

# 2009 WALKING/RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE DIVISION

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### **General Division Rules:**

Horses are to be divided into three divisions: Walking, Racking, and Mountain Horse. The Walking Horse division includes the Walking Horse type: Plantation Pleasure and Country Pleasure Walking classes. The Racking Horse division includes the Racking Horse type: Trail, Show, Style, and Country Pleasure Racking classes. The Mountain Horse classes are for those horses known as: Rocky Mountain Horses, Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horses, Mountain Pleasure Horses, Spotted Mountain Horses, and all other horses recognized as a smooth-gaited Mountain Pleasure-type horse. These include the following Mountain Horse type: Western, Trail, Classic, Park and Country Trail. Smooth gaited mules are allowed in either division and are expected to follow division rules.

### **Walking Horse Classes (for calculation of High Point)-**

<u>Plantation Pleasure</u>	<b>OR</b>	<u>Country Pleasure</u>
English Plant. Pleasure Walking-Spec.		Western Country Pleasure Walking
Western Plant. Pleasure Walking-Spec.		English Country Pleasure Walking

Walking Horses may not cross enter into Plantation **and** Country Pleasure classes.

All Walking Horses may also enter any of the following: Trail Pleasure, Jr. Walking Seat Equitation Specialty, Sr. Walking Seat Equitation Specialty, Jr. Stock Seat Equitation, Senior Stock Seat Equitation, Jr. Bareback Equitation and/or Sr. Bareback Equitation.

All Walking Horses may not cross enter into Racking Horse or Mountain Horse classes.

**Racking Horse Classes (for calculation of High Point)-**

Trail Pleasure Racking                      Show Pleasure Racking  
Style Pleasure Racking                      Western Country Pleasure  
English Country Pleasure

All Racking Horses may also enter any of the following: Jr. Racking/Mountain Seat Equitation, Sr. Racking/Mountain Seat Equitation, Jr. Stock Seat Equitation, Sr. Stock Seat Equitation, Jr. Bareback Equitation and/or Sr. Bareback Equitation.

All Racking Horses may not cross enter into Walking Horse or Mountain Horse classes.

**Mountain Horse Classes (for calculation of High Point)-**

Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse                      Park Pleasure Mountain Horse  
Country Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse                      Western Mountain Pleasure  
English Mountain Pleasure

All Mountain Horses may also enter any of the following: Jr. Racking/Mountain Seat Equitation, Sr. Racking/Mountain Seat Equitation, Jr. Stock Seat Equitation, Sr. Stock Seat Equitation, Jr. Bareback Equitation and/or Sr. Bareback Equitation.

Mountain Horse Entries are not to cross enter into the Walking Classes or Racking Classes.

**All 4-Hers riding or driving horses at 4-H events or activities  
are required to wear an ASTM-SEI Equestrian  
Helmet at all times.**

## **WALKING/RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE DIVISION CLASSES**

**SHOWMANSHIP I** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9-11 years old as of January 1 of the current year (see General Rules Page 5). Class judged on appointments, fitting, grooming and method of showing (See Standards for Showmanship).

**SHOWMANSHIP II** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 12-14 years old as of January 1 of the current year (see General Rules Page 5). Class judged on appointments, fitting, grooming and method of showing (See Standards for Showmanship).

**SHOWMANSHIP III** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 15-18 years old as of January 1 of the current year (see General Rules Page 5). Class judged on appointments, fitting, grooming and method of showing (See Standards for Showmanship).

### **WALKING/RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE YEARLING - OPEN**

**INVITATIONAL** - Registered and grade fillies and geldings foaled anytime during the previous year. No colts allowed. Tack and attire may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. This class is open to yearlings (including smooth gaited mules) that would be considered as Walking, Racking, Country Pleasure, Mountain Pleasure or Spotted Saddle Horses. A horse is considered one year old on the first day of January following the date of foaling. However, an NHSC exception occurs when a foal is born in October, November & December and therefore becomes eligible for this class along with foals born during the next year. Class judged on the horse's conformation, condition, soundness and way of going. A yearling's way of going should reflect horse's breed and those characteristics that are passed on through the breed as follows: Walking Horse yearlings should reflect a natural looseness with free-moving shoulders and ample overstride. Racking horse yearlings should be long, but collected, not awkward or clumsy. The head motion is synchronized with motion of the body. The head should be high & alert, but not stiff or restrained. Country Pleasure and Mountain yearlings should show according to natural gait and ability for that horse. Yearlings shall be shown in a show halter. Yearlings shall be permitted to be shod with a buildup not to exceed one inch excluding the shoe, which shall be no larger than 16 ounces. No lead can be added to the pads. In judging yearlings, strong emphasis should be placed on naturalness and those characteristics that are passed on through the breed. (Open Invitational).

**ENGLISH PLANTATION PLEASURE WALKING SPECIALTY** Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. This is an English tack and attire class for walking horse exhibitors. This is a two-gait class in which the judge shall call for a flat walk and a running walk. Horses shall be worked both ways of the ring. Whips or crops not to exceed three feet are permitted. Bits with shanks over 9 & ½ inches are prohibited. Gag bits without shanks are prohibited. Extremely tight curb chains must be penalized. Entry is to be judged on true pleasure horse quality and performance of the horse and neatness and ability of the rider. Rider must ride with a light rein in both gaits. Judge must require entries to back. Excessive speed should be penalized. Horse should exhibit a four beat walking gait with pronounced and cadenced head motion (nod). ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet mandatory. SHOE SIZE: Lite Shod– Shoes should be no wider than 1 ½ inch and no thicker than ½ inch. The use of bands is not allowed in competition.

**ENGLISH COUNTRY PLEASURE RACKING** - Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. This is a lite shod, English tack and attire class for racking horse exhibitors. This class is to be judged accordingly: 30% Show Walk, 30% Slow Rack, 30% Fast Rack, 10% Conformation. Horses will be required to back at the command of the judge. The Country Pleasure horse shall be shown with a light rein: both the horse and rider must be relaxed and comfortable. He shall not be required to maintain a high head, but should be alert in the bridle. He shall not be required to maintain a high front leg lift, but should exhibit a smooth stride behind. The Country Pleasure Racking Horse shall enter the ring at a Show Walk prior to the initial judging of the class. Three gaits shall be called for, beginning with the Show Walk, after all entries have entered the ring. Horses will work both ways of the ring. The Show Walk shall be a slow, true four beat gait. There shall be a smooth stride behind with a natural rolling motion in the front. The Show Walk will not have the speed or animation of the Slow Rack. The Slow Rack shall be a true four-beat gait, distinguished from the Show Walk. The Fast Rack shall be a comfortable, easy-going rack in which speed is not a factor, but easily distinguished from the other two gaits required in this division. Any indication of strain on the part of the horse or rider will be penalized. ASTM SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn. SHOE SIZE: Lite Shod-Shoes should be no wider than ¾ inch and no thicker than ⅜ inch. The use of bands is not allowed in competition.

**ENGLISH MOUNTAIN PLEASURE** - Registered and grade mares and geldings. This is an English Tack and Attire class for those horses that are described as Mountain Pleasure-type horses. The horse should exhibit a true, four-beat gait. The horse's head should not be high, but should exhibit the type headset carriage of a Mountain horse. Reins should be held in both hands. The horses will be asked to perform the following gaits: Trail Walk, Show Gait and Pleasure Gait. The Mountain Pleasure horse will enter the ring at the Show Gait and then all three gaits shall be called for and the horse will work both ways of the ring. Horses will be asked to back and should do so readily, backing at least 3 steps. English tack includes an English saddle (saddles without horns must be used) and an English bridle. Metallic colors or rhinestone browbands are prohibited. Bits with shanks should not exceed 8 inches. English attire includes an

ASTM SEI Equestrian Helmet, slacks, a vest or jacket, long sleeved shirt, neckwear (tie, broach, etc.) and boots. An English riding suit is acceptable. SHOE SIZE: Mountain Pleasure Horses should be flat shod, toes not exceeding 5 inches. Shoes must be factory made keg shoes and plantation shoes are not allowed.

