

# NATIONAL GYPSY HORSE SHOW AND FAIRE ASSOCIATION

(NGHS&FA) For The

## National Gypsy & Drum Horse Show Classic Rules and Regulations

### Article 1 Purpose

The objectives and purposes of these NGHS&FA Rules & Regulations shall be the following:

1. To promote the competitive and educational events and programs for Gypsy, Drum and Half-Gypsy horses.
2. Further and encourage good relations between all Gypsy, Drum and Half-Gypsy organizations.
3. Aid and encourage the breeding, exhibiting and perpetuation of the Gypsy, Drum and Half-Gypsy horse.
4. Promote, encourage and stimulate popular interest in the outstanding using qualities of the Gypsy, Drum and Half-Gypsy horse.

### Article 2 Definitions

#### 1. Adult:

- A. An individual who has reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year.
- B. In the Dressage division, an adult is an individual who has reached their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday as of January 1 of the current competition year.

#### 2. Age (Equine)

- A. Any horse is considered to be one year old on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling.
- B. A senior horse is one that is six years of age or older.
- C. A junior horse is one that is five years of age or younger.

#### 3. Age (Individual)

- A. The age of an individual on December 1<sup>st</sup> will be maintained throughout the entire competition year.
- B. Persons born on December 1<sup>st</sup> will assume the greater age on that date.

- A. An individual's age at the start of the competition on November 30<sup>th</sup> will be maintained throughout the competition.

#### 4. Agent

Any adult or other persons who act on behalf of an exhibitor, owner or lessee of a horse, trainer, rider, driver or handler at or in connection with a Recognized Competition.

#### 5. Amateur

Refer to USEF Rules

#### 6. Clients

- A. Client or clients of a judge shall include any person who has received or who has a member of their family who has received horse training or instruction in riding, driving or showing in hand from the judge or from said judge's employee, whether or not remuneration has been given or received, and whether or not such training or instruction took place at a NGHS&FA Recognized Competition.
- B. Included are any persons who pay horse board (excluding stud fees and broodmare board) to the judge or to a member of their family
- C. Included are any persons entered in a NGHS&FA Recognized Competition as rider, driver handler, exhibitor, owner or lessee, and members of the family of the foregoing, on an entry blank signed in any capacity by the judge or their agent, employee or member of their family, whether or not remuneration has been given or received.
- D. The conducting of clinics or assistance in group activities, unless private instruction is given, will not be considered as instruction, coaching or tutoring.

#### 7. Commencement and Completion of Classes

- A. In classes where horses compete collectively, a warning is issued and the in-

gate must be closed two minutes after the first horse enters the ring.

- B. Judging must not commence until the gate is closed or at the end of the two-minute call.
- C. In classes where horses compete individually, a class is considered completed when all horses have completed the class routine as designated by the rules
- D. Horses that compete collectively, a class is considered completed when the class has been judged in accordance with the rules and the cards have been submitted to the ringmaster or announcer.

#### **8. Competition Employees**

Includes the following persons: Gate Attendants, Ring Clerks, Farriers, Timekeepers, Announcers and other person engaged directly by the competition.

#### **9. Competition Officials**

Includes the following persons: Directors, Officers, Chairman of the Show Committee, Show Manager, Show Secretary, Ringmasters, Judges, Technical Delegates, Veterinarians and Course Designers.

#### **10. Competition Year**

The competition year is defined as starting December 1<sup>st</sup> and ending November 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **11. Competitor**

The competitor is the horse, rider (handler, driver) or horse/rider combination being judged depending on the judging specifications for a particular competition.

#### **12. Disqualification**

To exclude a competitor or horse, for cause, from participation in a given class, division or competition. A competitor or horse disqualified in this manner may not use this class as a qualifying class for a Championship class.

#### **13. Elimination**

- A. A competitor or horse, for cause, from judging consideration in a class.
- B. A competitor who is eliminated in a class is ineligible to receive an award regardless of the number of competitors in the class.

#### **14. Excused**

- A. To have a judge(s) grant permission to, or request that a competitor leave the class.
- B. A competitor who is excused is ineligible to receive an award.

#### **15. Exhibitor**

The owner or lessee of a horse when entered in a class where only the merits of the horse or horse/rider combination are to be considered by the judge(s). In Equitation classes, the exhibitor refers to the rider.

#### **16. Family**

The term family includes husband, wife, parent, step-parent, child, brother, step-child, sister, half brother and sister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandmother, grandfather, grandchildren, and in-laws of the same relation as stated above.

#### **17. Green Horse**

A Green horse is one that has never shown at a canter or lope in a class.

#### **18. Hand**

The height of all horses is stated in hands. A hand is 4".

#### **19. Junior**

- A. An individual who has not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current competition year.
- B. The age of an individual on December 1<sup>st</sup> will be maintained throughout the entire competition year.
- C. Individuals born on December 1<sup>st</sup> assume the greater age on that date.
- D. If a competition is in progress on November 30<sup>th</sup>, Junior status at the start of the competition will be maintained throughout that competition.
- E. Junior Exhibitors are considered amateurs and are permitted to enter amateur classes unless otherwise stated.

#### **20. Ladies Classes**

- A. Ladies classes may be restricted to riders, drivers or handlers who are no longer eligible to compete as junior exhibitors.
- B. Stallions are not permitted.

#### **21. Open Classes**

- A. Classes that are open to all horses of any age, size or sex.
- B. Classes that are open to all amateur or professional riders, drivers or handlers.

#### **22. Owner's Classes**

- A. Every competitor must be an amateur and the owner, or an amateur member of the owner's family.

- B. Owners' classes may be restricted to riders, drivers or handlers who are no longer eligible to compete as a junior exhibitor.

### **23. Professional**

Refer to USEF rules.

### **24. Shown and Judged**

To be shown and judged in any class in which horses compete together, a horse must perform at all required gaits both ways of the ring in the original workout and must remain in the ring until excused by the judge.

### **25. Trainer**

- A. Any adult who has the responsibility for the care, training, custody or performance of a horse.
- B. Said person must sign the entry blank whether they be an owner, rider, agent as well as trainer.
- C. Where a minor exhibitor has no trainer, a parent or guardian must sign and assume responsibility of trainer.

### **26. Veterinarian**

A graduate of an accredited veterinary school and licensed in the state of the competition.

## **Article 3 Competitions Officials**

### **1. Chair of Show Committee**

Available to Show Manager for counsel, advice and assistance.

### **2. Show Manager**

- A. Shall have the authority to enforce the rules of NGHS&FA at the competition.
- B. Shall handle all complaints and inquiries. (May meet with the Show Committee for counsel)
- C. Has the responsibility to be in communication with the judge.

### **3. Show Secretary**

An individual who processed entries and performs other duties as assigned by the Show Committee or Manager.

### **4. Ringmaster**

- A. An individual who manages the ring and has communication with the judge(s).
- B. They will refrain from discussing competitors with the judge(s).

### **5. Judge(s)**

- A. Judges must be licensed by USEF.
  - 1) The word "Judge" in these rules applies throughout to USEF Licensed Judges.

- 2) Judges may be recorded (r) or Registered (R).

- B. A Judge is obligated to adjudicate each class in conformity with the rule and specifications of that class as they appear in the NGHS&FA Rules & Regulations.

- 1. If an issue is not addressed in the show rules then the USEF rule will be applied.

- C. A judge must order from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger other exhibitors.

- D. A Judge may not exhibit or own a horse at the competition in which they are adjudicating.

- E. A judge shall not be a ringmaster or manager at any show at which he is officiating.

- F. No judge may discuss with an exhibitor the purchase, sale or lease of any horse during a competition at which he is judging.

- G. No judge may be a house guest of a person who is exhibiting at the competition or whose family is exhibiting at such competition.

- H. A judge may not visit the horses' stall area, or inspect or discuss any horse entered in the show before the judging,

- I. A judge shall not review the show program until after the judging has been completed.

- 1) Prior to the judging each judge, however, shall be furnished with a schedule of events by the show management.

## **Article 4 Exhibitors Responsibility**

- 1. All exhibitors must have knowledge and adherence to the current NGHS&FA Rules & Regulations.
- 2. No horse may be shown before a judge that has been sold by said Judge or by his employer within a period of three (3) months prior to the show.
- 3. No horse may show before a judge that has been trained by said judge within the period of three (3) months prior to the show.
- 4. No one may show before a judge who has received or has contracted to receive a remuneration for the sale, purchase or lease of any horse to or from, or for the account of such person within a period of one month prior to the show unless the sale or purchase has been

made at public auction and the sales company is paid directly for the horses.

5. No one may show before a judge who boards, shows or trains any horse under said person's ownership or lease, within a period of one month prior to the show. Stud fees and broodmare board excluded.
6. No one may show before a judge who remunerated said person for the board or training of any horse within a period of one month prior to the show
7. No one shall approach a Judge with regard to a decision unless first obtaining permission from the Show Manager who shall arrange a meeting with the Judge at a proper time and place. The Show Manager must be present with the judge at all meetings.
8. No exhibitor has the right to inspect the Judge's cards without the Judge's permission.
9. Conduct by an exhibitor, owner, or immediate family member of an unsportsmanlike, abusive, or detrimental nature will not be tolerated, including but not limited to threatening, abusive, or intimidating conduct, physical, verbal or written, toward any individual or show official. Any person guilty of such conduct should be reported immediately to Show Management. The show management may suspend and escort off the grounds the offender for the duration of that show.

