



AURORA HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Horse Show/Gymkhana General Information & Rules

Grounds Rules at Salisbury Equestrian Park and any AHA Sanctioned Event

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MEMBERS & EXHIBITORS!

PLEASE NOTE – IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN, AS WELL AS ALL FORMS, SHOW BILLS AND CLASS LISTS PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION IN ANY AHA EVENT. VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE RULES CONTAINED HEREIN MAY RESULT IN THE OFFENDER AND THE OFFENDERS 'PARTY BEING EXCUSED FROM CURRENT AND FUTURE AHA EVENTS AND SCRATCHED FROM ALL CLASSES ENTERED (WITH NO REFUND OR CREDIT OF FEES PAID). REPEAT OFFENDERS MAY ALSO HAVE THEIR AHA MEMBERSHIP TERMINATED WITHOUT REFUND OR CREDIT OF MEMBERSHIP FEES

Under Colorado Law, an equine professional is not liable for injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to section 13-21-119, Colorado Revised Statutes.

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- 1) All horses must be kept under proper control at all times.
- 2) All horses must be kept at a walk on the show grounds except in designated warm- up areas or arenas.
- 3) Exhibitors showing stallions over 1 year old must be 18 years or as of January 1st of the current year.
- 4) All horses must be kept at least 50 feet from the concession stand area.
- 5) All dogs must be under physical control and on leashes **at all times**. Current rabies tags are required.
- 6) No open fires or fire pits are allowed.
- 7) Horses may not be washed on site, including no use of soaps or chemicals.
- 8) Disorderly conduct is not permitted including but not limited to:
 - a. Profanity, obscene gestures, or abusive language
 - b. Intoxication
 - c. Fighting
 - d. Defacing or destruction of arena or other private property
 - e. Unlawful acquisition of another's property
 - f. Interference with an/or disruption of any event
 - g. Un-sportsman like conduct toward others
 - h. Abusive treatment to horse(s)
- 9) Horses are not allowed in the picnic, paved parking, concrete, or grass areas of the show grounds, with the exception of **specifically designated** areas to be used for warmup.
- 10) The use of electronic devices in the arena is strictly prohibited. Please inform the Board of Directors if there is a medical need to use such devices.
- 11) Exhibitors will be responsible for cleaning up around their trailers at all shows/gymkhanas. Please load any manure into your trailer or designated manure receptacle for removal.
- 12) No warm up in any area that has not been **specifically designated** for such use. This includes the large polo field adjacent to the arena.

Office & Class Fees

Office Fees:

\$5.00 per exhibitor/horse combination, Members
\$10.00 per exhibitor/horse combination, Non-Members
\$2.00 per pattern packet if needed

-No office fee or membership is required for Lead-Line entries.

-AHA members who hold a Family Membership, in good standing, will pay only ONE office fee. All family members must be listed on the current year AHA membership application before show registration.

-No refunds, credits, or exceptions! (See General Rules #9 and #16.)

Class Fees:

\$8.00 per exhibitor/horse combination up to 12 classes – Members Only
\$7.00 per exhibitor/horse combination 13 or more classes – Members Only
\$11.00 per exhibitor/horse combination - Non-Members
\$150.00 family max-out for Gymkhana **Only** (Maximum 5 family members)

Does not include Open classes.

-No refunds, credits, or exceptions! (See General Rules #9 and #16.)

Non-payment & Returned Checks:

- AHA charges \$40.00 return check fee for each check returned as unpaid for any reason in addition to the original check amount. In the event collections proceedings become necessary, all costs of collection including attorney fees and other costs allowable by law will be added to the existing amount owed. Exhibitors with unresolved debts due to AHA shall not be permitted to participate in any AHA activity until the matter is fully resolved to the satisfaction of the AHA Board of Directors.
- After two (2) checks returned as unpaid for any reason, exhibitors will be required to pay all sums in cash for the remainder of the show season.
- All open checks left with the AHA office will be completed by AHA office staff/volunteers based upon the most recent amount on the registration form.

Violation of any rules may result in the offender being excused from Salisbury Equestrian Park and scratched from all classes entered with no refund of any fees paid. Repeat offenders will have their AHA Membership terminated with no refunds of membership fees.

General Rules

Note: These may be in addition to items already listed on the AHA Show Bill & Registration forms

- 1) At event registration, all exhibitor and horse combinations will be assigned and given an AHA number to be attached to the back of exhibitor shirt or jacket or attached to the side of horse's saddle pad. Numbers must be clearly visible to judge at all times the exhibitor and horse combinations are showing/competing in the arena or designated competition area. The same number may be retained by exhibitor and horse combinations, but exhibitors must notify the AHA office at the time of receipt of their intent to use the same number for the entire competition season. All event registration forms and class entry slips must reflect the assigned number.
- 2) Office fees are for one exhibitor and horse combination only. Exhibitors showing more than one horse or changing horses are required to pay an additional office fee. See Office Fees on pg. 1 for AHA Family Membership exceptions.
- 3) All Professionals in Pleasure classes will compete in the Open classes only. No exceptions!! However, Professionals may ride in respective age group classes, but will not be judged (entry fees still apply). Professionals may use the same number throughout the competition season. There is no professional division in Gymkhana. **A professional is any exhibitor who is 19 years of age on or before January 1st of the competition year and accepts remuneration, monetary or otherwise, whether directly or indirectly for the training, or instruction of others in training or riding of horses, or other equine activities.**
- 4) Exhibitors may compete in **one age division and Open Classes, per discipline, per event.** Exhibitors competing in Walk/trot or Buckle Roo divisions may **NOT** compete in any age division in the same discipline for that event. Exhibitors showing in Lead-Line may NOT show in any other division.
- 5) Proof of exhibitor age may be required at registration.
- 6) All exhibitors, **with no exceptions**, are required to fully complete the AHA Open Show & Gymkhana Registration form **AND** Class Entry Slip(s) prior to being permitted to participate in any AHA Open Show and/or Gymkhana. Exhibitors under 18 years of age at time of registration must have their parent or **legal** guardian sign all forms/slips related to registration. Proof of legal guardianship may be required at registration. Trainers are not considered a legal guardian unless appointed by a State or Federal court. AHA suggests exhibitors complete these forms prior to arrival at the event location. Exhibitors are responsible for accurately and legibly completing all required forms. Incomplete or illegible forms will not be considered for participation.
- 7) All exhibitors riding more than one horse must complete a separate AHA Open Show & Gymkhana Registration form **AND** Class Entry slip(s) for each exhibitor/horse combination.
- 8) Each exhibitor/horse combination may only enter an exhibitor division once. Duplicate entries will be scratched without refund or credit.
- 9) Registration or scratch for any class must be completed a minimum of two classes prior to the class the exhibitor intends to register for or scratch. No class will be delayed for late/last minute entries. Refund requests for scratched classes will only be considered if the exhibitor scratches with the AHA office a minimum of two classes before first scheduled class the exhibitor intends to scratch.
- 10) There is no additional class fee for exhibitor/horse combinations selected by the Judge to compete in class #4, Halter & Reserve Champions.

