SADDLE/GAITED DIVISION
(Classes 18–27)

Gaited Performance classes (#23, 25, and 27) are intended for all gaited horse breeds. Generally this includes breeds that do not have a normal two-beat trot gait. Examples of gaited breeds include Tennessee Walking Horse, Spotted Saddle Horse, Racking Horse, Paso Fino, Missouri Fox Trotter, etc.

APPOINTMENTS:

PERSONAL: Clothing must be clean, neat, and appropriate attire (informal or formal). All exhibitors are required to wear an SEI or SEI/ASTM approved equestrian safety helmet with fastened chin harness in every class (see rule #5 on page 7). Spurs of the unroweled type (where rowel is defined as a flat disc with or without points) and regulation saddle seat whips less than 3 feet in length are optional. Long whips (over 3 feet in length) are prohibited. Whips are measured from tip to tip inclusive of popper.

Saddle Seat: Formal attire is not worn prior to 6 p.m. Day coats are not permitted in Saddle Seat Equitation. Riders shall wear a saddle seat suit or saddle seat coat with saddle seat jodhpurs, tie, and jodhpur boots (no tennis shoes or sport shoes are acceptable).

Gaited: Personal appointments should coincide with the style of riding chosen. See the appropriate section (Western, Hunter, or Saddle Seat) for personal appointments. Additionally, appropriate breed specific attire (not costume) may be worn as long as heeled boots are worn (no tennis shoes or sport shoes are acceptable).

TACK: No figure 8, flash, or drop nose bands are allowed. Bits with shanks over 8" in length are not permitted. Draw reins, martingales, hackamore, and similar equipment are all prohibited. Set tails, boots and/or artificial appliances including chains and rollers (pertaining to legs) are prohibited.

Saddle Seat: Flat English type saddles are required for trotting horses; hunter, forward seat, and dressage type saddles are prohibited. Horses must be shown in full bridle (curb and snaffle) or pelham with two reins. Snaffle bridles will only be allowed in Saddle Seat Pleasure, Trotting; Showmanship; and Conformation classes. See Contest Rules, Regulations, and Procedures (page 12) for description of legal bridoon bits for the Saddle Seat Division.

Gaited: Tack should coincide with the style of riding chosen. See the appropriate section (Western, Hunter, or Saddle Seat) for tack requirements. Additionally appropriate breed specific tack may be used if they meet the specifics and requirements of the style of riding. Paso Finos may show in hackamores as approved by PFHA for Pleasure classes.

SADDLE SEAT PLEASURE, TROTTING, Class 22

1. This class is limited to horses that walk, trot, and canter and are shown under saddle seat attire and tack.

2. Class will be judged on manners, suitability, and performance of horse at the discretion of the judge. Conformation of the horse may be considered in situations only of extremely close performance.
3. Horses are shown at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring with light contact being maintained with the horse's mouth. Extreme highly animated action is not desired.

4. Horses must back easily and stand quietly.

5. Judge has option to ask exhibitor to extend any gait or request any additional work.

6. Horses are to be reversed at a walk or trot but not at the canter.

7. Entries shall be penalized for being on wrong leads, excessive speed and/or breaking gaits.

**GAITED PLEASURE, NON-TROTting, Class 23**

1. Class will be judged on manners, suitability, and performance of horse at the discretion of the judge. Conformation of the horse may be considered in situations only of extremely close performance.

2. Horses are shown at the walk, natural gait appropriate to breed, and third gait appropriate to the breed both ways of the ring. Gait and action should be breed appropriate; however exaggerated movement should be penalized.

3. Horses must back easily and stand quietly.

4. Judge has option to ask exhibitor to extend any gait or request additional work.

5. Horses are to be reversed at a walk or natural gait, but not at the third gait.

6. Entries shall be penalized for being on a wrong lead (if the third gait is a canter), excessive speed, and/or breaking gaits.

7. Horses shall be judged on their gait according to their breed’s standard.

8. Horses entered in this class may not enter Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle or any of the Saddle Seat Trotting classes.

**SADDLE SEAT EQUITATION, TROTting and GAITED EQUITATION, NON-TROTting, Classes 24–25**

1. General:

   A. Judges should note that the required equitation seat should in no way be exaggerated but be thoroughly efficient and most comfortable for riding the type of horse called for at any gait and for any length of time.

   B. Rider should convey the impression of effective and easy control. To show a horse well, rider should show himself to the best advantage. Ring generalship shall be taken into consideration by the judge. A complete picture of the whole is of major importance.

