger on the flat. AHR strongly encourages all competitors to wear protective headgear meeting or surpassing current American Society of Testing & Materials (ASTM) Standards. Spurs are optional.
2. In extreme heat and/or humidity, the Ground Jury has the option to allow competitors to compete without jackets. In such cases, competitors must wear either a long or short sleeved shirt of conservative color without neckwear.
3. As per Training through First Level requirements: Snaffle bridle with plain, crossed, flash or dropped noseband. No twisted, wire or roller bits permitted. Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets, boots or bandages not permitted. One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm) including lash permitted.
4. Spurs capable of wounding a horse are forbidden. Spurs must be of smooth metal. There must be a shank pointing only towards the rear, which must be no more than 3.5 cm (1 3/8 inches) long and without rowels. The end must be blunt in order to prevent wounding a horse. If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directed downwards, however, swan necked spurs are allowed.

## C. DESCRIPTION OF GAITS:

1. **Walk:** Four even beats, straight and even strides, correctly aligned steps, articulation of joints, freedom of shoulders and haunches, balance, elastic and swinging back, overstep, reach, ground-covering with marching quality.
2. **Trot:** Two even beats, straight and even strides, correctly aligned steps, articulation of joints, freedom of shoulders and haunches, balance, elastic and swinging back, natural engagement and impulsion from hindquarters, suspension, power from upward thrust and roundness.
3. **Canter:** Three even beats, straight and even strides, correctly aligned steps, articulation of joints, freedom of shoulders and haunches, balance, elasticity, swinging back, natural engagement and impulsion from hindquarters, suspension, power from upward thrust, roundness and uphill strides.
4. **General Impression:** Includes impulsion, balance and rideability. Alert, expressive and well-mannered.
5. **Conformation:** The quality and correctness of type, head, neck, forehand, midsection, hindquarters, front legs and hind legs. Predisposition to unsoundness, limitation in quality of movement caused by weakness or conformation faults, potential for trainability and performance. Emphasis on function, not fashion. Blemishes are not to count unless resulting from conformation faults. Good harmonious conformation suitable for dressage performance.

## D. EXERCISE AREAS

The following restrictions begin with the first day of dressage and continue throughout the duration. The following are compulsory: an English type saddle and snaffle or hackamore bridle. Double bridles may only be used for schooling when showing third level or above. Running martingales, Irish martingales, bit guards, boots, bandages, fly shields, nose covers, and seat covers are permitted. Side reins are permitted only while lunging an unmounted horse. Other martingales, any form of gadget (such as bearing, running or balancing reins, etc.) and any form of blinkers are forbidden, under penalty of disqualification.

E. SADDLERY & EQUIPMENT

1. An English type saddle with stirrups is compulsory for Federation and USDF tests. An English type saddle may be constructed with or without a tree but cannot have a horn, swell, gallerie, or open gullet. Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock, or Western saddles are not permitted nor are modified versions of these saddles. Saddle pads are optional, but should be white or of a conservative color. No advertisement or publicity is permitted on saddle cloths or horses. English-style stirrups, without attachments, or safety stirrups are compulsory.
2. For Training, First and Second Level tests, a plain snaffle bridle is required with a regular cavesson, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband (a combination of a cavesson noseband and a dropped noseband attachment) or a crossed noseband. A crescent noseband is also permitted at these levels. Except for the crescent noseband, buckles and a small disk of sheepskin, which may be used in the intersection of the two leather straps of a crossed noseband, the noseband must be made entirely of leather or leather-like material. A padded noseband is allowed. Only those bits listed with Figure 1 are allowed. At any level of competition, a cavesson noseband may never be so tightly fixed that it causes severe irritation to the skin. Cavesson nosebands may be used with a chin pad. At any level of competition, a browband may be multicolored and may be decorated with metal, beads, gemstones and crystals.