- 11) Sharing and/or changing assigned numbers among exhibitors at any time is prohibited and grounds for disqualification from all classes without refund or credit.
- 12) Classes with less than three entries may be cancelled or combined.
- 13) Any class changes will be announced prior to and/or posted at the AHA office the day of the event.
- 14) **BOOTS WITH SUFFICIENT HEELS MUST BE WORN WHILE COMPETING AT ALL EVENTS (LEAD LINE PER BOARD APPROVAL). IT IS MANDATORY FOR ANYONE UNDER 18 YEARS OLD TO WEAR A HELMET WHILE ON A HORSE. ALL MEMBERS MUST COMPLY WITH APPROPRIATE DRESS CODE FOR THE EVENT THEY ARE RIDING IN OR THEY MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.**
- 15) Tack failure or cast/thrown shoes are **NOT** eligible reasons for a re-ride.
- 16) In the event an AHA Member exhibitors' horse becomes ill or lame prior to a show/gymkhana, a veterinary certificate shall be required with show registration, or within one week of the show/gymkhana date for AHA points to be allowed while using a substitute horse. Sick or lame horses: A total of three AHA Board Members will evaluate any horse reported or observed as sick or lame at the event. If the AHA Board is unable to assess the lameness or observe any obvious ill behavior, the board may require a dated veterinary certificate. Upon AHA Board confirmation or AHA receipt of a dated veterinary certificate confirming sickness or lameness, all registration/entry fees will be refunded to the exhibitor (or parent/legal guardian) for any classes not competed in. If the board determines that use of a substitute horse is appropriate, a substitute horse is available, and the exhibitor is an AHA member in good standing, the exhibitor may be granted permission to use a substitute horse for the remainder of the event. AHA points will only be granted to exhibitors using substitute horses if a veterinarian certificate confirming sickness/lameness is presented at event registration or within one week of event date.
- 17) **No tolerance will be shown for any exhibitor or exhibitor's party verbally or physically harassing AHA staff, volunteers, and/or judges.** If such behavior is suspected by the AHA Board President (or temporary replacement/next in chain of command), the relevant exhibitor will be disqualified from all classes for the event, complete or not, without refund or credit, and directed to vacate the event grounds. AHA members will face disciplinary action from the AHA Board of Directors.
- 18) All exhibitors will enter arenas and/or competition areas through the gate or area designated by the AHA office as "Entrance". All exhibitors will exit arenas and/or competition areas through the gate or area designated by the AHA office as "Exit". The AHA office may use signs, placards, or verbal direction during registration to designate such gates/areas. Any exhibitor/horse combination that is unable or unwilling to enter and/or exit through the correct gate/area will be disqualified from the class.
- 19) All exhibitors will enter the arena and proceed in a counter-clockwise direction unless directed otherwise by the Judge, Ring Steward or Show Announcer.
- 20) **CONE ZONE.** Areas around entry/exit zones may be designated by the AHA office. Horses, riders, exhibitors and **spectators** are prohibited from entering and/or congregating within the Cone Zone. The only exemption is exhibitors currently entering or exiting the arena or competition area. Exhibitors are prohibited from leaving their horses unattended in these areas.
- 21) **HARD HATS/HELMETS/HUNT CAPS ARE REQUIRED IN ALL ENGLISH CLASSES.** A functioning chinstrap is required in all classes in which jumping is required. **WESTERN HATS OR HELMETS ARE REQUIRED IN ALL WESTERN CLASSES.** AHA encourages all riders to wear ASI approved protective hats/helmets, **however it is MANDATORY for all competitors under the age of 18 years to wear ASI approved helmets while mounted.**
- 22) AHA Members not in good standing due to non-payment of any fees are not eligible for Show Points or Gymkhana Points or Year-End awards and will not be permitted to participate in any AHA event until their good standing is restored.
- 23) Only AHA officials shall be permitted to initiate verbal communication directly with an AHA Judge and/or Announcer while any discipline is in progress. However, show management may be approached by an exhibitor (or parent/legal guardian) to request a discussion with the judge and/or show announcer for matters not pertaining to a protest, after the division is complete. The show management will attempt to arrange a suitable time acceptable to the judge and/or show announcer the same day of the request, if possible, if the judge agrees to meet with the requesting party. Any exhibitor, or parent/guardian of an exhibitor, or member of an exhibitor's party who initiates verbal communication with a judge and/or show announcer during a class or discipline, disrupts or causes classes to be delayed and/or otherwise puts the judge and/or show announcer in a compromising position, will forfeit the exhibitor's points in the specific discipline (i.e. Halter, Showmanship, English, Western, Gymkhana, Trail).

- 24) **NON-PROTESTABLE ITEMS:** A judge's decision. The show manager's decision. An AHA Board decision.
- 25) **PROTESTABLE PROCEDURE:** A protest may be made by an exhibitor, their parent/legal guardian, or member of their party by presenting a \$25.00 non-refundable/transferable protest fee payable to AHA to the office along with their protest. The protest must be presented in writing detailing all specifics and reasons for the protest, the desired solution, and signed by the protesting party not later than the end of the last class of the show/event and before the office closes. The protesting party must provide complete contact information. AHA will review/consider the protest and render its decision as soon as the same day but no later than five business days after receipt. AHA's decision is final and binding.
- 26) Appropriate clothing must be worn at all times including but not limited to the following constraints: shoulder straps on tops must be at least 2 fingers in width, and mid-drifts/torsos may not be showing. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.

ADDITIONAL PLEASURE SHOW SPECIFIC RULES

Note: These may be in addition to items already listed on the AHA Show Bill & Registration forms.

No horse may be shown before a judge that has been purchased from the judge or the immediate family of, an employer of, or an employee of the judge. Immediate family is defined as spouse, son, daughter, father, mother, sister, or brother.

- 27) No exhibitor may show before a judge who has received or has contracted to receive enumeration for the sale, purchase, or lease of a horse from or for the account of such exhibitor or family thereof.
- 28) No exhibitor may show before a judge that is a relative of the exhibitor.
- 29) No exhibitor may show before a judge that is or has personally instructed or tutored the exhibitor within the previous 12 months prior to the show. Exhibitors may audit (earn no points) classes if this relationship exists.
- 30) There will be a **two-minute gate call** from the time the first exhibitor enters the arena for a class unless the exhibitor informs the Ring Steward or Show Office that a tack change is needed. In such an event, the gate call will be extended to four minutes. It is advisable to have assistance ready for any tack changes. Once the gate has been called and the allotted time has elapsed, the gate will be closed, and the class will be considered complete. **There will be no exceptions.** It is the exhibitor's responsibility to be ready to show in all classes entered.
- 31) Judges contracted by AHA are not eligible to compete for AHA points during the show season they are contracted for.
- 32) Riders may use an English riding bat/crop in English Pleasure Classes only. The crop must be standard length (i.e. NO dressage-length whips). The bat/crop is to be used as an aid and not in excess.

ADDITIONAL GYMKHANA SPECIFIC RULES

Note: These may be in addition to items already listed on the AHA Show Bill & Registration forms.

Classes will run regardless of weather conditions as long as conditions are the same for all entrants in the class, and if the conditions are deemed acceptable by the show management.

