

## **4. CLASSES**

### **4.1 Side-Saddle**

#### **4.1.1 General**

1. Side-saddle riders will be permitted in all classes. They will be subject to all class rules and requirements. The rider should be aware that placing may be affected if the judge is unfamiliar with side-saddle.

#### **4.1.2 Tack**

Appropriate side-saddles must be used for English and Western classes. All other tack will be specified in class rules.

#### **4.1.3 Attire**

Period attire and costumes are not permitted except in costume class. Attire will be as specified for the seat ridden: however, an apron skirt may be worn which is made of heavy material to avoid blowing. The hem should be level and should cover the right foot but not the left; the color should be conservative and should coordinate with the rest of the outfit. Apron may be removed at judge's discretion.

### **4.2 Saddle Seat Equitation**

#### **4.2.1 General**

Only the rider is being judged; therefore, any horse that is suitable for this type of riding and which is capable of performing the required class routine is acceptable. However, it should be remembered that the horse's performance is directly influenced by the rider and his/her ability to effectively communicate his/her commands to the horse. Unsoundness will not penalize a rider unless it is sufficiently severe to impair the required performance. In such cases, the imposition of a penalty is at the judge's discretion. The required equitation seat should in no way be exaggerated, but be thoroughly efficient and most comfortable for riding the horse at any gait for any length of time. The rider should convey the impression of effective and easy control of the horse at all times.

#### **4.2.2 Basic Position**

To obtain proper position, the rider should place himself comfortably in the saddle and find his/her center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knee, but without the use of irons. While in this position, adjust the leathers to fit. Irons should be placed under the balls of the foot, (not toe or "home"). Even pressure should be placed on entire width of the sole and the center of the irons. Foot position should be natural, neither extremely in or out.

### **4.2.3 Hands**

Hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle and should show sympathy, adaptability and control. The height the hands are held above the withers depends on how and where the horse carries his head. The method of holding the reins is optional, except that both hands will be used and all reins must be picked up at one time. The bight of the reins should be on the off side.

### **4.2.4 Tack and Equipment**

Saddle - Flat English type saddle - ie: Lane Fox or cutback with leather lining preferred. Forward Seat or dressage type saddles, or knee rolls, prohibited.

Bridle - Entries will be shown in full bridles, preferably, (curb and snaffle) although Pelhams are accepted.

Other equipment - Martingales, tie-downs, any boots and breastplates are all prohibited. Crops, whips, and unrowelled spurs are optional equipment, but should be used with discretion.

### **4.2.5 Appointments**

Exhibitors and judges should bear in mind that at all times entries are being judged on ability. Proper clothing is essential to a workmanlike appearance; however, neatness is the first requisite regarding a rider's attire. The following informal appointments are required:

1. Appropriate heeled boots
2. Jodhpur pants
3. Shirt
4. Helmet: refer to rule 1.7, #21.a.

Preferred:

1. Saddle Suit
2. Tie
3. Jodphur boots

Optional:

1. Gloves

### **4.2.6 Scoring**

Emphasis in this class will be placed on the rider's ability to effectively control his/her horse and maintain his/her basic position while doing so. To be judged 80% on the rider's position, use of aids and cues, and control of horse and 20% on personal appointments and tack. The scoring of personal appointments and tack will be

based on neatness of clothing rather than newness or expense, and cleanliness, condition and adjustment of tack.

#### 4.2.7 Class Procedure

1. All horses will enter the ring turning to the right in a counterclockwise direction until they are otherwise instructed by the judge. They will then go at least once around the entire ring at each gait. They will then reverse and repeat the same procedure. The gaits which will be used are the walk, trot, and canter. The class will be lined up for close inspection.
2. After the procedure in number 1 has been completed, the judge may then excuse riders not being further considered in the class.
3. The judge may continue to work the remaining contestants as already described in number 1, or he may ask any of the riders to execute an appropriate test of their riding skill. Tests may be performed either individually or collectively but no other tests may be used. Instructions must be publicly announced. Suggested tests from which the judge might choose include:
  - a. Pick up reins.
  - b. Back for not more than eight steps.
  - c. Perform on the rail.
  - d. Performance around ring.
  - e. Figure eight at trot, demonstrating change use of diagonals. Unless specified, it may be started either facing the center or away from the center. If started facing the center, it must be commenced from a halt. At left diagonal, rider should be sitting the saddle when left front leg is on the ground. When circling clockwise, rider should be on the left diagonal, when circling counterclockwise, rider should be on the right diagonal.
  - f. Figure eight at canter on correct lead demonstrating simple change of lead. (This is a change whereby the horse is brought back into a walk and restarted into a canter on the opposite lead). Unless specified, it may be started either facing the center or away from the center. If started facing the center, it must be commenced from a halt. Figure commenced in center of two circles so that one lead change is shown.
  - g. Dismount and mount.
  - h. Execute serpentine at a trot and/or canter on correct lead demonstrating simple changes of lead. Series of left and right half circles off center of imaginary line where correct diagonal or lead must be shown.