#### **Article 5 Submission of Entries**

1. Show Eligibility
  - A. All horses must have proof of registration or pending registration. A copy of both sides of the pending registration or registration certificate with any Gypsy Horse registry, Drum Horse Registry or Half-Gypsy Registry must accompany your entries.
    - 1) No horse shall be given a number or allowed to show unless the exhibitor can show proof of registration or pending registration.
    - 2) A pending registration is good for ninety (90) days only
  - B. See Definitions for age determination.
2. Completed entry forms must be submitted legibly and accurately with information exactly as is printed on horse's registration certificate.
3. A horse entered in the wrong class will be transferred to its correct class prior to that class being judged.

4. No cross-entering will be allowed between purebred and half-bred classes at any show?

#### **Article 6 General Show Rules**

1. There will be a two (2) minute gate. Responsibility to be at the gate on time rests with the exhibitor. (Do not rely on the sound system.)
  - A. Notify the gate personnel of needed tack changes before each session.
2. For safety reasons an unruly horse must be excused from the ring by the judge. An exhibitor cannot protest this action.
3. Stallions shall be shown only by persons 18 years old and older.
  - A. Stallions are not permitted in Junior Exhibitor classes
4. No entry may leave the ring after judging has begun without the permission of the Judge.
5. Equipment should fit horses properly and be appropriate for size horse and not pinch withers or kidneys.
6. English and Western tack cannot be mixed while showing
7. No farm, individual or animal names, logos or monograms may be displayed on exhibitors or saddlepads.
8. Conduct designed to distract a horse or otherwise interfere with the showing of another exhibitor's animal will not be tolerated by show management. Offenders will be asked to leave the show area.
  - A. If the offender is also an exhibitor, they will be excused from the ring and barred from personally showing during that show. Their horse, however may compete. The offense shall be reported to the Show Manager by the Judge or Ringmaster.
9. The decisions of a judge constitute solely their individual preference and cannot be protested..
10. The judge will mark his card through seventh place in the event of a later disqualification.

#### **Article 7 Breed Standards**

##### **GYPSY HORSE**

**Size:** Gypsy Horses can be any size and may be of the pony, cob or horse variety.

**General Appearance:** The over all appearance should give the impression of intelligence, kindness, strength and agility. They should be of good bone, either medium weight or heavy weight, be well muscled, balanced with ample muscle, kind

expression and abundant hair and feathering. The Gypsy Horse should not be over 16 hands tall.

**Head:** The head should be in proportion to the body, neither too large nor too small, with broad forehead, generous jaw, square muzzle and the mouth should have a level bite. The head should be more refined than the head of a typical Shire and it should be in harmony with the rest of the body. The throat latch and jaw should be clean with a flat and tapered nose. A roman nose is not acceptable. The ears should be small and set well in proportion to the rest of the head. The eyes can be any color, but should be large and set well apart with an intelligent and kind expression.

**Neck:** The neck should be slightly arched, well muscled, clean through the throat, not too short, and tie in well at the shoulder and withers with generous muscling.

**Chest:** The chest should be broad, deep with ample muscle. The muscle along the bottom of the chest should appear in an inverted “V” shape as it ties into the forearm.

**Shoulders:** The shoulders should be deep, powerful and well sloped.

**Withers:** Withers should be of round and medium height, not too high, with a good cover of muscle.

**Back:** The back should be short, with ample muscle sloping slightly upwards towards the croup and tie in strongly at the loin.

**Barrel:** The barrel should be short and compact with well sprung ribs and a solid covering of muscle. The flank should be as deep as the girth.

**Legs:** The legs should be set well under the body, generously boned and muscled with well shaped hooves capable of carrying the frame without stress. Legs should be clean, heavy to medium bone set on a medium to large hoof. The legs should be set well under the body, straight, clean, and with plenty of dense, flat bone. Forearms and gaskins should be well muscled. The legs should set square, muscular with broad flat well developed knees. The rear hocks should be broad and clean. The Gypsy Horse should have a modified close hock set, but should not be as close as the modern draft horse. Set back or sickle hocks are a fault. The hoof should be round, open at the heels with well developed frogs. Contracted heels are considered a fault.

**Hindquarters:** The hindquarters should be very generous, smooth and broad rounding across the croup with a long hip well coupled to powerful, straight hocks. The pelvis should be wide and the buttocks muscled. The tail shall not set too low. Slab sided or severely sloping hindquarters are considered a fault.

**Movement:** Leg movement will be clean and straight with true energy and a distinctive and effortless trot. The general movement should be level with a good length of stride.

**Hair:** The mane and tail should be thick and luxuriant. Ideal hair is straight and silky with some wave, curl and body being acceptable. Kinky hair is a fault. Leg feathering should start at the knee and hock and run down the front and back of the leg and extending over the front of the hooves. Abundance of feathering may vary with the medium weight Gypsy Horse. Mane, forelock, and tail should be ample to profusely abundant, double manes are common, but not required.

**Color:** Any color is permissible, solid or colored. Commonly found patterns are:

1. Piebald: Black & White
2. Skewbald: Red & White, brown and white or tri-colored.
3. Odd Colored: Any other color pattern.
4. Blagdon: Solid color with white splashed up from underneath.

**Disposition:** The disposition should be one of quiet intelligence and docile temperament. The Gypsy Horse should be, above all else, a kind and willing partner.

### **HALF-GYPSY HORSE**

A Half-Gypsy horse should exhibit the characteristics of the Gypsy Horse Breed blended with the other parent.

### **DRUM HORSE**

**Purpose of the Breed:** The purpose of the Drum horse is to develop the heavy riding horse utilizing the best examples and bloodlines of the Gypsy horse, Shire, Clydesdale and Friesian, focusing on breeding for athleticism, agility, and performance ability for all ridden disciplines. The inspiration

came from the working horses in the Queen's English cavalry, carrying the heavy kettledrums.

**Size:** The Drum should stand at 16 hands or upward.

**General appearance:** The elegant heavy horse should be one of great strength and agility as a riding and driving horse. The Drum should be a large, well muscled horse of medium to heavy weight, with good quality bone, an athletic body, a kind expression and abundant mane, tail and feathering.

**Head:** The head will be attractive and in proportion to the body. The forehead and poll should be wide, but not so wide as to lose the appearance of the overall proportion to the length of head. A generous jaw, square muzzle and even bite should be present and tie cleanly to the throat. A large, well-set eye giving a pleasant and kind expression is sought and in proportion to the head. Eyes may be any color. Both convex and straight profiles are acceptable.

**Neck:** The neck should be long, arched, and well muscled, and in proportion to the horse's frame. It should be clean through the throat latch, allowing for good flexion at the poll. The length should be in proportion to the length of back and tie in smoothly at the shoulder and withers. Stallions may exhibit a masculine crest in proper size and thickness to the neck.

**Chest:** The chest should be deep and broad with ample muscle and balanced to the rest of the body.

**Shoulders:** The shoulders should be deep, powerful and of a correct slope to allow for ample, free movement. The slope of the shoulder and the slope of the pastern should ideally be the same angle. (As close to a 45-50% angle as possible.)

**Withers:** Withers should be average in height, not too high with a generous layer of muscle. They should be sloping and preferably lie further back than the elbow, to allow for greater scope of motion in the forelimbs.

**Back, Loins and croup:** The back should be strong and in proportion with the horses' overall frame and build. The back should tie in well with the loins, which should be wide and strong on the mature horse. The loins should lean fluently into the

croup, which should have a slight downward slope. The croup should not be steep, pointed, or overly round.

**Barrel:** The barrel should be well rounded, with well sprung ribs and a solid covering of muscles. The flank should be as deep as the girth and when viewed from the side, the bottom length of the horse's barrel should be approximately the same length of the back, or slightly shorter.

**Legs and Hooves:** The legs should be set squarely under the body with straight and clean joints. Forearms and thighs should be well muscled, and may or may not show the traditional draft horse hock set. Cow hocked leg set should be penalized. The hind legs should be set directly beneath the hindquarters, with the point of the hock directly beneath the point of the buttock. The hock should be flat in appearance and ideally a little higher than the front knee. The cannon bone in the rear leg should be slightly longer than in the front leg. Pasterns will allow a proper slope of approximately 45 degrees from the hoof head to the fetlock joint. Feet must be sound and substantial with a generous, open heel. The hooves should be large enough for soundness, stability and weight bearing, but not exaggerated in proportion to the horse's build.

**Hindquarters:** Smooth and rounded across a long croup, with a medium to high tail set, long hip with wide pelvis and well muscled thighs and buttocks.