**ENGLISH COUNTRY PLEASURE WALKING** - Registered or grade mares and geldings of any size. This is an English tack and attire class for exhibitors in the Walking Horse division. The Country Pleasure Horse must display a walk and a smooth, easy, comfortable intermediate gait with excessive speed in the intermediate gait to be penalized. This is a two-gaited class in which the judge will call for a flat walk and running walk. Entries will work both ways of the ring. The horse should back readily upon command. Bits with shanks over 9 & ½ inches are prohibited. Gag bits without shanks are prohibited. Ring snaffles are allowed in any aged horse. Entries should be well mannered and manageable on a light rein. Manners are paramount in a country pleasure horse and should be given consideration in judging. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet is mandatory. SHOE SIZE: Lite Shod-Shoes should be keg (factory-stamped) shoes that do not exceed ¾ inch wide and ⅜ inch thick. The use of bands is not allowed in competition

**WESTERN PLANTATION PLEASURE WALKING SPECIALTY** - Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. This is a Western tack and attire class for walking horse exhibitors. This is a two-gait class in which the judge shall call for a flat walk and a running walk. Horses shall be worked both ways of the ring. Entry shall neck rein and reflect suitability of the walking horse as a western working horse. The western plantation pleasure horse works quietly exhibiting an exceptionally smooth, comfortable ride without excessive action or animation. The horse should be ridden on a loose rein, and should exhibit a four beat walking gait with a cadenced head motion (nod). The head set should be natural, not high, neither excessively nosed out or over flexed at the poll. Horses are to be reversed away from the rail (to the inside of the ring). Reins must be held in one hand and cannot be changed during the performance. When using split reins, a hand around the reins or index finger between the reins is permitted, but the free hand is not allowed to touch the reins. Romal reins have an extension of reins attached to the closed reins. This extension is allowed to be carried in the free hand with approximately a 16 inch spacing between the reining hand and the free hand hold the Romal and it cannot be used forward of the cinch or used to signal or cue the horse in any way. When using the Romal, a hand should be around the reins, but a finger between the reins is not permitted. While the horse is in motion, the exhibitor's hands shall be clear of the horse and saddle at all times. The Judge may call for a halt on the rail. Horse must stand quietly on the rail and in the lineup, and back freely when asked. At the discretion of the judge, the horse may be asked to back clear of the line-up and do a 360-degree neck reined turn, either right or left, exhibitor's discretion. The horse should wear a western bridle with no cavesson or colored brow band and bits with shanks not to exceed 9 & ½ inches. Western tack including ASTM SEI helmet, boots and long sleeved shirt or jacket is mandatory. Chaps, spurs and lariat may be used at the option of the exhibitor.

Australian stock saddles are not permitted. If the western horse is two handed at any time, he must be penalized. Exception: A bosal or ring snaffle may be used with two hands on a four-year old and younger horse. Silver mounted equipment shall not count over good working equipment. SHOE SIZE: Lite Shod – Shoe should be no wider than 1 ½ inch and no thicker than ½ inch. The use of bands is not allowed in competition.

**WESTERN COUNTRY PLEASURE RACKING** - Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. This is a lite shod, Western tack and attire class for racking horse exhibitors. This class is to be judged accordingly: 30% Show Walk, 30% Slow Rack, 30% Fast Rack, 10% Conformation. Horses will be required to back at the command of the judge. The Country Pleasure horse shall be shown with a light rein: both the horse and rider must be relaxed and comfortable. He shall not be required to maintain a high head, but should be alert in the bridle. He shall not be required to maintain a high front leg lift, but should exhibit a smooth stride behind. The Country Pleasure Horse shall enter the ring at a Show Walk prior to the initial judging of the class. Three gaits shall be called for, beginning with the Show Walk, after all entries have entered the ring. Horses will work both ways of the ring. The Show Walk shall be a slow, true four beat gait. There shall be a smooth stride behind with a natural rolling motion in the front. The Show Walk will not have the speed or animation of the Slow Rack. The Slow Rack shall be a true four-beat gait, distinguished from the Show Walk. The Fast Rack shall be a comfortable, easy-going rack in which speed is not a factor, but easily distinguished from the other two gaits required in this division. Any indication of strain on the part of the horse or rider will be penalized. Western attire including ASTM SEI Helmet, boots, long sleeved shirt or jacket is mandatory. Chaps and spurs are optional. Australian stock saddles are not permitted. The horse should wear a Western bridle with no cavesson. No whips are allowed. At no time should silver or embossed equipment count over good working equipment. Braids, martingales, nosebands and tied downs are not allowed. Since this is a COUNTRY PLEASURE Racking Class, riders do have the option of riding with one or two hands on the reins. SHOE SIZE: Lite Shod-Shoes should be no wider than 3/4 inch and no thicker than 3/8 inch. The use of bands is not allowed in competition.

**WESTERN MOUNTAIN PLEASURE** - Registered and grade mares and geldings. This is a Western Tack and Attire class for those horses that are Mountain Pleasure-type horses. The horse should exhibit a true, four-beat gait. The head should not be high, but should exhibit the type head carriage of a Mountain horse. The Western Pleasure horse works quietly exhibiting a smooth comfortable ride without excessive action or animation. Reins must be held in one hand and may either be around the reins or a single finger may be placed between the reins. It is optional to hold the remaining reins with the free hand. The horses will be asked to perform the following gaits: Trail Walk, Show Gait and Pleasure Gait. The Mountain Western Pleasure horse will enter the ring at the Show Gait and then all three gaits shall be called for and the horse will work both ways of the ring. Horses will be asked to back and should do so readily, backing at least 3 steps. Western tack includes a western saddle, any style (including Australian Stock

Saddle) and a western bridle with no cavesson or colored brow band. Bits with shanks should not exceed 8 inches. Western attire includes: an ASTM SEI Equestrian helmet, boots and a long sleeved shirt (or jacket) and pants. Chaps and spurs are optional. SHOE SIZE: Mountain Pleasure Horses should be flat shod, toes not exceeding 5 inches. Shoes must be factory made keg shoes and plantation shoes are not allowed.

**WESTERN COUNTRY PLEASURE WALKING** - Registered or grade mares and geldings of any size. This is a Western tack and attire class for exhibitors in the Walking Horse division. The Country Pleasure Horse must display a walk and a smooth, easy comfortable intermediate gait with excessive speed in the intermediate gait to be penalized. This is a two-gaited class in which the judge will call for a flat walk and a running walk. Entries will work both ways of the ring. The horse should back readily on command and are to be well mannered and manageable on a light rein. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet, boots and long sleeved shirt or jacket is mandatory, while chaps and spurs may be worn at the option of the rider. The horse should wear a western bridle with cavessons optional and a bit with shanks not exceeding 9 & ½ inches. Ring snaffles are allowed on any aged horse. The rider may use 2 hands with a Western bar/shank bit without penalty. Manners are paramount for a pleasure horse and should be given consideration in judging. Silver mounted equipment shall not count over good working equipment. SHOE SIZE: Lite Shod-No wider than 3/4 inch and not thicker than 3/8 inch. The use of bands is not allowed in competition.

