



RULEBOOK

PUBLISHED 2023

1. Membership

- a. Any reliable person of good character is eligible to be a member of the SPHO-NJ.
- b. All new and renewing memberships will be processed online at SPHONJ.org.
 - i. Join or renew your membership at SPHONJ.org under Membership & Awards → Membership Application.
 1. Please remember that after the desired memberships/horse nominations are added to your cart, you must check out and pay online for it to process.
 2. Annual membership fees are as follows:
 - Individual Adult: \$40
 - Individual Junior: \$30
 - i. A junior exhibitor is defined as any exhibitor 18 years or under for the competition year.
 - Family: \$50
 - Business: \$50
- c. Member Benefits:
 - i. Each member in good standing is entitled to one vote when present at open board meetings.
 - ii. Members are entitled to participate in the SPHO-NJ year-end awards program
 - iii. Members are entitled to receive the SPHO-NJ Newsletter. Newsletters will be emailed to each members' email, as submitted on the membership application.
- d. Outstanding Fees
 - i. Points toward year-end awards will be withheld for any member with outstanding funds due to the SPHO-NJ until all outstanding funds are paid in full.
- e. Junior Exhibitor Rules
 - i. A Junior exhibitor must be accompanied by an adult in any SPHO-NJ driving class.
 - ii. Junior exhibitors are not permitted to show stallions.

2. Competition Year

- a. The competition year is defined as November 1 – October 31.
- b. A member's age for the competition year is the member's age as of the first day (November 1) of the competition year.
 - i. For example, someone turning 19 on November 2 will be considered 18 for that competition year, as they were 18 on November 1

3. Property

- a. The General management of the SPHO-NJ's property, funds, affairs, and business shall be vested in the SPHO-NJ officers.

4. Horse Registrations

- a. All SPHO-NJ horse registrations will be processed online from SPHONJ.org.
- b. To be eligible for year-end awards, after joining or renewing your membership, submit your annual Horse Registration at SPHONJ.org under Membership & Awards → Horse Registration.
 - i. Please remember that after the desired memberships/horse registration are added to your cart, you must check out and pay online for it to process.
 - ii. The annual horse registration fee is \$40.
 - iii. One horse registration is required per horse per year to be eligible for year-end awards.
 1. If a horse is competing with multiple exhibitors, the horse does **not** need to be registered multiple times for each exhibitor; however, each exhibitor must be an SPHO-NJ member for points to count.
 - iv. The horse registration fee will be waived in the event a horse becomes injured, ill, or deceased.
 1. The competitor has the option to register a replacement horse for the remainder of the season without having to pay a new fee.
 2. Points earned with the prior horse are non-transferable.
- c. To be eligible for SPHO-NJ registration, horses must be Standardbreds registered with the United States Trotting Association
- d. Acceptable proof of registration includes a printed or digital registration that matches a lip tattoo, freeze brand on neck or belly, DNA, or a microchip.

