



Delta Riding Club

www.deltaridingclub.com

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UPDATED 5.31.09

ENGLISH CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

The Show Committee reserves the right to correct, change or delete class descriptions at any time.

Every effort has been made to create accurate and thorough descriptions based on a number of sources, especially Equine Canada.

The Show Committee welcomes feedback and the opportunity to consider changes to the rules as errors or inconsistencies are brought to their attention.

ENGLISH APPAREL • Competitors should be neatly and suitably attired in riding coat, approved helmet, shirt and tie, choker or stock, breeches or jodhpurs and boots. Half Chaps must be the same color as the show/boot. Spurs, if worn, must be of the unrowelled kind. Gloves are expected. Above all, the rider should be neat, clean and workmanlike.

TACK / TURNOUT • Braiding and banding is optional but recommended in all English classes.
• Whips, if allowed (see class descriptions), must be no longer than 75 cm and unweighted.
• Protective equipment (e.g., boots and bandages) are permitted in Jumper classes, games and pattern classes only.
• Running martingales are allowed only in jumper classes. Standing martingales are allowed in both Hunter over Fences and Jumper classes.
• Breast plates are allowed in flat and over fences classes assuming they are fitted properly and do not interfere with the movement of the horse.
• Standing martingales, running martingales, boots and bandages, and draw reins are permitted in the schooling area.

Please see more division-specific rules regarding attire and tack for Equitation, Hack and Hunter

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

LEAD LINE • Lead Line classes are restricted to riders 10 years and under and will start at approx. 10 am when offered.
• Handlers must be 12 years and over.
• All exhibitors are encouraged to wear ASTM-approved helmets. Boots with heels mandatory if riders' feet are to be in stirrups.
• To be shown in English or Western tack. Wearing a helmet while riding western will NOT be penalized.
• Riders will be mounted as horses are led into the ring at a walk by a handler. Handlers must never let go of the horse's lead.
• Halters attached to leads may be worn over (optional) bridles.
• Horses may be asked to trot, but exhibitors are not required to trot if safety is an issue.

ENGLISH SHOWMANSHIP • Judged strictly on the riders' ability to fit and show a horse in-hand. Cleanliness of both the horse and handler will be considered. Personal appearance of exhibitor should be neat, clean and well-groomed, attentive and courteous. Handlers will perform the requested pattern with promptness, smoothness and precision.
• Proper English attire is to be worn.
• Horses are to be shown in an English bridle or appropriate halter depending on breed of horse.
• Horses to enter the ring in hand and line up when called for by the ring master.

ENGLISH HALTER • To be judged solely on the conformation of the horse and its effect on the horse's movement. Emphasis will be placed upon type, conformation, substance and quality.
• Horses to be shown in hand with serviceable halter or bridle.
• Horses will walk to judge one at a time; as judge steps away, horse will jog/trot straight to cone placed 50 feet away. At cone horse will continue trotting to left toward fence. Horses will then line up head to tail for individual inspection (side to side, front to rear).

ENGLISH TURNOUT • To be judged on the cleanliness, neatness and overall appearance of both horse and rider.
• Riders to enter the ring mounted and to line up at the direction of the Ring Master.
• Turnout is expected to be workmanlike and safe for both horse and rider. (See Equitation Tack & Apparel for appropriate turnout of horse & rider)



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ENGLISH EQUITATION

- ATTIRE**
- Jacket - conservative color; Jodhpurs or breeches; ties, stocks or chokers must be worn; boots; black or brown half chaps are permissible providing they match the boot color.
 - Conservative-colored protective headgear with no additional adornments.

- TACK**
- Only regular cavessons with snaffles, pelhams, double bridles or kimberwicks are permissible. Pelham converters are allowed. Reins must be made entirely of leather.
 - Spurs of the unrowelled type.
 - Whip or crop optional. No whip may exceed 75 cm (30") in length.
 - Saddle should be plain English, Dressage or modified jumping. Extreme forward seat is not recommended.
 - Running or standing martingales are not permitted in flat classes. They are optional in over fences classes.
 - Boots and conservative colored bandages are permitted in hunter equitation classes.

- BASIC SEAT EQUITATION**
- Basic seat of rider judged at the walk, trot and canter, both ways of the ring; judge may ask for individual work.
 - Horse's performance not to count unless the result of the rider's ability.
 - Judge may ask (e.g., pattern, drop of stirrup, etc.). Judge may ask questions concerning horsemanship, anatomy of the horse, tack and management. Sitting trot will be required.
 - Whips are optional.