**TRAIL PLEASURE RACKING** - Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. This is a lite shod class for Racking Horse exhibitors. Tack and attire for the Trail Pleasure Racking class may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. This class is to be judged: 45% Trail Pleasure Walk, 45% Trail Pleasure Rack, 10% Conformation/Manners. Horses will be required to back at the call of the judge. A Trail Pleasure Racking Horse shall not be required to have qualities such as high head or high front leg lift, but should be the ultimate of a trail type horse, and should be collected in his gaits. He shall stand quietly and back readily. A Trail Pleasure horse will be required to perform two gaits: Trail Pleasure Walk and Trail Pleasure Rack. In no instance will speed be considered a factor in judging. The horse will be flat shod and lightly bitted, but not loose. Shanks over 9 & ½ inches are not allowed. The Trail Pleasure Walk is a true walk in which the rider and his mount are at complete ease. The rein is light and there is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider. The Trail Pleasure Rack is considered to be a true four-beat gait. It is recognized as being the ultimate for a pleasure horse in which ease of riding and comfort are paramount. There is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider, and the reins are lightly held in two hands (or one if desired by riders with Western Attire). Speed shall not be a factor in judging. The Trail Pleasure Racking Horse shall enter the ring at a Trail Pleasure Rack prior to initial judging of the class. Two (2) Gaits will be called for beginning with Trail Pleasure Walk, after all entries have entered the ring. Horses will work both ways of the ring. ASTM SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn. SHOE SIZE: Lite Shod-Shoes should be

no wider than 3/4 inch and no thicker than 3/8 inch. The use of bands is not allowed in competition.

**TRAIL PLEASURE MOUNTAIN HORSE**-Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. This is a flat shod class for Mountain Horse exhibitors. Tack and attire for the Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse class may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. This class is to be judged: Show Gait, Pleasure Gait, Trail Walk, and Conformation/Manners. Horses will be required to back at the call of the judge. A Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse shall not be required to have qualities such as high head or high front leg lift, but should be the ultimate of a trail type horse, and should be collected in his gaits. He shall stand quietly and back readily. A Trail Pleasure horse will be required to perform three gaits: Trail Walk, Show Gait and Pleasure Gait. The judge may ask for a halt. Horses, in no instance, will speed be considered a factor in judging. The horse will be flat shod and lightly bitted, but not loose. Shanks over 8 inches are not allowed. The Trail Walk is a true walk in which the rider and his mount are at complete ease. The rein is light and there is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider. The Show Gait and Pleasure Gait are considered to be a true four-beat gait. They are recognized as being the ultimate for a pleasure horse in which ease of riding and comfort are paramount. There is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider, and the reins are lightly held in two hands (or one if desired by riders with Western Attire). Speed shall not be a factor in judging. The Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse shall enter the ring at a Show Gait prior to initial judging of the class. Three (3) gaits will be called for beginning with Show Gait, after all entries have entered the ring. Horses will work both ways of the ring. ASTM SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn. SHOE SIZE: See Mountain Division Shoeing Requirements.

**TRAIL PLEASURE WALKING**- Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. This is a lite shod class for Walking Horse exhibitors and is open to both Plantation and Country Pleasure horses. Tack and attire for the Trail Pleasure Walking class may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. This class is to be judged: 45% Trail Flat Walk, 45% Trail Pleasure Running Walk, 10% Conformation/Manners. Horses will be required to back at the call of the judge. A Trail Pleasure Walking Horse shall not be required to have qualities such as high head or high front leg lift, but should be the ultimate of a trail type horse, and should be collected in his gaits. He shall stand quietly and back readily. A Trail Pleasure horse will be required to perform two gaits: Trail Pleasure Flat Walk and Trail Pleasure Running Walk. In no instance will speed be considered a factor in judging. The horse will be flat shod and lightly bitted, but not loose. Shanks over 9 & 1/2 inches are not allowed. The Trail Flat Walk is a true walk in which the rider and his mount are at complete ease. The rein is light and there is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider. The Trail Pleasure Running Walk is considered to be a true four-beat gait. It is recognized as being the ultimate for a pleasure horse in which ease of riding and comfort are paramount. There is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider, and the reins are lightly held in two hands (or one if desired by riders with Western Attire). Speed shall not be a factor in judging. The Trail

Pleasure Walking Horse shall enter the ring at a Trail Pleasure Running Walk prior to initial judging of the class. Two (2) gaits will be called for beginning with Trail Pleasure Flat Walk, after all entries have entered the ring. Horses will work both ways of the ring. ASTM SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn. SHOE SIZE: Lite Shod-Shoes should be no wider than 3/4 inch and no thicker than 3/8 inch. The use of bands is not allowed in competition.

**SHOW PLEASURE RACKING** - Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. This is an Open Shod class with pads and bands allowed for racking horse exhibitors. English tack and attire is required. This class is to be judged: 30% Show Pleasure Walk, 30% Show Pleasure Slow Rack, 30% Show Pleasure Fast Rack, 10% Conformation. A Show Pleasure horse shall be dependable and pleasurable to ride. The Show Pleasure horse shall exhibit a higher head than the Trail Pleasure horse without the look of an Open Show horse and exhibit more animation than the Trail Pleasure mount. Front lift must not exceed the height of level and is generally accepted as having lift somewhat below level and less than the Style Pleasure mount. A Show Pleasure Horse shall be shown with a light rein, but not loose, both horse and rider must be relaxed and comfortable. Any indication of strain on the part of the horse or rider will be penalized. A Show Pleasure Racking Horse will be shown at three gaits: Show Pleasure Walk, Show Pleasure Slow Rack and Show Pleasure Fast Rack. The Show Pleasure Walk will be a snappy type walk, but will not have the speed or animation of a Slow Rack. The Show Pleasure Slow Rack will be executed at a distinct gait from the Show Pleasure Walk. The Show Pleasure Fast Rack will be a comfortable easy going rack in which speed is not a factor, but should be easily identifiable from the other two gaits required in this division. The Show Pleasure Racking Horse shall enter the ring at a Show Pleasure Walk prior to initial judging of the class. Three gaits will be called for, beginning with the Show Pleasure Walk after all entries have entered the ring. Horse will work both ways of the ring. ASTM SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn. SHOE SIZE: Open shod, see shoeing rules for more details.

**COUNTRY TRAIL PLEASURE MOUNTAIN HORSE**-Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. This is a flat shod class for Mountain Horse exhibitors. Tack and attire for the Country Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse class may be English or Western, but not a combination of both. This class is to be judged: 45% Trail Walk, 45% Show Gait, 10% Conformation/Manners. Horses will be required to back at the call of the judge. A Country Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse shall not be required to have qualities such as high head or high front leg lift, but should be the ultimate of a trail type horse, and should be collected in his gaits. He shall stand quietly and back readily. A Country Trail Pleasure horse will be required to perform two gaits: Trail Walk and Show Gait. Horses will be called to a halt. In no instance will speed be considered a factor in judging. The horse will be flat shod and lightly bitted, but not loose. Shanks over 8 inches are not allowed. The Trail Walk is a true walk in which the rider and his mount are at complete ease. The rein is light and there is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider. The Show Gait is considered to be a true four-beat gait. It is recognized

as being the ultimate for a pleasure horse in which ease of riding and comfort are paramount. There is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider, and the reins are lightly held in two hands (or one if desired by riders with Western Attire). Speed shall not be a factor in judging. The Country Trail Pleasure Mountain Horse shall enter the ring at a Show Gait prior to initial judging of the class. Two (2) Gaits will be called for beginning with Trail Walk, after all entries have entered the ring. Horses will work both ways of the ring. ASTM SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn. SHOE SIZE: See Mountain Division Shoeing Requirements.