   C. Riders will be judged on basic position in the saddle, position and use of hands, legs and feet, ability to control and show horse, and suitability of horse to rider.
D. Results, as shown by the performance of the horse, are not to be considered more important than the methods used by rider to obtain those results.

2. Class Routine:

A. Each rider will individually perform a given pattern within a set time period. The pattern may be composed of any combination of maneuvers listed in the optional list of tests for each class. Failure to execute or complete pattern will not be disqualification but will be scored accordingly.

B. The judge will use these individual work scores to determine the top riders which may be requested to perform additional individual work or rail work.

C. Those selected riders (or all riders if the class is small) will be required to work on the rail to determine final placings.

D. Riders selected for rail work will enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction. Riders will proceed at least once around the ring at each gait and on command, reverse and repeat. Any or all riders may be requested to perform additional work or tests.

SADDLE SEAT EQUITATION, TROTTLING, Class 24

1. Seat – Position of Hands, Legs, and Feet:

A. Basic Position: To obtain proper position, rider should be placed comfortably in the saddle and find his/her center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees but without use of irons. While in this position, adjust leathers to fit. Irons should be placed under ball of foot with even pressure on entire width of sole. Lower legs and feet should be reasonably close but not in contact with horse, except when applying aids.

B. Hands: Hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle and should show sympathy, adaptability, and control. The height at which the hands are held above the horse’s withers is a matter of how and where the horse carries his head. The method of holding the reins is optional, except that both hands shall be used and reins must be picked up at one time. Bight of rein must fall on the off side of the horse.

2. Class Routine:

A. Tests will be performed individually at the judge’s discretion and may include but are not limited to the following:

(1) Address the reins.

(2) Back for not more than eight steps.

(3) Figure 8 at the trot demonstrating the proper change of diagonals. The rider should be on the left diagonal when trotting in a clockwise direction and on the right diagonal when circling counterclockwise. On the left diagonal, the rider will be sitting in the saddle when the horse’s left front leg is on the ground. The rider is on the right diagonal when sitting in the saddle when the horse’s right front leg is on the ground.
(4) Figure 8 at canter on correct lead demonstrating a simple change of leads. (A simple change of leads is one in which the horse is brought back into a walk or trot before being restarted in a canter on the opposite lead.) Figures should be started at the center of the two circles so that one change of lead is shown.

(5) Execute a serpentine at a trot and/or canter on correct lead demonstrating simple change of lead.

(6) Change leads down the center of the ring or on the rail demonstrating simple lead change.

(7) Ride without stirrups for a brief period of time.

**GAITED EQUITATION, NON-TROTTING, Class 25**

1. Horses entered in this class may not enter Western Horsemanship, Hunt Seat Equitation, or any of the Saddle Seat Trotting classes.

2. Seat – Position of Hands, Legs, and Feet:

   A. **Basic Position:** To obtain proper position, the rider should sit comfortably in the middle of the saddle and find the center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees without use of the stirrups. While in this position, have stirrup leathers adjusted to fit so that irons will be under ball of foot with even pressure on entire width of sole and center of iron or stirrup. The foot position will be natural and comfortable if the knee and thigh are rolled inward and the heel is slightly lower than the toes. From the front and rear view, the lower leg will be held naturally away from the horse, depending on the anatomy of the rider and the size of the horse. Knee should rest against saddle.

   B. **Hands:** The hands should be held in any easy position; waist or elbow high, over pommel, with palms downward, slightly turned toward the body, wrist rounded slightly. The hands should be in unison with the horse’s mouth, showing adaptability as well as control. How and where the horse carries his head determines the height the hands are held above the horse’s withers. Hands and wrists should be flexible and not held extremely separated. Western riders showing in shanked bits must use only one hand. The fingers should be closed firmly over the reins, but not rigid. Pressure between the thumb and index fingers is used to secure. Closed reins must be used for saddle seat or hunt seat riders with the bight of the rein on the off-side. Western riders using a shanked bit must use split reins with the bight of the rein falling on the same side as the rein hand. Western riders using a snaffle bit (horse 5 years of age or younger) must use split reins, with reins crossed over the horse’s neck.

