



**SECTION K**

**PLEASURE HORSE DIVISION**

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## K. PLEASURE DIVISION

### 1. Brief 'Type' Standard and Common Faults

The Saddle Horse selected for the Pleasure Horse Division should have quality, style and presence. The horse should be comfortable and suitable to ride both in the show ring and on the trails. An easy, ground-covering action is required and emphasis is placed on good manners at all times.

Horses are judged on:

- Manners
- Performance
- Presence
- Quality
- Conformation

Weediness is not to be confused with refinement in assessing the Pleasure Horse.

**Country Pleasure Horses** – Horses are judged 75% on manners, performance, presence and quality; 25% on total conformation.

### 2. Tack Requirements and Rules

**Appliances** – Training appliances such as chains, stretchers and draw reins, tie downs and martingales in the saddle classes are prohibited. Inappropriate bridles such as a hackamore are prohibited. Leg bandages are not allowed unless application has been made to the show committee because of wet conditions.

**Boots, Three-Gaited Pleasure** – Quarter or bell boots **are not** used in the Three-Gaited division.

**Boots, Five-Gaited Pleasure** – Quarter or bell boots **are** used in the Five-Gaited Pleasure Division.

**Boots, Fine Harness Pleasure** – Quarter or bell boots **are** used in the Fine Harness Division.

**Boots, Western Division** – Quarter or bell boots **are not** used in the Western division.

**Boots** – Brushing boots and knee boots are prohibited in all Pleasure Divisions. Taped hooves are prohibited.

**Bridles** – A double reined bridle is required. A **full bridle** consists of a curb bit and a small snaffle known as a bridoon. A combination bit with a broken mouthpiece or solid mouthpiece with single shanks where double reins are

attached is acceptable. The bridle and bits must suit each horse and martingales are not allowed. Coloured brow-bands and nose-bands or plain leather nose-bands are allowed.

**Bridles - Walk and Trot** - Exhibitors **must** use a snaffle bridle with a martingale or snaffle bridle with a German Martingale in the Walk and Trot Pleasure Horse and Pleasure Horse Equitation, riders 10 years and under classes.

**Bridles, Western Division** - Any standard type Western bridle without a noseband and any standard Western bit are allowed. A single rein with a romel is required and must be held in one hand. Hackamore bridles are not allowed.

**Saddles, Three-Gaited and Five-Gaited Divisions** – An English type saddle with a cutback head is required. Western saddles, sidesaddles or Australian Stock saddles are prohibited. Saddlecloths or numnahs are prohibited.

**Saddles, Western Division** – Any standard type Western saddle is required. A saddle blanket is required in a Western Pleasure Class.

**Saddlecloths** – Saddlecloths or numnahs are prohibited in the Three-Gaited and Five-Gaited divisions.

**Harness, Fine Harness Pleasure** – A light harness with a stainless steel, half spoon cheek, jointed mouth driving snaffle and overcheck bit are required. A harness must be complete with blinkers, martingale, checkrein, traces and low tail crupper. Traces should not be wound around shafts. Handholds are optional on reins although ladies and children must use handholds.

**Vehicle** – An appropriate, light, four-wheeled vehicle with bicycle type wheels and no top is used. A cushion and floor mat must be included.

### **3. Turn-Out of Horse, Including Shoes**

Cleanliness and neatness are the foremost requirements regarding the turn-out of a horse.

Fine Harness Pleasure Horses are to be shown with a full mane and tail. Horses must be ribboned. See Section H 1 for Fine Harness Turn-Out rules.

**Mane** – Three-Gaited, Five-Gaited, Fine Harness, Country and Western Pleasure horses are shown with a full mane and tail.

**Ribbons** – **Three-Gaited, Five-Gaited and Fine Harness Pleasure Horses must be shown with ribbons in the mane, ribbons in the forelock or attached to the bridle are optional. Country Pleasure horses and Western horses may not wear ribbons.**

**Shoes – Exhibitors that want to show the same horse in the Country Pleasure Horse Class, Western Pleasure Horse Class and Pleasure Horse Equitation Class may do so providing the horse is plain shod according to the rules of the Country Pleasure and Western Pleasure Horses.**

**Shoes – Country Pleasure Horse Classes** – Horses are to be plain shod; that may include a shoe (inclusive of caulks), which may be thicker at the heel and may include toe clips and side clips and the hoof must be a maximum of 12.5 cm in length. No pads, bands, bars, wedges, lead, springs, any attachment that extends below the bottom of the shoe, and any foreign substance not specified as allowed. The sole and entire frog of the foot must be visible.