- 33) Exhibitors will be disqualified if any of the following occur: Failure to enter the arena within 2 minutes of gate call (exhibitors who inform the ring steward or office that a tack change is needed will be given 4 minutes to enter the arena), failure to cross the start line within 30 seconds of entering the arena; striking the horse with any object including the hand; spurring the horse in front of the girth; and/or excessive spurring. NOTE: Exhibitors in the Buckle Roo division may use a Western or English riding bat or rein for light encouragement.
- 34) All exhibitors must pass through the entry gate at a walk. If the exhibitor's horse will not walk through the gate, the exhibitor may lead the horse through the gate then mount after entering the arena. Exhibitors must be fully mounted before crossing the start line. One (1) additional person may assist the exhibitor to enter the arena either on the ground or mounted on a separate horse. However, only the exhibitor's horse may enter the arena. If the assisting horse enters the arena, the exhibitor will be disqualified from the class. The 2-minute entrance (4 minutes with communicated tack change) & 30-second start time rules still apply to lead-in and assistance situations.
- 35) Pole Bending and Keyhole may be completed in either order, however all exhibitors must cross the start line for the second class within 30 seconds of crossing the finish line of the first class.
- 36) Any exhibitor that crosses the finish line before completing the pattern will be disqualified.
- 37) All exhibitors must exit the arena in a slow and safe manner.
- 38) Distances in classes may be adjusted to fit the arena size.
- 39) Re-rides shall be at the discretion of event management.
- 40) **You may, and we encourage you to, roll your time from age group to open. Roll times must be designated before the start of the competition and roll time designations must be for all classes for that competition date. You will be required to pay entry fees for both age group and open divisions.**

AHA Exhibitor Divisions

Note: These may be in addition to items already listed on the AHA Show Bill & Registration forms

Pleasure Shows

Standard Daily & Year-End Point Pleasure Qualifying Exhibitor Divisions:

13 & Under, 14-18, 19-39, 40 & Over, Open, Walk/Trot/Jog 18 & Under, Walk/Trot/Jog 19 & Over

Year-End Point Pleasure Qualifying Exhibitor Division:

Lead-line will be eligible for year-end buckle (riders of any age with ground assistance)

Non-Qualifying (No AHA Points) Pleasure Exhibitor Divisions:

All Ages Practice,

Gymkhanas

Standard Daily & Year-End Point Gymkhana Qualifying Exhibitor Divisions:

Buckle Roo -10 & under, 13 & Under, 14--18, 19-39, 40 & Over, Open

Year-End Point Pleasure Qualifying Exhibitor Division:

Lead-line will be eligible for year-end buckle (riders of any age with ground assistance)

Exhibitor Divisions Description

Note: These may be in addition to items already listed on the AHA Show Bill & Registration forms.

Age 13 & Under (Points Qualifying)

This division is to provide young riders classes to compete in within their age group. Exhibitors must be able to compete independently without ground assistance and should be confident in their abilities to control their mount at the walk, trot, and canter.

Age 14-18 (Points Qualifying)

This division is to provide teen riders classes to compete in within their age group. Exhibitors must be able to compete independently without ground assistance and should be confident in their abilities to control their mount at the walk, trot, and canter.

Age 19-39 (Points Qualifying)

This division is to provide adult riders classes to compete in within their age group. Exhibitors in this division must be able to compete independently without ground assistance and should be confident in their abilities to control their mount at the walk, trot, and canter. A professional competitor may show in this division, but will not be judged.

Age 40 and Over (Points Qualifying)

This division is to provide adult riders classes to compete in within their age group. Exhibitors in this division must be able to compete independently without ground assistance and should be confident in their abilities to control their mount at the walk, trot, and canter. A professional competitor may show in this division, but will not be judged.

Open – All Ages (Points Qualifying)

This division is to provide Professional and/or Amateur Adult and/or Young riders classes to compete in a diverse environment with riders of all ages and abilities. Exhibitors in this division must be able to compete independently without ground assistance and should be confident in their abilities to control their mount at the walk, trot, and canter. In Pleasure Classes this is the only division that a Professional may compete AND be judged.

Walk/Trot/Jog (Points Qualifying)

This division is for riders preferring to exhibit at slower paces whether to build their own confidence or their horse's confidence. Professionals may show in this class without being judged. Exhibitors should be able to compete independently without ground assistance and should be confident in their abilities to control their mount at the walk and trot/jog. Exhibitors showing in this division may NOT show the same horse in any Age Division class (Walk/Trot/Canter) in the same discipline other than Halter and/or Showmanship. For example, an exhibitor may show Walk/Trot English and Walk/Jog/Lope Western classes.

Buckle Roo 10 & Under (Points Qualifying)

This division is for young riders in Gymkhana not ready for fast speeds preferring to do the patterns at a walk, trot and occasional canter, whether to build their own confidence or their horse's confidence. Exhibitors should be able to compete independently without ground assistance and should be confident in their abilities to control their mount at the walk, trot and occasional canter. Exhibitors in this division may NOT show any other Age Division class in Gymkhana. If contestant runs a 23 second barrel run or better, they may be moved up to 13 & Under at the boards discretion.

All Ages Practice (No AHA Points)

This division is to provide exhibitors classes to compete in without age or other restrictions. Exhibitors in this division must be able to compete independently without ground assistance and should be confident in their abilities to control their mount in most all situations encountered and at all gaits. In this division, all exhibitors will be judged as equals, whether amateur or professional, but within the class designated age category. While AHA does not recognize this division Daily High Point or Year-End awards, this division may be recognized for alternative breed competitions. Any humane equipment and/or tack may be used.

Lead-Line (Year-end Award Points Qualifying)

This division is for riders requiring ground assistance. Any age rider that must be led while in the show arena during any stage of competition will compete in this division. Lead-Line exhibitors MAY NOT compete in any other division. This division will not have daily high point awards but will be eligible for year-end awards.

AHA Class Divisions

Note: These may be in addition to items already listed on the AHA Show Bill & Registration forms

Pleasure Shows

Standard Daily & Year-End Point qualifying class divisions:

Showmanship (Optional Year-End ONLY), Halter, English Pleasure, English Equitation, English Pattern, English Trail, Western Pleasure, Western Equitation, Western Horsemanship, Western Trail, Walk/Trot/Jog,

Lead-Line (year-end point qualifying only)

Non-Qualifying Pleasure class divisions:

All Ages Practice

Gymkhanas

Standard Daily & Year-End Point qualifying class divisions:

Barrels, In-Line Barrels, Flags, Poles, Keyhole, and Wild Card

Lead-Line (year-end point qualifying only)

Class Division Descriptions (also see Show Glossary for tack, attire, and gaits)

Note: These may be in addition to items already listed on the AHA Show Bill & Registration forms

Halter (Western or English tack & attire is acceptable)

Horses shall be judged individually both standing and in motion. Upon completion of the regular halter classes, the 1st and 2nd place winners of each Halter class (1-3) will return to the arena to compete for the Grand & Reserve Halter Championships. Currently, Halter classes shall be:

- 1) Weanlings (any sex), Yearlings (any sex)
 - The age of a horse shall be computed on the basis of a calendar year starting January 1 of the year foaled. It is a weanling during the calendar year in which foaled and a yearling during the first calendar year following its foaling date, regardless of the time of year foaled. For example, a horse foaled anytime in 2011 was considered to be one year old on January 1, 2012, and two years old on January 1, 2013.
- 2) Mares
- 3) Geldings & Stallions
- 4) Grand & Reserve Champions

Showmanship (At halter - Western or English tack & attire is acceptable)

In this class, the horse is merely a prop to show the ability of the exhibitor to present their horse from the ground. Showmanship is a separate class from Halter (in which the horse judged). This class shall be judged strictly upon exhibitor ability to fit and show their horse in a standard halter class. Listed below are the areas in which exhibitors will be judged:

Appearance of the horse

- 1) Condition and thriftiness evident

- 2) Hair/coat clean and well brushed
- 3) Mane, tail, forelock, and wither tuft clean and free of tangles. Braids are permitted.
- 4) Hooves trimmed properly. If shod, shoes must fit and clinches should be neat. Polish is permitted.
- 5) Manes may be roached, but forelock must remain visible.
- 6) Inside of ears may be clipped.
- 7) Long hair on the jaws, legs, and pasterns should be clipped.
- 8) Tack should be neat, clean, and in good repair. Flashy, silver, or gold tack will not be worth more in the judge's eye than simple, neat and clean tack.

