

HORSE DIVISION

1. The horse show will follow the Texas 4-H Horse Show Rules and Regulations.
2. Current Coggins Test papers will be required at check-in.
3. Registration papers will be required on all registered animals at check-in.
4. Horses entered in the Johnson County Junior Livestock Show Horse Event must be owned by the exhibitor or a member of the exhibitor's immediate family.
5. There will be a maximum of two (2) entries per exhibitor.
6. No Riding of Horses will be permitted on grounds.
7. Showmanship at Halter may be entered at the show and will be divided into 2 age divisions (Junior – 13 and under, Senior – 14 and up). In showmanship, an exhibitor may only show a horse they have entered and shown in the halter classes.

Horse Classes

Mares

Mares 4 and under - 1

Mares 5 and over - 2

Geldings

Geldings 4 and under - 1

Geldings 5 and over - 2

Halter Class Rules

A halter class is defined as a class where the horse is judged based upon its conformation. The purpose of the class is to select individuals in the order of their resemblance to the breed ideal and that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics, and muscling.

The ideal halter horse has eye appeal that is the result of a harmonious blending of an attractive head, refined throat latch, well-proportioned, trim neck, long, sloping shoulder, deep heart girth, short back, strong loin and coupling, long hip and croup, and well-defined and muscular stifle, gaskin, forearm and chest. These characteristics should be coupled with straight and structurally correct legs and feet that are free of blemishes. The horse should be a balanced athlete that is muscled uniformly throughout.

Conformation is defined as the physical appearance due to the arrangement of muscle, bone, and other body tissues.

One of the most important criteria in selecting a horse is conformation, or its physical appearance. While it could be assumed that most horses with several years seasoning and past performance have acceptable conformation, the goal in selection should always be to find the best conformed horse possible.

Rating conformation depends upon objective evaluation of four traits: balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics, and degree of muscling. Of the four, balance is the most important and refers to the structural and aesthetic blending of body parts. Balance is influenced almost entirely by skeletal structure.

Equipment

Lip chains: Mares and geldings may not be shown with any chain through the mouth, including but not limited to lip chains.

Judging Procedure

Horses will walk to the judge one at a time. As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the right (left of the horse) to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed at 50 feet (15 meters) away. It is at the judge's discretion whether horses will trot straight past this cone or turn left and continue trotting. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front, and rear. The judge should line the horses to be placed in a head-to-tail order according to preference.

When judging of all classes in a halter division has been completed, all first- and second-place class winners of that sex division shall return to the ring, with first-place class winners in one line and second-place horses from each class in another line.

The judge must select a Grand Champion and Reserve Champion in each sex division.

The judge(s) shall select the Grand Champion mare or gelding from the first-place class winners in the respective sex division. If the first-place horse does not return for any reason, the second-place horse will move up to the first-place line and be considered for Grand and Reserve. The third-place horse cannot move up to second place in the class.

The second-place horse in the class from which the Grand Champion had been selected will be judged with the first-place class winners for the title of Reserve Champion mare or gelding in the respective sex division.

Showmanship at Halter – Offered only to those that have entered and exhibited in the halter show.

The showmanship class is judged on an exhibitor's ability to execute practical and basic halter class maneuvers from the ground. The class should always be judged with this in mind, giving credit to the exhibitor who can correctly perform each maneuver of the total pattern or run.

Judges should refrain from conducting the class routine in any manner that attempts to trick, confuse, or mislead exhibitors. In showmanship at halter, conformation of the horse is not judged.

Attire. Exhibitors should be neat, clean, and well-groomed. Clothing shall be as stated in the section on judged classes. Chaps and spurs are NOT permitted in showmanship.

Equipment. Use a clean halter that is adjusted to fit the horse. The halter should fit well on the horse's head, to maximize response to subtle halter cues. Silver halters shall not count over a nice, clean, well-fitted halter. Lead straps are often attached to a chain and snap. The lead strap may be snapped below the jaw in the center ring of the halter, or the chain can be run under the horse's chin and snapped to the upper or lower halter ring on the right side of the horse's head.

Horse Fitting and Grooming

1. The horse should be clean and well-groomed. Manner of fitting for mane and tail may vary according to recognized practices for a particular breed of horse.

2. A well-groomed horse that is clean, properly trimmed, and conditioned does have a justified advantage in showmanship at halter. Underweight or thin horses may be penalized.

Method of Showing

1. Walk, trot, turn, stop, back, and pose the horse as shown in the posted pattern or by the judge's instructions.

2. The horse is always led from the left side. The exhibitor's right hand is held closest to the halter, with the distance being highly dependent upon the mannerisms of the horse, the size of both the horse and the exhibitor, and breed standards. The excess amount of lead is folded or loosely coiled in the left hand and held about waist high. Never wrap the excess lead around the hand or make a coil so small that a sudden jerk could cause the lead to

wrap around the hand.

3. At both the walk and the trot, the exhibitor's shoulder should be about even with the horse's throatlatch. In this position, the horse is beside the exhibitor, allowing the judge a clear view of the horse's travel. Movement at both gaits should be brisk and sharp, as opposed to slow and dull. Speed of travel is somewhat related to straightness of travel, and the slower a horse moves, the greater chance for deviation from a straight line of movement.

