

Tri-County Pony Club, Inc. (TCPC) Show Rules - 2013



**Applies only to TCPC Open
Horse/Pony Shows**



Tri-County Pony Club, Inc.

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The term "horse" throughout these rules refers to either a "horse" or a "pony".

A GENERAL RULES—HORSE

1. MISCELLANEOUS

If a horse is entered and not shown, entry fee(s) will not be refunded.

All horses that have a tendency to kick and stallions will wear a red ribbon in their tails.

All horses shall be serviceably sound. Any horse showing evidence of lameness shall be refused an award. The judge and/or the show committee have the authority to dismiss from a class any horse that is unsound.

The show committee or judge may and shall immediately order out of the ring or off the grounds any horse that appears unruly, a habitual kicker, striker, biter or a horse not under control.

2. HEIGHT

Ponies are 14.2 hands and under. All TCPC member ponies shown or nominated must be measured annually using the TCPC official measuring stick until they reach the age of 6.

The show committee will measure any equine entering a pony class that has the appearance of not meeting the height requirement. Any person attending a Tri-County Pony Club show has the right to bring a height concern to the attention of the show committee.

The measurement surface must be level and under no circumstances should animals be measured on dirt or gravel. A concrete slab or other paved surface is most desirable but, when not available, a sheet of heavy plywood can be used.

The animal must stand squarely on all four feet in such a position that the front legs are vertical to the ground and the back of the hocks are in a vertical line with the point of the animal's hind quarters. The head must be held low enough to reveal the highest point of the withers and no lower*. The animal must be free of all appliances. Handlers must not interfere with the animal in any way that will prevent it from standing in this position.

With the animal in the aforementioned position, measure the vertical distance from the highest point of the withers to the ground. The cross-piece, arm or bar of the measuring device must be placed over the highest point of the withers and no measurement taken at any other part of the animal's body will count. Additional pressure must not be applied to the cross-piece, arm or bar. 1/4" will be allowed for shoes.

Measuring is to be done by two members in good standing with the official TCPC measuring stick. The person not doing the actual measuring must be an officer of the club and he/she will record the information including age, height and date of measurement. This info will then be turned over to the membership committee.

The membership committee will be responsible for keeping all height records.

*miniature horses will be measured at the last mane hairs.



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3. AGE OF PONY/HORSE

For competition purposes, a pony is considered to be 1 year old on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling. Its birthday shall be the first day of January each year following.

Acceptable proof of age will be a copy of registration papers or if not registered, copy of current Coggins to be kept on file.

A horse must be at least 3 years of age to show under saddle. The only exception is that a horse may show as a 2 year old under saddle in the Starter division.

A horse must be at least 2 years of age to show in a driving class.

4. STALLIONS

No stallions will be allowed in children's or junior classes.
Stallions may not be shown by a junior.
All stallions will wear a red ribbon in their tail.

B GENERAL RULES—EXHIBITOR

1. MISCELLANEOUS

Judge/exhibitors must adhere strictly to TCPC rules. The Judge and/or show chairpersons reserve the right to make a decision on any rule not covered in the TCPC Rules based on their best judgment. Any grievance must be addressed through the grievance process explained on Page 5 of this document.

Only TCPC members and the officiating judge are allowed to work and/or be in the show ring during the show.

All exhibitors age 17 and under must wear ASTM approved helmets.

2. AGE OF EXHIBITOR

Age of exhibitor shall be determined as of January 1 of each year.

3. CONDUCT

Any assistance in any class after the judge has begun may result in disqualification of the rider. The judge may only be addressed through the show committee.

The show committee and/or judge may and shall immediately order out of the ring or off the grounds; any rider not showing good sportsmanship or using profane language.

Any exhibitor or member of his/her family who harasses or is abusive to the judge during or between classes, shall be barred from showing for the balance of the year and TCPC members will lose all points received up to and including that date.

Cruelty to, or abuse of a horse by any person at a recognized show is forbidden. The judge and/or the show committee have the authority to dismiss from the class or show, any exhibitor for cruelty to, or abuse of a horse. If a rider is disqualified from showing by the show committee or by the judge, the entry fee(s) will not be refunded.



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C GENERAL RULES—COMPLAINTS

Any and all complaints or protests must be in writing and drafted to include all points or phases which the aggrieved desires to cover and which he/she believes they can confirm or verify. Exact details regarding any alleged violation of the rules are essential for the indictment. Said protest will be in writing, signed and addressed to the TCPC president and must be supported by a deposit of \$25. Complaints must be postmarked within 48 hours of the occurrence of the alleged violation. The \$25 deposit will be returned, when and if the executive committee finds the charges factual and sound. A decision must be made within 30 days of receipt of the complaint.

D PERFORMANCE RULES

1. MISCELLANEOUS

Judges may use their own discretion for additional performance from contestants.

Tack changes between classes will be given 3 minutes after which the gate will be closed. All tack changes must be done outside of the show ring.