- i. Change leads down center of ring or on the rail demonstrating simple changes of lead. Judge to specify exact lead changes to be executed as well as to specify the beginning lead.
- j. Ride without stirrups for a brief period of time. No more than one minute at the trotting phase.
- k. Demonstration ride of approximately one minute on own mount. Movement must be selected from tests one through nine above. Rider must advise judge before hand what ride he plans to demonstrate. To be used only in championship classes. Rider must have with them two copies (one for judge and one for announcer) of a written one-minute workout, in case the judge asks for this test. The test will be stopped at the end of one-minute, but the rider will not be penalized for not completing it.

#### **4.2.8 Divisions and Variations**

1. Saddle Seat Equitation, Senior Riders - for riders 14 years and older as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Could be further divided into first year senior riders. May use tests a-k.
2. Saddle Seat Equitation, Junior Riders - for riders 13 years old and younger as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Could be further divided in a manner similar to that for senior riders. May use tests a-k.
3. Saddle Seat Equitation, Ponies - for equines not to exceed 14.2 hands high (58 inches at the withers). Could be further divided into one class for large ponies and one for small ponies. Large ponies are 13.0 hands (52 inches at the withers) up to 14.2 hands. Small ponies are under 13.0 hands.

#### **4.2.9 Disqualifications**

At the judge's discretion, a rider MAY be disqualified for any of the following reasons:

1. Behavior of the horse or the rider which might endanger themselves or other horses and riders in the class.
2. Evidence of poor sportsmanship on the part of the rider.
3. Any treatment of the horse by its rider which the judge deems is cruel, abusive and unnecessary.
4. Use of tack or equipment which is prohibited.
5. Lack of sufficient control of the horse by its rider.
6. Fall of the rider.

## **4.3 Hunt Seat Equitation**

### **4.3.1 General**

Either Hunt Seat or Balance Seat positions are acceptable. Only the rider is being judged; therefore, any horse that is suitable for this style of riding and is capable of performing the required class routine is acceptable. Unsoundness of the horse will not penalize a rider unless it is sufficiently severe to impair the required performance. In such cases, the imposition of a penalty is at the judge's discretion.

The rider should have a workmanlike appearance, seat and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of being able to maintain control should any emergency arise.

### **4.3.2 Basic Position**

The eyes should be up and the shoulder back. Toes should be out at an angle best suited to the rider's conformation. Ankles should be flexed in with the heels down. The calf of the leg should be in contact with the horse and slightly behind the girth. Iron should be placed on the toe or ball of the foot.

### **4.3.3 Hands**

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

### **4.3.4 Tack and Equipment**

Saddle - Saddles of hunt or balance type preferred.

Bridle - Regulation snaffles, Pelhams and full bridles, all with cavesson nosebands are recommended; kimberwicks and uxeter bits are allowed. A judge, at his/her own discretion, may penalize horses with non-conventional types of bits and nosebands.

Other Equipment - Martingales and dropped, flash, or figure eight nosebands are optional in classes over jumps and in classes requiring both jumping and hacking. They are prohibited in classes not to jump. Any change of equipment during a class may be penalized at the discretion of the judge but adding or taking off a martingale from one phase of equitation class to another is not considered a change.

Protective boots or bandages are permitted for Hunt Seat Equitation only (on the flat or over fences).

#### **4.3.5 Appointments**

The rider should convey a workmanlike appearance with his/her dress being of a neat and conservative fashion. All riders must wear a protective headgear. See rule 1.7, #21.a. His/her attire should also include the following:

Required:

1. Appropriate heeled boots (hunt or jodhpur)
2. Breeches or jodhpurs
3. Shirt
4. Helmet: See rule 1.7, #21.a.

Preferred:

1. Hunt Coat
2. Choker or Tie

Optional:

1. Spurs
2. Crops
3. Gloves

#### **4.3.6 Scoring**

Emphasis will be placed on the rider's ability to effectively control his/her horse and maintain his/her basic position while doing so. To be judged 80% on the rider's position, use of aids and cues, and control of the horse, and 20% on personal appointments and tack. The scoring of personal appointments and tack will be based on neatness of clothing rather than newness or expense, and cleanliness, condition and adjustment of tack.

