

CLASS RULES

The class rules below apply to those classes which are not covered in the 4-H Horse & Pony Rule Book. For AQHA or ECRRA classes please refer to their specific rulebooks. Links to these rulebooks can be found on our club website. Please be sure to read the below guidelines as well as the general show information page, the additional show rules and regulations and read the Divisions/Class Descriptions for complete details about the individual types of classes.

LEAD LINE Classes – See class list for ages. Entries must be tacked in English or Western attire for a horse show. Shoes should be of a hard-sole variety if boots are unavailable. No tennis shoes. During the class handlers may be asked to step to the front and end of the Lead Line for Lead Line classes and to step to the front and away from the mount for Unattached Lead Line classes. Judges may ask riders simple questions on the very basics of riding. Handlers should be 13 years or older. Handlers are not required to be in show attire but safe and respectable attire for a horse show. Coaching from handlers while entries are in the ring being judged is discouraged and entries will be marked accordingly. Riders in this division **may not** accumulate points in this division and any higher level division except those classes noted further down in this section. Riders can ride in the Walk classes for experience at the same show they are riding/pointing in the Lead Line class. Riders **may not** enter in any higher-level class than Walk on show day with the exception of Timed Fun, Showmanship and Conformation classes. These types of classes are allowed since the entries only work one at a time. See circuit rules #11, #14 and #15 for guidelines on points. **Points are accumulated based on the rider only.**

WALK Classes - Open to children ages 10 & under. Riders in these classes **may not** accumulate points in this division **and** a walk/trot- jog division (with the exception of any one of the Conformation divisions, Youth or Novice Showmanship divisions and the *Timed Fun* division which are trotting or jogging but only with one rider in the ring at a time). Riders may ride in any of the other Walk/Trot-Jog classes for experience at the same show they are riding/pointing in the walk classes. If pointed in Walk, riders **may not** ride in any class requiring a canter/lope under any circumstances, nor can riders enter any Lead Line classes. Riders who feel ready to move ahead and accumulate points may do so by following the guidelines addressed in the "Move Ahead Exception Rule". See circuit rules #12, #14, and #15 for guidelines on points. **Points are accumulated based on the rider only.**

YOUTH WALK/TROT – WALK/JOG Classes – Open to children ages 12 & under. Riders in these classes **may not** accumulate points in this division and a less-gaited division (walk) or a three-gaited division (walk/trot-jog and canter/lope). The exception being a youth can enter the Youth Speed Division/classes. Riders may ride in any three gaited classes for experience at the same show they are riding/pointing in the walk/trot-jog classes. If pointed in walk/trot-jog riders **may not** ride in any Lead Line or Walk classes under any circumstances. Riders who feel ready to move ahead and accumulate points may do so by following the guidelines in the "Move Ahead Exception Rule". See circuit rules #13, #14, and #15 for guidelines on points. **Points are accumulated based on the rider only.**



ENGLISH NOVICE RIDER WALK/TROT – WESTERN NOVICE HORSEMANSHIP

WALK/JOG Classes – Open to riders that qualify as a beginning rider as defined below. Entries in these divisions may also ride in any three-gaited classes on the same show for experience. However, **no points will be awarded** for the three-gaited classes - with the exceptions noted in circuit rule #14. Riders who feel ready to move ahead and accumulate points in the three-gaited classes may do so by following the guidelines addressed in the “Move Ahead Exception Rule”. See circuit rule #15 for further guidelines. Circuit Rule #19 will be strictly adhered to.

Points are accumulated based on the rider only.

Novice Rider Definition: A Novice Rider is any age and is in their first three show seasons for that style of riding (i.e. Western or English). The team has not shown in 3 gaited classes of that style of riding prior to the start of this show season. The rider cannot ever have won a Year-end Championship from ANY show circuit in a Walk-Trot/Jog or Lope/Canter division of that style of riding.

