

RULES & GUIDELINES



Exhibitor Guidelines

- Exhibitor entries are limited to riders currently enrolled in a lesson program.
- Riders who have competed in regular performance classes, or shown in a suit/coat, are no longer eligible for Academy classes.
- Riders who have had a 10-year absence from performance showing are eligible to return to Academy competition in Walk/Trot/Canter.
- A rider who has shown and been judged in Walk/Trot/Canter classes may not return to Walk/Trot classes.
- A rider who has shown and been judged in Walk/Trot classes may not return to Lead Line.
- Riders may not compete in any performance division at the same show, except for driving or in-hand classes.
- Rider age is determined as of January 1 of the current year.

Protective Headgear

- All riders are strongly encouraged to wear protective headgear that meets or exceeds ASTM standards.
- Riders under the age of 17 are required to wear helmets.
- Adult riders are strongly encouraged to wear helmets.

Attire

- Clothing should be appropriate for the style of riding or driving.
- Acceptable attire includes jodhpurs, breeches, dark pants, a long-sleeve collared shirt, tie, gloves, and vest.
- Rider's hair must be neatly secured in a bun or braid so as not to obstruct the exhibitor number.
- Riding suits and jackets are not permitted.
- Chaps and western hats are not permitted.
- Roweled spurs are not permitted.

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The Horse

- Horses must be regularly used in a lesson program.
- Horses may be owned or leased, provided they are actively used as lesson or school horses for multiple riders.
- Horses should be plain shod. (Exceptions may be made for corrective shoeing; one pad and/or wedge is allowed for the horse's comfort.)
- Hoof blacking is optional; ribbon braiding is not permitted.
- School horses may cross-enter into regular performance classes at the same event.
- Any breed of horse or pony is eligible, with full mane and tail.

Tack

- Horses must be tacked with a saddle appropriate for the style of riding being judged.
- Acceptable bridles include full or Pelham bridles, or a snaffle bridle with martingale.
- Horses should be tacked as if giving a lesson. Snaffle bridles with martingales are encouraged for young riders; full bridles are also acceptable.
- Any leverage bit rein placed through a martingale is prohibited. (Exception upon approval) Please speak with an AAC Board Member
- Prohibited tack includes overchecks, and double bridle reins through martingales in under-saddle classes.

Judging

- The horse is NOT to be judged.
- Exhibitors are judged on their ability to effectively control and present the horse to its best advantage.
- Horsemanship/Showmanship classes: Judged on the rider's performance ability, including correct use of the ring, leads, and diagonals.
- Equitation classes: Judged on the rider's equitation basics, correct leads and diagonals, and the overall impression of effective, easy control.
- Horses will not be asked to back, perform an extended trot, or hand gallop.
- Headers are permitted in the line-up; towels and whips are not allowed.
- Horses must exit and reenter the arena for each class.