3. INSPECTION OF EQUIPMENT

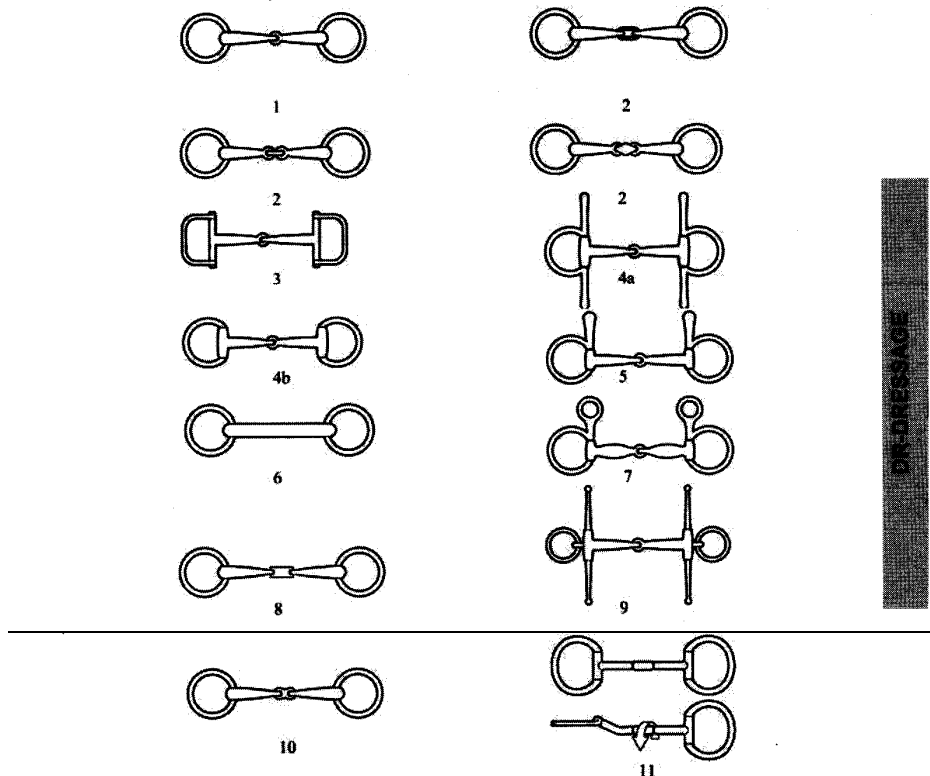
A steward may be appointed to check the saddlery of each horse before it enters the arena or starts a test.

In the Dressage Test, the checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution. If the competitor so requests, the bridle and bit may be checked immediately after the test has been completed. However, should the bridle or bit in such a case be found not to be permitted, the competitor shall be eliminated.

Figure 1. Bits Permitted in Dressage.

All bits must be smooth and with a solid surface. Twisted, wire and roller bits are prohibited. A bushing or coupling is permitted as the center link in a double jointed snaffle; however, the surface of the center piece must be solid with o moveable parts. The mouthpiece of a snaffle may be shaped in a slight curve, but ported snaffles are prohibited.

A. PERMITTED SNAFFLES\* (Must be used in Training-Second Level Tests. Optional in Third and Fourth Level Tests.)



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Ordinary snaffle with single-jointed mouthpiece.                                   | 7. Snaffle with cheeks. (Hanging or drop cheek; Baucher). This may be a D-ring or other ordinary snaffle as pictured in Nos. 1-6. |
| 2. Ordinary snaffle with double-jointed mouthpiece.                                   | 8. Dr. Bristol.   |
| 3. Racing snaffle (D-ring).   | 9. Fulmer.  |
| 4. Snaffle. A) with cheeks, with or without keepers.<br>B) without cheeks (Egg-butt). | 10. French snaffle.   |
| 5. Snaffle with upper or lower cheeks.  | 11. Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece.   |
| 6. Unjointed snaffle (Mullen-mouth).  |   |

\*Any of the above may be made with a rubber, plastic or leather covering, but the bit may not be modified by adding latex or other material. Bits with mouthpieces made of synthetic material are permitted, provided that the contours of the bit conform to the contours of one of the bits pictured above. Flexible rubber or synthetic mouthpieces are permitted.

## F. JUDGING

In all dressage classes, any circumstances not specifically covered by these rules, the USEF Rulebook, Dressage Division shall serve as the reference for all other rules and requirements not covered in the AHR Handbook.

