

## JUDGED CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

**Halter Classes:** Exhibitors wearing Western, English, or Gaited attire show their horses in hand and horses are judged on conformation of breed. Horses must trot and square up for inspection.

**Grooming & Conditioning:** The judge examines the horse's appearance and how they are groomed and prepared for the show ring. Overall condition of the horse is considered, although conformation is not judged. The horse is required to trot and to stand square and quiet.

**Showmanship:** The exhibitors are judged on how well they show and present their horses and move around the horse to protect the judge.

**Color:** An in-hand class judged on the color of the horse and how well it meets the standard for the breed. Recognized color breeds include Paint, Buckskin, Palomino, Appaloosa, Pinto, Dun, etc. Conformation is not considered.

**Gaited Classes:** For gaited horses of any breed (flat shod only) and include walk, slow gait, and fast gait. Horses do not canter in these classes. **Performance** judges the energy level and animation of the horse as well as consistency of gait. **Pleasure** judges the smoothness and consistency of the gait, as well as obedience and overall "pleasure to ride". **Equitation** judges the ability of the contestant and horse to perform maneuvers and commands well.

**Hunter Under Saddle on the Flat:** The horse is judged on manners, way of going, and suitability as a hunter. Class is judged on the horse's athleticism and motion. The judge may ask to extend the trot or a hand gallop.

**Hunter Equitation (over fences):** The rider is judged on correctness of form and control and correctness of the horse over fences. The pattern is set by the judge and has two fences.

**Hunter Hack:** The rider is judged on their ability to negotiate two fences coupled with arena work for the suitability of the horse as an all purpose riding mount.

**English Equitation (flat):** The rider is judged on correctness of form and control of the horse while working a pattern set by the judge.

**Horsemanship:** The western equivalent of Equitation. The contestants are judged on how well they can ride the horse in a pattern set by the judge.

**Pleasure:** The horse is judged on ease of going. The horse's movement and gait are judged as the walk, trot/jog, and lope/canter while riding the arena in both directions.

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**Reining:** The contestants are judged on correctness and performance of an AQHA reining pattern set by the judge.

**Western Riding:** The contestants are judged on correctness and performance of an AQHA western riding pattern set by the judge.

**Obedience:** A similarity to “Simon says” on horseback. The contestants are called to perform maneuvers of the judge’s choice such as side passing, counter cantering, backing, standing quietly on loose rein, etc. Contestants are judged on correctness and the horse’s performance of the maneuver asked.

**Trail Class:** A course pattern set by the judge with obstacles to be encountered and maneuvered. The horse and rider are judged on how well they complete the course in a quiet and obedient manner.