**STYLE PLEASURE RACKING** - Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. This is an Open Shod class with pads and bands allowed for racking horse exhibitors. English tack and attire is required. This class is to be judged: 45% Show Walk, 45% Style Rack, 10% Conformation. The Style Pleasure Racking Horse shall be dependable to ride, shown with a light rein, but not loose, shall be more reasonably mounted in the bridle than the Show Pleasure horse displaying style over animation. The front lift must not exceed the height of level, yet is generally accepted to have more lift than the Show Pleasure mount with a more striding back end. Both horse and rider must be relaxed and comfortable, exhibiting a smooth ride. Any indication of strain on the part of the horse or rider will be penalized. A Style Pleasure Racking Horse will be shown at two gaits: Show Walk and Style Rack. The Show Walk will be a true stylish walk, but will not have the speed or animation of an Open Show Walk. The Style Rack will be a comfortable easy going rack in which speed is not a factor in judging. The Style Pleasure Racking Horse shall enter the ring at a Style Rack, prior to initial judging of the class. Two Gaits will be called for, beginning with the Show Walk. Horses will be worked both ways of the ring. SHOE SIZE: Open shod-see shoeing rules for more details.

**PARK PLEASURE MOUNTAIN HORSE**-Registered and grade mares and geldings of any size. This is a flat shod class for Mountain Horse exhibitors. Tack and attire for the Park Pleasure Mountain Horse class must be English tack and attire. This class is to be judged: Show Gait, Pleasure Gait, Trail Walk, and Conformation/Manners. Horses will be required to back at the call of the judge. The Park Pleasure horse should provide a pleasurable ride and should typify the horse you could ride on the bridle path at a park. Emphasis should be placed on the manners, quality, and suitability to the rider. In the execution of its gaits, the horse should exhibit some natural animation and smoothness. A laboring and/or unnatural way of going should be heavily penalized. It should display soundness and responsiveness to the rider. A Park Pleasure Mountain Horse will be required to perform three gaits: Trail Walk, Pleasure Gait and Show Gait. Shanks over 8 inches are not allowed. The Trail Walk is a true walk in which the rider and his mount are at complete ease. The rein is light and there is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider. The Show Gait is considered to be a true four-beat gait. It is recognized as being the ultimate for a pleasure horse in which ease of riding and comfort are paramount. There is no evidence of strain on the part of the horse or rider, and the reins are lightly held in two hands. The Park Pleasure Mountain Horse shall enter the ring at a

Show Gait prior to initial judging of the class. Three (3) Gaits will be called for beginning with Trail Walk, after all entries have entered the ring. Horses will work both ways of the ring. ASTM SEI Equestrian helmet must be worn. SHOE SIZE: See Mountain Division Shoeing Requirements.

**JR. WALKING SEAT EQUITATION SPECIALTY** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9 – 13 years old as of January 1 of the current year. This is an English tack and attire class for exhibitors in the Walking Horse division. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine. (See Equitation Class Standards) Riders will not be asked to canter or to mount and dismount. Riders will be asked to address their reins and work a pattern.

**SR. WALKING SEAT EQUITATION SPECIALTY** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 14 –18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. This is an English tack and attire class for exhibitors in the Walking Horse division. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine. (See Equitation Class Standards) Riders will be asked to address their reins and work a pattern.

**JR. RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE SEAT EQUITATION**-Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9 – 13 years old as of January 1 of the current year. This is an English tack and attire class for exhibitors in the Racking and Mountain Horse divisions. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine. (See Equitation Class Standards) Riders will not be asked to mount or dismount. Riders will be asked to address their reins and work a pattern.

**SR. RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE SEAT EQUITATION** Exhibitors must be between the ages of 14 – 18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. This is an English tack and attire class for exhibitors in the Racking and Mountain Horse divisions. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine. (See Equitation Class Standards) Riders will not be asked to mount or dismount. Riders will be asked to address their reins and work a pattern.

**JR. BAREBACK EQUITATION** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9 -13 years old as of January 1 of the current year. Walking, Racking and Mountain Horse exhibitors may enter this class. Exhibitors may not use saddles or bareback pads. Riders must wear appropriate footwear, but may substitute clean jeans or Jodhpur pants and a shirt with a collar in place of regular attire. Contestant may use either Western or English tack and attire, but not a combination of both. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine. (See Equitation Class Standards) Since Mountain, Racking and Walking entries are allowed in this class, the gaits to be called by the judge will be Walk & Favorite Gait. A canter will not be required. Exhibitors will work a pattern.

**SR. BAREBACK EQUITATION** Exhibitors must be between the ages of 14 – 18 years old as of January 1 of the current year. Walking, Racking and Mountain Horse exhibitors

may enter this class. Exhibitors may not use saddles or bareback pads. Riders must wear appropriate footgear, but may substitute clean jeans or Jodhpur pants and a shirt with a collar in place of regular attire. Contestant may use either Western or English tack and attire, but not a combination of both. Class is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine. (See Equitation Class Standards) Since Mountain, Racking and Walking entries are allowed in this class, the gaits to be called by the judge will be Walk & Favorite Gait. A canter will not be required. Exhibitors will work a pattern.

**JR. STOCK SEAT EQUITATION** - Exhibitors must be between the ages of 9 – 13 years old as of the current year. Walking, Racking and Mountain Horse exhibitors may enter this class. This is a Western tack and attire equitation class that is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine. (See Equitation Class Standards) Since Mountain, Racking and Walking entries are allowed in this class, the gaits to be called by the judge will be Walk and Favorite Gait. A canter will not be required. Exhibitors will work a pattern.

**SR. STOCK SEAT EQUITATION**-Exhibitors must be between the ages of 14 – 18 years old as of the current year. Walking, Racking and Mountain Horse exhibitors may enter this class. This is a Western tack and attire equitation class that is judged on appointments, basic position and class routine. (See Equitation Class Standards) Since Mountain, Racking and Walking entries are allowed in this class, the gaits to be called by the judge will be Walk and Favorite Gait. A canter will not be required. Exhibitors will work a pattern.

### **TACK & ATTIRE FOR SHOWMANSHIP**

Attire for this class may be either English or Western, but not a combination of both. Contestant's tack & attire must be clean and neat. Whips are not permitted if showing with Western attire. If showing with English tack & attire, the contestant may carry a whip which is no more than thirty-six (36) inches in length. The use of the whip will only be as an extension of the showman's arm to alert, signal and/or direct the horse. Contestants are not permitted to touch any part of the horse with the whip.

Equipment must be clean and properly adjusted. Exhibitors may use either an English Bridle or an English Halter if they are wearing English attire. Western attire is worn if a Western Halter is used. Western Halters may be leather, nylon or rope.

Horses will be shown with a full mane and tail. The forelock and top piece of the mane may be braided or unbraided according to recognized practices for that type of horse. Tails may be braced or unbraced.

### **STANDARDS FOR EQUITATION**

The general appearance of an Equitation exhibitor should be one of calm, supple workmanship,

in perfect balance with effective and easy control of himself/herself and the horse. Equitation is characterized by balance and grace as the exhibitor sits well back on the horse with legs directly under the body to facilitate the collection of the Walking, Mountain or Racking horse.

The term "Equitation" specifically means the act or art of riding horseback. Equitation is a very important phase of training and experience for the 4-H youth. It is an accepted fact that adult exhibitors, amateur and professionals, who have had experience in Equitation make the finest showmen.

Walking Seat Equitation & Racking/Mountain Seat Equitation are classes that require English Tack & Attire.