A competitor failing to enter the arena within 60 seconds of the starting signal will be eliminated, at the discretion of the Ground Jury. The same applies to a competitor who enters the arena before the starting signal has been given.

A test begins with the entry at A and ends after the salute at the end of the test, as soon as the horse moves forward. Any incidents before the beginning or after the end of the test have no effect on the marks.

Competitors must take the reins in one hand at the salute. Gentlemen are not required to remove their hats at the salute.

When a movement must be carried out at a certain point of the arena, it should be done when the competitor's body is above the point.

The use of the voice in any way whatsoever or clicking of the tongue once or repeatedly is a serious fault involving the deduction of at least two marks from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this occurred.

In case of marked lameness, the judge at C, after consultation with the other judge(s) if appropriate, will inform the competitor that he is eliminated. There is no appeal against this decision.

A horse leaving the arena completely, with all four feet, between the time of entry and the final salute, will be eliminated.

Any resistance that prevents the continuation of the test for more than 20 seconds will be punished by elimination.

When a competitor makes an "error of course" (takes the wrong turn, omits a movement, etc.) the judge at C warns him by sounding a bell/whistle. The judge shows him, if necessary, the point at which he must take up the test again and the next movement to be executed, then leaves him to continue by himself. However, in some cases when, although the rider makes an "error of course," the sounding of the bell/whistle would unnecessarily impede the fluency of the performance (for instance if the competitor makes a transition at V instead of K), it is up to the judge at C to decide whether to sound the bell/whistle or not. However, if the bell/whistle is not sounded at an error of test in which the movement is repeated and the error occurs again, only one error is recorded.

When a competitor makes an "error of the test" (trots rising instead of sitting, does not take the reins in one hand at the salute, etc.), he must be penalized as for an "error of course."

In principle, a competitor is not allowed to repeat a movement of the test unless the judge at C decides on an error of course and sounds the bell/whistle. If the competitor has started the execution of a movement and tries to do the same movement again, the judge(s) must consider the first movement shown only and at the same time penalize for an error of course.

If there is more than one judge, unless all judges are in agreement on an error, the competitor receives the benefit of the doubt.

Any outside intervention by voice, signs, etc., is considered unauthorized assistance. A competitor receiving unauthorized assistance will be eliminated, at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

When there are two or more judges, one horse and rider, taking no part in the competition, will perform the prescribed ride in order that the judges may confer before the competition begins.

G. DRESSAGE CLASS SPECIFICATIONS:

**General:** Classes may be added to the dressage schedule to provide some variety of competition to the dressage riders other than the usual Dressage Tests.

1. **Suitability to be a Dressage Horse:**

a. **Class Specifications:**

1. Open to all Haflingers
2. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring.
3. Judging will be 30% conformation, 20% walk, 20% trot, 20% canter and 10% general impression.
4. To be judged on the horse's potential as a dressage mount.

2. **Introductory Level:**

a. Class specifications:

1. To be shown at a free walk, medium walk, and working trot rising.
2. There should be freedom and regularity of the gaits, a desire to move forward, relaxation of the back, attention & confidence; harmony, lightness & ease of movements; acceptance of the aids with nose slightly in front of the vertical.

3 **Training Level:**

a. Class specifications:

1. To be shown at a free walk, medium walk, working trot, and working canter.  
Trot may be ridden sitting or rising, unless stated otherwise.
2. This test is to confirm that the horse's muscles are supple & loose & that it moves freely forward in a clear & steady rhythm, accepting contact with the bit. There should be a desire to move forward, elasticity of the steps, suppleness of the back, engagement of the hindquarters, and lightness of the forehand.

4. **First Level:**

a. Class specifications:

1. To be shown at a free walk, medium walk, working trot, and working canter.  
All trot work sitting unless stated otherwise.
2. The purpose of this class is to confirm that the horse, in addition to the requirements of Training Level, has developed thrust & achieved a degree of balance & throughness.

**RIDDEN PLEASURE COMPETITION CLASS SPECIFICATIONS****I. ENGLISH PLEASURE**

Open to saddle seat, hunt seat, and dressage exhibitors at this time.

