



SECTION I

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I. SINGLE HARNESS DIVISION

1. Brief `Type' Standard and Common Faults

The Saddle Horse selected for the Single Harness division must have the ability to work at speed. The horse is also required to wear an over-check but does not necessarily carry its head and neck as highly as the Fine Harness horse. The Single Harness horse should have a rhythmical, athletic aptitude to perform gaits with collection, balance and speed.

Horses are judged on:

- Performance
- Presence
- Quality
- Conformation

In the Amateur classes primary emphasis is placed on manners first and then performance.

2. Tack Requirements and Rules

Appliances – Training appliances such as chains, stretchers and draw reins are prohibited. Curb bits are a disqualification. Leg bandages are not allowed unless application has been made to the show committee because of wet conditions.

Boots – Quarter or bell boots are used in the **Single Harness** division. Brushing boots and knee boots are prohibited. Taped hooves are prohibited.

Harness – A light harness with a stainless steel, half spoon cheek, jointed-mouth driving snaffle is required as well as an overcheck bit. A harness must be complete with blinkers, martingale, traces and crupper. Traces **may not** be wound around shafts. Handholds (loops) on reins are optional in an open class but **must be used** for Ladies.

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

Whips – A buggy whip is optional. Lash whips are not allowed.

3. Turn-Out of Horse, Including Shoes

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

Single Harness horses are shown with a full mane and tail.

Ribbons – Horses will be shown with ribbons in their manes. Ribbons in the forelock or attached to the bridle are optional.

Shoes – Horses may be shod with pads and/or wedges according to their needs. 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.

Tails – Tails should be clean, long, healthy, picked and tied. Crooked tails do not make a good impression and every effort should be made to correct them. Unsightly, sore tails will result in disqualification. High tail cruppers, top tails and switches are allowed.

4. Dress Requirements of Drivers

Dress – A Kentucky riding suit, regular dress suit, or blazer and slacks.

Boots or Shoes – Solid coloured leather or patent leather Jodhpur boots of a low-heeled variety or regular dress shoes are worn.

Gloves – Gloves may be worn.

Hat – A tasteful hat is worn, snap-brim, (felt or straw) or the homburg variety.

Handler's Dress – **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.

5. Classes, Age, Size, Gender and Status Divisions

Classes are divided according to age, size, gender and status. Emphasis is placed on certain aspects or criteria in different divisions.

Age – Exhibitors - Children under 18 are not allowed to compete in the Single Harness division.

Age – Horses - Horses are divided according to age.

Gender – Gender divisions are made according to the gender of horses. Classes for stallions, mares and geldings divide them.

Status – Status divisions are made between Amateur drivers or Professional Trainers. Professional Trainers are not allowed to compete in the Amateur divisions.

Classes available in the Single Harness division are:

Age Divisions:

- Three-year-old, stallion, mare or gelding.
- Four-year-old stallion, mare or gelding.
- Five-year-old and over, stallion, mare or gelding.

Gender Divisions:

- Geldings (five years and over).
- Mares (five years and older).
- Stallions (five years and over).

Status Divisions:

- Amateur (stallion, mare or gelding).
- Amateur Grand Championship
- Open Grand Championship

Qualification for Championships – Horses qualifying in any of the above classes are eligible to show in the Single Harness Grand Championship Class at the South African National Championships. Exhibitors wishing to show backing the Single Harness Grand Championship Class at the National Championship Show after having ‘Bad Luck’ in the qualifying class will be required to remain in the line-up if possible, request the permission of the Ringmaster 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 Single Harness and Fine Harness Classes.

6. Class Routine

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

Order of Gaits – Horses enter the arena at a collected trot, drive on and then walk, turn around and repeat. Horses will change gaits according to the request of the Judge through the announcer. All gaits are judged each time they are performed.

Line-Up –Horses will come in and line-up, when requested to do so by the Judge through the announcer. The Ringmaster will designate the position of the line-up. Handlers are allowed into the arena at this time. Handlers will stand back one pace while the Judge is viewing the horse. Horses will remain checked during the judging in the line-up. They will remain standing until requested and retire to await results.

7. Basic Gaits and Common Faults

Walk – The walk in the Single Harness division is an animated four beat gait. It must not degenerate into a common jog and be free of the tendency to amble. The horse's setting and controllability must be emphasized at all times.

Collected Trot – The collected trot is a two beat gait performed with balance, collection and style. It is characterized by the horse's ability to drive forward off of a well-placed hock with impulsion in preparation for the 'drive on'.

Drive- on –This trot remains a two beat gait performed at extreme speed without sacrificing form. **Any loss of form, breaking, over-reaching, going wide behind, dragging hocks, mixing gaits, and shackled way of going or lack of co-ordination front to back is not acceptable and will be discriminated against.**

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

Refer to section C, General Rules and Showing Rules.

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