**Movement:** The Drum horse should move naturally, with forward impulsion and presence during all three gaits. At the walk, the horse should have a straight four beat ground-covering gait. Stride shall be consistent and balanced at all three gaits. The head carriage and collection should appear natural, not overly exaggerated or forced. The trot should be two distinct beats in which front and hind legs are moving diagonally. Action at the knees can be snappy and naturally animated, or regular and extended. The Drum horse should be able to use its hind end well. At the canter, the Drum should have the appearance of a cadenced, fluid three beat gait, driving from the hindquarters and light on the forehand.

**Hair:** Mane and tail should be long and thick. Abundant, soft and silky feather should start at the knees and flow downward to the hoof. Neither straight nor curly feather will be penalized. American breed Drum horses shall not have docked tails. Trimming the mane, tail or feather is frowned upon unless it effects the requirements in a discipline. Small bridle path is allowed, as is trimming facial, jaw, ear or body hair, as needed.

**Disposition:** The Drum horse should be intelligent, display a kind temperament and be a willing and sensible partner.

### **Article 8 Shoeing Regulations**

1. Foals and Yearlings must be shown barefoot.
2. Two Year olds and older horses may be shown barefoot or with a light plate of uniform thickness and weight.
3. No pads are permitted. No built up feet, weighted shoes, grabs, caulks, or trailers. The plate shall be of equal length in the branches from the toe back and shall not extend past the bulb of the heel. In all classes the foot should be natural in appearance with the frog close to the ground. The length of the toe must be proportional to the size of the animal.

### **Article 9 Eligibility to Compete**

1. All horses must be serviceably sound, in good condition and well groomed.
  - A. Any horse showing evidence of genetic weakness and unsoundness to be penalized.
2. Gypsy Horses shall show with full mane, feather and tail. Exception: Braiding of mane and tail is optional in Hunter and Dressage classes.
  - A. The application of artificial hair in mane, feather or tail is prohibited.
  - B. No roached manes.
  - C. A single braid behind the ear to create a bridle path is permissible but should not be prominent.
    - 1) If a bridle path is used it should not exceed the length of the ear laid back along the neck of the horse.
  - D. Docked tails are not permissible.
    - 1) No clipping, pulling or nerve blocking of tails is permitted.
  - E. No ginger or other irritants, nicked tails, false tails or set -up tails is permitted.

- F. No braiding, clipping or alteration of feather is permitted.
3. Changing the coat color of a Gypsy Horse is not permitted.
4. The horse shall have a level bite.
5. In all divisions if a horse's mouth is found to be bloody, disqualification is at the judge's discretion.
6. Stallions over 2 years of age must have fully descended testicles.

### **HALTER DIVISION**

Halter classes are designed to evaluate the quality of breeding animals to encourage improvement of the breed.

### **Article 10 Halter Classes**

1. Halter entry should be bright and alert with a smart way of going. The entry should possess all of the attributes of quality set forth in the Breed Standards, with as few faults as possible and free of any disqualifying characteristics. The Horse shall be judged on merit of quality.
2. The ideal standard in evaluating horses in halter classes should include, but not limited to, soundness and correctness of conformation, particularly feet and legs, with emphasis on correct manner of travel.
3. Behavior problems should be penalized. For safety reasons an unruly horse (unsafe for horses, officials or exhibitors in the ring) must be excused from the ring by the judge, ring steward, or steward. An exhibitor cannot protest this action.

### **Article 11 Appointments**

No tack permitted in halter classes other than as follows:

1. Mares & Geldings: show halter or hunter type bridle with snaffle bit without shanks.
2. Stallions: may be shown in full tack (crupper, side reins and surcingle), show halter or hunter type bridle only, with snaffle or stallion bit.
3. Bits are permitted only on animals two years and older.
4. Exhibitor may carry a whip.
5. Dress for an exhibitor should be appropriate for purpose.
6. The Exhibitor to be dressed safe, neat and clean.
7. Closed toe/heel foot attire is required (boots or athletic shoes).

8. No T-shirts, shorts, skirts above the knee, strapless tops or canvas/cloth shoes allowed.

### **Article 12 Conduct and Ring Procedure**

1. Only one handler is permitted in the ring with each horse.
2. No item disturbing to other entries may be used inside or outside the ring.
3. Horses will enter the ring at a walk to the judge. When passing the judge, engage a trot for approximately 50', turn at a 90 degree angle and continue trotting for approximately 50' to allow judge the opportunity to see the trot from inline and the side angle. Line up as indicated by the ringmaster.
4. Horses are to be shown square The front legs should be on a vertical line directly under the shoulder. The back of the hocks should be in a vertical line with the animal's buttocks. At no time should the horse be stretched or parked.
5. Entries will be examined by the judge in the line up after all horses have been worked.
6. Absolute correctness of movement and soundness will be noted by the judge.
7. All horses must be examined in the line up and observed at a walk and trot.

### **Article 13 Gaits**

1. The walk should be a natural flat-footed, four beat gait. The walk will be alert, with a stride of reasonable length for the size of the horse.
2. The trot should be a smooth, ground covering, two beat diagonal gait, with a slight flick of feather at the point of extension. The trot should be square and balanced with straight forward movement of the feet.
3. Horse should have the overall appearance of a strong and willing partner that works harmoniously with its handler.

### **Article 14 Class Specifications**

Stallions, Mares & Geldings to be judged separately unless otherwise specified.

Breed Halter Classes shall be judged 75% on conformation, quality, breed type, movement and performance and 25% on disposition and manners.

1. FOAL OF CURRENT YEAR (Dams may be present in the off-side of the ring on lead with a non-exhibiting handler.
2. YEARLINGS
3. 2 YEAR OLDS
4. 3, 4 & 5 YEARS OLDS (May be split by age)
5. 6 YEARS OLD AND OLDER

6. BROODMARE: Broodmares must be 3 years old or older and wet (nursing a foal) and are eligible for Senior Champion Mare, but cannot cross enter into the Legacy mare class at the same show.
7. JUNIOR CHAMPION AND RESERVE : To be the first and second place winners from Foal of Current Year, Yearling and Two Year Olds. Horses should be lined up according to wins in qualifying classes. In no case shall a 2nd place horse be placed over the horse that was placed above him unless the 1<sup>st</sup> place horse does not show back.
8. SENIOR CHAMPION AND RESERVE: To be the first and second place winners from 3, 4, & 5 Year Olds & 6 Years Old & Older, and Broodmares. Horses should be lined up according to wins in qualifying classes. In no case shall a 2nd place horse be placed over the horse that was placed above him unless the 1<sup>st</sup> place horse does not show back.
9. GRAND CHAMPION: The Senior Champions and Reserve winners and Junior Champions and Reserve winners (foals are eligible if they are Junior Champion or Reserve). Horses should be lined up according to wins in qualifying classes. In no case shall a Reserve placed horse be placed over the horse that was placed above him. Exception: If for any reason the first place horse fails to return for Grand and Reserve, the 2nd place horse, in that division, shall be moved in the first place position for consideration in Grand and Reserve placing.
10. Supreme Champion? : If a Champion of Champions award is given, those eligible will be Grand Champion Stallion, Grand Champion Mare and Grand Champion Gelding .
11. COLOR: Any age, any sex of any pinto and/or appaloosa color pattern. Judged 80% on color quality, richness and 50/50 balance of coat pattern and 20% on conformation.
12. SOLID COLOR: Any age, any sex of solid color (e.g. bay, palomino, buckskin, gray, chestnut, etc.). Judged 80% on color quality, richness and 20% on conformation.
13. OPEN HALTER - BRED, OWNED AND SHOWN BY EXHIBITOR: Breeder is defined as owning dam at time of service. An owner is a person holding title or members of his/her immediate family. The exhibitor must be both. Will be asked to move on a line at a walk and a trot.

14. MARE AND FOAL: Mare and her current year foal. Judged 50% on Mare's and 50% on foal's conformation. Will not be asked to work on a line.
15. GET OF SIRE: Three Gypsy Horses; stallions, mares and/or geldings, any age, the get of the same sire. Judged 75% on conformation and 25% on uniformity. Combined ownership permitted. Entry is made in the name of the sire. Will not be asked to work on a line.
16. PRODUCE OF DAM: Two Gypsy Horses; stallions, mares and/or geldings, any age, the produce of the same dam. Judged 75% on conformation and 25% on uniformity. Combined ownership permitted. Entry is made in the name of the dam. Will not be asked to work on a line.

### **DRIVING DIVISION**

The driving division is for the purpose of developing and furthering the art and sport of driving for pleasure.

#### **Article 15 Driving Classes**

1. All driving horses must be at least 3 years of age.
2. It is permissible for a driver to talk to a horse in a subdued tone of voice, although a driver should strive to control the horse's movement with a minimum of vocal aids. Talking loud, whistling, or shouting at horse is not acceptable.

#### **Safety**

3. All persons involved in driving, e.g. drivers, grooms, competition officials, spectators, etc. should place safety first.
4. Horses should never be left unattended while hitched to a vehicle.
5. A driver should never allow attendants to enter a vehicle until driver is seated with reins in hand and driver must never dismount while attendants are in the vehicle.
6. You must be 18 years old and older to show a stallion in open classes.
7. Headers are required in all youth classes and are optional in all other classes.
8. A judge may excuse from competition any unsafe vehicle, unsafe equipment, unsafe hitching of horses or an unruly horse. An exhibitor cannot protest this action.
9. All rules of the road should be observed unless officials direct otherwise.