5. Year End Awards

- a. The SPHO-NJ Awards program is designed to encourage members to use their Standardbreds in competitions, demonstrations, trail rides, parades, hunts, drill teams, exhibitions, or any event that is held by a governing body.
 - i. Virtual shows are not to count.
- b. Celebrating our members and their horses who have worked to promote the breed in sport and recreation, each season's hard work culminates in an awards banquet is hosted in February, where high-point earners in each division will be recognized through sixth place.
- c. To be eligible for year-end awards, you must complete all of the following requirements:**
 - i. Be a current SPHO-NJ member**
 - ii. Submit an Annual Horse Registration**
 1. Horses only need to be registered one time, not per horse/exhibitor combination
 - iii. Compete at a minimum of three competitions/events/demonstrations within the competition year. Virtual shows or events are not to count.**
 - iv. Within 30 days of completion of a competition or pleasure ride/drive, submit the corresponding points submission form online.**
- d. Submitting competition results
 - i. For competition results to count, they must be submitted to sphonj.org/competition-points-submission.
 - ii. Submission must be no later than 30 days after the competition.
 - iii. Competition results from the National Standardbred Horse Show MUST be submitted in the online points submission form, just as any other competition.**
- e. The accumulation of points for year-end awards will begin as of the first date of participation as a paid member. A grace period of 30 days will be given from the earliest date of competition points submitted.
 - i. For example, if you compete on March 1, you must become a member and submit points by no later than March 31 for those points to count toward year-end awards.
- f. Points will be accumulated based on competition results in the following manner:
 - i. Regular points shall be earned based on the number of eligible exhibitors in the class.
 1. Once an exhibitor enters the ring, that entry shall count in determining the total class count of exhibitors even though the exhibitor may not complete the class requirements.
 - ii. Events where no placings are awarded will be given 10 points for participating in each event/activity/demonstration.
 1. Clinics are excluded.
 - iii. In any competition that presents awards, points will be awarded according to the scoring charts.
 - iv. Scoring Chart: Standardbred-only classes
 - 1st place = 10 points
 - 2nd place = 7 points
 - 3rd place = 5 points
 - 4th place = 4 points

- 5th place = 3 points
 - 6th place = 2 points
 - 7th+ place = 1 point
 - Division Championship = 10 points
 - Division Reserve Championship = 5 points
- v. Scoring Chart: Open classes (open to all breeds)
- 1st place = 20 points
 - 2nd place = 14 points
 - 3rd place = 10 points
 - 4th place = 8 points
 - 5th place = 6 points
 - 6th place = 4 points
 - 7th+ place = 2 points
 - Division Championship = 10 points
 - Division Reserve Championship = 5 points
- vi. Combined Driving and Combined Training
1. Points will be awarded according to final placings for the event.
 - 2.
- g. SPHO-NJ Awards will be given in each of the following divisions, with ribbons/awards given for 1st through 6th place.
- i. Standard Divisions
1. Leadline
 - Open to riders ages 2-9 years old who have never shown in class other than leadline. Riders in the leadline division are not eligible to enter any other riding classes.
 2. In Hand/Model
 - Any class open to Standardbreds or all breeds where horses are judged standing and/or on the line.
 3. Showmanship
 - Any class judged strictly on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse in halter or bridle.
 4. Two Gait English Pleasure
 - Any pleasure or performance class open to Standardbreds or all breeds where horses are judged at the wall and trot/intermediate gait.
 5. Three Gait English Pleasure
 - Any pleasure or performance class open to Standardbreds or all breeds where horses are judged at the wall, trot/intermediate gait, and canter.
 6. Dressage – Separated into Intro, Training, 1st, 2nd+ level.
 - Any class open to Standardbreds or all breeds where individual USEF or USDF tests are judged.
 7. Western Dressage – Separated into Intro, Basic, Level 1+

- Any class open to Standardbreds or all breeds where individual USDAA tests are judged.
8. English Equitation
 - Any class open to Standardbreds or all breeds where the rider's form and ability are judged.
 9. Hunter
 - Any hunter or performance class open to Standardbreds or all breeds where the horses are judged on suitability as a hunter, on the flat and/or over fences.
 10. Jumpers
 - Any jumper class open to Standardbreds or all breeds where the horses are ridden over a course of obstacles and are judged/scored on penalties incurred between the starting line and finish line. All horses eligible.
 11. Combined Training (ridden)
 - Includes any recognized or non-recognized 2 or 3 phase event/combined tests with dressage, cross country and/or stadium jumping.
 12. Two Gait Western Pleasure
 - Any pleasure or performance class open to Standardbreds or all breeds where horses are judged at the walk and jog/intermediate gait.
 13. Three Gait Western Pleasure
 - Any pleasure or performance class open to Standardbreds or all breeds where horses are judged at the walk, jog/intermediate gait, and lope.
 14. Western Horsemanship
 - Any class open to Standardbreds or all breeds where the rider's form and ability are judged.
 15. Hunter Pace/Fox Hunt
 - Any competitive pace that is open to Standardbreds or all breeds with individual or team participation. Includes Conditioning Distance Rides (CDR) and Conditioning Trail Rides (CTR).
 - Ten (10) participation points will be awarded.
 - If event is placed, the corresponding additional points awarded are:
 - i. 1st = 6 points
 - ii. 2nd = 5 points
 - iii. 3rd = 4 points
 - iv. 4th = 3 points
 - v. 5th = 2 points
 - vi. 6th = 1 point