ENGLISH JUNIOR WALK/TROT Classes – Open to riders ages 13 to 18 of any riding ability. Entries in these divisions may also ride in any three-gaited classes on the same show day for experience. However, no points will be awarded for these classes. These riders are allowed to enter the Junior Speed Division given entries ride one at time. See other exceptions noted in circuit rule #14. **Points are accumulated based on the rider only.**

ENGLISH SENIOR WALK/TROT Classes – Open to adult riders ages 19 and over of any riding ability. Entries in these divisions may also ride in any three-gaited classes on the same show day for experience. However, no points will be awarded for these classes. These riders are allowed to enter the Senior Speed Division given entries ride one at time. See other exceptions noted in circuit rule #14. **Points are accumulated based on the rider only.**

ENGLISH NOVICE HORSE WALK/TROT – WESTERN NOVICE PLEASURE WALK/ JOG Classes-

Open to horses that qualify as a beginning horse as defined below. Entries in these divisions may also ride in any three-gaited classes on the same show day for experience. However, **no points will be awarded** for the three-gaited classes - with the exceptions noted in circuit rule #14. See circuit rule #15 for further guidelines. Circuit rule #19 will be strictly adhered to. **Western horses in this division may be ridden with a snaffle bit or bosal and riders may use 2 hands regardless of the age of the horse.**

Points are accumulated based on the horse only.

Novice Horse Definition: A Novice horse is any horse/pony of any age in their first three show seasons for that style of riding (i.e. English or Western). The team has not shown in 3 gaited classes of that style of riding prior to the start of this show season. The horse cannot ever have won a Year-end Championship from **ANY** show circuit in a Walk-Trot/Jog or Lope/Canter division of that style of riding.

ENGLISH OPEN WALK/TROT Classes- Open to all riders *except* Lead Line riders. All riders entered here may accumulate points for year-end points – *except* those pointed in the Walk divisions. This includes anyone riding at the canter as well. These classes were designed for getting horses/ponies in the ring for more experience as well as offering our three-gaited exhibitors trot or jog classes for warm-up or practice prior to the canter classes.

Points are accumulated based on the horse only.

WESTERN GREEN HORSE Classes – Open to horses that qualify as green to the show ring especially regarding loping. A “Green Horse” can be of any age and is in its first 3 show seasons of showing in these types of classes. Horse has not won a year-end Grand Championship in a Green Horse division at any horse show circuit. **Horses in this division may be ridden with a snaffle bit or bosal and riders may use 2 hands regardless** of the age of the horse.

Points are accumulated based on the horse only.

SHOWMANSHIP NOVICE Class – Open to any age rider/horse combination that qualifies as novice as defined by our definition below.

Circuit rule #19 will be strictly adhered to.

Pointed on the rider/horse team.

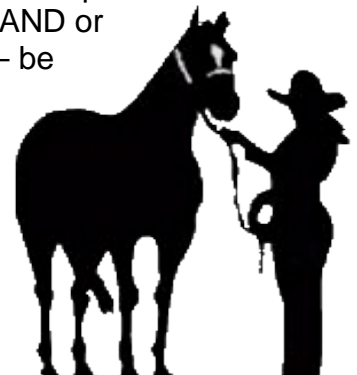
Novice Rider/Horse Team Definition: A Novice entry has not placed in any recognized or breed association show in this particular division or types of classes in this division. The team has not placed first more than 10 times in classes of that particular division or type prior to riding in this division at our show circuit.

SHOWMANSHIP WALK Class – Open to exhibitors ages 10 and under. Entries may show English or Western style. Pattern will be posted and copies of the pattern will also be available at the entry desk. Exhibitors will only have to walk throughout the pattern. No jogging or trotting in hand will be performed.

Pointed on the rider only.

CONFORMATION Classes - a horse or pony may enter **ONLY ONE** conformation class for both Year-End divisions and per Horse Show with ONE exception: a horse can enter both Conformation Stock Class or Hunter Type Class AND or also enter Ranch In Hand conformation class based on gender – be that mare or gelding/stallion. Entries may NOT cross-enter between Hunter (ring 1) and Stock classes (ring 2). NOTE: in ref to Perpetual Awards, only ONE division shall be counted for points that being the one with the highest number of points.

