



Tri-County Pony Club, Inc. Show Rules

Applies only to TCPC Open
Horse/Pony Shows
and Nominations

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

A. GENERAL RULES—HORSE

1. MISCELLANEOUS

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

All horses that tend 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

Miniature Horses are 38" and Under

Ponies are 14.2 hands (58") and under

Horses are Over 14.2 hands (over 58")

All TCPC member Minis and ponies shown or nominated must be measured annually using the TCPC official measuring stick until they reach the age of 6. We do not recognize other associations measurement cards.

The show committee will measure any equine entering a pony or mini 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 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.

3. AGE OF PONY/HORSE

For competition purposes, a pony is 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 under saddle in the Starter division at 2 years old.

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.

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 about 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 workers and the officiating judge can 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.

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. 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 entry'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 and bit less bridles are prohibited. The judge has the right to inspect such and excuse any exhibitor that he/she deems is using an inappropriate bit/bridle.

4. GREEN HORSE/PONY DIVISION

If a Green division is offered, the following rules apply.

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 and bit less bridles 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. Lead line riders will be asked to walk and trot or jog.

Exhibitors may not ride off a lead at any show.

Horses to be led by a competent leader 16 years of age or older.

6. ASSISTED RIDING

Riders to be 9 years or older unless otherwise specifically stated. The rider must have a spotter but may or may not have an actual lead attached. Rider is judged on seat, hands and general control of horse. Assisted riders will be asked to walk and trot or jog. They may also be asked to back their horse/pony.

Horses to be led by a competent leader 16 years of age or older.

7. 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.

8. OVER-THE-HILL DIVISION

If an Over The Hill division is offered, the following rules apply.

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.

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 and bit less bridles 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 —

W/T must extend the trot.

W/T/C must extend the trot and hand gallop. The Show Committee reserves the right to split the class if deemed a safety concern.

10. JUMPING DIVISION

W/T Equitation over poles.

Course will be posted at the in-gate/office. Course will consist of a max of 6 fences. Class is open to any rider who has never entered a 3-gait class. To be judged on hands, seat, posture and ability to maneuver equine through a course over poles.

W/T Hunter Hack

To enter the ring to the right, at a trot. To be shown at a walk and trot both ways of the ring. May be asked to back. May be asked to extend the trot. Entrants are required to jump one fence individually. Cross rail height up to 12". To be scored as a working hunter: 60% fence and 40% performance. No martingales permitted. Rider not penalized if horse/pony canters after jump but must return to the trot within 3 strides.

Over Fences (open to pony/horse):

Courses will be posted at the in-gate/office. Courses will consist of a max of 6 fences. Cross rails (not to exceed 18") and Fences (up to 2' 6") will ride the same course. Both set of classes are open to any horses and riders that are eligible to compete in 3 gait classes. Rider/Horse combination may only compete in one set of classes and once a rider/horse combination enters the Fences classes, they may not go back to Cross rails. Horses may cross-enter with a different rider if applicable

Equitation:

To be judged on hands, seat, posture, and ability to maneuver equine through a course of fences.

Hunter:

To be judged on even hunting pace, manners, jumping style, faults and soundness. Open to hunter type equines shown under hunt seat tack/attire. Course must have at least one change of direction.

Hunter Hack: (anyone who enters 3 gait Cross rails or 3 gait Straight Rails may enter):

To enter the ring to the right, at a trot. To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. May be asked to back. May be asked to extend the trot and or hand gallop. Judge's discretion to split the class for hand gallop. Entrants are required to jump two fences individually. Cross rail height up to 18" with ground lines and set 36' or 48' apart. To be scored as a working hunter: 60% fences and 40% performance. No martingales permitted. 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)

11. 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 optional.

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 and bit less bridles 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.

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.

Exhibitors and 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, all youth exhibitors shall have a header. Adult exhibitors may have a header 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.

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 for ponies and horses. Checks are required for draft horses. The judge has the right to inspect such and excuse any exhibitor that he/she deems is using a check inappropriately.

Running martingales are allowed with snaffle bits only and are not permitted with leverage bits.

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

To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, pleasure trot, and extended trot. Stand quietly and to rein back. To be judged 60% on performance, manners and way of going, 30% on the condition, fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle and 10% on neatness, appropriateness of attire and overall impression. Horses and ponies should be shown to breed standard. Excessive speed will be penalized.

1. Walk: A free regular and forward moving 4 beat gait. The horse should walk energetically but calmly and with a determined pace.
2. Pleasure Trot. Horse should maintain forward impulsion while showing submission to the bit. The trot is slower and more collected, but the horse should indicate willingness to be driven on the bit while maintaining a steady cadence.
3. Extended Trot: This is a clear, but not excessive in gait and length of stride. The horse goes forward freely, engaging the hind legs with good hock action, on a taut light rein, the position balanced and unconstrained.
4. Horse and vehicle to be brought to a square stop without abruptness or veering. Horse should stand attentive, motionless and straight.
5. Horse must move back at least 4 steps in an unhurried manner with head flexed and straight. Drivers should use quiet aids/light contact.

COUNTRY PLEASURE DRIVING

Country Pleasure Driving Horses are to enter the ring counterclockwise at a country pleasure trot. To be shown both ways of the ring at a walk, country pleasure trot and extended trot. To stand quietly and to rein back. To be judged 60% on performance, manners and way of going, 30% on the condition, fit and appropriateness of harness and vehicle, and 10% on neatness, appropriateness of attire and overall impressions. Over-checks and side-checks should be slightly loose, not snug. The headset should appear natural for the horse. Excessive knee action and speed to be penalized.

1. Walk: A free regular and forward moving 4 beat gait. The horse should walk energetically but calmly and with a determined pace.
2. Country Pleasure Trot: A balanced, easy moving, relaxed two beat gait demonstrating forward movement.
3. Extended Trot: A clear increase in gait and length of stride. The horse should move freely on a taut but light rein, while maintaining a balanced gait and forward movement. Excessive knee action and speed shall be penalized.
4. Horse and vehicle to be brought to a square stop without abruptness or veering. Horse should stand attentive, motionless and straight.
5. Horse must move back at least 4 steps in an unhurried manner with head flexed and straight. Drivers should use quiet aids/light contact.