16. Endurance

- Twenty Five (25) participation points will be awarded.
- If event is placed, the corresponding additional points awarded are:
 - i. 1st = 6 points
 - ii. 2nd = 5 points
 - iii. 3rd = 4 points
 - iv. 4th = 3 points
 - v. 5th = 2 points
 - vi. 6th = 1 point

17. Western / Obstacle Trail

- Any competitive trail class, open to Standardbreds or all breeds, either in a riding ring or on the trail. Can be ridden or in-hand. Includes: Western trail class, judged trail ride, and competitive obstacle events

18. Speed/Gymkhana

- Any timed class open to Standardbreds or all breeds where horses are judged by time placings.
- Examples: Barrel racing, keyhole, flag race, down & back, keg race, bowtie, and pole bending.

19. Non- Timed Games

- Any non-timed games class open to Standardbreds or all breeds where horses are judged by specific rules, in the show book or gymkhana class listing.
- Examples: Ride-a-buck, command, break & out, egg & spoon, costume class.

20. Working Horse

- Any class that is judged or timed that would be considered a working class.
- Examples: Team penning, team sorting, team roping, herding, ranch horse pleasure, etc.
- Ten (10) participation points will be awarded.
- If event is placed, the corresponding additional points awarded are:
 - i. 1st = 6 points
 - ii. 2nd = 5 points
 - iii. 3rd = 4 points
 - iv. 4th = 3 points
 - v. 5th = 2 points
 - vi. 6th = 1 point

21. Carriage Pleasure Driving – Open

- Any pleasure, performance or non-timed driving class open to Standardbreds or all breeds where horses are shown in a 2 or 4 wheeled vehicle - wooden or wire wheels. Includes combined driving and driven dressage.*
- * Dressage includes classes where individual USEF or USDF tests are judged, including any recognized or non-recognized 2 or 3 phase driving events/tests with dressage, obstacles, and marathon and any 2 or 3 phase event/combined test with dressage, cross country and/or stadium course.

22. Combined Driving – Open
 - Any competitive timed driving class open to Standardbreds or all breeds where horses are shown in a 2 or 4 wheeled vehicle - wooden or wire wheels. Includes obstacle driving.
23. Driving Reinsmanship – Open
 - A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on the ability and skill of the driver. Open to Standardbreds or all breeds where horses are shown in a 2 or 4 wheeled vehicle - wooden or wire wheels.
24. Versatility
 - Points from at least three (3) different divisions are totaled for the same horse and exhibitor combination.
 - To be eligible, horse and exhibitor combination must participate three (3) times in each division.
25. Demos/Expos/Parades
 - Awarded for participation in public events or events organized for the purpose of education.
26. Pleasure Horse & Rider Program (non-competitive)
 - Awarded to the horse and rider combinations that accomplishes the highest hours of non-competitive pleasure riding or driving.
- ii. Exhibitor High Point Awards, through 6th place
 1. High Point Junior Exhibitor
 - Awarded to the junior exhibitor with the highest combined total points.
 2. High Point Exhibitor
 - Awarded to the exhibitor with the highest combined total points.
- iii. Divisional High Point Awards
 1. High Point Rookie Horse
 - Awarded to the high point Rookie Horse with a combined total from all divisions.
 2. High Point Green Horse
 - Awarded to the high point Green Horse with a combined total from all divisions.
 3. High Point Novice Horse
 - Awarded to the high point Novice Horse with a combined total from all divisions.
 4. High Point Senior Horse
 - Awarded to the high point Senior Horse with a combined total from all divisions.
 5. Overall High Point Horse
 - Awarded to the horse with the highest combined total from all divisions.