Pointed on the horse.



ENGLISH OPEN EQUITATION and PLEASURE Over Fences Walk-Trot –

Open to any age rider. These classes were designed for giving riders with little to no jumping experience a place to start. Also a class for experienced riders to start a horse or pony green to jumping. Classes may be split Jr/Sr and Horse/Pony if entries warrant. Entries in this class cannot ride nor point in the Over Fences Walk-Trot-Canter classes.

Points for Eng Equitation O/F are accumulated based on the rider.

Points for Eng Pleasure O/F are accumulated based on the horse/pony.

ENGLISH OPEN EQUITATION and PLEASURE Over Fences Walk-Trot-Canter-

Open to any age rider. These classes were designed for riders & horses or ponies with some jumping experience. Classes may be split Jr/Sr and Horse/Pony if entries warrant. Entries in this class cannot ride nor point in the Over Fences Walk-Trot classes.

Points for Eng Equitation O/F are accumulated based on the rider.

Points for Eng Pleasure O/F are accumulated based on the horse/pony.



ENGLISH EQUITATION Over Fences BEGINNER Walk-Trot –

Open to any age rider. This class is designed for riders with NO jumping experience a place to start. Fences are vertical set at 12" height. Classes may be split YO/JR/SR for Year End if entries warrant. Entries in this class cannot ride in the Over Fences Walk-Trot classes at 18" EXCEPT Hunter Hack OPEN Walk-Trot with cross-rails set at 18". Entries in this class cannot ride in any Walk-Trot-Canter over fences classes.

Points for Eng Equitation O/F Beginner are accumulated based on the rider.

ENGLISH HUNTER HACK Over Fences BEGINNER Walk-Trot –

Open to any age rider. This class is designed for riders with NO jumping experience a place to start. 2 cross-rails set at 12" height. Classes may be split YO/JR/SR for Year End if entries warrant. Entries in this class cannot ride in the Over Fences Walk-Trot classes at 18" EXCEPT Hunter Hack OPEN Walk-Trot with cross-rails set at 18". Entries in this class cannot ride in any Walk-Trot-Canter over fences classes.

Points for Eng Equitation O/F Beginner are accumulated based on the rider.

AQHA Classes – See current AQHA Rule Book for specific class rules

East Coast Ranch Riding Association (ECCRA) Classes – See current ECRRA

Rule Book for specific class rules. Both Ranch Non-Pro WT and Ranch Non-Pro WTC will be offered as Year-End Divisions. Ranch In Hand Mares and Ranch in Hand Geldings/Stallions will also be offered as a Year-End Division with our circuit.

TRAIL Classes – A horse/rider team is allowed to ride in **both** a trail class based on age (Youth) and an OPEN Trail class for Year-End divisions and per Horse Show. In addition, if the horse qualifies they may also enter Green Horse Trail. Entries can also enter Ranch Trail but must pick ONE level to compete (either Non-Pro WT or Non-Pro WTC) See definitions in this section. Exceptions: Lead Line and Walk entries are NOT permitted to ride nor point in OPEN Trail Class/Division. A single rider can enter multiple mounts in one trail division. There will be NO loping or cantering in any of the trail patterns WITH THE EXCEPTION OF the Ranch Non-Pro WTC canter.

Open (Eng & Wes combined) and Green Horse trail classes are pointed on the HORSE.

English Unattached Lead Line, Western Unattached Lead Line, English Walk, Western Walk, Youth (Eng & Wes combined) trail classes are pointed on the RIDER.

Ranch Non-Pro WT and WTC are pointed on Horse/Rider Team are included in the Ranch Horse Year-End Division for either WT or WTC.

NOTE: All Trail classes will be held in Ring 2. **With the exception of:** the April Horse Show and possibly the Sept Horse Show if AQHA classes are approved for that show. When AQHA classes are being held (April show for sure and Sept show maybe), all trail classes (#76 - #80) will be held in a fenced area designated as "Ring 3".