Showing your horse in the arena

- 1) Enter the ring leading your horse at an alert walk. Walk on your horse's left side holding the lead in your right hand near the shank or bit. The remaining portion of the lead should be held neatly in your left hand. Your horse should lead readily at the walk or the trot.
- 2) After the judge has lined up the class, he/she will call each exhibitor forward individually to move their horse. Be sure the judge can see your horse clearly at all times (do not stand between the judge and your horse).

Posing your horse

- 1) When posing your horse, stand toward the front end but not directly in front of your horse, facing your horse. Always be in a position where you can keep your eye on both the judge and your horse.
- 2) Never kick your horse's legs into position.
- 3) Do not crowd the exhibitor(s) next to you.
- 4) Be natural. Overly showy and/or fussy maneuvering is objectionable.

Poise, Alertness, and Merit

- 1) Stay alert and be aware of the position of the judge at all times. Do not be distracted by persons or things outside of the arena. Parents, friends, and trainers are prohibited from coaching from the sidelines, as doing so is discourteous to the judge and other exhibitors.
- 2) Show your horse at all times, not yourself.
- 3) Respond quickly to the request of the judge and ring steward.
- 4) Be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times.
- 5) Recognize and quickly correct faults of your horse.
- 6) Keep showing until the entire class has been placed and excused from the ring. (The judge is always watching you, even when his/her attention is focused on other horses.)
- 7) Be aware that the judge may ask for different movements such as half, quarter, and full (360) turns.
- 8) The judge may approach your horse, pick up a hoof, and stroke the coat, etc.

English Pleasure (English tack & attire is required)

In this class, judging emphasis is on the horse. Exhibitors will show their horse on the rail, in both directions, at a walk, posting trot, and canter. Reversing direction shall be at the walk or trot only, toward the center of the arena and away from the rail. Horses may be asked to back. Exhibitors will be judged on the following areas:

- 1) Light, but direct, contact with the mouth of the horse shall be maintained at all times.
- 2) For upper level riders, the judge may request some (or all) exhibitors extend the canter for purposes of determining appropriate placing. Sufficient room for riders must be allowed for the extended canter while other entries remain standing quietly in a designated spot within the arena.
- 3) The English horse should be suitable to purpose moving in a cadenced and balance manner. Taking into consideration the size and conformation of the horse, quick and short strides are to be penalized.
- 4) Horses should be obedient, alert, and responsive to their rider. Free and collected movement with good manners should be emphasized to give the impression of a pleasurable ride.
- 5) Exhibitors will be penalized for wrong leads, excessive speed, and/or excessively slow gaits.

English Equitation (English tack & attire is required)

In this class, the judging emphasis is on the rider. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, ability to control the horse, and suitability of the horse to the rider. Exhibitors will show on the rail, in both directions, at a walk, posting trot, and canter. Reversing direction shall be at the walk or trot only, toward the center of the arena and away from the rail. Horses may be asked to back. Exhibitors will be judged on the following areas:

- 1) The performance of the horse is NOT considered more important than the method used by the rider to obtain results.

Wrong diagonals will be penalized.

- 2) The rider shall present a workmanlike appearance of being one with the horse, and in control at all times. An impression of lightness and suppleness should be conveyed. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required at all times.
- 3) Hands should be over and in front of horse's withers, knuckles 30 degrees inside the vertical, hands slightly apart and making a straight line from horse's mouth to rider's elbow. Reins shall be held in each hand with excess falling to either side.
- 4) Exhibitors should sit a basic position with their eyes up, shoulders back, toes should be at an angle best suited to rider's conformation; heels down, calf of leg in contact with horse. Iron should be on the ball of the foot. The body should be vertical at the walk and slow trot, inclined forward at the posting trot, and slightly forward at the canter.
- 5) The judge may ask for appropriate tests and work the class individually. Tests may include but are not limited to performance on the rail, back, sitting trot, extended canter, figure 8 at canter, simple lead changes, gait changes, drop stirrups, counter canter, and fractional turns.

English Pattern (English tack & attire is required)

In this class, exhibitors will be required to perform a pattern individually. The class is designed to reflect the riding qualities of gaits, response to rider, manners, and disposition of horse and rider. Deduction in scoring will result if an exhibitor breaks the pattern. Breaking the pattern occurs when any one or more of the following takes place:

- 1) Failure to complete the entire pattern.
- 2) Completing maneuvers out of order.
- 3) Knocking over any marker.
- 4) Passing on the wrong side of any marker.

Western Pleasure (Western tack & attire is required)

In this class, exhibitors will show their horse on the rail, in both directions, at a walk, jog, and lope. Reversing direction shall be at the walk or jog only, toward the center of the arena and away from the rail. Horses may be asked to back. Exhibitors will be judged on the following areas:

- 1) Safe contact with the mouth of the horse shall be maintained at all times. Reasonably loose rein with light contact and no undue restraint should be obvious.
- 2) At the option of the judge, riders may be asked to extend the jog or extend the lope in one or both directions, asked to stop/stand quietly, and back easily. The judge may ask for the same nature of work from all or select exhibitors. Riders shall not be asked to dismount unless the judge wishes to check equipment.
- 3) The good Western Pleasure horse has a stride of reasonable length in keeping with the horse's conformation with enough cushion to the pastern to give the rider a pleasant, smooth ride. The horse should carry its head in a natural position, neither too high or over flexed at the poll, nor too low and nosed out. Credit will be given to a horse that is relaxed but has alert ears, looks balanced, and is bright and responsive to the reins. When asked to extend the gait, the horse should do so smoothly.
- 4) Reins shall be held in one hand with palm down. The index finger only is permitted to separate the reins. Two hands are permitted on any horse using a snaffle bit or bosal.
- 5) Exhibitors will be penalized for wrong leads, excessive speed, lack of speed, breaking gait, failure to take the call for the gait, exhibitors touching horse or saddle with free hand, head carried too low or too high, nosing out or flexing behind the vertical, opening mouth excessively, stumbling or falling, use of spurs or romal forward of the cinch, and/or losing either or both stirrups.