#### **4.3.7 Class Procedure**

1. All horses will enter turning to the right in a counterclockwise direction until they are otherwise directed by the judge. They will then go at least once around the entire ring at each of the three gaits - walk, trot, and canter. They will then be reversed and repeat the same process going in the other direction. The reverse will be done by turning either away or towards the rail. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. All horses will be called to line up for close inspection.
2. After all horses have been worked as specified in number 1, the judge may then dismiss any contestants not being further considered in the class.
3. The judge may continue to work the remaining contestants as already described in number 1, or he may ask any of the remaining contestants to execute an appropriate test of their riding skill. Suggested tests from which the judge might choose include:

- a. Back.
- b. Gallop and pull up.
- c. Figure eight at trot, demonstrating change of diagonals. At left diagonal, rider should be sitting in the saddle when the left front leg is on the ground; at right diagonal, the rider should be sitting the saddle when right front leg is on the ground; When circling clockwise at a trot, rider should be on the left diagonal, when circling counterclockwise, rider should be on the right diagonal.
- d. Figure eight at canter on correct lead demonstrating simple change of lead. (This is a change whereby the horse is brought back into a walk or trot and restarted into a canter on the opposite lead). Figure commenced in center of two circles so that one lead change is shown.
- e. Ride without stirrups.
- f. Dismount and mount.
- g. Figure eight at canter on correct lead demonstrating a flying change of lead.
- h. Change leads down center of ring demonstrating simple lead change.
- i. Execute serpentine at a trot and/or canter on correct lead demonstrating simple or flying change of lead. A series of left and right half circles off center of imaginary line where correct diagonal or lead must be shown.
- j. Canter on counter lead.
- k. Half turn on forehand and/or a half turn on haunches.
- l. Demonstration ride of approximately one minute. Rider must advise judge before hand what ride he plans to demonstrate.

#### **4.3.8 Divisions and Variations**

1. Hunt Seat Equitation, Senior Riders - for riders 14 years or older as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Could be further divided into classes for first year senior riders, second year senior riders, and third year and over senior riders. May use tests a through l as listed above.
2. Hunt Seat Equitation, Junior Riders - for riders 13 years or younger as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Could be further divided into classes in a manner similar to that for the senior riders. May use tests a through l as listed above.
3. Hunt Seat Equitation, Ponies - for equines not to exceed 14.2 hands high (58" at the withers). May further be divided into one class for large ponies and one

class for small ponies. Large ponies are 13.0 hands (52" at the withers) to 14.2 hands, and small ponies are under 13.0 hands.

#### **4.3.9 Disqualifications**

A rider MAY be disqualified for the following reasons:

1. Behavior of the horse or the rider which might endanger themselves or other horses and riders in the class.
2. Evidence of poor sportsmanship on the part of the rider.
3. Any treatment of the horse by its rider which the judge deems is cruel, abusive and unnecessary.
4. Use of tack or equipment which is prohibited.
5. Lack of sufficient control of the horse by its rider.
6. Fall of the rider.

### **4.4 Hunt Seat Equitation Over Fences**

#### **4.4.1 General**

Same as for Hunt Seat Equitation concerning type of acceptable horses and soundness of the horse. The rider should demonstrate his/her ability in controlling the horse while going over fences such that a balanced, even pace is maintained while also maintaining a safe and suitable position.

#### **4.4.2 Basic Position**

The same general basic position is required as for Hunt Seat Equitation. While going over fences, the inclination of the rider should resemble the inclination at the posting trot. However, the rider should be flexible enough to maintain the position which is best suited to the individual horse's style of taking a fence and also to the height of the fence. Stirrups may be slightly shorter for jumping than for work on the flat.

#### **4.4.3 Hands**

Same as for the Hunt Seat Equitation. Sympathy with the horse's movement and an ability to adjust to these movements will be emphasized.

#### **4.4.4 Tack and Equipment**

Same as that for Hunt Seat Equitation except that the use of martingales is allowed. Dropped nosebands and running martingales may not be used in conjunction with

any curb action bit. Protective boots or bandages are permitted. Adjustments to tack and attire for valid medical reasons are permitted. Written documentation from doctor or veterinarian must be provided dated during the current year.