10. Large classes where each entry cannot be shown safely on the rail should be split by judge or show management as conditions warrant.
11. Stallions may be not be driven in youth classes.
- 12/ All driving horses shall show on the rail at all times, except while safely passing. The judge is to take this into consideration while judging and horses shown off the rail will be penalized.
13. A driver should never dismount without assistance from a header.

#### **Article 16 Appointments**

1. Horses to wear show-type harness. Collars, side check, overcheck, square blinkers, round blinkers, martingales, straight bit, check bit or snaffle bit permissible.
2. Driving whips, (optional) if used, must be of suitable style, and the tip of the lash must not reach past the shoulder of the horse.
3. Boots, wraps, etc. of any description are prohibited.
4. Forelock and first strand behind ears may be braided in harness with blinders, no ribbons or feather plumes allowed.
5. Full collars allowed in all driving classes.
6. The application of artificial hair in mane, feather or tail is prohibited.
7. Drivers and their attendants should be dressed appropriately.
  - A. Hats, gloves, and aprons are optional.
  - B. No strapless tops or open toed shoes permitted.
8. Headers shall be neatly dressed in English, Western or Traditional attire whichever is appropriate for the class.
9. Dress in the show ring is to compliment the overall appearance of the unit. Hats may or may not be worn by gentlemen.

#### **Article 17 Conduct and Ring Procedure**

1. The horse must be serviceably sound, meet conformation standards, exhibit quiet manners, perform at collected and extended gaits.
2. On a light rein, stand quietly. Extreme action or heavy on the bit will be penalized.
3. The only person to handle the reins under penalty of elimination, is the driver.
  - A. No change of driver is permitted during any class period.
4. Headers are permitted in driving classes. Headers must position themselves squarely two to three feet in front of the horses head.

Headers shall stand still with hands behind their back. Should it become necessary to restrain a horse prior to the completion of judging, the judge shall penalize that entry. Judges shall also penalize an entry whose header disturbs or distracts any horse.

5. Attendants are permitted in driving classes and may exit the vehicle to act as a header. Youth exhibitors attendants must be 18 years or older.
6. Horses shall demonstrate all gaits both directions of the ring, and at the direction of the ring steward. The change of direction shall be accomplished by the horse crossing the ring at a walk or a collected trot only. If the class or ring size justifies, the judge may ask the horses to reverse on the diagonal for safety reasons. The judge may ask for a reverse on the diagonal at a walk or collected trot.
7. Each horse shall also be required to demonstrate its ability to back readily and stand quietly (unless class specifications state otherwise). Horses should back on command, quietly, willingly and easily in a straight line without resistance.
8. Jawing, resisting, excessive tail swishing or tossing of the head should be penalized. Excessive animation and speed will be penalized.
9. After all entries have finished their ring work and are lined up waiting to demonstrate the back, headers may quietly enter the ring.

#### **Article 18 Gaits**

1. Walk should be a free, regular and forward moving four beat gait. The horse should walk energetically, but calmly, with an even and determined pace.
2. Normal trot should be easy going, square with elasticity and freedom of movement, with a slight flick of the feather at the point of extension.
3. Working trot should be a lengthening gait, ground covering, open and reaching with a greater flick of the feather at the point of extension.

#### **Article 19 Class Specifications**

1. PLEASURE DRIVING: Open to stallions, mares or geldings. Judged 70% on manners (in motion and rest), way of going and performance, 20% on condition, fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle; and 10% on neatness, appropriateness of attire, and overall impression.

- A. Horses to enter the ring counter clockwise (to the right) at a collected trot, to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, collected trot and working trot.
  - B. Horses must stand quietly.
  - C. Horses to be shown to a suitable two-wheeled cart with foot basket or four-wheeled vehicle.
  - D. Viceroy, racing sulkies, and fine harness rigs are prohibited.
2. TRADITIONAL VEHICLE DRIVING: Open to stallions, mares, or geldings To be judged 60% on manners (in motion and rest), quality and performance 20% on appropriateness of vehicle and 20% on appropriate attire .
    - A. Open to single horse or with a sideline and any traditional Gypsy vehicle (e.g. flatcart, bowtop, ledge wagon, etc.)
    - B. To be shown in traditional Gypsy harness.
    - C. To be shown at a walk, and collected trot, both ways of the ring, to line up and stand quietly. Backing is not required.
  3. PLEASURE OBSTACLE DRIVING: Open to stallions, mares and geldings. To be judged on the basis of performance and manners (in motion and rest).
    - A. A single horse hitched to a suitable two wheeled cart is the appropriate entry for this class. The harness and vehicle must be safe and in serviceable condition. The judge will dismiss any unsafe entry whether due to equipment or behavior of the animal.
    - B. Each entry will work individually through an obstacle course designed to test the performance and manners of a good working animal.
    - C. Each entry will be given a numerical score based on performance at each obstacle and overall manners and gaits.
    - D. The course shall consist of at least four obstacles chosen and arranged from the following list: (not to exceed 8 obstacles, 4 of which can be of show management's choice with safety of horse and exhibitor a priority.)
      - 1) Walk through a water obstacle or simulated water obstacle
      - 2) Cross a simulated wooden bridge
      - 3) Pick up and move coat or slicker or put on and off

- 4) Drive between poles, bales of hay or other obstacles making a narrow passage.
  - 5) Mail Box (Stop, open mail box, remove mail, return mail to box, and close box.)
  - 6) Weaving and figure 8
  - 7) Tires, stair steps, and jumps are prohibited.
- E. A course diagram must be posted at least one hour before the class is held. This diagram will indicate what gait (walk-trot) the animal will take between each obstacle.
  - F. The judge shall break ties by judging the animal on rail work at a walk or trot and/or by requiring tied entries to repeat any part of the course.
  - G. If sufficient entries are present, this class may be divided according to age of driver. (youth, adult, etc.)
  - H. The Show committee and/or judge may impose a time limit or number of refusals before the driver must pass to the next obstacle.
  - I. It is recommended that distance between obstacles be short in order to expedite the class.
  - J. It is emphasized that this is an obstacle driving class and that a good entry is one that will provide a pleasant, responsive drive for a driver.
  - K. The driver should be neatly dressed.
  - L. In shows where more than one obstacle class is offered at least three of the obstacles must be different or the manner of performance through the obstacles must be varied for each class.
  - M. All obstacles must be safe for exhibitors as well as for horses.
  - N. Edible treats to encourage an animal to perform obstacles is prohibited.
  - O. Off course will result in elimination from the class. Off course is defined as:
    - 1) Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.
    - 2) Negotiating an obstacle from the wrong side.
    - 3) Skipping an obstacle unless directed by judge.
    - 4) Negotiating obstacles in the wrong sequence.

- 5) Physically moving or coercing the horse by touching with hand or body part.
- 6) It is up to the judges discretion to disqualify.

## **RIDING DIVISION**

The riding division is for the purpose of developing and furthering the art and sport of riding for pleasure. A complete knowledge of and compliance with the rules are essential.

All equipment must be safe, serviceably sound, clean and appropriate to division shown in.

Horse must exhibit conformation standards, quiet manners, perform at a collected gait on a light rein, stand quietly and back readily. Extreme action or heavy on the bit will be penalized.

All riding horses must be at least 3 years of age.

### **Article 20 Western Pleasure Classes**

The horse should have a comfortable free flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with the individual's conformation and have a balanced, sweeping motion that requires no more than light contact by the rider. It should cover a reasonable amount of ground with little effort.

### **Article 21 Western Appointments**

1. Western class horses will be shown in western tack.
  - A. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit
  - B. Australian saddles are not permitted.
2. Curb bits will use curb straps or chains.
3. Hackamore in western classes means the use only of a flexible, braided rawhide or leather bosal, the core of which must be rawhide.
4. Prohibited equipment in Western Pleasure class:
  - A. Nosebands
  - B. Protective boots or leg wraps
  - C. No bare metal is allowed over the nose or the poll.
  - D. Mechanical hackamore
  - E. Martingales and tie down
  - F. Bits: No abusive bits will be accepted.
5. All equipment must be safe, serviceably sound, and clean
6. Suitable western attire, including boots, hat, and shirts with a collar and sleeves are required.
  - A. No T-shirts or tank tops allowed.

- B. Judges must penalize contestants who do not conform.
- 7. Conservative, well-coordinated colors and fabrics are preferred.
- 8. The rider's overall impression should be clean and neat.
- 9. Chaps are optional.
- 10. At the Judge's discretion, dress rules may be relaxed, due to weather-related conditions.

**Article 22 Conduct and Class Procedure**

- 1. Rider's hands should be carried near the pommel and not further than 4 inches (10.16 cm) out on either side of the saddle horn with very limited movement.
- 2. When split reins are used they must be crossed and both hands must be on both reins.
- 3. If using one hand the free hand shall not be used to support the rider by being placed on any part of the saddle.
- 4. Horses head should be carried in a way that is natural and suitable to the horse's conformation at all gaits. An artificially low head set will be penalized; the poll should never be level to or below the withers.
- 5. Horses are to be reversed to the inside away from the rail.
- 6. Horses may be required to reverse at a walk or a jog or may be required to go from any gait to any other gait at the discretion of the judge. Forward motion must be maintained. No contestant will be asked to reverse at a lope.
- 7. **IMPORTANT:** As long as horses with naturally longer strides are performing the gaits correctly, they should NOT be penalized for passing other horses.