Stock Seat Equitation Classes require Western Tack & Attire.

The Junior & Senior Bareback Equitation classes are performed without the benefit of a saddle. Riders have the choice of either English or Western Tack & Attire, but not a combination of both.

Exhibitors will be expected to work an individual test (pattern) in all equitation classes. A test may be designed at the judge's discretion or provided by the State 4-H Horse Program. Tests will be posted no later than 1 hour prior to equitation class.

### **ALL EQUITATION CLASSES**

Horses should be well groomed and properly tacked.

Exhibitors and judges should bear in mind that riders are to be judged on ability. However, correct show ring attire is important and those who do not conform will be penalized.

The exhibitor should show his or her horse to its best advantage and exercise good ringmanship and good sportsmanship.

Fall of the exhibitor will eliminate the entry.

Any exhibitor not having his mount under sufficient control shall be dismissed from the ring.

Exhibitors should be familiar with various parts of the horse, tack and rules on Equitation.

Unsoundness of the mount shall not penalize an exhibitor unless it is sufficient to impair the required performance, except such unsoundness violates the HPA and other rules, which shall disqualify both horse and rider.

Judge may choose to ask exhibitor's to "address the reins". This is only appropriate in the Walking /Racking/Mountain Seat Equitation classes. Addressing the reins is not appropriate in

the Stock Seat Equitation or Bareback Equitation classes.

Riders will be asked to back their horse - either in the line-up or as a part of the test (pattern).

## **ENGLISH EQUITATION APPOINTMENTS, ATTIRE & TACK**

### **Personal Attire**

- \* The complete picture of the horse and rider team is very important. The horse and exhibitor should be groomed to meticulous perfection and in good taste.
- \* A complete informal saddle seat suit/habit in conservative colors (i.e. herringbone, pinstripe, solids) is correct both day and evening. However, for the 4-H Horse show, day coats are allowed. Suggested colors for the riding habit include black, blue, grey, green, beige or brown with coordinated accessories. Vests should be worn and may either match or contrast with the saddle suit/habit. A four-in-hand tie matching or coordinating with the suit color should be worn with a man's style white or pastel shirt. Careful attention should be given to the fit of the habit. The coat length should be at least three inches below the fingertips when standing. The jodhpurs should be long enough to rest on the exhibitor's boot top and the bottom of the boot heel showing only the toe of the boot when mounted. A moderate fullness is better than a suit that fits too tight. Underpasses must always be worn snugly against the boot.
- \* An ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet must be worn.
- \* Boots should be of the English type in either calf or patent leather. Gloves shall be worn and should match the suit. English type slip on spurs (either blunt or small rowel) and a short riding whip are optional. Riders should not use whips with wrist loops.
- \* Formal saddle seat suits in dark colors (black, navy, dark brown, dark grey) consisting of formal jodhpurs and coat, boots, white tuxedo shirt, and white or dark appointments (gloves, pique vest or cummerbund, bow tie) are acceptable after 6:00 p.m. only.
- \* The exhibitor's hair must be clean and well groomed. Long hair must be styled above the collar.

### **Tack**

- \* All tack should be clean and well kept. Leather should be clean. The bit and the stirrup irons should be shiny and polished.
- \* Standard English Walking/Racking/Mountain Horse bridle with a single rein must be used. Cavessons must be of brown or black leather to match the bridle. Colored brow bands are appropriate; however, rhinestones are not acceptable. Brow band should coordinate with exhibitor's attire.
- \* Braids should be of the straight plaited variety with no butterflies other ornamentation. The colors in the braids should coordinate the browband and the exhibitor's attire.
- \* English saddles with a four-inch cutback are to be used. Whether the saddle is flat or of the deep seat variety, the saddle should be the correct size for the exhibitor. Dressage or forward seat saddles are prohibited. Breast straps of brown or black leather are optional, but should coordinate with saddle & bridle. Only white leather/corfam girths are to be used.

### **Basic Position**

- \* The Exhibitor of Walking Seat or Racking/Mountain Seat Equitation is to be judged on his or her skill and form on a horse. Rider position should not be exaggerated or stiff, but flexible and adaptable to the individual horse to accomplish ultimate performance.
- \* Head held high looking forward.
- \* Shoulders square with rib cage drawn up out of the belt.
- \* Buttocks should be neatly tucked (avoid sway back).
- \* Thighs and knees should be in close contact, with toes pointed forward.
- \* Seat - deep, close in the deepest part of the saddle.
- \* With foot out of the stirrup, the iron should strike the exhibitor just below the ankle.
- \* Ball of foot should rest squarely on the stirrup iron with the weight of the leg lowering the heel below the toe.
- \* One should be able to draw a vertical line through the ear, shoulder, hip and heel.

### **Proper Rein Position - hand, shoulder & forearm**

- \* Arm should fall naturally from the shoulder with the elbow on the vertical or slightly forward. Forearm parallel to the ground or angling up slightly.
- \* Hands and forearms should form a "V" when viewed from above. They should be held well over the withers and far enough apart so that the thumbs almost touch when extended. The hands should be light and in unison with the horse, showing adaptability as well as control.
- \* Rein should be held between the thumb and index finger with the rest of the fingers closing gently around the rein. Closed (or crossed) reins shall be used, with both hands on the reins, and the bight of the rein should be on the right side.

### **Position in Motion**

- \* Start: Should be gradual, smooth. Use necessary leg aids with slight release or rein pressure.
- \* While a horse is performing the "Walk" in Walking, Mountain or Racking, the exhibitor should use light bit pressure, with required leg aids and correct speed. Close seat with very little motion in saddle. Hands flexible, but showing no obvious motion.
- \* When the Horse steps up to the Running Walk, Favorite Gait or Rack, the reins should be adjusted for proper bit pressure for individual mount. Intermittent calf pressure is permissible as necessary to collect and achieve correct performance from the horse. Exhibitor should be supple and alert.
- \* To stop the horse, the judge is looking for a rider that will make this transition gradually and easy with no jerking. Rider should increase the rein pressure evenly, keeping weight well down in the saddle, with yielding legs, and light foot pressure applied on the irons.
- \* Reverses - Rider should reverse by turning the horse toward the rail. Reins should be collected so as to maintain contact with the mouth. Light pressure applied with legs when turning. Even rein pressure after turn, setting head in correct position for gait requested.
- \* Line Up - Horse should stand on all four feet: head up, neck crested, jaw flexible. Rider should maintain a light pressure on the horse's bit.

### **Addressing the Reins**

- \* The purpose of this test is for a quick check on muscular control and sensitivity of the hands.

This test also demonstrates the rider's knowledge of correct hand and arm position. The horse should learn to stand quietly while the task is being performed.

- \* Addressing the reins is accomplished by placing the reins on the horse's neck with the rein buckle at the withers.
- \* The rider should pick up the buckle with the right hand between the thumb and first two fingers.
- \* By placing the thumb of the left hand on the left side of the reins and the forefinger of the left hand on the right side of the reins, the rider is in position to address the reins. The three remaining fingers of the left hand should remain between the two reins.
- \* By pulling the buckle with the right hand and letting the left hand slide down the reins, the slack is removed from the reins.
- \* When the reins are at a suitable length for control of the horse, drop the buckle to the right side of the horse.
- \* Place the right hand over the right rein from the top. Using both thumbs, collect the opposite reins in order to accomplish the crossed rein position.
- \* For riders who carry whips, there are two options of whip placement. The whip can be held in the left hand secured between the thumb and the forefinger. For horses that react to the whip being moved about where they can see it, another technique is available. The rider can choose to place the whip under the knee. Either placement is correct.
- \* During this test the rider should maintain basic position. It should be performed with ease and poise while the horse stands quietly.

