

Stock Horse Showmanship

The Stock Horse Showmanship class is judged on the exhibitor's ability to fit and train a horse for a show or sale. Emphasis will be on proper fitting of the horse and the ability to present a well-trained horse to the judge through a series of practical and basic maneuvers from the ground. Conformation of the horse is not judged. Furthermore, this class may be held following an exhibition of rideability and sweat marks or other signs of recent work under saddle are not counted off in judging.

Attire. Exhibitors should be neat, clean, and well-groomed. Hats or helmets should be clean and well-shaped and boots should be clean. Chaps and spurs are NOT permitted in showmanship.

Equipment. Use a clean halter that is adjusted to fit the horse. Plain leather halters, flat nylon halters or rope halters are acceptable and should be clean, neat and adjusted and well-fitted to the individual horse. Silver on halters is not allowed other than on normal buckles and hardware.

Method of Showing

1. Walk, trot, turn, stop, back, and pose the horse as shown in the posted pattern.
2. The horse is always led from the left side. The exhibitor's right hand is held closest to the halter, with the distance being highly dependent upon the mannerisms of the horse, the size of both the horse and the exhibitor, and breed standards. The excess amount of lead is folded or loosely coiled in the left hand and held about waist high. Never wrap the excess lead around the hand or make a coil so small that a sudden jerk could cause the lead to wrap around the hand.
3. At both the walk and the trot, the exhibitor's shoulder should be about even with the horse's throatlatch. In this position, the horse is beside the exhibitor, allowing the judge a clear view of the horse's travel. Movement at both gaits should be brisk and sharp, as opposed to slow and dull.
4. Pose or set up the horse with its feet set according to its type or breed. Stock horse breeds stand square. Move the horse's feet by pushing or pulling on the lead strap as necessary with the right hand. Touching the horse's body with a hand or foot to change the horse's position is penalized.
5. Once set up, the horse should be presented in such a way as to not distract the judge's attention from the horse. Like Classic Showmanship, the exhibitor stands on the opposite side of the horse when the judge is toward the front and on the same side as the judge when the judge is toward the rear of the horse – commonly called "quarters".
6. For safety reasons, at no time should an exhibitor stop and stand directly in front of the horse.
7. Additional tests, such as walking or trotting over logs, leading horses through a gate, moving around markers such as cones or other suitable obstacles, ground tying or any other maneuver which the judge feels is a fair test for determining the level of training and ground handling ability of a stock horse, may be included in the pattern.
8. When ground tying, it is acceptable to either drape the leadline over the horse's neck or drop the leadline to the ground.

English Showmanship

The English Showmanship class is a performance class and is judged on the exhibitor's ability to fit and train a horse for a show or sale. Emphasis will be on proper fitting of the horse and the ability to present a well-trained horse to the judge through a series of practical and basic maneuvers from the ground. Conformation of the horse is not judged. Furthermore, this class may be held following an exhibition of rideability and sweat marks or other signs of recent work under saddle are not counted off in judging.

Attire. Exhibitors should wear attire suitable for English riding including English boots or paddock boots with half chaps and a helmet. Spurs are NOT permitted in showmanship.

Equipment. Use a clean halter that is adjusted to fit the horse or an English bridle. Plain leather halters or flat nylon halters are acceptable and should be clean, neat and adjusted and well-fitted to the individual horse. Silver on halters is not allowed other than on normal buckles and hardware.

Method of Showing

1. Walk, trot, turn, stop, back, and pose the horse as shown in the posted pattern.
2. The horse is always led from the left side. The exhibitor's right hand is held closest to the halter or bridle, with the distance being highly dependent upon the mannerisms of the horse, the size of both the horse and the exhibitor, and breed standards. The excess amount of lead or rein is folded or loosely coiled in the left hand and held about waist high. Never wrap the excess lead around the hand or make a coil so small that a sudden jerk could cause the lead to wrap around the hand.
3. At both the walk and the trot, the exhibitor's shoulder should be about even with the horse's throatlatch. In this position, the horse is beside the exhibitor, allowing the judge a clear view of the horse's travel. Movement at both gaits should be brisk and sharp, as opposed to slow and dull.
4. Pose or set up the horse with its feet set according to its type or breed. English breeds stand square in the front and slightly off-set in the hind. A full square set up is also acceptable in English Showmanship. Move the horse's feet by pushing or pulling on the lead strap or rein as necessary with the right hand. Touching the horse's body with a hand or foot to change the horse's position is penalized.
5. Once set up, the horse should be presented in such a way as to not distract the judge's attention from the horse. Like Classic Showmanship at Halter, the exhibitor stands on the opposite side of the horse when the judge is toward the front and on the same side as the judge when the judge is toward the rear of the horse, commonly called "quarters".
6. For safety reasons, at no time should an exhibitor stop and stand directly in front of the horse.