**Article 23 Western Pleasure Gaits**

- 1. Walk is a four beat gait. It should be soft, comfortable, flat and ground covering. Each foot should come out of the ground at the same pace it goes in. A horse that is walking correctly is bright, alert and responsive to the rider's guidance. Extremely slow, erratic or choppy walk to be penalized.
- 2. Jog should be soft, relaxed and comfortable, with a clean lift in the motion. The legs should be working in diagonal pairs, making a distinct two beat gait. At no time should it resemble a running walk nor should it be rough or stilted. The speed and stride should be compatible with the horse's size and conformation.

- 3. Lope is an easy, rhythmical, natural three beat gait. Horses moving to the left should lope on the left lead. Horses moving to the right should lope on the right lead. The horse's leg should be moving freely with full extension of the limbs. Over collected or 4 beat canter to be penalized. Excessive speed to be penalized.
- 4. Horse should back, on command, quietly, willingly and easily in a straight line without resistance. Jawing, resisting or tossing of the head should be penalized.

**Article 24 Class Specifications**

- 1. **WESTERN PLEASURE**, Open to stallions, mares and geldings. Judged 70% on manners (in motion and rest), performance of horse and suitability to the rider and performance; 20% condition, fit and appropriateness of tack; and 10% on neatness, attire, and overall impression.
  - A. Horses are to enter to the right, shall be worked both ways of the ring at a walk, jog and lope and line up in the center of the ring.
  - B. Horses should back easily and stand quietly. The judge may, at his/her discretion back only the finalists.
  - C. Western saddle, equipment and dress are to be used in this class.
  - D. Penalties:
    - 1) Excessive speed to be penalized.
    - 2) The judge should penalize a horse's inappropriate head position as severely as a horse being on the wrong lead, excessive speed, bolting or bucking. Inappropriate head position is a horse that carries its head such a way that the point of the ear is level to or lower than the withers, or horse's head that is flexed behind the vertical.
    - 3) Slow gait – horses that are excessively slow at any gait.
    - 4) Heavy on the rein – if light contact with reasonably loose rein is not maintained.
    - 5) Appearance – Horses that appear sullen, dull, lethargic or emaciated.
    - 6) Failure to maintain forward motion.
    - 7) Failing to take gait when called for.
- 2. **TRAIL:** This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over the obstacles. Judges will assign a point value to each obstacle and points will be added to or

subtracted from this score based on the horse's performance over that obstacle.

- A. Any discipline (Australian, English, Western, etc.
- B. Credit will be given to the horse negotiating the obstacles cleanly, smoothly, and alertly with style in prompt response to the rider's cues.
  - 1) Points may be added or subtracted from a horse's total score on the obstacles based on his attitude, manners, style, and way of going, manner of travel.
  - 2) A horse with a major fault on the course, knock downs, etc., should not place ahead of a horse that worked the obstacles cleanly.
- C. Horses should be penalized for any of the following:
  - 1) Any horse performing with an artificial or mechanical appearance should be penalized.
  - 2) Horses should be penalized for touches and knock downs of any elements of the course and for unnecessary delay in approaching the obstacles.
  - 3) Extreme variation of gait is to be penalized.
- D. Maneuvering The Course:
  - 1) Gaits: The course must be designed to require each horse to demonstrate walk, trot and lope somewhere between the obstacles as part of the working course. Enough space must be provided for the judge to evaluate the gaits.
  - 2) The horse's way of going should be appropriate for a trail horse.
  - 3) A lead change does not constitute an obstacle and should be considered when scoring gaits.
- E. Course Requirements:
  - 1) Use Care In Setting Up Course. Care must be exercised to avoid the setting up of any of these obstacles in a manner that may be hazardous to the horse or rider. Obstacles not combined shall be a minimum of nine feet (2.74m) apart.
  - 2) Change of Procedure Where the local conditions and equipment will not permit the establishment of obstacles as specified and that they may require

changing of procedures of hand on the reins, then all competitors must be advised that such changing of procedure or of hands is permitted.

- F. Exhibitor Requirements:
  - 1) Exhibitor in Western discipline must use only one hand on the reins and may not change hands. Exceptions:
    - a. When split reins are used with a snaffle bit, they must be crossed and both hands must be on both reins, or whatever hand position is appropriate for the discipline used.
    - b. When putting on or removing slicker
    - c. When carrying an object from one part of arena to another.
    - d. When dismounting.
- G. Obstacle Requirements: Course will include a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 obstacles and must be designed using obstacles from each of the following divisions with a maximum of 2 obstacles per division:
  - 1) Division A
    - a. Walk-Overs - An obstacle of at least four poles measuring 20 inches (50.8cm) to 24 inches (60.96cm) \*between poles either on the ground or raised with a maximum center height of 10 inches (25.4cm). These can be in a straight line, curved or zigzag.
    - b. Trot-Overs - An obstacle of at least four poles measuring 36 inches (91.44cm) to 42 inches (106.68cm) \*between poles either on the ground or raised with a maximum center height of 10 inches (25.4cm). These can be in a straight line, curved or zigzag.
    - c. Lope-Overs - An obstacle of at least four poles measuring 6 feet (1.82m) to 7 feet (2.13m) \*between poles either on the ground or raised with a maximum center height of 12 inches (30.48cm). These can be in a straight line, curved or zigzag. \*NOTE: A curved or zigzag design is measured for distance between the poles, from center of the length of the pole to the center of the length of the next pole.

- d. Jump - An obstacle designed for horses to be ridden over, either:
    - (i) Single Jump. - An obstacles whose center height is not less than 14 inches (35.56cm) high or not more than 24 inches (60.96cm) high; or
    - (ii) Multiple Jump - Obstacles with a maximum center height of 18 inches (45.72cm) high. The saddle horn may be held during the execution of this obstacle only.
- 2) Division B
- a. Side-pass - An object of such nature and length which is safe and may be used to demonstrate the responsiveness of the horse to leg signals. If raised, height may not exceed 12 inches (30.48cm). The obstacle may be designed to require the horse to side pass either or both ways or in a pattern. Objects such as a bale of hay that may become entangled in the horse's feet or legs will not be used.
  - b. Lime Circle - Requiring either a turn on the forehand with front feet inside and back feet turning on outside of circle; or a turn on the haunches with hind feet inside and front feet on outside of circle.
  - c. Square, minimum 6 feet (1.82m) sides. Ride into the square. While all four feet are confined in the square, make a 360 degree turn and ride out.
  - d. Gate: The gate must be set up so that it is a minimum of four feet (1.21m) in length and four feet (1.21m) in height and so that the exhibitor can open from his right or left side. It is permissible to change hands prior to opening gate if the gate is in such a position as to justify the change of hands on the reins. Riders losing control of the gate while passing through shall be penalized and scored accordingly.
- 3) Division C.
- a. Back through. Shall consist of:
    - (i) Poles or Straight L, double L, V, U or similar shaped obstacle. On ground, 30 inches (76.2cm) between minimum; elevated, 32 inches (81.28cm) between minimum elevated height not to exceed 12 inches (30.48cm)
    - (ii) Barrels or Cones - A minimum of three. At least 36 inches (91.44cm) between.
    - (iii) Triangle. - 36 inches (91.44cm) between minimum at entry and 40 inches (101.6cm) between minimum for sides. If guardrails are used with barrels, cones or triangle they shall be 3-4 feet (.91m – 1.21m) from the sides of the obstacle.
  - b. Bridge - A bridge with a wooden floor not to exceed 12 inches (30.48cm) in height and with or without side rails not less than 36 inches (91.44cm) apart will be used. A log placed under the bridge to create teeter- totter effect is not prohibited so long as it is secured to the bridge so as not to shift during the passage of the horse over the bridge.
  - c. Water Hazard - A ditch or shallow pond of water may be used. A horse must pass through this obstacle, which must be large enough so that to properly complete this obstacle all four feet of the horse must step in the water.
    - (i) Management may not place any item in the water. If a box is used, simulated water is permissible. If the water box is used preceding and in combination with a bridge, simulated water must be used.
    - (ii) Simulated Water A plastic sheet, secured to the ground, so that it will not become affixed to the horse's foot when a horse passes over the simulated water.
- 4) Division D
- a. Carrying Object - Any object, other than animal or fowl, and of a reasonable size or weight, may be carried to a specific point.