### **Backing**

- \* This test is a good check on hands, legs, balance and effective control. The horse should learn to back readily and straight.
- \* If the horse stands in a parked position, he should be stepped up one or two steps to put him squarely on all four feet before being asked to back.
- \* To move the horse forward, gently apply leg pressure and yield bit pressure by extension of the wrists. After the horse has stepped forward, the reins should be collected by flexing the wrists.
- \* With gentle give and take (flexion and extension of the wrists) and alternating the leg pressure, the rider should back the horse. Subtle voice commands are permitted.
- \* The judge may specify the number of steps to be taken back. If the judge does not specify, then three to four steps is sufficient.
- \* Stop the horse and return to the parked or squared line-up position. It is important for the rider to maintain basic position while backing and not to jerk on the horse.
- \* Backing should be done easily.

## **STOCK SEAT EQUITATION APPOINTMENTS, ATTIRE AND TACK**

### **Personal Attire**

- \* The horse and exhibitor should be groomed to meticulous perfection and should exercise good taste.
- \* Stock Seat Equitation Attire must include: ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet, long sleeved shirt,

western type tie, bolo or pin at the collar, gloves, western belt, long pants and boots. The total outfit should coordinate well together - both with the horse and the saddle blanket. Western chaps are quite acceptable although not mandatory. A coordinating vest and/or short western type jacket is optional.

\* The exhibitor's hair must be neat and well groomed. Long hair must be styled above the collar.

### **Tack**

\* The tack should be very clean and well kept. No braids should be used in the horse's mane and forelock in stock seat equitation.

\* A western bridle with no cavesson (optional in Country Pleasure class) must be used. Either a split or Romal rein will be acceptable. The shanks of the bit must not exceed 9 & 1/2 inches (Walking/Racking horses) or 8 inches (Mountain Horses).

\* The saddle should be of the western type and should be the correct size to fit the exhibitor (No Australian stock saddles are permitted). Saddle blanket under the saddle is mandatory.

\* Consideration should be given to the saddle blanket. The colors should complete the overall look in coordination with the exhibitor's attire.

\* Silver on the bridle and saddle are quite acceptable and should be well cleaned, but should not count over good working equipment.

### **Basic Position**

\* Head held high, looking forward.

\* Shoulders square with rib cage drawn up out of the belt.

\* Waist should be supple. Buttocks should be neatly tucked (no sway back)

\* Seat deep, close, in deepest part of the saddle.

\* Thighs and knees should be in close contact, with toes pointed forward.

\* With the foot out of the stirrup, the stirrup should strike the exhibitor just below the ankle.

\* Ball of foot should rest squarely on the stirrup with the weight of the leg lowering the heel below the toe.

\* Elbows should be quiet, staying close to exhibitor's side.

\* One should be able to draw a vertical line through the exhibitor's ear, shoulder, hip and heel.

### **Proper Rein Position**

\* Proper hand position with a split rein: Reins may be held in either the right or the left hand, but may not be switched during the class. With a split rein, the exhibitor may only place the index finger between the reins and the remainder of the rein must fall on the same side as the hand that the reins are in. The off hand during the class must never touch the remainder of the rein. The hand holding the rein should be placed slightly in front of the horn at about the level of the horn. The position of the hand not holding the rein is optional, but it should be kept free of the horse and equipment and held in a relaxed manner, with the exhibitor's body straight at all times.

\* Proper hand position with Romal Reins: The right or left hand may hold the reins, with the remainder of the rein coiled neatly in the off hand. There should be approximately 16 inches

between hands with the off hand behind the cinch. The rein hand can have no fingers between the reins and should be held in a fist position just in front of the horn.

### **Position in Motion**

\* This will be the same as the Walking/Racking/Mountain Seat Equitation with the exception of the horse being worked on a loose rein and reversing away from the rail.

\* The judge may ask for a halt during any gait. The exhibitor should respond quickly without altering his or her basic position.

## **BAREBACK EQUITATION CLASSES**

Appointments, attention to detail and basic body position all apply to the bareback equitation class. Walking, Mountain and Racking entries will both show together in the Jr. and Sr. Bareback Equitation Classes. Therefore, the judge will call for a Walk and a Favorite Gait.

In this class, riders may elect to wear English or Western tack and attire, but not a combination of both. ASTM-SEI Equestrian Helmet is mandatory.

All other equitation principals apply to the equitation class.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS TO EQUITATION STANDARDS**

National Horse Show Commission, P.O. Box 167 Shelbyville, TN 37162

A Matter of Pride, by Nicole Carswell. For more information, contact:  
7th Heaven Press, 177 Derrickson Road, Morehead, KY 40351

## **2009 WALKING/RACKING/MOUNTAIN HORSE DIVISION WALKING CATEGORY GENERAL CLASS RULES**

The Walking Horse rules conform as closely as possible to the Rules and Regulations of the National Horse Show Commission, Inc. Any instance not covered in the 4-H rules will be referred to the official rulebook of the National Horse Show Commission. Rulebooks may be obtained from:

**National Horse Show Commission, Inc.**

**Post Office Box 167**

**Shelbyville, TN 37162**

Phone: 931/684-9506

Fax: 931/684-9538

## **SHOEING REQUIREMENTS, TACK & ATTIRE AND GENERAL PROCEDURES**

## SHOEING REQUIREMENTS

### **General Requirements - All Shoes should be Lite Shod**

All classes for the horses in the Walking Division are lite shod. There could be an exception in the Equitation and Showmanship classes that a horse with pads and action devices could be exhibited. For regulations and rules in this instance, please obtain the information directly from the National Horse Show Commission Rule book.

Barefooted horses may be shown; however judges must disqualify lame or tender footed horses.

### **Country Pleasure Classes & Plantation Pleasure Classes**

Shoes for a Country Pleasure horse should be no wider than 3/4 inch and no thicker than 3/8 inch. Country Pleasure shoes are the same factory-stamped shoes that other breeds use. Heel caulks are optional. No bands are permitted. The caulk must not exceed a 3/4 inch thickness with the exception of the caulk, which must be no thicker than 3/4 inch. A 1 inch turnback is allowed and the shoe must not extend more than 1/4 inch beyond the hoof at the toe. The heel of the shoe must not exceed beyond the bulb of the horse's heel to the ground. Welded on clips are not permitted, however, clips that are drawn from the shoe itself are permitted. No additional weight shall be allowed on or in the hoof other than the shoe and nails.

Shoes for a Plantation Pleasure horse should be no wider than 1 1/2 inch and no thicker than 1/2 inch. The use of bands is not allowed in competition. No bare plate or other weight inside the shoe. The caulk must not exceed a 1" turnback and the shoe must not extend more than 1/4" beyond the hoof at the toe. The heel of the shoe must not extend beyond the bulb of the horse's heel when a perpendicular line is drawn from the bulb of the horse's heel to the ground. The use of borium is permitted on the caulks of the pleasure shoes, but the thickness of the shoe and caulk with the borium must not exceed 1 1/8".

## TACK AND ATTIRE

### **Tack**

All entries shall be clean, neatly trimmed in good flesh presenting a healthy appearance, and outfitted in clean and appropriate tack.