**A. ENGLISH BITS AND EQUIPMENT**

1. Hunter classes require an English type snaffle, kimberwick, pelham with two reins or a full bridle with two reins. The ports of pelham or weymouth bits may not exceed 1 1/2 inches. Bits of any style featuring mouthpieces with cathedrals, donuts, prongs, edges or rough, sharp material shall be cause for elimination. Curb chains must lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Cavesson nosebands must be used. Hunt seat saddles should be either forward seat or hacking type, of leather or synthetic material, but not straight flap park saddles.
2. Saddle seat classes will use weymouth bits, pelham or other common saddle seat curb bits with a port no greater than 1 1/2 inches. The snaffle bit or bridoon may be smaller or similar to those used by hunters. Horses should not be shown in a snaffle bit only. Saddle seat saddles will be suitable flap type park saddles. Breastplates, tie downs and martingales are prohibited.
3. Dressage riders will use bits and saddles suitable for dressage competition. Dropped, flash or figure 8 nosebands are acceptable in an English Pleasure class.
4. Optional equipment includes: spurs of an unroweled type, gloves, English breast plate, crops, bats or whips, saddle pads, bit converters on pelhams for hunters. The mane and tail may be braided or left long and flowing.
5. Prohibited equipment includes: leg wraps, draw reins, flash, figure 8 or dropped cavessons, tie downs or martingales, rowelled spurs. (See 3 above for exception for Dressage riders.)
6. Sidesaddles and appropriate appointments may be used.

**B. ACCEPTABLE ATTIRE**

1. Hunt seat shall wear informal hunting apparel. Hunt coats of conservative colors such as black, navy, green, Melton or tweed coats are suggested. Shirts should be a hunt style blouse with choker for women, men or women may wear a man's shirt and tie or a stock. Hunt type helmets must be worn at all times. Protective chinstraps and ASTM/SEI approved helmets are mandatory for youth competitors. Boots should be brown or black hunt boots, or paddock boots with jodhpurs. Breeches and jodhpurs should be of conservative colors.
2. Saddle seat shall wear informal saddle seat attire; no hunt attire. Conservative colors such as blue, gray, black, beige or brown jacket with jodhpurs, or day coats with jodhpurs are suggested. Boots and derby or soft hat are required. Contrasting vests, ties or hats are acceptable.
3. Dressage riders shall wear a short riding coat of conservative color. A stock tie, shirt with choker collar or shirt and tie may be worn. Breeches or jodhpurs of conservative color may be worn with jodhpur boots or boots. A hunt cap or riding derby may be worn.
4. In all English type competition, exhibitors may wear protective headgear without penalty from the judge. A dark hat cover should be used to cover protective helmets that are not of conservative color. ASTM/SEI approved helmets with chinstraps are mandatory for youth competitors.
5. Ladies sidesaddle attire, as specified by the USEF, is also permissible in Haflinger English classes.

**C. PLEASURE CLASS SPECIFICATIONS**

1. To be shown at a walk, trot, extended trot, and canter, with light contact maintained on the horse's mouth. To back readily and stand quietly. To be judged on performance, manners, soundness, way of going, and the ability to give a good pleasure ride 80%; type and confirmation 20%.
2. Horses will enter the ring to the right; they will reverse either toward the outside or inside of the arena. Horses may be asked to back, perform in groups on the rail or be asked to perform

individual patterns at the judge's discretion. Large groups may be split with the top contenders of each split brought back into the ring to work off for the final selection.

## II. HUNTER UNDER SADDLE

### A. GENERAL:

1. **Tack:** Regulation snaffles, pelhams and full bridles, all with cavesson nose bands are recommended. A judge may penalize for non-conventional types of bits or nosebands. Martingales of any type are prohibited in under saddle classes. Boots, bandages and wraps are prohibited.
2. **Attire:** Riders are required to wear scarlet or dark hunt coats, shirts with choker, tie or stock tie, white, buff or canary breeches or jodhpurs, boots or jodhpur boots, hunt cap, derby, hunting silk hat or protective headgear. Junior riders must wear protective headgear passing or surpassing ASTM standards.
3. **Soundness:** All horses must be serviceably sound. Horses that are not serviceably sound are ineligible for an award.
4. **Conformation (for conformation classes):** Quality substance, soundness and type. Judges must penalize but not necessarily eliminate horses with structural faults, defects and blemishes in areas which might impair their activity and durability. Horses must be stripped for conformation (with the assistance of one attendant) at the conclusion of the under saddle judging.