- b. Drag or Pull - Any object other than animal or fowl which can reasonably be pulled or dragged without the exhibitor having to dally may be used. Dallying shall be at the option of the exhibitor.
  - c. Slicker - When this obstacle is used, it will be so located that the exhibitor can ride to the slicker, put it on and remove it and return it to a designated place. Reins may be held or dropped on the neck of the horse or over the saddle horn while so doing.
  - d. Mailbox - Remove and/or replace items. Side pass is optional.
  - e. Ground Tie - Ride or proceed to the designated place, dismount and wither hobble or ground tie the horse and move away from the horse a reasonable distance to clearly show the proper training of the horse. To ground tie, reins shall be as follows.
    - (i) Split - Drop the reins,
    - (ii) Romal - Remove reins over head of horse, unclip off rein and drop.
    - (iii) Hackamore - Drop lead.
  - f. Serpentine - Obstacle consisting of four pylons, guardrails optional, through which a horse will maneuver at a walk or jog. Guardrails shall consist of poles placed parallel and a minimum of 3 feet (.91m) from the side of pylons; walk-pylons, minimum of 3 feet (.91m) apart, base to base. Jog pylons minimum 6 feet (1.82m) apart, base to base.
  - g. Jog-around. - Square consisting of 4 poles, minimum 12 feet (3.65m) long, and a pylon placed in the center of the square. Exhibitor will enter over a designated pole, perform a minimum 90 degree jog around the pylon and exit over a designated pole.
  - h. Jog-through - Shall consist of poles L, double L, V, U or similar shaped obstacle. On ground, 3 feet (.91m) minimum and 4 feet (1.21m) maximum; elevated, 3 feet 3 inches (.99m) between minimum and 4 feet 3 inches (1.29m) maximum. Elevated height shall not exceed 12 inches (3048cm).
3. IN-HAND TRAIL: This class will be judged on the performance of the horse being led while negotiating obstacles instead of being ridden.
- A. Attire and procedures will be the same as in the Trail class with the horse being led with a halter and leadline.
4. LONGLINING TRAIL: This class will be judged on the performance of the horse in long lines while negotiating obstacles.
- A. Attire and procedures will be the same as in the Trail Class with the horse being in longlines.

#### **Article 25 English Pleasure Classes**

The horse must give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride and display a pleasurable and relaxed attitude. All gaits must be performed with willingness and obvious ease, cadence, balance and smoothness.

#### **Article 26 English Appointments**

1. Hunter seat or forward seat saddles are permissible.
2. Saddle Pads should fit size and shape of saddle, except when necessary to accommodate numbers on both sides, for which a square pad or suitable attachment may be used.
  - A. Saddle pad and attachments shall be white or neutral color with no ornamentation (colored piping is allowed).
3. Bridles & Bits: An English snaffle (no shanks), kimberwicke, Pelham and/or double bridle consisting of 2 bits (a curb or Weymouth and a snaffle or bradoon) with two reins, no converters allowed, all with cavesson nosebands and browbands are acceptable.
  - A. A port must be no higher than 1 ½ inches (3.81 cm). Curb bits will use curb straps or chains. They must be at least ½" wide and lie flat against the jaw when activated.
  - B. Unacceptable bits and mouthpieces: English bits of any style featuring cathedral, fishback, doughnut mouthpieces, twisted, or any twisted mouth piece, rough sharp metal or mechanically altered bits will be cause for disqualification. Nothing such as extensions or prongs may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar).
  - C. The judge may prohibit the use of bits and equipment he may consider too severe. A bit cannot be physically or mechanically changed to increase the severity of its use and may be eliminated at the judges discretion.

4. Optional Appointments:
  - A. Spurs of an un-rowelled type.
  - B. Crops or bats
  - C. Hunting breast plates
  - D. Braiding of Mane and Tail in English classes only. No roached mane or tail.
5. Prohibited Appointments:
  - A. Running or standing martingales. (exception: working hunter or jumper classes.)
  - B. Rowelled spurs
  - C. Dropped nosebands (a cavesson or noseband which is fastened below the bit or mouthpiece). Exception: Jumping classes.
  - D. Draw reins
  - E. Leg wraps or boots of any description.
6. Riders must wear breeches or jodhpurs and a coat of conservative color.
  - A. No T-shirts or tank tops allowed.
  - B. Judges must penalize contestants who do not conform
7. Hair must be neat and contained, as in a net or braid.
8. The rider's overall impression should be clean and neat.
9. All jumping contestants and youth must have ASTM Helmet with harness properly attached under the chin.
10. At the Judge's discretion, dress rules may be relaxed, due to weather-related conditions.

#### **Article 27 Conduct and Class Procedures**

1. The horse should move in a long, low frame and be able to lengthen their stride and cover ground, as in traversing hunt country following hounds.
2. The horse should be obedient, alert and responsive to the rider.
3. Quick short strides should be penalized. Horses which move in an artificial frame, and are over-flexed and behind the bit should also be penalized. Judges should emphasize free movement and manners.

**IMPORTANT:** As long as horses with naturally longer strides are performing the gaits correctly, they should NOT be penalized for passing other horses. Head should be carried in a way that is natural and suitable to the horse's conformation at all gaits. An artificially low head set will be

penalized, the poll should never be level to or below the withers.

#### **Article 28 English Pleasure Gaits**

1. Walk - forward working walk rhythmical and flatfooted. Extremely slow or fast, erratic or choppy walk to be penalized.
2. Trot - long, low ground covering definite two beat cadenced and balanced strides. Smoothness more essential than speed. Extreme speed should be penalized - excessive knee or hock action should be penalized.
3. Extended Trot - a definite two beat lengthening of Stride. Cadenced and balanced - smoothness more essential than speed. The lengthening stride should be from the shoulder and the leg and cover more ground.
4. Canter - smooth, free moving, relaxed, straight and on the correct lead. The stride should be suitable to cover ground.
5. Hand Gallop - should be a definite lengthening of stride with noticeable difference in speed. Horses should be under control at all times and be able to pull-up (not a sliding stop). If asked to pull-up, after the halt, riders must relax the reins and the horse must stand quietly. At the option of the judge all or just the top 8 horses may be required to hand gallop, one or both ways of the ring.
6. Back - Horses should back, on command, quietly, willingly and easily in a straight line without resistance. Jawing, resisting, excessive tail-swishing or tossing of the head should be penalized. It is permissible for horses to be backed on the rail.

#### **Article 29 English Class Specifications**

1. HUNTER PLEASURE: Judged 70% on manners (in motion and rest), performance of horse and suitability to the rider and performance; 20% condition, fit and appropriateness of tack; and 10% on neatness, attire, and overall impression.
  - A. Horses are to enter to the right, shall be worked both ways of the ring at a walk, trot, extended trot, canter and hand gallop and line up in the center of the ring.
  - B. Horses should back easily and stand quietly. The judge may, at his/her discretion back only the finalist.
  - C. Light contact with the horse's mouth is recommended.

- D. English saddle, equipment and dress are to be used in this class.
  - E. Excessive speed shall be penalized.
2. COUNTRY ENGLISH PLEASURE SADDLE SEAT: Judged 70% on manners (in motion and rest), performance of horse and suitability to the rider and performance; 20% condition, fit and appropriateness of tack; and 10% on neatness, attire, and overall impression.
- A. Horses are to enter to the right, shall be worked both ways of the ring at a walk, trot, extended trot, canter and hand gallop and line up in the center of the ring.
  - B. Horses should back easily and stand quietly. The judge may, at his/her discretion back only the finalist.
  - C. Light contact with the horse's mouth is recommended.
  - D. Saddle seat saddle, equipment and dress are to be used in this class.
  - E. Excessive speed shall be penalized.
3. WORKING HUNTER CLASSES: Course Design: Judges are responsible for correctness of each course after it has been set and shall call the show committee's attention to any errors that would tend to result in unfair or inappropriate courses
- A. The course shall consist of a minimum of four (4) obstacles; horses are to jump a minimum of eight (8) fences.
    - 1) Horses to jump a minimum of eight fences.
    - 2) One change of direction is mandatory.
  - B. Fences shall simulate obstacles found in the hunting field, such as natural looking post and rail, brush, walls, coops and ascending oxers (not square).
    - 1) Triple bar and hogs back are prohibited.
  - C. The top element of all fences must be securely placed so that a slight rub will not cause a knockdown.
  - D. The distance between fences is recommended to be in 12 foot (3.65m) increments with the exception of some combinations; one stride in and out, 24 feet to 26 feet (7.31- 7.92 m); two strides in and out, 36 feet (10.97m); three strides 48 feet (14.63m)
  - E. Height of obstacle must be a minimum of 2 foot 6 inches (76.12 cm) and a maximum of 3 feet (91 cm).
- F. A variation of 3 inches (7.62 cm) in fence height, lower than official heights listed, may be instituted if show management and the judge feel circumstances warrant, e.g. footing, weather, etc.
  - G. The use of wings on obstacles in hunter classes is recommended.
  - H. Jump standards with heights at 3 inch (7.62cm) intervals with jump cups are recommended.
  - I. Scoring: To be judged on manners, way of going and style of jumping. Maintaining an even hunting pace that covers the course with free flowing strides.
  - J. Preference will be given to horses with correct jumping style that meet fence squarely, jumping at center of fence.
  - K. Judges shall penalize for the following:
    - 1) Unsafe jumping and bad form over fence, whether touched or untouched, including twisting.
    - 2) Incorrect leads around the ends of the course or cross-cantering.
    - 3) Excessive use of crop.
    - 4) Incorrect number of strides taken on an In & Out.
    - 5) Any error which endangers the horse and or rider
    - 6) Refusals or knockdowns
  - L. Scoring shall be on a basis of 0 - 100, with an approximate breakdown as follows:
    - 1) 90 - 100: an excellent performer and good mover that jumps the entire course with cadence, balance and style.
    - 2) 80 - 89: a good performer that jumps all fences reasonably well; an excellent performer that commits one or two minor faults.
    - 3) 70 - 79: the average, fair mover that makes no serious faults, but lacks the style cadence and good balance of the scoper horses; the good performer that makes a few minor faults.
    - 4) 60 - 69: poor movers that make minor mistakes; fair or average movers that have one or two poor fences but no major faults or disobediences.
    - 5) 50 - 59: a horse that commits one major fault, such as a hind knockdown, refusal, trot, cross-canter or drops a leg.