Western Equitation (Western tack & attire is required)

In this class, the judging emphasis is on the rider. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, ability to control the horse, and suitability of the horse to the rider. Exhibitors will show their horse on the rail, in both directions, at a walk, jog, and lope. Reversing direction shall be at the walk or jog only, toward the center of the arena and away from the rail. Horses may be asked to back. Exhibitors will be judged on the following areas:

- 1) The performance of the horse is NOT considered more important than the method used by the rider to obtain results.
- 2) The rider should sit in the center of the saddle and the horse's back with the legs hanging to form a straight line from the ear, through the center of the shoulder and hip, touching the back of the heel or through the ankle. The heels should be lower than

the toes, with a slight bend in the knee and the lower leg should be directly under the knee. The rider's back should be flat, relaxed and supple. An overly stiff and/or overly arched lower back will be penalized. Regardless of the type of stirrup, the feet may be placed home in the stirrup, with the boot heel touching the stirrup, or may be placed with the ball of the foot in the center of the stirrup. The rider's toes should be pointing straight ahead or slightly turned out with the ankles straight or slightly broken in. Riding with toes only in the stirrup and riding without contact of bottom of boot securely on pad of stirrup will be penalized.

- 3) Both hands and arms should be held in a relaxed, easy manner, with the upper arm in a straight line with the body. The arm holding the reins should be bent at the elbow forming a line from the elbow to the horse's mouth. The free hand and arm may be carried bent at the elbow in a similar position as the hand holding the reins or straight down at the rider's side. Excessive pumping of the free arm as well as excessive stiffness will be penalized. The rider's wrist is to be kept straight and relaxed, with the hand held at about 30 to 45 degrees inside the vertical. The rein hand should be carried immediately above or slightly in front of the saddle horn. The reins should be adjusted so that the rider has light contact with the horse's mouth, and at no time shall reins require more than a slight hand movement to control the horse. Excessively tight or loose reins will be penalized. Only one hand is to be used for reining (except when using a snaffle bit or bosal). The reins shall not change hands. When using a romal, the riders off hand shall be around the romal with at least 16" of reins between the hands. Wrists are to be kept straight and relaxed, with fingers closed around the reins and thumbs on top. Two hands are permitted on any horse when using a snaffle bit or bosal.
- 4) Rider should maintain a vertical position in all gaits, sitting to the jog (not posting), and the lope. All movements of the horse should be governed by imperceptible aids. Exaggerated shifting of the rider's weight is not desirable. Moving of the lower legs of rider who are short or small shall not be penalized.
- 5) All attire must be neat and clean.
- 6) The judge may ask each rider to work individually in any maneuvers the judge feels necessary. Maneuvers may include walk, jog, lope, or gallop in a straight line, curve, or figure 8, stop, back tum on haunches, spin, rollback, turn of forehand, simple lead change, side-pass, flying lead change, counter canter, dismount, mount, and ride without stirrups. Markers may be used to help standardize patterns, guide riders, and/or increase difficulty.
- 7) Judging will begin at the first indication from the judge and will stop at the signal from the ring steward or judge.
- 8) Failure to complete a pattern, if called for by the judge, will be penalized.

Western Horsemanship (Western tack & attire is required)

In this class, judging is on the correctness of the rider's seat, hands and feet, as well as rider finesse. The strength of lines and angles are judged as riders complete a series of maneuvers in a 30-60 second pattern.

- 1) The pattern may include a variety of different maneuvers, many of which mimic various elements of Western Pleasure, Western Equitation, Reining, and/or Trail classes.
- 2) There will always be a stop and back in this class. The pattern may call for circles, arcs, reverses, spins, quarter turns, half turns, 1.5 turns, any combination of turning on the haunches or forehand, side-passing, extended jog, and/or hand gallop. Exhibitors will commonly see straight-line patterns where the rider asked to maneuver up and down the arena while performing different maneuvers along the way.
- 3) Pattern difficulty may vary according to the division. For example, the pattern used in the 10 & Under division may not be as complex as the pattern used in the 19-35 division.

Trail (Both English & Western tack and attire are allowed, appropriate tack is required)

In this class, judging is on the performance of the horse and rider as they complete the transitions and obstacles presented. The emphasis will be on the horse's manners, responsiveness to the rider, and attitude throughout the course. Horses will be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or completing an obstacle. Third party ground assistance shall not be permitted.

- 1) Credit will be given to horses negotiating obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing that a careful attitude is not sacrificed. Horses showing ability to negotiate obstacles as if on their own and willingness to respond to rider cues on more difficult obstacles shall be given credit as well.
- 2) Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles. Riders with exaggerated standing in stirrups and leaning forward over the horse's neck shall also be penalized. Riders who dismount to assist their horse through an obstacle shall be disqualified.
- 3) Up to six obstacles will be utilized. Failure to follow the course shall be cause for score deduction. Failure to complete an obstacle shall count against the horse and rider. The course shall be reset, if necessary, after each rider.
- 4) Score sheets shall be furnished to the judge (AHA will follow AQHA scoring system, less disqualification).

- 5) The following obstacles can be used:
 - a. Opening, passing through, and closing a gate. Changing hands on the gate or turning loose of the gate is a penalty.
 - b. Ride over logs or poles. These can be in a straight line, curved, or zigzagged. The space between logs/poles shall be measured from the starting point from which the horse begins the obstacle as follows: Walkovers at 15" to 24" apart, Trot/Jog-overs shall be 3'6" apart, and Canter/Lope-overs shall be 6' to 7' apart.
 - c. Backing through an "L" shaped obstacle.
 - d. Backing through and around three markers set in either a triangle or line.
 - e. Pick up slicker and put it on.
 - f. Pick up sack of cans or other provided obstacle, and potentially carry it and place it in a designated area.
 - g. Cross over a bridge. The bridge will be built to handle the combined weight of horse and rider from any variety of materials.
 - h. Side-pass or turns on the fore or hind quarters.
 - i. New obstacles may be introduced at any event by AHA.
- 6) Each competitor is allowed up to four minutes to complete the entire course. Three attempts are permitted for each obstacle before the obstacle is considered failed and the rider must continue on to the next obstacle.
- 7) All English trail competitors are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to complete the course by 12:00 MST of the event date.

Cloverleaf Barrels (Gymkhana)

In this event, exhibitors must successfully complete a pattern while correctly engaging and terminating a timer. The fastest qualifying time wins.

- 1) Barrels #1 and #2 shall be 30 feet from the starting line. Barrel #3 shall be 75 feet from the first two barrels. The distance between barrels #1 and #2 shall be 75 feet. Knocking over a barrel shall carry a (5) five second penalty per barrel.
- 2) Failure to follow the pattern (breaking pattern) shall cause a disqualification (no time).
- 3) Riders may start the pattern with the left or right barrel, at their discretion, according to the pattern.

In-line Barrels (Gymkhana)

In this event, exhibitors must successfully complete a pattern while correctly engaging and terminating a timer. The fastest qualifying time wins. The pattern will be posted by AHA before the start of the Gymkhana. Lead-line exhibitors will utilize the same pattern with ground assistance.

- 1) Barrel #1 shall be placed 35 feet from the start line. Barrel #2 shall be placed 35 feet from barrel #1. Barrel #3 shall be placed 35 feet from barrel #2.
- 2) Competitors may start on either the right or left side of the first barrel, weave between barrels #1 and #2, weave between barrels #2 and #3, go completely around barrel #3, and continue to weave back through barrels to the finish line. Knocking over a barrel shall carry a five-second penalty per barrel.
- 3) Failure to follow the pattern shall cause a disqualification.