6. NJ-Bred Eligibility

- a. A New Jersey Bred Horse is defined as a horse that was sired by a stallion standing in NJ at the time of conception, or a horse that was born in the state of NJ.
- b. Classes are open to all NJ-bred horses, regardless of experience level.
- c. Horses are allowed to cross enter this division.
- d. NJ bred dressage score is based on the average placing in the horse's respective dressage division.
 - i. Tie breakers will be broken by classes marked with (!)
- e. All Exhibitors in this division MUST be an SPHO-NJ Member to receive NJ State year-end money.
- f. All NJ-bred Standardbred pleasure horses that are competing in the New Jersey Non-racing Breeder Award Program must be registered with SPHO-NJ.
- g. Any New Jersey sired horse that races after January 1 of the competition will not be eligible for "Jersey Bred" awards from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Equine Advisory Board.

7. National Standardbred Horse Show

- a. The SPHO-NJ hosts the breed's official National Championship, the National Standardbred Horse Show held annually in the fall at the Horse Park of New Jersey.
- b. Any USTA-registered standardbred is welcome to compete at the National Horse Show
- c. Horses and athletes do not have to be registered with the SPHO-NJ, unless they would like their points to count toward SPHO-NJ year-end awards
- d. Non-members will be subjected to a non-member fee.
- e. Ribbons
 - i. Ten ribbons will be awarded in each class.
 - ii. The Grand Champion and Reserve Champion in each division will each receive an additional ribbon.
 1. Ties for Champion will be broken by the class marked (!) in the prize list.
- f. For your results from the National Standardbred Horse Show to count for year-end awards, each member will be required to volunteer two hours at the annual National Standardbred Horse Show.
 - i. You may have a family member or friend volunteer in your place.
 - ii. You may choose to buy out your hours at \$50 per hour.
 - iii. Buy-out fees are due no later than October 31 of the competition year.

8. Horse Level Classifications

- a. Horses are classified **separately** in riding, driving, and gymkhana events, based on ribbons won prior to November 1 of the competition year.
 - i. A horse may be Novice in riding events, Green in driving events, and Senior in speed/contest/gymkhana events.
- b. Classification levels are defined as the following:
 - i. Rookie
 1. Horses with no previous show experience prior to November 1 of the competition year
 2. Horses are only eligible in their first year of competition.
 - ii. Green
 1. Horses that have won no more than 6 blue ribbons prior to November 1 of the competition year.
 - iii. Novice
 1. Horses that have won 7-12 blue ribbons prior to November 1 of the competition year.
 - iv. Senior
 1. Horses that have won more than 12 blue ribbons prior to November 1 of the competition year.
 - v. Open
 1. Open to all horses, regardless of show experience prior to November 1 of the competition year
- c. The classification with which a horse begins the competition year will be maintained throughout the competition year.
 - i. The horse will move up to the respective classification beginning November 1 of the following competition year.
- d. In Hand and non-show activities excluded. Please note that the number of blue ribbons is an overall accumulation.
- e. Improperly classifying your horse to a lower level will result in disqualification.

9. Rules not explicitly covered in the SPHO-NJ rulebook will defer to the guidelines of the associated governing body.

- a. The AQHA rulebook will apply for each of the disciplines listed below.
 - i. Showmanship
 - ii. Halter/In Hand (Western tack/attire)
 - iii. Western Pleasure
 - iv. Western Horsemanship
 - v. Western Trail
 - vi. Speed/Contest/Gymkhana events
- b. The USEF rulebook will apply for each of the disciplines listed below.
 - i. Model/In Hand (English tack/attire)
 - ii. Carriage Pleasure Driving
 - iii. Combined Driving
 - iv. Dressage
 - v. Endurance
 - vi. English Pleasure
 - vii. Eventing
 - viii. Hunter
 - ix. Hunter Seat Equitation
 - x. Jumping
 - xi. Roadster
 - xii. Saddle Seat
 - xiii. Western Dressage