- ENGLISH PLEASURE**
- Horses are judged on manners, quality of gaits, willingness and performance. The ideal horse will look like a fun and easy ride.
 - To be shown at a flat-footed walk, normal trot and easy canter; not to gallop; light contact to be maintained. May be asked to back.
 - No martingales, tie-downs or draw reins to be used.
 - Tack and attire to be appropriate to the seat being ridden.
 - Whips are not permitted.

ROAD & SHOW HACK

- ATTIRE**
- Permitted attire: Black jacket or dark coat, ASTM or BSI approved helmets. White or light tan breeches, jodhpurs, white hunting stock or chokers, black boots or brown boots; black or brown half chaps are permissible providing they match the boot colour.
 - Prohibited: saddle suits and/or Kentucky jodhpurs.
 - Spurs are optional.

- TACK**
- English saddle of any type is required.
 - Bridles may be double, pelham, snaffle or kimberwick.
 - Martingales, breastplates, boots of any kind and/or bandages are not allowed.
 - Dropped and flash nosebands are prohibited.
 - Browbands shall be leather of any description but not solid white, colored or sequined.
 - Whips are NOT permitted in any road or show hack class.

- ROAD HACK**
- To be judged on 55% performance, 20% substance, 15% conformation and 10% manners.
 - To be shown at a flat-footed walk with a reasonably loose rein, trot, strong trot, easy canter and hand gallop. Only eight horses to hand gallop at one time.
 - Whips are NOT permitted.

- SHOW HACK**
- To be judged on 55% performance, 20% quality, 15% conformation and 10% manners. Credit will be given to horses that have vitality, animation, presence, balance and clean fine limbs showing supreme quality. Soundness is required and blemishes may be penalized.
 - To be shown at a walk, trot, canter and hand gallop; collected and extended gaits to be called for. To stand quietly. Only eight horses to hand gallop at one time.
 - Braiding of mane and tail is optional.
 - Whips are NOT permitted.



HUNTER

HUNTER TACK

- No bandages or boots are allowed.
- Whips must be no longer than 75 cm and unweighted.
- Bits must be humane - wire snaffle either single or double permissible, with or without cheeks.
- Reins entirely leather; rubber reins may be allowed at the discretion of the judge, steward and/or show committee in the case of inclement weather.
- Leather bridle may be double, pelham, single (snaffle) or kimberwick.
- Browbands cannot be coloured. Hunting breastplates are optional.
- Cavessons (cannot have a drop noseband below the bit) permissible.
- Standing martingales may only be used in "over fences" classes, excluding Hunter Hack classes.
- English saddle pads should be white, unmarked and not oversize. Numnahs are recommended in the Hunter division.

**HUNT SEAT
EQUITATION**

- Hunt seat equitation judges the rider only, including his or her position on the flat and overall effectiveness while riding keeping in mind the rider will be judged on position of a proper hunt seat rider (which is normally more forward).
- Horses are to be shown at walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. Riders maybe asked to perform at pattern, drop stirrups, back, etc.
- Whip or crop optional.

**HUNTER UNDER
SADDLE**

- This class will be judged on performance, manners, way of going and soundness. Credit will be given to the flowing, balanced, willing horse with ground covering and relaxed strides of great quality. Extreme knee action or rough gaits may be penalized.
- To be shown at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring, to back easily and stand quietly. May be asked to hand gallop. Horses may be asked to change to canter from the flat-footed walk or trot, at the judges discretion.
- Jeweled and coloured nosebands, drop nosebands, figure eights, flash nosebands, martingales, boots and bandages not permitted. Cavessons must be leather.
- Whips must not exceed 75 cm (30").

HUNTER HACK

- To be judged on performance, manners, way of going and soundness.
- To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring, to back easily and stand quietly. May be asked to hand gallop.
- Riders will be asked to jump two fences (cross pole or vertical). Jumps are to be a minimum of 2' and a maximum of 2'6" in height and placed 60 feet (or four strides) apart. Ground pole optional for cross rail.
- Jeweled and coloured nosebands, drop nosebands, figure eights, flash nosebands, martingales, boots and bandages not permitted. Cavessons must be leather. Whips must not exceed 75 cm (30").

**HUNTER OVER
FENCES**

- To be judged on manners, performance, consistent pace over the obstacles, way of going and soundness.
- To be shown over a course of 8 fences. Height to be determined by show committee and posted in program. Third refusal will cause elimination of the horse

JUMPERS

- To jump a posted course of fences within the time allowed. Height to be determined by the show committee and posted in program.
- If a round is fault-free, rider to complete a jump-off over a designated shortened course. Fastest clear round to place first.
- Riders may walk the course prior to the start of the class.
- Penalty points to be calculated as follows: each disobedience (e.g., refusal, run out) - 3 points; elimination on third disobedience; off course - elimination; knock down - 4 points; fall of horse or rider - 8 points; exceeding allowed time - 1 point per second or fraction thereof.
- If a round is fault free, rider to complete a jump-off over a designated shortened course. Fastest clear round to place first.