17 & Under classes—no more than 10 horses may canter/lope at one time.

Saddle classes—any under saddle class having more than 20 horses in it may be split and worked in 2 sections at the show management's discretion.

2. IN HAND DIVISION

In hand horses shall be shown in hand and judged standing for quality, conformation and soundness. Horses shall be walked and trotted/jogged to determine lameness. Horses shall not be required to back. Way of going shall be considered.

The in-hand trail/obstacle classes are judged with each obstacle assigned a different number of points depending on the degree of difficulty. Each pony's time will be kept to break ties. In case of a tie in scores, the best time will determine the winner.

3. STARTER HORSE/PONY DIVISION

Horse/Pony may not be at the cantering level.

Horse/Pony must be 2 years or older.

Starter classes are for horses and ponies that do not canter and may not enter any canter classes at any competition or exhibition. Horses and ponies may enter this division for as long as they do not canter or lope at any competition or exhibition.

Any standard English bit may be used. Bit converters are prohibited. The judge has the right to inspect such and excuse any exhibitor that he/she deems is using an inappropriate bit/bridle.

Any standard Western bit may be used. Bosals are allowed for animals 5 years and younger. Horses in a snaffle bit will be ridden with two hands. Mechanical hackamores are prohibited. The judge has the right to inspect such and excuse any exhibitor that he/she deems is using an inappropriate bit/bridle.



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4. GREEN HORSE/PONY DIVISION

The Green division is for horses/ponies in their first or second year showing at the canter or lope.

Horse/Pony must be 3 years or older.

Any standard English bit may be used. Bit converters are prohibited. The judge has the right to inspect such and excuse any exhibitor that he/she deems is using an inappropriate bit/bridle.

Any standard Western bit may be used. Bosals are allowed for animals 5 years and younger. Horses in a snaffle bit will be ridden with two hands. Mechanical hackamores are prohibited. The judge has the right to inspect such and excuse any exhibitor that he/she deems is using an inappropriate bit/bridle.

5. LEADLINE DIVISION

Riders to be 8 years or younger unless otherwise specifically stated. Rider is judged on seat, hands and general control of horse. Leadline riders will be asked to walk and trot or jog. They may also be asked to back their horse/pony.

Exhibitors may not ride off a lead at any show.

Horses to be led by a competent leader 14 years of age or older.

6. WALK TROT/JOG DIVISIONS

Exhibitors in this division may not go in any class with a canter/lope nor may they have cantered/loped at any show, competition or performance. Evidence of competing or performing at a canter/lope will result in automatic disqualification of points.

7. OVER-THE-HILL DIVISION

The Over-the-Hill classes are for exhibitors 30 and over who have elected to no longer show at a canter/lope at any show, competition or performance. Evidence of competing or performing at a canter/lope will result in automatic disqualification of points.

8. BEGINNER DIVISION

This division is for exhibitors in their first or second year showing at the canter or lope. The same rules apply as for the English and Western divisions. This division is based on the rider's ability and is not for beginner, starter or green horses and ponies. Exhibitors may cross enter divisions.



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9. ENGLISH DIVISION

Horses shall be of any breed, or combination of breeds, suitable to English riding.

Exhibitors will wear appropriate boots, huntseat or saddleseat clothing and protective headgear if 17 and under. The judge may excuse jackets as deemed appropriate.

All classes in this division require appropriate English saddles.

Any standard English bit may be used. Bit converters are prohibited. The judge has the right to inspect such and excuse any exhibitor that he/she deems is using an inappropriate bit/bridle.

Spurs of unrowelled type, whips or crops are optional. The judge may excuse any exhibitor that uses spurs, whips or crops excessively as he/she deems appropriate.

Martingales are not allowed.

Flash, drop and figure 8 nosebands are prohibited.

Bridle Path Hack — must extend the trot and hand gallop. The Show Committee reserves the right to split the class if deemed a safety concern.

Hunter Hack — must extend the trot, hand gallop and jump 2 fences not to exceed 2'. If a crossrails and a straight rail class are both offered, you may only enter one. Schooling will be offered and overseen by a member of the TCPC. Exhibitor will be offered a chance to school one time over both fences or two tries over one fence. (second fence pole to be dropped to the ground)

10. WESTERN DIVISION

Horses shall be of any breed, or combination of breeds, suitable to Western riding.

Exhibitors will wear appropriate boots, western style clothing and a western hat or protective headgear if 17 and under. For equitation classes, chaps are at the discretion of the judge.

All classes in this division require appropriate Western saddles.

Any standard Western bit may be used. Junior horses age 5 and under may be shown in a snaffle bit or bosal. Rider must ride with two hands. Mechanical hackamores are prohibited. The judge has the right to inspect such and excuse any exhibitor that he/she deems is using an inappropriate bit/bridle.

Spurs are optional, but they cannot be used forward of the cinch.

Road Hack—must extend the jog and hand gallop. The Show Committee reserves the right to split the class if deemed a safety concern.