Flags (Gymkhana)

In this event, exhibitors must successfully complete a pattern while correctly engaging and terminating a timer. The fastest qualifying time wins.

- 1) Two barrels shall be placed 100 feet from the start line, and each barrel will be placed 100 feet directly across from the other. A bucket shall be placed atop each barrel, one with a flag inside of it.
- 2) Competitors may start with either the right or left barrel. Staying to the outside of the barrel, riders must place the flag in the bucket on the first barrel, pick up the flag from the second barrel, and cross the finish line with the second flag in hand. The first flag must stay in the bucket on top of the barrel until the rider crosses the finish line. Riders are permitted to dismount to pick up a dropped flag, however they must be mounted when placing or removing a flag into/from a bucket.
- 3) Failure to follow the pattern, failure to place the first flag in the first bucket, knocking over a bucket and/or barrel, circling the barrel, crossing the finish line without the second flag in hand, and/or hitting your horse with the flag shall be cause for disqualification.

Pole Bending (Gymkhana)

In this event, exhibitors must successfully complete a pattern while correctly engaging and terminating a timer. The fastest qualifying time wins.

- 1) Six poles shall be placed 21 feet apart with the first pole placed 21 feet from the start line.
- 2) Exhibitors will start on either the right or left side of the poles proceeding in a straight line to the 6th pole, reverse direction around the 6th pole, individually weaving around poles 5 through 2, reverse direction around the 1st pole, individually weaving around poles 2 through 5, reverse direction around the 6th pole, and proceed in a straight line back to cross the finish line.
- 3) Knocking over a pole shall carry a five-second penalty per pole.
- 4) Failure to follow the pattern shall be cause for disqualification.

Keyhole (Gymkhana)

In this event, exhibitors must successfully complete a pattern while correctly engaging and terminating a timer. The fastest qualifying time wins. Lead-liners will complete the same pattern with ground assistance.

- 1) Four poles shall be placed six feet apart in width and ten feet apart in length. The first poles will be 80 feet from the starting line.
- 2) Competitors shall enter the keyhole, reverse direction, exit the keyhole, and cross the finish line.
- 3) Knocking over a pole shall carry a five-second penalty per pole.

Wild Card (Gymkhana)

In this event, exhibitors must successfully complete a pattern while correctly engaging and terminating a timer. The fastest qualifying time wins. The pattern will be posted by AHA before the start of the Gymkhana. This class will change for each Gymkhana and will be chosen by the AHA Board.

Awards

Note: These may be in addition to items already listed on the AHA Show Bill & Registration forms

- 1) First through sixth place in each class will be awarded ribbons at each event.
- 2) Halter Grand Champion & Reserve Champion trophies or ribbons will be awarded at each event.
- 3) Daily High Point:
 - a. Points will be awarded to the entry number of the same exhibitor/horse combination each event in accordance with placing.
 - b. High Point and Reserve High Point trophies (or similar value award)
 - c. English and Western Pleasure Daily High Point is based upon riding classes only, with a minimum of three point classes in the Pleasure show portion.
 - d. Gymkhana Daily High Point is based upon riding classes only, with minimum of four point classes in the Gymkhana portion of each event.
 - e. Tie Breakers for Daily High Point are English Pattern and Western Horsemanship for Pleasure, and the Barrel Class for Gymkhana.
- 4) Year-End Awards:
 - a. Exhibitor must be an AHA Member in good standing for the current season.
 - b. Awards will be for the same exhibitor/horse combination with sufficiently high qualifying points.
 - c. Awards are based upon the highest cumulative Year-End points earned in each qualifying Exhibitor Division.
 - d. Award Points will only come from actual show participation. There is no other way to earn points.
 - e. Exhibitor must have shown in a minimum of four or a majority of the AHA qualifying point events for the season and earned points in qualifying classes at each event. **Best of five shows/gymkhanas per division will count toward year-end awards.**
 - f. Exhibitor must have completed the minimum required volunteer hours at events.
 - i. Eight volunteer hours minimum are required for exhibitors who complete **in** one discipline.
 - ii. Four additional hours are required for each additional discipline. For example, an exhibitor who competes in English age group AND English Open must complete a minimum of 12 hours or an exhibitor who competes in English, Western, and Gymkhana must complete a minimum of 16 hours.
 - iii. A maximum of 16 total hours will be required from a single exhibitor.
 - iv. Lead-line has NO required volunteer hours. But encourage to volunteer when possible.
 - v. Sign up for volunteer positions are handed out on a first-come first-served basis. Members must contact the Grounds Chair.
 - vi. AHA **WILL NOT** accommodate late signups or members who fail to make adequate

- preparations to ensure they can complete their required volunteer hours before each deadline.
- vii. For safety, certain positions may have age or physical capability requirements as determined by the AHA Board.
- viii. Any person may substitute for an AHA member and earn hours for the member. Hours MUST be designated to that member at the time hours are earned.
- ix. Volunteer hours maybe purchased in lieu of working the required hours. See AHA Board for details. The hours must be purchased by the last competition date.
- g. Tie Breaker for Year End Awards will be English Pattern, Western Horsemanship and Barrels. If a second tiebreaker is needed, AHA will use English Trail, Western Trail and Poles.
- h. For Open division, AHA will only award one saddle per **exhibitor**. If an exhibitor qualifies to win more than one saddle in one competition year, they will be given the choice which discipline they will be awarded a saddle. In addition to the saddle, the exhibitor will be recognized and will be awarded for their other Grand Champion disciplines. Reserve Champions are not eligible to receive saddles.
- i. Awards are based upon total unappropriated funds available at the end of each show season. The monetary value of awards from one year is no indication of the monetary value of awards in subsequent years.
- j.

Year End Award Guidelines

ALL AURORA HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION YEAR END AWARDS WILL BE DETERMINED AT THE END OF EACH YEAR BASED ON AVAILABLE FUNDS. IF SADDLES ARE PART OF THE AWARDS, ONLY ONE SADDLE PER EXHIBITOR.

English

- 1) Must be a current member in good standing of Aurora Horsemen's Association at the time points and volunteer hours are accumulated.
- 2) Must compete in a minimum of four shows to qualify for Year End Award.
- 3) Must have completed all volunteer hours by last competition.
- 1) Must compete in at least three of the four English Classes per division, per pleasure show, for the show and points to count. Lead-line must compete in 2 lead-line Pleasure events in either English or Western tack.
- 4) Points will be given based on daily placings on counted shows.
- 5) All English class points for qualifying shows will be added together to determine the horse/rider combo's total points for the year. This includes points for English Equitation, English Pleasure, English Pattern, **and** English Trail.
- 6) The tie breaker is English Pattern points. If needed, English Trail will be the 2nd tie breaker.
- 7) Each division will be given an award for both Champion and Reserve Champion.
- 8) Depending on AHA funds available, third through sixth could be recognized.