10. Equipment and Attire

- a. Riders must wear attire appropriate to their discipline
- b. Horses must wear tack appropriate to their discipline.
- c. Halter/model/in-hand classes
 - i. Horses/handlers may compete under either Western or English equipment.
 - ii. Western horses to be shown in a halter and lead shank.
 - iii. English horses to be shown in a bridle.
- d. Driving Classes
 - i. Competitors may use any type of harness or vehicle.
 - ii. All equipment must be in good and safe condition.
 - iii. Drivers may wear racing silks.
 - iv. In roadster classes, silks are required.

11. Gaits

- a. Two-gait classes will consist of the following gaits
 - i. Walk
 - ii. Intermediate gait
- b. Three-gait classes will consist of the following gaits
 - i. Walk
 - ii. Intermediate gait
 - iii. Canter
- c. Intermediate Gaits
 - i. An intermediate gait is any gait the horse performs between the walk and canter, including:
 1. Trot
 2. Pace
 3. Running walk
 4. Jog
 5. Rack
 - ii. All gaits are to be given equal consideration.
 - iii. The same intermediate gait must be maintained throughout the class.

12. Class/Division Definitions

a. Driving

- i. Carriage Pleasure Driving classes are judged primarily on the suitability of the horse to give a pleasurable drive. Horses will be judged 70% on performance, manners, and way of going, 30% on fit of harness and condition of vehicle and 10% on neatness of attire. Horses must stand quietly, and when requested, back readily.
 1. Note: No extended gaits will be required in Junior Exhibitor classes.
- ii. Standardbred In Harness- Green/Novice Horse
 1. Horses shown both ways of the ring at the walk, slow trot/intermediate gait, working trot/intermediate gait, and strong trot/intermediate gait. Horses must stand quietly on the rail and in line up. Horses may be headed by a groom in the lineup. No backing required.
- iii. Standardbred In Harness - Senior Horse
 1. Horses shown both ways of the ring at the walk, slow trot/intermediate gait, working trot/intermediate gait, and strong trot/intermediate gait. Horses must stand quietly at the rail and in the lineup. Backing may be required.
- iv. Standardbred In Harness – Open
 1. Horses shown both ways of the ring at the walk, slow trot/intermediate gait, working trot/intermediate gait, and strong trot/intermediate gait. Horses must stand quietly at the rail and in the lineup. Backing may be required. All entries chosen for a workout will be worked both ways of the ring, at any gait requested by the judge and/or may be requested to perform a figure eight.
- v. Country Pleasure Driving
 1. Horses shown both ways of the ring at the flat wall, trot/intermediate gait, and extended trot/intermediate gait, with emphasis on the walk. Extreme speed to be penalized. Must stand quietly on the rail and in line up and to back readily. All entries chosen for a workout will be worked both ways of the ring at any gait requested by the judge and/or may be requested to perform a figure eight.
- vi. Driving Reinsmanship
 1. A pleasure driving class in which entries are judged primarily on ability and skill of the driver. To be shown at the walk, slow trot/intermediate gait, working trot/intermediate gait, and strong trot/intermediate gait. Drivers may be required to rein back. All drivers chosen for a workout may be worked at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute a figure eight and/or perform other appropriate test. The driver should be seated comfortably on the box as to be relaxed and effective. Drivers should not be penalized or rewarded for using one general style over another. In order to evaluate a driver's versatility, the judge may request a test involving driving with one hand. To be judged 75% on handling of the reins and whip, control, posture, and overall appearance of drive, 25% on the condition of harness and vehicle and neatness of attire.