On show days with AQHA classes being held Ring 3/Trail classes will be open from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The classes will not run in any specified order. Exhibitors can take trail class in ANY order. Just give the judge your entry number and relay to the Judge what trail class you are doing the pattern for. Course will be set up for all trail classes at the same time. Therefore, you MUST know which trail pattern is for YOUR class. Exhibitors in Trail classes should sign up as early as possible. We encourage all entries to take their respective Trail class as soon as they can in their schedule. We will announce "Trail Ring will be closing in 30 minutes" and this will be the final call for entries to make their way to the Trail Ring. It is our intention to shut this ring down exactly at 2:00 pm. Please plan your trail class around your show schedule accordingly. We want entries to complete their trail class as soon as they can so our Trail Ring Judge can tally the scores and place the classes.

Trail Class Placings: Our club makes no guarantees that the Trail Class results will be ready for announcing any earlier than 3:00 pm, exhibitor participation determines when the results are ready. Results will be posted to the 4-H website: www.mw4hclub.com and will also be posted at the Entry Booth the following show. Our club will post Ring 3 Trail results PRIOR TO the next show. Those with an urgent need to know the Trail Class results, should plan to stay and hear the results first-hand on show day.

Trail Ring Weather Policy: If bad weather is forecasted for the afternoon, we **STRONGLY** suggest you take your trail class ASAP that day. We will make announcements about the weather if that is the case. Due to the type of the class trail is as well as the need for a third judge, trail classes will NOT be made up nor double judged. You must get your trail class in or forfeit your trail class points for that day. Refunds will be given due to rain.

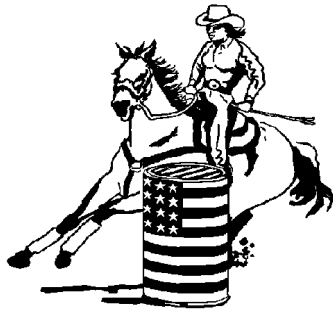
WESTERN JUNIOR/SENIOR WALK/JOG Classes – Open to both junior riders ages 13-19 and adult riders ages 19 and over of any riding ability. Entries in these divisions may also ride in any three-gaited classes on the same show day for experience. However, no points will be awarded for these classes. These riders are allowed to enter the Open Speed Division given entries ride one at time. See other exceptions noted in circuit rule #14.

Points are accumulated based on the rider only.

TIMED FUN JOGGING/TROTting Classes – Open to all riders, both Western and English. These are timed events, but entries are only allowed to jog or trot the patterns. Time penalties will apply every instance horse/pony breaks to a canter or lope. These classes were designed to introduce more folks to the fun of speed events as well as offering the regular speed event riders more classes to ride in - just at a different gait! **Pointed on the rider.**

Open SPEED Classes – Open to all age riders.
OPEN Speed classes are pointed on the HORSE.

Youth SPEED Classes – Limited to Riders ages 12 & under.
Youth Speed classes are pointed on the RIDER.



NOTE ON SPEED CLASSES – Youth and Open riders will run as one class. We will split the speed classes IF enough entries participate. As long as entries warrant our plan is to offer Year-End Divisions for both age groups but we will require at least 3 entries in each group to split for Year-End.

ENGLISH NOVICE WTC classes – Open to any age rider/horse combination that qualifies as “novice” as defined by our definition below.

Circuit rule #19 will be strictly adhered to.

Pointed on the rider/horse team. That SAME TEAM must compete in all classes. Please take note: You may not combine points from any two horses but you may transfer your division fee paid to another “team”. Note by doing so you understand that you are forfeiting your points earned to date and starting over with points.

Novice Rider/Horse Team Definition: A Novice entry has not placed in any recognized or breed association show in this particular division or types of classes in this division. The team has not placed first more than 10 times in classes of that particular division or type prior to riding in this division at our show circuit.