Western

- 1) Must be a current member in good standing of Aurora Horsemen's Association at the time points and volunteer hours are accumulated.
- 2) Must compete in a minimum of four shows to qualify for Year End Award.
- 3) Must have completed all volunteer hours by last competition.
- 4) Must compete in at least three of the four Western Classes per division, per pleasure show, for the show points to count. Lead-line must compete in 2 lead-line Pleasure events in either English or Western tack.
- 5) Points will be given based on daily placings on counted shows.
- 6) All Western class points for qualifying shows will be added together to determine the horse/rider total point combination for the year. This includes points for Western Equitation, Western Pleasure, Western Pattern, **and** Western Trail.
- 7) The tie breaker is Western Pattern points. If needed, Western Trail will be the 2nd tie breaker.
- 8) Each division will be given an award for both Champion and Reserve Champion.
- 9) Depending on AHA funds available, third through sixth could be recognized.

Gymkhana

- 2) Must be a current member in good standing of Aurora Horsemen's Association at the time points and volunteer hours are accumulated.
- 3) Must compete in a minimum of four shows to qualify for Year End Award.
- 4) Must have completed all volunteer hours by last competition.
- 5) Must compete in a minimum of four of the six Gymkhana Classes per show for the show and points to count. Lead-line must compete in 2 lead-line events.
- 6) Points will be given based on daily placings on counted shows.
- 7) All Gymkhana class points for qualifying shows will be added together to determine the horse/rider combo's total points for the year. This includes points for Barrels, In-Line Barrels, Poles, Keyhole, Flags, and Wild Card Classes.

- 8) The tie breaker is Barrel points. If needed, Poles will be the 2nd tie breaker.
- 9) Each division will be given an award for both Champion and Reserve Champion.
- 10) Depending on AHA funds available, third through sixth could be recognized.

Halter

- 1) Must be a current member in good standing of Aurora Horsemen's Association at the time points and volunteer hours are accumulated.
- 2) Must compete in a minimum of four shows to qualify for Year End Award.
- 3) Must have completed all volunteer hours by last competition.
- 4) Points will be given based on daily placings on counted shows.
- 5) Halter Class points will be individually calculated for each division (Weanlings/Yearlings, Mare, and Gelding/Stallion). The daily points for each Halter division will be added together to determine the Year End point total for each division.
- 6) The Tie Breaker is the number of Grand Champion wins and/or Reserve Grand Champion wins.
- 7) Each Halter division will be given an award for both Champion and Reserve Champion.
- 8) Depending on AHA funds available, third through sixth could be recognized.

Showmanship (Optional Award)

At the end of each show year, the Board of Directors, based on AHA funds available, will determine if optional awards will be awarded for that specific year.

- 1) Must be a current member in good standing of Aurora Horsemen's Association at the time points and volunteer hours are accumulated.
- 2) Must compete in a minimum of four shows to qualify for Year End Award.
- 3) Points will be given based on daily placings on counted shows.
- 4) Showmanship Class points will be individually calculated for each age division. The daily points for each Showmanship age division will be added together to determine the Year End point total for each age division.
- 5) The Tie Breaker is how many daily 1st place standings.
- 6) Each age division will be given an award for both Champion and Reserve Champion.
- 7) Depending on AHA funds available, third through sixth could be recognized.

Open (English, and/or Western, and/or Gymkhana)

- 1) Must be a current member in good standing of Aurora Horsemen's Association at the time points and volunteer hours are accumulated.
- 2) Must compete in a minimum of four shows to qualify for Year End Award.
- 3) Must have completed all volunteer hours by last competition.
- 4) The exhibitor must use the same horse for each discipline (English Pleasure Classes, and/or Western Pleasure Classes, and/or Gymkhana Classes) for the points to count toward the Open Award.
- 5) Points will be given based on daily placings on qualifying shows to obtain a daily point total.
- 6) The Tie Breaker is the same as the associated discipline (pattern for pleasure, barrels for gymkhana).
- 7) This division will be given an award for both Champion and Reserve Champion. If funds permit, and required high-point specifications are met, Champion will receive a saddle (only ONE saddle per exhibitor)
- 8) Depending on AHA funds availability, third through six could be recognized

Horseshoe Award

- 1) The Horseshoe Award will be voted on by the Aurora Horsemen's Association Board.
- 2) It will be given to the person that the board feels best-represented AHA in an exemplary fashion.
- 3) This person is someone who has gone over and above what is considered normal. This person has helped AHA become a better organization and portrays what AHA stands for.
- 4) This person has to be a current member in good standing but does not have to compete in AHA events.
- 5) This person does not have to meet year-end requirements for volunteering.
- 6) This award can be given out to more than one person depending on the AHA board. It can be given as a Golden Horseshoe Award and Silver Horseshoe Awards.

Show Glossary

Note: These may be in addition to items already listed on the AHA Show Bill & Registration forms

English

Mandatory Attire: Hunt Cap or ASI approved hardhat with chin strap (**it is MANDATORY for all competitors under the age of 18 years to wear ASI approved helmets while mounted**). Chin strap use is required in any class involving jumps. English full calf boots or paddock boots with heels. Straight or flared breeches, or jodhpurs and appropriate English style shirt. Exhibitor number must be easily visible and placed upon shirt/jacket back or on the side of the saddle pad, (both sides strongly encouraged). Long hair should be contained in bun, net, or braid at the nap of the neck for a neat and clean appearance.

Optional Attire: English riding gloves, Hunt jacket/coat, spurs of unroweled type. Flashy, silver, or gold attire will not be worth more in the judge's eyes than simple, neat and clean attire.

Mandatory Tack: English saddle of either all-purpose, close contact, jumping, side saddle or dressage type with English or dressage girth, bat crop, dressage whip no longer than 4 feet including lash, stirrup leathers and irons. English saddle pad. English bridle with nose band, throat-latch, connected English reins (single or double), and English bit (snaffle, kimberwick, or pelham).

Optional Tack: Breast plate. Protective equipment such as leg wraps, splint boots, and bell boots in jumping classes. Flashy, silver, or gold tack will not be worth more in the judge's eyes than simple, neat and clean tack.

Prohibited: Western attire, Western tack and rowel spurs. Draw reins and martingales (running or standing) except in All Ages Practice classes. Tie-downs or any bitless bridle including mechanical hackamores. False tails are not prohibited but are HIGHLY DISCOURAGED.

Western

Mandatory Attire: Western hat or ASI-approved helmet, long sleeved shirt, Western boots with heels, long pants or trousers (**it is MANDATORY for all competitors under the age of 18 years to wear ASI approved helmets while mounted**). Exhibitor number must be easily visible and placed upon shirt or jacket back, or on the side of saddle pad, (both sides strongly encouraged). Long hair should be contained in bun, net, or braid for a neat and clean appearance.

Optional Attire: Western riding gloves and chaps. Flashy, silver, or gold attire will not be worth more in the judge's eyes than simple, neat and clean attire.

Mandatory Tack: Western saddle of either equitation, barrel, all-purpose, or cutting type with full leg flap, Western cinch, and Western Stirrups. Western saddle pad. Western bridle with or without throat-latch, split or romal reins, and Western bit (curb, tom thumb, snaffle permitted).

Optional Tack: Breast collar and back strap. Banded mane. Flashy, silver or gold tack will not be worth more in the judge's eyes than simple, neat and clean tack.

Prohibited: English attire, English tack, English spurs, draw reins. Martingales are prohibited outside of All Ages Practice classes. Tie-downs are prohibited outside of Gymkhana events. Bitless bridles including mechanical hackamores. Wire or rawhide curb bit regardless of padding. Curb straps narrower than 0.5 inches and wire curb straps. False tails are not prohibited but are HIGHLY DISCOURAGED.