- vii. Versatility Ride and Drive
 - 1. In harness; to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, slow trot/intermediate gait, working trot/intermediate gait, and strong trot/intermediate gait. To stand quietly, and if requested, back readily. Under saddle; to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, trot/intermediate gait. To stand quietly, and if requested, back readily. Horses may be headed by a groom in a line up. Removing bridle or reins before unhooking the cart will be considered a reason for elimination from all versatility.
- viii. Obstacle Driving
 - 1. To be driven over a prescribed course of obstacles. The number of obstacles to be proportionate to the dimensions of the driving area. After passing the starting line, the driver shall proceed through each obstacle, in order to the designated finish line. Course faults are scored a penalty of 3 seconds added to the driver's elapsed time. Placings are determined on a low time basis. Ties for first will be decided by a drive-off (unless otherwise stated in the prize list). Failure to negotiate an obstacle will result in elimination.
- b. Dressage
 - i. Classes addressing the development of the physique and ability of the horse through a series of prescribed tests. Horses are judged on the freedom and regularity of the gaits; harmony, lightness and ease of movements; lightness of the forehand and engagement of the hindquarters and the acceptance of the bridle with submissions throughout and without any tension or resistance while executing prescribed movements. Riders are judged on correctness of position, effectiveness of aids and communication and understanding of his horse while executing prescribed movements throughout the test.
- c. English Pleasure
 - i. Horses will be judged with the emphasis on manners and suitability as a pleasure mount as well as performance and soundness. Horses must stand quietly and when required, back readily. Martingales are not permitted.
 - ii. Two Gait Green/Novice Horse
 - 1. Horses will be asked to work both ways of the ring at the wall and trot/intermediate gait on a light contact. No backing required.
 - iii. Two Gait Senior/Open Horse
 - 1. Horses will be asked to work both ways of the ring at the wall and trot/intermediate gait on a light contact. Backing may be required at the discretion of the judge.
 - iv. Three Gait Green/Novice Horse
 - 1. Horses will be asked to work both ways of the ring at the walk, trot/intermediate gait and canter on a light contact. Backing may be required at the discretion of the judge.
 - v. Three Gait Senior/Open Horse
 - 1. Horses will be asked to work both ways of the ring at the walk, trot/intermediate gait and canter on a light contact. Backing may be required at the discretion of the judge.

- vi. Two Gait Country Pleasure
 1. Horses will be asked to work both ways of the ring at the flat wall, trot/intermediate gait, and extended trot/intermediate gait with emphasis on the walk. Must back readily and stand quietly on the rail and in line up. To be judged 75% on manners, performance and apparent ability to give a good pleasure ride and 25% on conformation and neatness of attire.
- d. Hunter
 - i. Horses are judged on performance, way of going, soundness and suitability. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Horses should be obedient, alert, responsive, and move freely. Martingales are not permitted in flat classes.
 - ii. Two Gait Hunter Under Saddle
 1. Horses will work both ways of the ring at the walk, trot/intermediate gait.
 - iii. Three Gait Hunter Under Saddle
 1. Horses will work both ways of the ring at the walk, trot/intermediate gait and canter.
 - iv. Hunter Over Fences
 1. Horses to be shown over a course of obstacles. Obstacles must simulate those found in the hunting field such as natural post and rail, brush, stone, wall, white board fence or gate, chicken coup, aiken, hedge, oxer, etc.
 - Crossrails: To be shown over a minimum of four fences not to exceed 18 inches in height.
 - Fences: To be shown over a minimum of six fences 2 – 2'6" in height.
- e. Hunt Seat Equitation
 - i. In equitation classes, only riders are being judged. Riders should have a workmanlike appearance, seat, and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control should any emergency arise. Riders are judged on hand, seat, guidance, and control of the horse. One rider per horse in each class. The same horse must be maintained throughout all phases of a class until the judge requests a change.
 1. Martingales are not permitted in flat classes.
 - ii. Two Gait Equitation on the Flat
 1. Riders will be asked to work at the walk and trot/intermediate gait. Collected and extended gaits may be required at the judge's discretion. Further testing of the riders may be requested by the judge.
 - iii. Three Gait Equitation on the Flat
 1. Riders will be asked to work at the walk, trot/intermediate gait and canter. Collected and extended gaits may be required at the judge's discretion. Further testing of the riders may be requested by the judge.
 - iv. Equitation over Fences
 1. To be shown over a course of obstacles. Riders may trot/intermediate gait or canter but must maintain the same gait throughout the course.
 - Crossrails: to be shown a minimum of 4 fences not to exceed 18 inches in height.
 - Fences: to be shown over a minimum of 6 fences; 2' to 2'6" in height.