#### **4.4.5 Appointments**

Same as for Hunt Seat Equitation. All riders are required to wear a helmet as described in rule 1.7 #21.a.

#### **4.4.6 Scoring**

Same general basis of scoring will be used as for Hunt Seat Equitation. Safety of the rider's jumping style will be considered.

#### **4.4.7 Class Procedure**

1. The class will be held over at least six reasonable jumps, the maximum height of which will be three feet, six inches.
2. Patterns for this class to be posted one hour before the class is to be held.
3. The performance begins when the horse enters the ring or is given the signal to proceed after entering the ring. Except for refusals, jumping faults of the horse are not to be considered unless it is the result of rider's ability.
4. Each contestant may circle once, if desired, before approaching the first fence. He will then proceed around course keeping an even pace throughout. Three cumulative refusals will eliminate. If a refusal occurs in a double or triple, riders will rejump all elements of the combination.
5. Any or all contestants may be called back to perform at a walk, trot, canter or to execute any appropriate test of skill included in class requirements for Hunt Seat Equitation, or any of the following:
  - a. Jump low fences at the trot.
  - b. Pull up between fences at a trot.
  - c. Jump fences on a figure eight course.

#### **4.4.8 Divisions and Variations**

1. Hunt Seat Equitation over Fences, Senior Riders - same age requirements as for Hunt Seat Equitation, Senior Riders.
2. Hunt Seat Equitation over Fences, Junior Riders - same age requirements as for Hunt Seat Equitation, Junior Riders.
3. Hunt Seat Equitation over Fences, Ponies - same height requirements as for Hunt Seat Equitation, Ponies. Fences to have a maximum height of three feet.

4. Hunt Seat Equitation over Fences, Outside Course - This class is to be considered as a suggested class to be held when an outside course is available. It is recommended that it be limited to senior riders showing either horses or large ponies, with no junior riders or small ponies being allowed to enter the class.

#### **4.4.9 Disqualifications**

Same as for Hunt Seat Equitation. The rider may also be disqualified for being off course or for three refusals.

### **4.5 Stock Seat Equitation**

#### **4.5.1 General**

Only the rider is being judged; therefore, any horse that is suitable for this style of riding and is capable of performing the required class routine is acceptable. Unsoundness of the horse will not penalize a rider unless it is sufficiently severe to impair the required performance. In such cases, the imposition of a penalty is at the discretion of the judge.

The results as shown by the performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them. The rider should present the appearance of being relaxed and comfortable, while at the same time in complete control of the horse. Good hands are paramount.

#### **4.5.2 Basic Position**

The rider should sit in the saddle with the legs hanging straight and slightly forward to the stirrups, or with the knee slightly bent and the weight directly over the ball of the feet. In either position, the stirrups should be just short enough to allow the rider's heel to be lower than his toes. The feet may be placed with the weight being on the ball of the foot.

The rider's body should be relaxed, comfortable and flexible. He should sit in the deepest part of the saddle and maintain this deep seat at all times.

#### **4.5.3 Hands**

In repose, arms are in a straight line with the body, the arm holding the reins is bent at the elbow. Only one hand is to be used for reining, and hands will not be changed. Hand to be around reins. When ends of split reins fall on the near side, one finger between reins is permitted. When using romal or when ends of split reins are held in hand not used for reining, no finger between reins is allowed. The position of the hand not used for reining is optional, but it should be kept free of the horse and equipment and held in a relaxed manner with the rider's body straight at all times. Rider may hold romal or end of the split reins to keep from swinging and

to adjust the position of the reins provided it is held at 16 inches from the reining hand. Hands to be above horn and as near to it as possible. Bracing against the horn or coiled reata will be penalized. Two hands may be used with a bosal or snaffle.

#### **4.5.4 Tack and Equipment**

Saddle - The horse will be shown with a stock saddle, either slick or swelled with either a high or low cantle. However, the saddle must definitely be sized to fit both the rider and the horse. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. Tapaderos and Australian stock saddles are prohibited.

Bridle - The horse will be shown with a properly fitted western bridle and bit. The bridle should be as simple as possible with no cavessons or drop nosebands being allowed. The bit will be a standard western bit of either solid or jointed mouthpiece.