1. All horses must use an English Saddle in English Classes (Western tack is addressed in the class description for Western classes).
2. Standard Walking Horse Single Rein Bridle and Bit. While any standard Walking Horse Bit may be used, a gag bit with no shanks is not considered a standard Walking Horse Show Bit. Severe bits are discouraged and bleeding of the mouth or muzzle must be penalized in the final judging. Shanks in excess of 9 & 1/2 inches are prohibited in the Lite Shod Walking Classes. Shanks are measured from the very top of the metal to the very bottom of the metal, including the rings to which the cheeks and reins are attached. Quick change bridles and reins are not permitted.
3. Exhibitor's equipment (& apparel) shall either be English or Western, but not a combination of both.

4. Full blinders of any type are not permitted on the show grounds at any time.
5. Action devices of any kind and tail braces are prohibited on the show grounds or in the show ring on all Light shod Walking Horses.
6. Bosals or ordinary ring snaffles may be used on four-year old or younger western flat-shod pleasure horses. When using a bosal or a snaffle, the rider may use two hands on the reins. The ordinary ring snaffle has a broken mouth piece with conventional O-rings, egg-butt, or D-rings, and the ring must be no larger than 4 inches in diameter. Optional loose chin strap of leather or nylon is permitted. Reins should be attached above the chin strap.
7. An Australian stock saddle is not approved as either English or Western Tack.
8. Side Saddles are approved for use in lite shod pleasure classes.
9. Braids shall be worn in English classes, but not in Western classes. Braids shall be attached neatly to the forelock and at the top of the mane next to the bridle path.
10. Rhinestone or sequined brow bands and cavesson fronts are prohibited.
11. Curb chains or straps must be flat against the jaw and be at least ½ inches wide. Cross chain cavessons are prohibited.
12. Cavessons are required in English Classes, but are prohibited in Western Classes (exception-cavessons are optional in Western Country Pleasure only).
13. Martingales and tie downs are prohibited.
14. In Western Classes, silver mounted equipment shall not count over good working equipment.

### **Attire**

It is the tradition of the show ring that riders, drivers and handlers be correctly attired for the classes in which they compete. Correct attire for Walking Horse presentation consists of the following, unless otherwise noted:

1. English Riding Habit (Saddle Suit) in English Classes. Western attire is addressed in the class description for Western Classes (button down shirt and tie).
2. English Spurs (Use of spurs is optional.)
3. Riding Boots
4. Pant's tie downs, or underpasses.
5. Gloves (Optional)
6. The exhibitor's hair must be neat and groomed. Long hair should be styled so the back number can be easily seen.

### **GENERAL PROCEDURES**

Mules (Smooth Gaited - Walking, Mountain or Racking) are allowed to show in the Walking/Racking/Mountain Horse Division and are expected to follow the division rules.

A Lite Shod Pleasure Horse performs the two or three gaits as described in the class without the use of lubricants, artificial appliances, boots, bands (except in appropriate classes/situations), pads or action devices. Braced tails are prohibited on a lite shod horse.

The Use of Vet Wrap will be allowed in the cannon bone area on the front legs, and on the cannon bone down onto the angles on the rear legs. The color is to blend in reasonable with the color of the horse.

Any change in color of markings other than the mane, tail or hoof is prohibited. Only clear grooming materials are allowed on the hide and hair. Materials may be used to remove stains.

Whips of four feet or less are allowed in any class where English attire and equipment is used.

Acrylic can be used to repair and mend a foot where the shoe has been thrown and the foot has been damaged. Acrylic or any other material cannot be used for the purpose of extending the length of the natural hoof in any manner on both feet, which includes the toes or heels. Acrylic can be used to fill in around the nail holes or cracks on the sides of the hoof.

No horse shall be allowed to show if that horse has been administered any forbidden substance by any means. A forbidden substance is any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer or local anesthetic. Also prohibited is the use of "ginger" and any drugs regardless of how harmless or innocuous they might be, which by their very nature mask or screen the presence of the prohibited drugs, or prevent or delay testing procedures.

Full use of modern therapeutic measures for the improvement and protection of the health of the horse including phenylbutazone is permitted, unless the drug given also stimulates or depresses the circulatory respiratory or central nervous system.

### **Cross-Entries**

Walking horse entries are not to cross enter into the Mountain or Racking division classes and vice versa.

Walking, Mountain/Racking Divisions will be combined in the following classes: Showmanship, Open Invitational Yearling Halter, Jr. & Sr. Bareback Equitation and the Jr. And Sr. Stock Seat Equitation class.

Possible Classes for the Plantation Pleasure Walking Horse:

*Showmanship, Walking Seat Equitation, Bareback Equitation, Stock Seat Equitation, English and Western Plantation Pleasure Walking Specialty, Trail Pleasure Walking.*

Possible Classes for the Country Pleasure Walking Horse:

*Showmanship, Walking Seat Equitation, Bareback Equitation, Stock Seat Equitation, English and Western Country Pleasure Walking.*

### **Criteria for Judging Lite Shod Pleasure Classes:**

In all lite shod pleasure classes, a four-beat walking gait with a cadenced head motion (nod) is required. Horses shall enter the ring at a flat walk and when the gate is closed, the Judge shall call for the gaits in order of Flat Walk, Running Walk, Flat Walk and Canter (if it is a three

gaited class). The head motion in the Flat Walk and Running Walk is very important – if the horse isn't nodding, he isn't walking. Do not sacrifice form for speed in any gait. Horses shall be worked both ways of the ring. Judges must require horses to back in the lineup. Exhibitors must ride with light reins in all gaits. Horse is to be judged on true pleasure quality and performance of the horse and neatness and appearance of the horse and the exhibitor.

- a. Any lite shod pleasure horse exhibiting a crampy way of going or twisting of hocks must be penalized.
- b. At all gaits, bumping or pumping of the reins must be penalized.
- c. All lite shod pleasure horses should back readily upon command.
- d. Whips or crops not to exceed four feet are permitted in English Pleasure Classes, but prohibited in Western Pleasure Classes.

**Criteria for Judging Country Pleasure Walking Classes:**

The Country Pleasure Horse must display a walk and a smooth, easy, comfortable intermediate gait with excessive speed in the intermediate gait to be penalized. The Judge will call for a Walk (or Flat Walk) and a Favorite Gait (or Running Walk) in the Class. Horses shall be worked both ways of the ring. Country pleasure horses should back readily upon command.

**2009 WALKING HORSE/RACKING HORSE DIVISION**  
**RACKING CATEGORY GENERAL CLASS RULES**

The Racking Horse rules conform as closely as possible to the Rules and Regulations of the Racking Horse Breeders' Association of America (RHBA). Any instance not covered in the 4-H rules will be referred to the official Rulebook of the Racking Horse Breeders' Association of America. Rulebooks may be obtained from:

Racking Horse Breeders' Association of America  
67 Horse Center Road  
Decatur, Alabama 35603

Phone: 256/353-7225

FAX: 256/353-7266

**SHOEING REQUIREMENTS, BITTING**  
**AND GENERAL PROCEDURES**

**SHOEING REQUIREMENTS**

**Lite Shod**

Lite Shod shall be construed as being hoof-to-shoe with no pad being used for any purpose, which shall include corrective shoeing. Weighted shoes are allowed.

1. Shoe must not exceed 3/8 inch in thickness and 3/4 inch in width. The caulk must not exceed 3/4 inch.
2. Shoeing bands are not allowed in all lite shod classes.
3. The use of welded clips are prohibited in all flat shod classes. However, clips that are drawn from the shoe itself are allowed.
4. No additional weights shall be allowed in or on the hoof other than shoe and nails.

### **Open Shod**

Open Shod shall be construed as having pads which can be flat pads or wedge pads. Weighted shoes are allowed.