- f. Halter/In-Hand/Model
 - i. Western horses to be shown in a halter and shank, English horses to be shown in a bridle.
 - ii. Horses are to be shown at the walk and trot/jog/intermediate gait on the line.
 - iii. Horses are to be judged on way of going and finish.
 - iv. Racing blemishes are not to be considered.
 - v. Classes may be divided: mares, geldings, stallions.
 - vi. All horses must be serviceably sound.
- g. Jumping
 - i. Horses are to be ridden over a course of a minimum of eight obstacles, with at least one change of direction.
 - ii. Horses are to be scored on penalties incurred between the starting line and the finish line. Jumping faults and scoring tables are to be run concurrent with USEF rules.
 - iii. All classes to be run concurrent with USEF Tables.
 - iv. Obstacles may consist of any of the following: verticals, oxers, triple bars, combinations, water jumps, ditches, banks, fans, etc.
 - v. Combination oxers consist of two or more separate jumping efforts.
- h. Showmanship
 - i. A class judged strictly on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse in halter or bridle. This class is open to both English and Western exhibitors.
 - ii. To be judged on the exhibitor's overall poise, confidence, appearance, and position throughout the class and physical appearance of the horse, including horse's presentation and grooming, body condition, and overall fitness.
 - iii. Patterns will be posted at least one hour prior to beginning of class.
- i. Western Trail
 - i. To be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement.
 - ii. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed.
 - iii. Horses should demonstrate attentiveness and capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant and willingness to respond to rider's cues on more difficult obstacles.
 - iv. Excessive delays while approaching or negotiating an obstacle will be penalized.

- j. Western Pleasure
 - i. Horses are to be judged on performance with emphasis on quality of movement and consistency of gaits, manners and condition of horse. Horses should be shown on a loose rein but with light contact and control. Horses should be willing, move with flowing gaits and give the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride.
 - ii. Two Gait Green/Novice Horse
 - 1. Horses will be asked to work both ways of the ring at the walk and jog/intermediate gait on a light contact. No backing required.
 - iii. Two Gait Senior/Open Horse
 - 1. Horses will be asked to work both ways of the ring at the walk and jog/intermediate gait on a light contact. Backing may be required at the discretion of the judge.
 - iv. Three Gait Green/Novice Horse
 - 1. Horses will be asked to work both ways of the ring at the walk, jog/intermediate gait and lope on a light contact. Backing may be required at the discretion of the judge.
 - v. Three Gait Senior/Open Horse
 - 1. Horses will be asked to work both ways of the ring at the walk, jog/intermediate gait and lope on a light contact. Backing may be required at the discretion of the judge.
- k. Western Working Horse
 - i. Any class that is judged or timed that would be considered a working class.
 - ii. Examples: Team penning, sorting, ranch horse pleasure etc.
- l. Western Horsemanship
 - i. In horsemanship classes, only the rider is being judged. Appropriate western attire is required. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, performance, ability to control the horse, and suitability of horse to rider. A rider's performance is evaluated on the rider's ability to execute, in concert with their horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge, with precision and smoothness while exhibiting proper position. Tie downs, martingales, and cavesson-type nosebands are not permitted.
 - ii. Two Gait Horsemanship
 - 1. Riders will be asked to work both ways of the ring at the walk and jog/intermediate gait. Extended gaits may be required at the judge's discretion. Further testing of the riders may be requested by the judge
 - iii. Three Gait Horsemanship
 - 1. Riders will be asked to work both ways of the ring at the walk, jog/intermediate gait and lope. Extended gaits may be required at the judge's discretion. Further testing of the riders may be requested by the judge.