Any horse five and under may be shown in a bosal or snaffle. A bosal must be rounded in shape, constructed of braided leather or rawhide, and must have a flexible, non-metallic core attached to suitable headstall. Attached reins may be of hair, rope or leather. No material of any kind may be used in conjunction with a bosal, ie., metal or chains (smooth plastic electrical tape is acceptable). A standard snaffle bit is defined as a jointed, single, rounded, smooth mouth piece, rings may be loose, eggbutt, dee, or center mounted.

Other Equipment - A lariat or reata may be carried attached to the fork of the saddle. If closed reins are used, hobbles may be carried attached below the cantle or near side of the saddle, if split reins are used and horse is trained to ground tie, no hobbles are necessary.

Prohibited Equipment - Bosals (on horses over five years), hackamores, tie-downs, running martingales and draw reins are prohibited. No cavessons or drop-nosebands are allowed.

#### **4.5.5 Appointments**

Required:

1. Helmet: see rule 1.7 #21.a.
2. Shirt or jacket with long sleeves. It may be short-sleeved shirt if the rider is also wearing a jacket. Other western attire in accordance with breed standards is allowed.
3. Western style pants or colored jeans must be clean, neat, and in good repair. No blue jeans.
4. Appropriate heeled boots.

Optional:

1. Vests and jackets. If vest or jacket is worn, it should be of a definite western design.

2. Spurs with blunt rowels or no rowels.
3. Gloves.
4. Western boots.
5. Chaps.

#### **4.5.6 Scoring**

Emphasis in the class will be placed on the rider's ability to effectively control his/her horse and maintain his/her basic position while doing so. To be judged 80% on rider's position, use of aids and cues and control of the horse, and 20% on personal appointments and tack. The scoring of personal appointments and tack will be based on neatness of clothing rather than newness and expense, and cleanliness, condition and adjustment of tack.

#### **4.5.7 Class Procedure**

1. All contestants will enter the ring at the walk in a counterclockwise direction until otherwise directed by the judge. They will go at least once around the entire ring at each of the three gaits - walk, jog, and lope. They will then be reversed and repeat the same procedure in the other direction. The reverse will be done by turning either towards or away from the rail. Entrants will then be lined up for close inspection.
2. After all horses have been worked as specified in number 1, the judge may then dismiss any riders not to be further considered in the class.
3. The judge may continue to work the remaining entrants at the walk, jog or lope as before, or he may ask any of the riders to execute an appropriate test of their riding skills. Tests may be performed collectively or individually, but no other tests may be used other than those listed below. Instructions must be publicly announced.
  - a. Individual performance on the rail.
  - b. Figure eight at the jog.
  - c. Lope and stop.
  - d. Figure eight at lope on correct lead demonstrating simple changes of lead. (This is a change whereby the horse is brought back into a walk or jog and restarted into a lope on the opposite lead.) Figures commenced in center of two circles so that one lead change is shown.
  - e. Ride without stirrups.
  - f. Dismount and mount.
  - g. Figure eight at the lope on correct lead demonstrating a flying change of lead.

- h. Change leads down the center of the ring demonstrating simple changes of lead.
- i. Ride serpentine course demonstrating flying changes of lead at each change of direction.
- j. Demonstrate a sliding stop.
- k. Execute 360 degree turns (spins).
- l. Roll back.

#### **4.5.8 Divisions and Variations**

1. Stock Seat Equitation, Senior Riders - for riders 14 years or older as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Could be further divided into classes for first year senior riders, second year senior riders and third year and over senior riders. May use tests a through l as listed above.
2. Stock Seat Equitation, Junior Riders - for riders 13 years old and younger as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Could be further divided into classes in a manner similar to that for senior riders. May use tests a through f as listed above.
3. Stock Seat Equitation, Ponies - for equines not to exceed 14.2 hands high (58 inches at the withers). Could be further divided into one class for large ponies and one class for small ponies. Large ponies are 13.0 hands (52 inches at the withers) up to 14.2 hands. Small ponies are under 13.0 hands.

#### **4.5.9 Disqualifications**

At the judge's discretion, a rider MAY be disqualified for any of the following reasons:

1. Behavior of the horse or the rider which might endanger themselves or other horses and riders in the class.
2. Evidence of poor sportsmanship.
3. Any treatment of the horse by the rider which the judge deems is cruel, abusive or unnecessary.
4. Use of tack and equipment which is prohibited.
5. Lack of sufficient control of the horse by the rider.
6. Fall of the rider.