**HANDY HORSE**

- To be ridden in English tack.
- To be judged on the performance of the horse over a minimum of six obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to rider, and attitude. Trail course will be designed to show the horse at all three gaits (walk, trot, canter). A horse that deviates from the posted course or pattern shall not be placed above any horse that completes the course as written.
- A time limit for the course or per obstacle may be posted.
- Obstacles must include but is not limited to a gate, a minimum of four poles and a back through.
- Course to be posted at least one hour before class is scheduled to begin. Exhibitors are not allowed to practice on the course prior to the class. Riding the course prior to the class may result in disqualification and forfeit of entry fee(s).

PLEASURE DRIVING

- This class is judged primarily on the ability of the horse to provide a suitable and pleasant drive.
- 70% on performance, manners and way of going; 20% on condition and fit of vehicle and harness; 10% on neatness and attire
- Two- or four-wheel carts acceptable.
- Horses will be shown at a walk, slow trot, working trot and strong trot. To stand quietly and rein back (back up) when asked. A work off may be used (in which the final placing horses are asked again to perform). In this work off horses may be asked to do a figure eight.

DRAFT**DRAFT COMMAND**

- To be ridden in either English or Western attire.
- Riders will follow the instructions (command) of the judge.
- Riders will be asked to walk, trot, canter, halt, back up, circle, etc. at the discretion of the judge.
- Judging will be based on the rapid and smooth response of animal and rider to all commands.
- Crops and spurs are optional. Martingales and boots/bandages are not permitted.

DRAFT PLEASURE

- To be ridden in either English or Western attire.
- To be shown at a flat footed walk, normal trot/jog and easy canter/jog. Horses are not to be galloped. Light contact is to be maintained.
- To be judged 45% on performance, 40% on manners and 15% on conformation.
- Crops and spurs are optional.

DRAFT HALTER

Use of a long whip is prohibited. Blue jeans are not allowed.

CLYDESDALE

- Hocks close together
- Broad, clean, sharply developed hocks and big knees
- Should display straight nose (rarely roman)
- Big ears, having a covering of fine hair.
- Well-arched long neck
- Well defined withers and short back
- Quarters should be long, thighs strong, hocks broad and clean.
- Legs should be well endowed with long fine silky feather.
- Colours are bay, bright bay and brown, though grey, black and roans also occur, there is much white on the face and legs, often running into the body.
- From the side, the body should show plenty of depth, and from the front or rear should appear broad and thick bone, skin and hair should be of good quality
- 'Feather' down the back of the cannon is an indication of the quality of the bone, and should be long, fine and straight.
- Muzzle should show thin rather than heavy lips, which should come together evenly and with a wide open nostril.
- Eyes should be rather oval than round, prominent, reasonably large and have thin smooth eyelids.
- Plenty of width between the eyes and the forehead should be slightly arched, tapering away above the eyes to the poll.
- Shoulders should be fairly wide, well muscled, and the top should be carried close to and tapered into, the back.
- Knee, viewed from the front, should be broad and flat, tapering to the cannon and, when viewed from the side, should be straight from the shoulder to the fetlock joint.
- The cannon of the fore leg should be long, wide, lean and flat as viewed from the side.
- Foot must be sound and healthy. A good hoof head, with wide open heels and strong quarters, is preferred, otherwise a horse



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may have a tendency to develop unsoundness.

- Chest should be deep, wide, low and of large girth, indicating strong constitution with ample space for vital organs.
- Back should be short, broad and strongly supported, and slightly inclined upwards towards the croup

PERCHERON

- Should have a fairly long level croup with a big round hip.
- Close coupled and wide and deep through the chest, with plenty of back rib.
- Muscles of the arms, forearms, croup and gaskins are especially emphasized in a well proportioned Percheron.
- Large and full prominent eye, a broad and full forehead, and straight face.
- Strong jaw and refined ears attractively set and carried with animation
- Stallions should have a ruggedness about the head and mares should have a feminine look.

SHIRE

- Black, brown, bay, grey, roan.
- 16 hands (163 cms) upwards.
- Long and lean head, neither too large nor too small, long neck in proportion to the body, of feminine appearance.
- Large eyes, well set and docile in expression. Wall eyes are acceptable.
- Long neck and slightly arched and not of masculine appearance.
- Strong back
- Legs should be short, with short cannons.
- Feet should be wide and big around the top of the coronets with sufficient length in the pasterns.
- both knees and hocks, which should be kept close together