



DELTA RIDING CLUB

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WESTERN CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Every effort has been made to create accurate and thorough descriptions based on a number of sources. The Show Committee reserves the right to correct, change or delete class descriptions at any time as errors or inconsistencies are brought to their attention.

WESTERN APPAREL

- Western hat, boots and suitably styled long-sleeved shirt, jacket or sweater are required.
- Hat must be on the rider's head when the exhibitor enters the arena. Exhibitors will not be penalized for wearing protective headgear.
- Chaps, spurs and gloves are optional.
- Hair should be contained or tied back if long. Blue jeans may be worn, but must be clean and neat.
- Judges, at their discretion, may authorize adjustment to attire due to weather-related conditions.

TACK

- To be shown in a western stock saddle. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. Breastplates optional.
- Any standard type western bit is permitted (See Equine Canada Rules F1503). Rope, leather or rawhide bosals may be used on horses five years and under (Junior Horse). Junior horses may be ridden two handed in a bosal or snaffle bit.
- Except for junior horses shown in a hackamore or snaffle, only one hand may be used on the reins and hand must not be changed. The hand is to be around the reins; an index finger only between split reins is permitted. In trail, it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle.
- The judge may prohibit the use of bits and equipment that he/she may consider severe or cruel. Slip or gag bits and donut and mechanical hackamores are not acceptable.
- When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required, at least one half inch in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse.
- No crossed reins, draw reins, tie-downs, martingales, nosebands or crops are permitted. Boots and bandages are allowed only in games or pattern classes. Hobbles and riata are optional.

WESTERN SHOWMANSHIP

- Judged strictly on the exhibitor's ability to fit and show a horse at halter. Exhibitors will be judged on appearance and performance, with ten points allocated to overall appearance and 10 points allocated toward performance.
- The ideal performance consists of a poised, confident, neatly attired exhibitor leading a well groomed and conditioned horse that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern with promptness, smoothness and precision. (This is not a halter class, and should not be judged as such.)
- Proper western attire (no chaps) to be worn. Horses to be shown in a halter appropriate to breed type. Manes may be banded according to breed type.
- All exhibitors may enter the ring and then work individually or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. The judge must have the exhibitors set up the horse squarely for inspection during the class. The horse should lead, stop, back, turn, and set up willingly, briskly and readily with minimal or audible cueing. Exhibitors should not touch the horse with their hands or feet. Failure to follow prescribed pattern, knocking over or working on the wrong side of cones or severe disobedience will not result in a disqualification, but should be penalized severely and the exhibitor should not place above an exhibitor that completes the pattern correctly.
- Pattern to be posted at least one hour before start of class.

WESTERN 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. (Silver equipment will not count over a practical 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 ft 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).

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WESTERN STOCK SEAT

- Riders will be judged on seat, hands, performance of horse, appointments of horse and rider, and suitability of horse to rider. Results as shown by performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them.
- To walk, jog and lope both ways of the ring, and to back in a straight line during the line up. Individual tests (ie. figure eight at the jog, lope and stop, etc) may be called for.

WESTERN PLEASURE

- Judged on performance, condition and conformation of the horse. Maximum credit should be given to the flowing, balanced and willing horse that gives the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride.
- To be shown at a flat-footed walk, jog and lope both ways of the ring on a reasonably loose rein, but with light contact and control. To stand quietly and to back readily. Horses may be asked to extend the jog and the lope. Riders to remain seated at extended jog. Extreme speed to be penalized.

NOVICE WESTERN PLEASURE

- Riders may not have won more than three first place ribbons in any Western Pleasure class at any show, including those not hosted by Delta Riding Club.
- All other rules regarding Western Pleasure (above) apply.

WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

- To be judged on strictly on the riding ability of rider to control his or her horse while executing a prescribed pattern. Results as shown by performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used by the rider.
- Pattern work may consist of but will not be limited to a walk, jog, lope, stop, back and turn on the haunches and/or forehand, sidepass, and simple or flying lead change. Rail work may be required at the judge's discretion.
- Failure to complete the pattern will not constitute elimination but shall be scored accordingly.
- Pattern will be posted not less than one hour before the start of the class.

COMMAND CLASS

- To be judged on the abilities of a well trained, responsive performance horse.
- Western attire and tack to be worn.
- Horses may be asked to: stop, jog, lope, reverse (at any gait), back up, 350 turn on the haunches, 180 turn on the forehand, side pass (left and right), counter canter, dismount, mount, reverse, flying change, reverse simple change of leads, roll back, walk, etc.
- The command to stop from a lope or hand gallop can only be given once in each direction.
- Entries will be eliminated one at a time at the discretion of the judge as commands are not executed correctly. Riders may be eliminated for poor execution of the command (ie taking too long to execute transition from one gait to another, horse opening mouth excessively at the back up, etc.)

TRAIL

- To be ridden in Western 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.
- It is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle.
- 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).

IN HAND TRAIL

- Horses to be shown in halter; exhibitor may wear English or Western attire. Rope halters are not permitted.
- Open to horses of all ages, but cannot be cross entered into Trail or Handy Horse.
- 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 two gaits (walk, jog/trot). 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.
- It is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle.
- 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).