### B. CLASS SPECIFICATIONS:

Horses are shown at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Horses should be obedient, alert, responsive and move freely. They should not be eliminated for slight errors. Judges may ask horses to hand gallop collectively, one way of the ring. No more than eight will be asked to hand gallop at one time.

## III. CONFORMATION HUNTER UNDER SADDLE:

### A. GENERAL:

Shown as per Hunter Under Saddle. Conformation judging to follow under saddle judging. To be judged 75% on performance and soundness, 25% on conformation.

## IV. WESTERN PLEASURE

### A. WESTERN BITS AND EQUIPMENT

1. A western type headstall, without noseband, may be used with a western type bit.
2. Curb chains or straps must be at least 1/2 inch wide and lie flat against the jaw. No wire, metal, rawhide or other substance may be used with or as part of the flat leather chin strap or curb chain.
3. Hackamores (bosal) refer to a flexible, braided rawhide or leather, or rope bosal the core of which may be either rawhide or flexible cable; no rigid material permitted under the jaws. Hackamores or standard snaffle bits may be used on horses 5 years and under. A horse shown in a snaffle, hackamore (bosal) may not have shown in any other western event in a bridle with western curb bit. Snaffle bit may be 0 ring, D ring or egg butt with a ring no greater than 4 inches; the mouth piece should be smooth, round metal in two or three pieces. A three piece connecting ring of 1 1/4 inch or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar 3/8 to 3/4 (measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2 inches), which lies flat in the horse's mouth is acceptable. Two hands may be used on snaffle and hackamore (bosal) reins.
4. Split type reins or closed reins with romal are equally acceptable.

5. Hackamore bits, martingales, tie downs, or cavesson nosebands are prohibited.
6. A western curb bit refers to a bit that has a broken or solid mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. The bit should be considered a standard western bit and be free of mechanical device. Shanks may be loose or fixed with 8 1/2 inch maximum length. The bars should be smooth metal of 5/16 to 3/4 inches in diameter and may have 2 or 3 pieces. The port should be no higher than 3 1/2 inches maximum; rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, spades and half-breeds are acceptable. Slip or gag bits, flat polo mouthpieces and bits with prongs or extensions below the mouthpiece are not acceptable.
7. With the exception of hackamore and snaffle bit bridles, only one hand is used on the reins; hands may not be changed. The hand may be around the reins, index finger only between split reins is permitted. When a romal is carried with closed reins the extension may be carried in the free hand with a 16 inch spacing between the rein hand and free hand. The romal may not be used in front of the cinch or to cue the horse in any way.
8. Western classes will be shown in a western saddle. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit.
9. Optional equipment includes: rope or riata coiled and attached to the saddle, hobbles attached to the saddle, tapaderos.
10. Prohibited equipment includes: wire curb straps, nosebands, martingales and tie downs, twisted wire mouthpiece bits, protective boots or leg wraps.
11. Appropriate western sidesaddles and attire are permitted.

#### B. ACCEPTABLE ATTIRE

1. Suitable western attire includes western style boots and hat. Shirts with long sleeves and a collar are required. Vests, sweaters and coats are allowed. Colors and fabrics should be conservative and well coordinated. Jeans (blue jeans not permitted) in good condition are appropriate. Chaps are optional.
2. Helmets with chinstraps may be worn in western without penalty. Color or helmet cover coordinating with the outfit is recommended.
3. Gloves and spurs are optional.