**Shoes – Pleasure Horse Classes** – Pleasure Horses may be shod with pads and/or wedges according to their needs. The length of hoof with or without pads is 12.5 cm. **Shoeing of hind hooves will be optional, BOTH hind hooves must be shod or BOTH must be unshod. Loss of a hind shoe will be subject to the same rules as the loss of any shoe during a class.**

**Shoes – Western Horse Classes** – Horses are to be plain shod, suitable for trails. No pads, bands or any device between hoof and shoe.

**Tails** – Tails are not set and should be clean, long, healthy, and picked. Crooked tails do not make a good impression and every effort should be made to correct them. Pleasure horses must not wear tail sets, bustles or braces. Switches are allowed except in the Western Pleasure division. The fact that a horse's tail has once been set does not exclude participation in the Pleasure division.

**Tail Sets - Permanently set tails are strictly forbidden in the Pleasure Horse Division. Any evidence that shows a horse may be wearing a tail set in the stable can lead to disqualification.**

**Tails – ESSASA Equitation Trials - Pleasure horses may wear humane tail braces and top tails in ESSASA Equitation Trials but they are strictly forbidden in any other Pleasure Horse division.**

#### **4. Dress Requirements of Riders**

Informal riding wear is correct for both day and night.

**Country Pleasure Horse Riders** – Riders will wear informal riding wear as deemed suitable for the Three-Gaited and Five-Gaited divisions described below.

**Three-Gaited, Five-Gaited and Fine Harness Rider/Drivers** – A Kentucky riding suit of matching jacket and flared Jodhpur pants with a waistcoat. The waistcoat may be either matching or of a tasteful contrast.

The suit must be of conservative colour with any pattern being of small design, giving the appearance of a solid colour, (herringbone, pin stripe, conservative plaid). A shirt with a collar and tie is used. As an alternative coloured coats may be worn with dark jodhpurs.

**Lady Drivers** – A lady may wear any suitable clothing to drive, attire shall be suited to the time of day.

**Western Pleasure** – Long sleeved shirt, necktie or bolo tie, trousers or pants, chaps and boots.

**Handler's Dress** – Handlers and attendants shall be neatly dressed, **men in solid coloured/white shirts, tie and** long pants, women in neat clothing of good taste. There will be no stud names displayed on clothing.

**Hat** – A tasteful hat is worn, a bowler (derby), snap-brim, (felt or straw) or homburg variety. Ladies may wear hats that match their attire when driving. Western hats are for the Western division only.

**Gloves** – Gloves may be worn.

**Boots** – Solid coloured leather or patent leather Jodhpur boots of a low-heeled variety are worn. Western boots are worn in the Western division.

**Spurs** – Spurs are optional. All exhibitors, including ladies and children **11 years and over** may use spurs. Spurs in equitation must be blunt and unrowelled. The obvious use of spurs is a severe discrimination and the abusive use of spurs will be a disqualification. **Spurs are prohibited in the 10 year old, 9 year old and 8 year old classes.**

## 5. Classes

Classes are divided according to the type of horse being shown and the ages of children, Three-gaited horses, Five-gaited Horses, Fine Harness horses, Western horses, Equitation, and Children 10 and under. *Classes are subject to the number of entries available.*

### **Classes available in the Pleasure Horse division are:**

- Three-Gaited Pleasure Horse, Stallion, Mare or Gelding, rider 19 years and over.
- Three-Gaited Pleasure Horse, Mare or Gelding, rider 18 years and under.
- Three-Gaited Pleasure Horse, riders 14 years and under.
- Three-Gaited Pleasure Horse, Equitation, riders 14 years and under.
- Three-Gaited Grand Champion Pleasure Horse.

- Three-Gaited Pleasure Horse, Mare or Gelding, Equitation, rider 18 years and under.
- Five-Gaited Pleasure Horse, Stallion, Mare or Gelding, rider 19 years and over.
- Five-Gaited Pleasure Horse, Mare or Gelding, rider 18 years and under.
- Five-Gaited Pleasure Horse Equitation, riders 18 years and under.
- Five-Gaited Grand Champion Pleasure Horse.
- Country Pleasure Horse, Three-Gaited, Stallion, Mare or Gelding.
- Western Pleasure Horse, Stallion, Mare or Gelding.
- Fine Harness Pleasure Horses, Stallion, Mare or Gelding. Driver 19 years and over.
- Fine Harness Pleasure Horses, driver 18 years and under. Mares, geldings.
- Fine Harness Pleasure Horse Grand Champion.
- Walk and Trot Pleasure Horse, rider 10 years and under.
- Walk and Trot Pleasure Horse, Equitation, rider 10 years and under.