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11. OTHER

Command

Horse and rider to immediately obey the commands given by the judge at any gait. Failure to follow command is an elimination. Diagonals will count for English riders. When horses are excused, those on the rail may stand at ease. Honor system applies. The last remaining horse on the rail is the winner.

Judge will allow up to 4 TCPC members to serve as spotters. Only the Judge and the spotters may excuse a rider. Judge's decision is final. Spotters may not have students or family members in the class.

Disciplined Rail

A command class, but not a "fault and out" class. All horses to enter the ring and are shown together with no individual work-out except in the event of a tie. The class is to be judged on performance, ability, response and attitude of the horse. The judge shall be positioned to view as many entries as possible during the class.

12. DRIVING DIVISION

Safety shall be given the highest consideration by all persons involved in driving.

a. SAFETY

No horses, other than those under harness, will be allowed in the warm-up ring 10 minutes prior to the start of the driving classes until the last entry from the last driving class exits the ring.

Exhibitors under the age of 13 must have a passenger over the age of 18 accompany them in the vehicle. Protective headgear must also be worn by exhibitors 17 and under.

Passengers 17 and under must wear protective headgear.

The judge/show committee has the right to excuse any horse that isn't under control at all times.

Driver will not allow any passenger to enter or exit vehicle unless driver is seated with the reins in hand. Only the driver is allowed to handle the whip or the reins.

Horse will not be left unattended or tied while put to a vehicle.

Bridle and/or reins will not be removed while horse is hooked to a vehicle.

During lineup, a header may come in or a passenger in the vehicle may head the horse as needed.

b. MISCELLANEOUS

Judge may ask driver to perform a figure 8 or other appropriate test in the reinsmanship class. Drivers may use the single or two-handed style of driving.



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c. EQUIPMENT

Any harness in good working condition may be used.

Any cart appropriate for the size/type of horse may be used.

A side check or over check may be used. The judge has the right to inspect such and excuse any exhibitor that he/she deems is using a check inappropriately.

Martingales and tie downs are permitted only if appropriate for the vehicle being used. They are prohibited in obstacle classes.

d. APPOINTMENTS

Driver shall wear appropriate footwear, hat, apron or knee rug and gloves. Drivers and passengers should dress conservatively.

An appropriate driving whip shall be carried at all times.

e. DESCRIPTION OF DRIVING PLEASURE CLASSES

Pleasure Driving

Horses / Ponies are to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, pleasure trot and extended trot. They shall stand quietly and rein back. Horses / Ponies should show little to no arch in the crest, poll not lower than the withers and the eye of the horse not higher than the withers. Stride flowing with a flat knee with minimal knee and hock action. They should have a bright and relaxed manner.

Country Pleasure

Horses / Ponies are to be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, country pleasure trot and extended trot. They shall stand quietly and rein back. They should show slight flexion at the poll without evidence of undue restraint. They should be relatively high-headed and have a free way of moving. The checkrein should not interfere with the relaxed and free way of going. Responsive mouth is paramount, and all gaits to be performed with willingness, obvious ease, cadence, balance and smoothness.

f. DESCRIPTION OF GAITS

WALK

The walk should be a relaxed, flatfooted walk, four-beat, straight movement. Free, regular and unconstrained.

PLEASURE TROT /SLOW TROT

The pleasure trot should be easy going, square with elasticity and freedom of movement. Maintain forward impulsion and a steady pace.

COUNTRY PLEASURE TROT

A balanced, easy moving, relaxed two beat gait, demonstrating forward movement.



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STRONG TROT/TROT ON/EXTENDED TROT

The extended trot should be ground covering, open and reaching. There should be light contact with the mouth. Clear, but not excessive increase in pace and lengthening of stride while remaining well-balanced and showing appropriate lateral flexion on turns.

HALT

Horse and vehicle to be brought to a square stop without abruptness or veering. Horse should stand attentive, motionless and straight.

REIN BACK

Horse must move backward at least 4 steps in an unhurried manner with head flexed and straight. Driver should use quiet aids/light contact.

13. DRAFT HORSE DIVISION

General

The Draft division is for all draft horses and draft looking horses. If a horse looks like a draft horse, it is to show in the draft division.

Draft horses may not enter any other class outside of their division except for: Special or Fundraiser classes, such as Mother's Day Leadline and Costume classes.

Draft Division may consist of: 1 halter class, 2 riding classes and 2 driving classes. Open to all ages. These classes will count toward a day end award.

Halter

A show stick should be carried

A Trailer is optional*

*a trailer is a person that assists the exhibitor to move the horse forward and straight while trotting.

Riding

Draft classes will be walk/trot only

Draft classes are open to both English and Western riding

1 riding class to be Equitation

1 riding class to be Performance, open-faced bridles are required.

Driving

Draft horses are to be shown in appropriate 2-wheeled carts, checks are REQUIRED

Apron/lap rug will not be worn.

No passing is allowed.