Gymkhana

Mandatory Attire: Event appropriate clothing must be worn at all times including but not limited to the following constraints: shoulder straps on tops must be at least 2 fingers in width, clothing may not be transparent and mid drifts/torsos may not be showing. Jeans and/or English attire must be worn in all Gymkhana events. Boots with heels sufficient for safe competition must be worn while competing in all events. Failure to comply will result in disqualification. **It is MANDATORY for all competitors under the age of 18 years to wear ASI approved helmets while mounted.**

Optional Tack: Gag bit or bitless bridle. Tie down (**IF A TIE DOWN IS USED, A BREAST COLLAR BECOMES MANDATORY. THE TIE DOWN MUST BE ROUTED THROUGH THE BREAST COLLAR RING AND SECURED TO PREVENT THE HORSE FROM STEPPING INTO/ON THE TIE DOWN. NO EXCEPTIONS.**)

Prohibited: Side saddles. Wire or rawhide curb bit regardless of padding. Curb straps narrower than 0.5 inches. Twisted curb straps.

Gaits

AHA IS A NATURAL GAIT CLUB.

Describes the pace and manner of the movement of the horse. The head of the horse should be carried at an angle that is natural and suitable to the discipline and the horse's conformation in all gaits. The horse's head must not drop below the wither. There may be differences in the expected gait(s) and carriage of horses competing in various disciplines. For AHA Pleasure class purposes, please read the following:

English Walk: A smooth, ground covering, flat-footed, four beat pace. The walk must be straight and true whether collected and on the bit, or during free-walk. Free walk is on loose reins, with light contact on the bit. Walk must be alert and relaxed with a stride of reasonable length for the size of the horse. Horse should be able to accept contact with the bit without significant resistance/objection. The horse should be flexed at the poll, but not so much as to become behind the vertical. The poll must not drop below the wither (free-walk excepted). This is called being on the bit. This a forward moving gait ridden with the rider seated in a vertical position.

Western Walk: A smooth, ground-covering, flat-footed, four beat pace. The walk must be straight and true with an alert appearance and stride of reasonable length of the size of the horse. This walk is done on a loose but safe rein suitable for the horse and rider with very light contact on the bit. This is a forward moving gait that is ridden with the rider fully seated in a vertical position.

English Trot (working trot): A smooth, ground-covering, flat-kneed two beat gait showing drive from behind. The horse works from one pair of diagonals to the other pair. The trot should be straight and true, rhythmic and balanced, and ideally placing the back hoof in the hoof track of the leaving front hoof on the same side of each stride (tracking-up). The English trot is forward moving exhibiting a relaxed and controlled energy state. The horse should be on the bit. An extended trot requires the lengthening of the trot stride to cover more ground, not necessarily an increase in stride rate. This working trot is ridden with the rider posting unless a sitting trot is requested. Extended trot is ridden sitting or posting.

Western Jog: A smooth, ground covering two beat gait showing relaxed, rhythmic motion comfortable enough for the rider to easily sit. The horse moves from one pair of diagonals to the other pair. The Western jog is forward moving, straight, true, and balanced. In the jog, the horse does not track-up. Horses giving the appearance of walking with their front feet and jogging in the back are not performing the required gait. This gait is done on a loose but safe rein suitable for the horse and rider with light contact on the bit. An extended jog requires the horse to track-up at the jog. Whether extended or not, this gait is ridden without posting.

English Canter: A smooth, easy, cadenced three beat gait showing impulsion from behind. Horses moving to the left should be on the left lead, and horses moving to the right should be on the right lead, both front and back. The canter stride should be of reasonable length with balance and energy, consistent with the size of the horse. It should appear relaxed, controlled, and comfortable to sit. The horse should be on the bit. An extended canter requires the lengthening of the canter stride to cover more ground, not necessarily an increase in stride rate. The canter may be ridden with the rider fully seated in a vertical position, or in a 2-point hunting position.

Western Lope: A smooth, easy, cadenced three beat gait showing impulsion from behind. Horses moving to the left should be on the left lead, and horses moving to the right should be on the right lead, both front and back. The lope stride should be of reasonable length with balance and energy, consistent with the size of the horse. It should appear relaxed, controlled, and comfortable to sit. An extended lope requires the lengthening of the lope stride to cover more ground, not necessarily an increase in stride rate. The lope is ridden with the rider fully seated in a vertical position, on a loose but safe rein suitable for the horse and rider, with light contact on the bit.

Membership Descriptions

Note: These may be in addition to items already listed on the AHA Show Bill & Registration forms

Individual membership shall consist of a person age 18 and over. A minor cannot join as an individual but must have representation under a family membership or under a business membership as a child of an adult.

Family membership shall consist of parents or grandparents and their children (foster and/or dependent) age 17 and under as of the first of the calendar year. **Note** maximum of 5 family members if Gymkhana max out is used.

Business membership shall consist of the owner of the business, spouse, children (foster and/or dependent) or grandchildren, age 17 and under as of the first of the calendar year, OR any four (4) persons designed in writing to the Board of Directors.

All memberships become effective upon the date membership dues are received. Volunteer hours, and event points begin accruing upon effective date of membership.

Photo Disclaimer/Use of Submitted Images/No Compensation for Use

Note: These may be in addition to items already listed on the AHA Show Bill & Registration forms

AHA Officials:

Aurora Horsemen's Association (AHA) officials may photo document AHA events for publication in various AHA mediums, and through various venues, both printed and electronic format. Participants and spectators may be photographed while at the event and no compensation for use shall apply. Participation in or attendance at any AHA event constitutes consent to be photographed, and no compensation for use of image(s) shall apply. AHA retains all rights and ownership of photos.

Amateurs Photographers and Spectators:

AHA is pleased to share suitable submitted photographs captured at AHA events, and/or other special image(s) taken by its members and/or spectators, for the enjoyment of our members and others who may view AHA official publications, both printed and electronic. However, no compensation for use of any submitted photos/images shall apply. AHA may share/publish submitted photos through such mediums and venues not to but including: AHA newsletters, official website, social media, and other electronic or printed platforms. AHA does not object to amateur or spectator photography at AHA events as long as those taking pictures do not interfere with the progression of events being judged. Amateur photographers and spectators taking pictures are not permitted inside of the judging arenas/areas while classes are in progress. Submission of photos/images to AHA constitutes conveyance of rights of use to AHA by the submitting party. This includes but is not limited to editing and cropping privileges. If the submitter did not take the photo/image and is not sure if they have the right to submit the photo/image under this disclaimer, then the submitter shall not submit the photo/image to AHA. Please remember that sharing photos is a courtesy being extended by AHA and those generous individuals who have taken the time to capture these moments for our memories and viewing pleasure.

Professional Photographers:

AHA, from time to time, permits professional photographers to attend AHA events and offer their images for purchase. In such cases, AHA will merely provide a link to the photographer's site for interested parties to view and/or purchase images. AHA is not a party to any transaction between the photographer and the purchasing party. AHA does not pay for professional photographers to photograph AHA events, or for use of a predetermined number of photos taken at the event to be selected by AHA. A photo cred may be given if any photos are selected for AHA use and publication.