**Professional Trainers** – Professional Trainers **may not** show in the Pleasure Horse divisions.

**Qualification for Championships** – Horses may qualify in any of the Three-Gaited or Five-Gaited divisions for the Grand Championships. They may also qualify in the children’s divisions **with the exception of** Equitation or the 10 and under Walk and Trot division. Exhibitors experiencing ‘Bad Luck’ in the qualifying class will be required to remain in the line-up, request the permission of the Ringmaster (without fail) to enter the Grand Championship and pay the equivalent of the eighth place prize money. See ‘Bad Luck’ in General Show Rules.

**Cross-Entries** – There shall be no cross-entries between Three-Gaited and Five-Gaited classes. A horse showing in the Children’s Walk and Trot class will be considered a Three-Gaited horse and cannot be cross-entered into a Five-Gaited division.

**Cross-Entries** – Pleasure Horses may cross enter into the Equitation Division, Children’s Classes and Breeding Classes and must be turned-out like a Pleasure Horse described in section K, 3. An exception to this rule is made for Pleasure horses used in the National Equitation competitions, ESASSA Equitation tests, and in the Champion of Champion division.

## **6. Class Routine**

**Entrance** – All divisions enter the arena at a trot moving in a counter clockwise direction or the right hand direction through the gate.

**Order of Gaits, Country Pleasure, Three-Gaited** – Horses enter at a trot and will be asked to do a flat-footed walk and canter both ways of the arena. Horses are expected to stand quietly and back readily in the line-up.

**Order of Gaits, Three-Gaited Pleasure Horses and Pleasure Equitation** –  
See section G6.

**Order of Gaits, Walk and Trot Pleasure Division, 10 years and under** –  
See section G 6.

**Order of Gaits, Five-Gaited Pleasure Horses and Pleasure Equitation** –  
See section F 6.

**Order of Gaits, Western Pleasure** – Horses enter at a jog-trot, flat walk, lope, halt and back. Turn around and repeat.

**Line-Up** –See section F 6 and note that handlers **must** attend all entries in the Walk and Trot Pleasure Horse and Equitation, 10 and under classes.

## **7. Basic Gaits and Common Faults**

**Walk** – A flat-footed walk is required in all Pleasure Divisions. The tendency towards and animated walk, amble or jog is not acceptable.

**Trot** – The trot is a two beat gait performed with a high, natural, free moving action. The trot should be performed in an alert and responsive manner, neat and true, any loss of form, over-reaching, going wide behind, dragging hocks or mixing gaits is not acceptable.

**Canter** – A three beat gait, comfortable and easy rhythm. Horses must use the correct lead and retain the correct head setting. Incorrect leads, excessive speed, pounding action, loss of balance and hanging in the bridle are not acceptable.

**Slow-Gait** – The slow-gait is a collected, showy four beat (with broken cadence) gait. The slow-gait is characterized by its' slow speed and elegant setting and should not be merely a slow rack. Any loss of form, the tendency to pace, over-reaching, mixing gaits, crabbing is not acceptable. A horse that is consistently pacing will be disqualified.

**Rack** – The rack is a four beat, lateral gait performed at speed. Although lateral legs move, they do not move in unison but one at a time. Any loss of form, the tendency to pace, over-reaching, mixing gaits, crabbing is not acceptable. Consistent pacing is a disqualification.

**Setting** – The horses must be set and responsive through mouth at all times. Hard mouthed horses, horses hanging in the bridle or rooting are not acceptable.

**Transitions** – Poor or rough transitions from one gait to another will be discriminated against.

**Country Pleasure Horses** – Horses will be shown at a flat-footed walk, trot and canter. Horses must stand quietly and back readily in the line-up.

**Fine Harness Pleasure Horse**

**Walk** – A flat-footed walk is required in all Pleasure Divisions. The tendency towards an animated walk, amble or jog is not acceptable.

**Park Trot** – The park trot is a two beat gait performed with balance, rhythm, collection and style. It is characterized by the horses' ability to drive forward on a well placed hock with impulsion but without unnecessary speed. Any loss of form, interfering, going wide behind, dragging hocks, mixing gaits will be discriminated against.

**Setting** – A Fine Harness horse must have the ability to wear an over-check. The setting is emphasized at all times.

**Refer to General Rules and Showing Rules, section C.**

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