#### C. WESTERN PLEASURE CLASS SPECIFICATIONS.

1. Horses will enter the ring to the right (counter clockwise) and be asked to walk, jog, and lope both directions of the ring. Extensions of gait may be requested at judge's discretion. Riders will reverse toward the inside of the ring. Horses may be asked to halt or change gait from one other gait. Changes should be smooth, and made with light tactful use of the reins. Riders will not be asked to reverse from a lope. Horses should be shown on a reasonably loose rein or light contact without undue restraint.
2. A good pleasure horse has a free flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with his individual conformation. Motion should be balanced and flowing. Neck and head should be carried in a relaxed natural position with the nose neither behind the vertical or excessively nosed out. Poll must not be carried below the withers. Reins should be reasonably loose yet with light contact and control. The horse should have a bright, alert expression, be responsive and smooth in transitions and be able to move out in a smooth, flowing motion. The horse should be balanced, willing and a pleasure to ride. Excessive slowness in any gait to be penalized.
3. To be judged on performance, manners, soundness and way of going with the ability to give a good pleasure ride 80%, confirmation and type 20%.
4. A Junior horse is age five years and under and may be shown in a ring snaffle or hackamore with two hands (both hands must be visible to the judge) and may also be shown in a bridle (one handed). A junior horse may be switched back and forth from a bridle to a snaffle or hackamore.

**V. LEAD LINE**

- A. Lead line class is intended to be an introductory class for young riders, six and under with the handler being eighteen or older. The intent is to allow the child to ride in the ring in a horse show class with a handler at the horse's head to provide safety and assistance if needed. The horse will be asked to enter the ring to the right, walk, reverse and walk to the left and line up for the judge's inspection. The handler remains at the horse's head at all times to provide assistance if needed.
- B. Lead line horses will wear appropriate Western or English saddle, and bridle with an attached lead line. Both participants should wear appropriate (attire) boots, long pants and helmet or hat. An ASTM/SEI approved helmet with chinstrap is mandatory for participants in this class. Handlers should be dressed in appropriate English or Western outfits.

**VI. WALK TROT CLASS.**

- A. The intent of the walk trot class is to allow beginner riders the opportunity to show when they are not yet ready to canter in a show situation. Riders who enter a walk trot class may not enter any other under saddle class including hunter over fences and jumping classes. The rider will be asked to enter the ring to the right, demonstrate a controlled walk, trot or jog, reverse to work to the left and line up. The riders will be asked to back. Horses should stand quietly and back readily. The horse should be well mannered and balanced, an animal suitable to a beginning rider.
- B. Horses may be shown in appropriate English or Western tack; riders appropriately dressed as defined under the rules for English and Western pleasure.

**VII. BAREBACK CLASS**

- A. Horses and riders will show English or Western as defined by the rules of English or Western pleasure with the exception that there will be no saddle.
- B. Horses will be asked to perform in both directions of the ring and may be asked to back or perform patterns at the discretion of the judge.
- D. To be judged 50% on the performance of the horse and 50% on the position and ability of the rider.

**VIII. REINING CLASS**

The reined work is a demonstration of both the rider's control of the horse and the horse's suitability as a cow horse as it circles, runs, stops and turns. The horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of or temporary loss of control and therefore a fault that must be marked down according to the severity of the deviation.

- A. Rider may use 2 hands
- B. A simple lead change is defined as from the canter to the walk (NO trot stride) for a stride or 2, then back into the canter in the opposite lead.
- B. Horses work individually. Judging begins the moment the horse enters the arena. A reined work must consist of the following: circles, lead changes and runs terminating in well-balanced stops straight to the line of travel, turns and a back-up of a reasonable distance with slight hesitation denoting each maneuver. The judging ends when the rider indicates he is finished by coming to a complete stop.

**IX. TRAIL OR OBSTACLE CLASS SPECIFICATIONS**

- A. General Info
  1. The purpose of the class is to send the horse through different obstacles. The horse may be shown from the ground (in-hand), ridden, or driven.
  2. The class is judged on manners, way of go, performance, obedience, and willingness of the horse. Also the exhibitor will be judged on how smoothly and efficiently he/she handles the horse while completing each obstacle.