   Upper arms should fall naturally from the shoulders toward the hipbones and should be flexible. Elbows should not clutch the body, be extended forward or spread away from the body. Rein hand(s) should be in comfortable waist-level position, depending on how and where the horse carries its head. The use of hands should be smooth and gradual without jerking or pumping at any of the gaits, or in the parked position.
C. **Position in Motion**: The position in motion should be a natural, coordinated and graceful, attained only with practice. From the side view a straight line can be drawn perpendicular to the ground through the rider’s head, neck, shoulder, hip and ankle. The rider’s toe should never be anymore forward than the knee, thereby keeping the center of balance directly above the feet and ankles. This basic recommended position should be maintained at all gaits.

D. **Mounting and dismounting**: To mount, take up the reins in left-hand and place hand on withers. Grasp stirrup leather with right hand insert left foot in stirrup and mount. To dismount, rider may either step down or slide down. Riders are advised to check their girth for security before mounting.

3. **Class Routine**:

   A. Tests will be performed individually at the judge’s discretion and may include but are not limited to the following:

   (1) **Pick up reins**: A quick check on muscular control and sensitivity of hands.

   (2) **Backing**

   (3) **Dismount and mount**: To be done as quietly and gracefully as possible.

   (4) **Group performance around ring**: To check on maneuverability, ring generalship, etiquette and sportsmanship.

   (5) **Individual performance on rail**: Any or all gaits and test may be required. See rider in motion from both front and rear at all gaits.

   (6) **Ride without stirrups**: Any or all gaits may be requested.

   (7) **Perform a figure eight, serpentine or circles of various size and/or speed.**

**ROAD HACK, TROTTING, Class 26**

1. **Purpose**: to display the best attributes of the Saddle Type Horse and equitation skills of the rider. This class demands an exhibition of greater versatility from rider and horse than is asked for in either pleasure or equitation classes.

2. **Class will be judged on manners, suitability, performance (rein or handle); type and conformation may be considered only in extremely close competition.**

3. **Horses must stand easily and back quietly.**

4. **Horses are to be shown at a walk, trot, extended trot, and canter both ways of the ring. At any time in the class the judge may ask that the horses be halted and be walked off on a loose rein. Horses may be asked to hand gallop. When the hand gallop is called for, never more than twelve horses are to gallop at one time. Excessive speed and failure to extend the canter shall be penalized. It is the option of the judge to require the extension of any gait.**
GAITED PERFORMANCE, NON-TROTting, Class 27

1. Purpose: To display the best attributes of the gaited performance horse and equitation skills of the rider. This class demands an exhibition of greater versatility from rider and horse than is asked for in either pleasure or equitation classes.

2. Class will be judged on manners, suitability, performance (rein or handle); type and conformation may be considered only in extremely close competition.

3. Horses must stand easily and back quietly.

4. Horses are to be shown at a walk, natural gait appropriate to breed, and third gait appropriate to breed both ways of the ring. At any time the judge may ask that the horses be halted and walked off on a loose rein.

5. Judge has option to ask exhibitor to extend any gait or request additional work.

6. Horses are to be reversed at a walk or natural gait, but not at the third gait.

7. Entries shall be penalized for being on a wrong lead (if the third gait is a canter), and/or breaking gaits.

8. Horses entered in this class may not enter Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle or any of the Saddle Seat Trotting classes.

HUNTER DIVISION (Classes 28–47)

APPOINTMENTS:

PERSONAL: All exhibitors are required to wear an SEI or SEI/ASTM approved equestrian safety helmet with fastened chin harness in every class (see rule #5 on page 7). Clothing must be clean, neat, and appropriate for hunter classes. Rider must wear coat, boots (no tennis shoes or sport shoes are acceptable), and breeches. Spurs of the unroweled type (where rowel is defined as a flat disc with or without points), gloves, crops, or bats are optional. Gloves are preferred in the equitation and dressage classes.

TACK: Clean English forward, hunting, or dressage type saddles. Saddles may have suede seat and/or suede inserts on the skirts. Snaffle, pelham, Kimberwick, or full bridles (Weymouth) are permitted. See Contest Rules, Regulations and Procedures (page 12) for description of legal bits for Hunter Division. A caveson noseband is required. Pelham bridles must have two sets of reins attached (pelham connectors not allowed). Breast plates are optional. Standing martingales are optional in over fence classes (Working Hunter, Equitation Over Fences, and Handy Hunter). Martingales are not allowed in any under saddle flat classes. Draw reins and hackamores are not permitted. No boots below the fetlock will be permitted in any class. Boots confined to the cannon area will be permitted only in equitation over fences classes. No figure 8, flash, or drop nose bands allowed in Hunter Classes. Refer to Dressage Appointments (pg. 61) for exceptions to the above as well as additional requirements.