- 6) 30 - 39: a horse that commits two or more major faults, including front knockdowns and refusals, or jumps in a manner that otherwise endangers the horse and or rider.
- 7) 10 - 29: a horse that avoids elimination but jumps in such an unsafe and dangerous manner as to preclude a higher score.

M. Elimination: A total of three disobediences which can include any of the following:

- 1) Refusal, stop, run-out, or extra circle.
- 2) Jumping an obstacle before it is reset.
- 3) Bolting from the arena.
- 4) Off-course.
- 5) Deliberately addressing an obstacle
- 6) Horse and or rider falling. Horses consider to have fallen when shoulder and haunch on same side touch the ground, or the obstacle and the ground.
- 7) Failure to trot the horse in a small circle on a loose rein for soundness, after completing the course while still mounted and prior to leaving the arena.

N. General Procedures:

- 1) Circling once upon entering the ring is permissible.
- 2) Circling once after all obstacles are completed 79 is required.
- 3) Horses shall not be requested to re-jump the course.
- 4) When obstacle is composed of several elements, any disturbance of these elements will be penalized; however, only a reduction in height of the top element shall be considered a knockdown.
- 5) In cases of broken equipment, the rider may either continue without penalty or stop and correct the difficulty and be penalized the same as any loss of forward impulsion.
- 6) When an obstacle requires two or more fences (in and out), faults committed at each obstacle are considered separately. In case of a refusal or run-out at one element, entry must re-jump the previous element(s).

O. Major faults

- 1) Refusal - When a horse stops in front of an obstacle (whether or not the obstacle is knocked down or altered), it is a

refusal unless the horse then immediately jumps the obstacle without backing one step. If horse takes one step backwards it is a refusal.

Note: After refusal, if horse is moved towards the obstacle but does not attempt to jump, it is considered another refusal

- 2) Run-out - A run-out occurs when a horse evades or passes the obstacle to be jumped; jumps an obstacle outside it's limiting markers; or when the horse or rider knocks down a flag, standard, wing or other element limiting the obstacle (without obstacle being jumped).
  - 3) Loss of forward movement - Failure to maintain trot, canter or gallop after crossing starting line, except when it is a refusal, a run-out or when due to uncontrollable circumstances such as when an obstacle being reset.
  - 4) Unnecessary circling on course. Any form of circle or circles whereby the horse crosses its original track between two consecutive obstacles anywhere on course, except to retake obstacle after refusal or run-out.
  - 5) First disobedience anywhere on course – 3 faults
  - 6) Second cumulative disobedience anywhere on course - 6 faults
  - 7) Whenever possible a schooling area should be provided with at least one practice jump.
  - 8) Schooling over obstacles in the ring or over any part of an outside course is permitted only at the time designated by show management.
4. TWO FOOT (2') OVER FENCES: This class will be judged by the performance of the horse over the course of fences.
- A. the Attire and procedures will follow the Working Hunter class with fences not over two feet.
5. TWO FOOT (2') OVER FENCES EQUITATION: This class will be judged by the performance of the rider over the course of fences.
- A. the Attire and procedures will follow the Working Hunter class with fences not over two feet. Only the rider is to be judged.

6. EIGHTEEN INCH (18") CROSSRAILS: This class will be judged by the performance of the horse over the crossrails course.
- A. the Attire and procedures will follow the Working Hunter class with crossrails not over eighteen inches.
7. JUMPER:
- A. English Attire and Tack (Exception. Running or standing martingales, leg wraps, and/or boots are permitted.)
- B. Arena Arrangement
- 1) There will be a minimum of four (4) obstacles; horses are to make a minimum of eight (8) jumps.
  - 2) A spread fence consisting of two or more elements will be mandatory.
  - 3) It is recommended the first obstacle be no more than minimum height.
  - 4) Optional Obstacles May Include:
    - a. Post and rail (at least two rails)
    - b. Coop
    - c. Stone wall
    - d. Triple Bar
    - e. Brush jump
- C. Both a starting line at least 12 feet (3.65m) in front of the first obstacle, and a finish line at least 24 feet (7.31m) beyond the last obstacle must be indicated by markers (at least 12 feet, 3.65m, apart) at each end of the lines. Horse must start and finish by passing between markers.
- D. Obstacles, except within combination, should be located a minimum distance of 48 feet (14.63m) apart, size of arena permitting.
- E. Height of obstacle must be:
  - 1) a minimum of 2 foot (60.90 cm).
  - 2) a maximum of 2 foot, 6 inches (76.12cm)
- F. Jump-offs will be held over the original course altered as outlined.
  - 1) In a jump-off, the sequence of obstacles may be in any order as long as the original direction is maintained. Only in the case of clean round ties for first place or when points are involved, the height and spread of at least 50 percent of the obstacles shall be increased not less than three (7.62cm) and not more than six inches (15.24 cm) in height, and to a maximum spread of six feet (1.82m).
- 2) In case of ties involving faults, rails shall not be raised, courses may be shortened to less than 50 percent of the original obstacle and must include at least one vertical and one spread jump.
- 3) When a jump-off is required, the winner will be decided on the time only if faults are equal. If two or more horses are disqualified in the timed jump-off and tied for a point, they are not to be rejumped, a coin toss will break the tie.
- G. Time shall begin from the instant the horse's chest reaches the starting line until it reaches the finish line.
  - 1) Time shall be stopped while a knockdown jump is being replaced, this is from the moment the rider gets his mount in a position to retake the jump until the proper authority signals that the jump has been replaced. It shall be the rider's responsibility to be ready to continue the course when the signal is given.
- H. Scoring: Jumpers are scored on a mathematical basis and penalty faults, which include knockdowns, disobediences and falls. Knockdowns. An obstacle is considered knocked down and four faults assessed, when a horse or rider, by contact:
  - 1) Lowers any part thereof which established the height of the obstacle or the height of any element of a spread obstacle even when the falling part is arrested in its fall by any portion of the obstacle.
  - 2) Moves any part thereof which establishes the height of the obstacle so it rests on a different support from the one on which it was originally placed.
  - 3) Knocks down an obstacle, standard wing, automatic timing equipment or other designated markers on start and finish lines.
  - 4) If an obstacle falls after the horse leaves the ring, it shall not be considered a knockdown.
- I. Disobediences.
  - 1) Refusal. When a horse stops in front of an obstacle (whether or not the obstacle is knocked down or altered) it is a

refusal unless the horse then immediately jumps the obstacle without backing one step. If horse takes one step backwards, it is a refusal. After refusal, if horse is moved toward the obstacle but does not attempt to jump, it is considered another refusal. In the case of a refusal on an in-and-out jump, the horse must return to the start of the in-and-out sequence and rejump previous elements as well as following elements.

- 2) Run-out. A run-out occurs when the horse evades or passes the obstacle to be jumped; jumps an obstacle outside its limiting markers; or, when the horse or rider knocks down a flag, stand, wing or other element limiting the obstacle (without obstacle being jumped).
  - 3) Loss of Forward Movement. Failure to maintain trot, canter or gallop after crossing starting line, except when it is a refusal, a run-out or when due to uncontrollable circumstances, such as when an obstacle is being reset.
  - 4) Unnecessary Circling on Course: Any form of circle or circles, whereby the horse crosses its original track between two consecutive obstacles anywhere on course, except to retake obstacle after refusal or run-out.
  - 5) First disobedience anywhere on course – 3 faults
  - 6) Second cumulative disobedience anywhere on course – 6 faults.
- J. Eliminations.
- 1) Third cumulative disobedience anywhere on course.
  - 2) Fall of horse and/or rider after the starting line and before the finish line.
  - 3) Jumping an obstacle before it is reset, or without waiting for signal to proceed.
  - 4) Starting before judge's signal to proceed.
  - 5) Failure to enter ring within one minute of being called.
  - 6) Failure to cross the starting line within one minute after an audible, or visible signal from and official to proceed.
  - 7) Jumping an obstacle before crossing starting line unless said obstacle is

designed as a practice obstacle or after crossing the finish line, whether forming part of the course or not.

- 8) Off course.
  - 9) Deliberately addressing an obstacle (penalized at anytime the horse is in the ring).
  - 10) Rider and/or horse leaving the arena before finishing the course (penalized at any time the horse is in the ring).
- K. In cases of broken equipment the rider may either continue without penalty or stop and correct difficulty, in which case he will be penalized three faults. In case of loss of shoe, rider may either continue without penalty or be eliminated.