1. Heel/Toe Measurement: Toe length must exceed the height of the heel by one(1) inch or more. The length of the toe shall be measure from the coronet band, at the center of the front pastern along the front of the hoof wall, to the ground. The heel shall be measured from the coronet band, at the most lateral portion of the rear pastern, at a 90-degree angle to the ground, not including normal caulks at the rear of the horseshoe that do not exceed an inch in length. The portion of caulk at the rear of the horseshoe in excess of an inch shall be added to the height of the heel in determining the heel-to toe ratio.
2. The amount of pad, or artificial extension permitted on any horse two years of age or older will be determined by the natural hoof length. The amount of artificial extension, whether accomplished with pads, acrylics or any other material or combination thereof, must not exceed 50 percent of the natural hoof length. The natural hoof length is measured from the coronet band at the center of the front pastern along the front of the hoof wall, to the distal portion of the hoof wall at the tip of the toe. The thickness of the pad, or artificial extension, shall be measured from the distal portion of the hoof wall at the tip of the toe at a 90-degree angle to the proximal (foot/Hoof) surface of the shoe.
3. Pads shall be made of leather, plastic or similar pliant material.
4. The maximum shoe size is 1 ½ inches wide and ½ inch thick with a turnback for a caulk not to exceed one inch. The turnback is measure from the inside of the fold.
5. A rubber foundation used in lieu of a shoe cannot be more than ½ inch in thickness.
6. A half-rubber foundation used in lieu of half a shoe cannot be thicker than the corresponding half-shoe. Example: with a 3/8-inch thick shoe, rubber cannot be more than 3/8 inch thick. With a ½ inch thick shoe, rubber cannot be more than ½ inch thick.
7. A half-metal shoe in front with rubber on the rear half used for the foundation must be in apposition (there can be no gap between the metal shoe and the rubber).
8. The weight bearing surface of the shoe must be level.
9. Rockback pads cannot extend below the weight-bearing surface (bottom of the shoe).
10. Lead or other weights cannot be attached to the outside of the hoof wall, the outside of the horseshoe, or any portion of the pad except the bottom surface within the horseshoe. Pads may not be hollowed out for the purpose of inserting or affixing weights, and weights may not extend below the weight-bearing surface of the shoe. Hollow shoes or artificial extensions filled with mercury or similar substances are prohibited.
11. The breakover point of the shoe cannot be any further back than the tip of the toe on the natural hoof.

### **BITTING IN PLEASURE HORSE DIVISIONS**

Severe bits must be penalized in the final judging. Shanks over 9 & ½ inches are prohibited. Gag bits without shanks are not allowed. Shanks are measured from the top of the metal to the bottom of the metal, including the rings. Cross chain cavessons are prohibited.

## GENERAL PROCEDURES

1. Mules (Smooth Gaited - Walking or Racking) are allowed to show in the Walking/Racking/Mountain Horse Division and are expected to follow division rules.
2. Racking Horse entries are not to cross enter into the Walking or Mountain Horse Classes and vice versa.
3. All tack must be neat and clean and fit the horse correctly.
4. Horses may not be exhibited with tail braces, boots, chains or any other apparatus that would restrict the natural movement of the Racking Horse.
5. **Bridles:** Hackamores, martingales and tie downs are prohibited. Bridles should be the type commonly used by Racking Horses with single reins.
6. **Saddles:** Should be the flat English types. Forward seat saddles are prohibited. Western saddles are prohibited except in designated classes where Western tack is permitted or required.
7. **Braids:** Should be attached neatly at forelock and at the top of the mane next to the bridle path. Braids are not worn in classes with Western Tack & Attire
8. **Dress:** Following the tradition of the show ring, it is necessary that the exhibitors be neatly attired for competition. Exhibitors will wear an English Riding Habit, with the exception of designated western attire in Western Country Pleasure and choice of tack/attire in the Trail Pleasure. All riding attire shall be neat and properly fitted. Rider's hair must not obstruct back number. ASTM-SEI Equestrian helmets are required whenever riding or driving.

## RACKING HORSES

In some horses, the rack is considered to be an artificial gait, but to the true Racking Horse, this gait comes just as natural as walking or striking a bold trot for some horses. The Racking horse requires no special training to perform this air-float, four-beat action which creates a comfortable shock-absorbed ride. The rack is often called the single-foot because a single foot strikes the ground at a time. At a rack, the horse should display style, speed and action.

The racking horse must not exhibit an exaggerated head nod in the Slow Rack or Fast Rack. The racking horse must not exhibit an exaggerated hock action with the rear legs, but its stride should be long and natural. The front leg action must exhibit a curved rolling motion rather than the legs following a straight line, commonly termed pitching or pointing. The racking horse must exhibit good conformation and be free of blemishes and unsoundness, other than healed permanent scars.

Gaits include the Show Walk, Slow Rack and Fast Rack.

Show Walk – The show walk is a smooth collected, slow and easy gait. It is a distinctive four-beat gait displaying both style and grace. The horse is alert and mounted well in the bridle.

Slow Rack – The slow rack is a relaxed four-beat gait with both style and action, neither a pace nor a trot. The neck is arched with head and ears alert. The gait should be straight, square and in form at all times.

Fast Rack – The fast rack is the same in form as the slow rack, displaying style, speed and action. The fast rack is faster than either of the other gaits, but form may not be sacrificed for speed.

Exceptions to the three gaits are found in Trail Pleasure, Style Pleasure, Country Pleasure Classes and the Mountain Pleasure Classes.

Possible Classes - Racking Horses:

*Showmanship, Racking/Mountain Seat Equitation, Bareback Equitation, Stock Seat Equitation, English or Western Country Pleasure Racking, Trail Pleasure Racking, Show Pleasure Racking, Style Pleasure Racking.*

## **2009 Walking/Racking/Mountain Horse Division MOUNTAIN HORSES**

Registered or grade Rocky Mountain horses, Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horses and/or Kentucky Mountain Horses. Mountain horse information may be obtained from the following addresses:

Rocky Mountain Horse Association,  
2805 Lancaster Road, Danville, KY 40422 (606) 238-7754  
Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse Association  
P.O. Box 505, Irvine, KY 40336  
(606) 723-6551

and from your Kentucky Mountain Horse Association Board Member.

### **Guidelines:**

1. The bit shank shall be no longer than 8 inches. Twisted wire gag or cross chain cavessons will not be permitted.
2. Shoes must be factory made keg shoes and all four feet, if shod, must be of the same shoe. Either all four feet should be shod, or all four feet should not be shod. Borium should not exceed 7/8 inch. Two dots of borium are permitted on each shoe. No ridges or lines are allowed. Toe length shall not exceed ¼ inch beyond the hoof in front. Plantation shoes are not allowed.
3. No ribbons/braids allowed in the mane or tail.
4. Mountain pleasure horses showing in English tack should be shown in a leather or colored browband, but metallic and rhinestone browbands are prohibited. Tail sets not allowed.

Gaits include the Trail Walk, Show Gait and Pleasure Gait.

Trail Walk – The trail walk should be a calm, natural walk. The horse should have a headset that is natural and lower than the other gaits.

Show Gait– The show gait is a four-beat gait that is performed at medium speed. The show walk is performed in a smooth rhythmic fashion. The head is carried proudly in the bridle and the feet should move forward in an even form. This gait has less speed and action than the mountain pleasure gait.

Pleasure Gait – The pleasure gait is a four beat gait with increased speed and action. There is a distinct change in speed from the show walk to the mountain pleasure gait.

Possible Classes - Mountain Pleasure Horses:

*Showmanship, Racking/Mountain Seat Equitation, Bareback Equitation, Stock Seat Equitation, English or Western Mountain Pleasure, Country Trail Pleasure, Trail Pleasure, Park Pleasure.*