4. When leading to or from a judge or ringmaster, stops and turns are very important. The exhibitor should always allow plenty of space between the horse and the judge. Stops should be executed squarely and without hesitation, as the stop is an important maneuver preceding a correct turn or reverse of direction.

5. Turns of more than 90 degrees should always be executed to the right. Pushing the horse away, rather than pulling the horse around, will allow more distance between the horse's and the exhibitor's feet. In addition, turning to the right allows the horse to use the right hind foot as a pivot point. The horse can then cross the left front foot over the right front to execute a very uniform and smooth turn. This results in the horse remaining in essentially the same tracks after the turn is completed and provides the judge a good view as the horse is walked or trotted away.

6. Immediately following a turn or reverse of direction, the exhibitor should look back to make sure the horse is lined up with the judge. Class routines may require walking or trotting back into the lineup of horses. The exhibitor should lead all the way through the line, stop, reverse, and then lead into the line to set up. If asked to change positions in the line, back the horse out of the line, and approach the new position from behind.

7. Pose or set up the horse with its feet set according to its type or breed. Stock horse breeds stand square. Move the horse's feet by pushing or pulling on the lead strap as necessary with the right hand. Touching the horse's body with a hand or foot to change the horse's position is penalized.

8. Once set up, the horse should be presented in such a way as to not distract the judge's attention from the horse. The exhibitor stands on the opposite side of the horse when the judge is toward the front and on the same side as the judge when the judge is toward the rear of the horse. This method of presentation is preferred by most judges for youth exhibitors.

9. For safety reasons, at no time should an exhibitor stop and stand directly in front of the horse.

10. The primary objective is to show the horse. Exhibitors should stand where they can see the judge and the judge can see them, but without obstructing the judge's view of the horse. The basic position of the exhibitor should allow constant observation of the horse's position and also permit observation of the judge.

11. Staring at the judge keeps an exhibitor from continually observing the horse and keeping the horse set properly. Exhibitors should maintain eye contact with the horse. It is acceptable to glance at the judge from time to time, but an exhibitor should NOT do this continuously.

12. Exhibitors should keep their proper position in line and allow reasonable space (at least 5 feet) between horses on either side. Keep horses from making contact with a competitor or encroaching on space rightfully belonging to another exhibitor.

Scoring

1. Exhibitors will be scored from 0 to 100 with 70 denoting an average score. One-half point increments are acceptable. Maneuver scores will be indicated as follows:

- + = Very Good
- + = Good
- = Correct
- = Poor
- = Very Poor

2. An approximate break down of the scores shall be as follows:

- a. 90-100 Excellent showmanship, including body position and presentation of horse. Completes pattern accurately, quickly, smoothly and precisely; demonstrates a high level of professionalism
- b. 80-89 Very Good performance in execution of the pattern as well as correct showmanship and presentation of horse. Excellent showman that commits a major fault.
- c. 70-79 Good pattern execution and average showmanship; lacking adequate style and professional presentation to merit elevating to the next scoring range. A very good showman that commits a major fault or an excellent showman that commits a severe fault.
- d. 60-69 Fair pattern that lacks quickness or precision. Horse with consistently unwilling attitude or handler with obvious position and/or presentation faults that prevents effective showmanship. A good showman that commits one major fault in the performance of the pattern. A very good showman that commits a severe fault.
- e. Less than 59 Good showman that commits one severe or multiple major and/or minor faults; excellent or very good showman that commits multiple, and/or combination of, severe, major or minor faults in the performance or presentation or position of exhibitor that precludes effective communication with the horse.

3. Faults

a. Minor Faults:

- i. Break of gait at walk or trot for up to two strides
- ii. Over or under turning up to 1/8 of a turn
- iii. Ticking or hitting cone
- iv. Sliding a pivot foot
- v. Lifting a pivot foot during a pivot or set-up and replacing it in the same place

b. Major Faults

- i. Not performing the gait or not stopping within 10 feet of the designated area
- ii. Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
- iii. Splitting the cone (cone between the horse and handler)
- iv. Horse stepping out of or moving the hind end significantly during a pivot or turn
- v. Horse stepping out of set-up after presentation
- vi. Over/under turning 1/8 to 1/4 turn

c. Severe Faults

- i. Exhibitor is not in the required position during inspection
- ii. Exhibitor touching the horse or kicking or pointing their feet at the horse's feet during the set-up
- iii. Standing directly in front of the horse
- iv. Loss of lead shank, holding chain or two hands on shank

- v. Severe disobedience including rearing or pawing; horse continually circling exhibitor
- d. Disqualifications
 - i. Loss of control of horse that endangers exhibitor, other horses or judge
 - ii. Horse becomes separated from exhibitor
 - iii. Failure to display correct number
 - iv. Willful abuse
 - v. Never performing specific gait
 - vi. Excessive schooling or training; use of artificial aids
 - vii. Knocking over the cone or going off pattern
 - viii. Illegal equipment
 - ix. Over or under turning by more than $\frac{1}{4}$ turn

Class Routine

1. Exhibitors may enter the arena single-file, moving around the arena counter-clockwise before lining up at the judge's instruction. Once in line, each exhibitor will perform individually.
2. At many shows, exhibitors will be asked to enter the arena individually and work a pattern designed by the judge.
3. Regardless of the manner used, judges should draw patterns clearly and make instructions that are easily understood by exhibitors.
4. Where patterns are posted, such instructions should be available for the exhibitor to review prior to the start of this class (at least 1 hour before, if possible).