## **EQUITATION DIVISION**

### **Article 30 Equitation Classes**

In Equitation classes only the rider is being judged therefore any horse that is suitable for a particular discipline (hunter Seat, Saddle Seat or Western Seat) is capable of performing the required class routine is acceptable. Only Gypsy, Drum or Half-Gypsy horses may be shown in Equitation classes.

#### **1. EQUITATION**

- A. Rider to be the age specified in the prize list.
- B. Only Gypsy, Drum or Half-Gypsy horses may be ridden in Equitation classes.
- C. Stallions are not permitted for junior riders 17 & under. Stallions are prohibited for adults 18 & over unless permitted in the prize list.
- D. Appointments: Riders may exhibit in Western or English attire as specified in the prize list. Equipment on the horse must correspond with the exhibitor's attire.
- E. Ring Procedure:
  - 1) Enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction at the trot/jog.
  - 2) Horses to be shown at a walk, trot/jog and canter/lope both ways of the ring
  - 3) In the lineup, horses may be asked to back.
- F. At the judge's discretion, individual work may be required. Instructions must be announced to all exhibitors. If a pattern is used, it must be posted at least one hour prior to the class. A pattern is defined as two or more tests to be ridden concurrently.

- 1) If a pattern is to be used, refer to USEF Equitation Division for appropriate tests.

G. The rider's position, seat, hands and the correct use of the aids are to be judged.

## 2. SHOWMANSHIP

The ideal showmanship performance consists of a poised, confident, appropriately attired exhibitor leading a well-groomed and conditioned horse that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern with promptness, smoothness and precision.

A. Riders age to be specified in the prize list.

B. Only Gypsy, Drum or Half-Gypsy horses may be shown in Equitation classes.

C. Stallions are not permitted for junior handlers 17 & under. Stallions are prohibited for adults 18 & over unless permitted in the prize list.

D. Handlers may show in English, Hunt or Western attire.

E. Ring Procedure:

- 1) Handlers shall enter the ring at a walk or trot in a counterclockwise direction on the rail as per instruction from the judge.

- 2) Each handler shall correctly lead their horse to and from the judge and show their horse according to instructions from the judge.

- a. The class procedure must be posted at least one hour prior to the class.

F. Exhibitors shall be judged strictly on their ability to prepare and present the horse safely, correctly and elegantly.

## MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES

### Article 30 Miscellaneous Classes

#### 1. LEADLINE

A. Rider to be eight (8) years of age or younger.

B. Appointments: Youth may exhibit in Western or English attire. Equipment on the horse must correspond with exhibitors attire, including a saddle adjusted so that the exhibitor's feet are placed properly in stirrups.

C. The horse must be led by an adult 18 years of age or older and the contestant must exhibit some knowledge of equitation.

D. The contestant in a Leadline class may not show in other riding classes at that show, but the horse can be used in other classes.

E. Ring Procedure

- 1) Exhibitors will enter the ring with feet properly placed in stirrups at a flat footed walk turning to the right and proceeding in a counter clockwise direction on the rail.

- 2) To be shown at a walk both ways of the ring, then to line up and stand quietly.

- 3) In the lineup the judge may ask riders to back their horses to help him judge the extent of the rider's horsemanship.

- 4) The adult should not aid the rider but should only keep the horse under control if needed.

- 5) The lead line should be at least six (6) feet long must be attached to the shank of the bit or to a halter that is under the bridle so that while the rider is in the ring, the horse may be controlled by the adult if needed.

- 6) Mares and geldings only, no stallions permitted.

F. Judging the rider. The rider will be judged on his basic position in the saddle, hand, leg, feet in stirrups, seat and back position, as well as riders control of the horse.

#### 2. LEADING REIN:

A. Horse to be ridden by Youth, eight (8) years of age or younger.

B. To be shown on light contact and to be led by an adult 18 years of age or older.

C. Appointments: Youth may exhibit in Western or English attire. Equipment on the horse must correspond with exhibitors attire, including a saddle adjusted so that the exhibitors feet are placed properly in stirrups.

D. The contestant in a Leading Rein class may not show in other riding classes at that show, but the horse can be used in other classes.

E. Ring Procedure:

- 1) Exhibitors will enter the ring with feet properly placed in stirrups at a flat footed walk turning to the right and proceeding in a counter clockwise direction on the rail.

- 2) To be shown at a walk both ways of the ring, then to line up and stand quietly. Horses will be called out individually to stand, walk out and trot back past the judge.
  - 3) In the lineup the judge may ask riders to back their horses to help him judge the extent of the rider's horsemanship.
  - 4) The adult should not aid the rider but should only keep the horse under control if needed.
  - 5) The lead line should be at least six (6) feet long must be attached to the shank of the bit or to a halter that is under the bridle so that while the rider is in the ring, the horse may be controlled by the adult if needed.
  - 6) Mares and geldings only, no stallions permitted.
- F. Judging the rider. The rider will be judged on his basic position in the saddle, hand, leg, feet in stirrups, seat and back position, as well as riders control of the horse.
3. WALK-TROT/JOG CLASSES
- A. Rider to be age specified in the prize list..
  - B. Appointments: Rider may exhibit in Western or English attire as specified in the prize list. Equipment on the horse must correspond with exhibitors attire, including a saddle adjusted so that the exhibitor's feet are placed properly in stirrups.
  - C. The exhibitor must exhibit some knowledge of equitation.
  - D. Riders 10 & under in a Walk-Trot/Jog class may not show in a canter class at that show, but the horse can be used in other classes.
  - E. Ring Procedure
    - 1) Exhibitors will enter the ring with feet properly placed in stirrups at a flat footed walk turning to the right and proceeding in a counter clockwise direction on the rail.
    - 2) To be shown at a walk and trot or jog both ways of the ring, then to line up and stand quietly.
    - 3) In the lineup the judge may ask riders to back their horses to help him judge the extent of the rider's horsemanship.
    - 4) Mares and geldings only, no stallions permitted.
  - F. Judging the rider. The rider will be judged on his basic position in the saddle, hand, leg, feet in stirrups, seat and back position, as well as rider's control of the horse.
4. JOG IN THE PARK: Inspired by a time when the place to be seen and to "flash" your good horse or elaborate attire was in the park. Horse and rider should give the impression of being elaborately turned out in one's best dress attire for the purpose of making an impression.' It's all about the flash!' Tack and Attire may be from any period or region and need not be authentic but should be reminiscent of a time when success was measured by the flash of a horse's step and the elegance of the rider.
- A. Horses to perform at the walk and trot/jog.
5. COSTUME: Classes are to be judged on creativity, dramatic and/or humorous value, authenticity to period and suitability of costume to horse and rider. Exhibitor to give free expression to the imagination and creativity of the presentation.
- A. Horses shall enter the ring counterclockwise at the walk.
  - B. May be asked to halt & stand quietly.
  - C. Light hand contact must be maintained.
  - D. Line up at the judge's instruction.
  - E. It will be the judge's decision if the costume is unsafe or creates an unsafe condition in which case it will be excused from the ring.
6. FREESTYLE SADDLE/DRIVING: Rider/Driver provides CD with music and performs a choreographed routine, matched to music. Costumes/Themes are encouraged and performances will be judged upon the quality and difficulty of the movements, musicality, originality and overall impression. Audience is encouraged to let the judge know their favorites!
- A. Time allowed for each performance to be determined by show management.
7. VERSATILITY: Class to be shown first in harness to a suitable pleasure driving vehicle and then under saddle. Exhibitor must carry bridle, saddle, halter, lead shank, and riding whip in the vehicle.
- A. To be driven and ridden by the same individual.
  - B. When driven to be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring.

- C. Vehicles are to line up, gate open to allow one assistant per entry to enter the arena to assist with the tack change.
- D. Tack change to be conducted in the following order:
  - 1) Unhook the horse from the vehicle.
  - 2) Secure the horse with a halter before the driving bridle is removed.
  - 3) With halter secured, remove the harness.
  - 4) Proceed to tack up with saddle and bridle.
- E. Automatic elimination will occur if the horse is unbridled before the vehicle is removed.
- F. When under saddle to be shown at a walk, trot/jog and canter/lope both ways of the ring.

### **Article 31 Protests**

- 1. Protests shall be handled according to the following rules:
  - A. Protests must be made by the owner, trainer or agent of the horse who is in the same class where the protest occurred.
  - B. Any protest must be made in writing to the show manager not later than one hour after the completion of the session in the show schedule where the problem occurred.
  - C. The protest shall be accompanied by a \$50 deposit which shall be returned to the protester in the event the protest is upheld.
  - D. Protests shall be adjudicated by a Hearing Committee made up of the Show Chairman, Show Manager and the Show Secretary.
  - E. The Hearing Committee shall promptly meet and adjudicate the issue, make effective decision and report its determination to all parties. The show Hearing Committee may disqualify a person and/or their entries for the duration of the show.

### **Article 32 Amendments to Rules**

These rules published herein are effective September 25, 2009 and remain in effect except as amended by the National Gypsy Horse Show & Fair Association.