3. Course patterns should be posted at least one hour before the class is held.
  4. The judge should walk the course after the obstacles are set up in order to insure correctness of the pattern and ensure safety.
  5. The judge or show committee may allow the exhibitors to walk the course before the class is held. The horse is not allowed on the course during the exhibitor walk of the course.
  6. JUDGING: the scoring of the class is based on a point system for each obstacle. The judge will award credit to the handler/horse on how one performs at the obstacle. At the same time penalties will given for each obstacle. Penalties include (but not limited to): performing obstacles out of specified order, equipment failure that impedes the finish of the pattern, refusal at an obstacle (maximum of three attempts at each obstacle), incorrectly working the obstacle as described on the pattern, exhibitors excessive use of force to make the horse work the obstacle, horses blatant disobedience (i.e. kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking, bolting, etc.)
- B. In-Hand Trail or Obstacles
1. Exhibitors should wear the appropriate attire as one would if entering a halter or showmanship class.
  2. The horse may be of either pleasure type or draft type.
  3. The horse should be shown with a proper fitting halter (leather, nylon, or rope halter) and lead. A lead may be of any material. A chain lead is allowed over or under the nose of ONLY a leather or nylon type halter. The lead should be held in a safe manner.
  4. A whip or stick is optional.
  5. The class may be conducted with divisions of youth, adult, or open. The class may also be conducted with divisions of horses age (i.e. any combination of weanlings, yearlings, two- to three-year-olds, four-year-olds and older).
  6. The handler should not touch the horse nor bait the horse while working an obstacle. Note the handler may briefly pet the horse after completely working the obstacle.
  7. The class will consist of four to five obstacles. The obstacles should be set up close enough so time is not wasted walking or trotting between each obstacle.
  8. Obstacles can be: walk or trot over poles (set up in a straight line or arced with a spacing of 20 to 24 inches for walk and 36 to 42 inches for trot), mailbox, turn in a box, handler works with a slicker/jacket, bridge, sidepass (over a pole or between poles), back through (i.e. straight, L-shaped, U-shaped, or around cones), everyday activities around the barn (i.e. water spray bottle, pick-up horses front feet (may need someone to hold horse), use of a battery powered clippers, look at the teeth, touch the horses ears, use a measuring stick)
- C. Ridden Trail or Obstacles
1. The class is open to exhibitors riding Western or English.
  2. Exhibitor attire and horses tack to be the same as required as if one was to enter a Horsemanship or Equitation type class.
  3. The class may be conducted with divisions of youth, adult, or open.
  4. The class will consist of at least six obstacles. The obstacles should be set up to provide enough working space to work the obstacle or to conduct a gait (walk, trot, canter) between the obstacles.
  5. Obstacles can be: ride over at least four logs/poles (set up in a straight line, zigzag, arced, or raised with spacing of 20 to 24 inches for walk, 36 to 42 inches for trot, and 6 to 7 feet for canter), ), back through (i.e. straight, L-shaped, U-shaped, or around cones), mailbox, work/pass through a gate, bridge, handler works with a slicker/jacket, jump (set up to be no more than 12 inches in height and recommended for advanced riders), sidepass (over a pole or between poles), pass through a narrow passage (set at least 48 inches in width) at any gait, turn in a box, ground tie, carry on object for a specified pattern/distance
  6. An obstacle can be set up with a combination of two or more of any of the obstacles listed.
- D. Driven Trail or Obstacles
1. The class is open to a single hitch for both pleasure type and draft type Haflingers.
  2. Exhibitor attire, harness, and cart must follow the rules as specified for their appropriate type (pleasure or draft). Note for pleasure type a 4-wheeled vehicle is acceptable.
  3. The class may be conducted with divisions of youth, adult, or open.
  4. The class will consist of five to six obstacles. The obstacles should be set up to provide enough working space to work the obstacle or to conduct a gait (walk or trot) between the obstacles.
  5. Obstacles can be: bridge, drive with a wheel between two poles, figure 8, serpentine between cones, mailbox, pass through a passage (set at least 84 inches in width) at any gait, back straight through between poles, back into a three sided box (can also be set up to allow for the vehicle to knock down the back pole), back through two cones, drive over markings on the ground (i.e. lines made by lime or spray paint), driver to use whip to knock off a canister(s) from atop a rail or barrel, fan the hitch either to left or right 90 degrees.