



***Standardbred
Pleasure
Horse
Organization
of Ohio***

Rule Book

Approved by Rules Committee and Membership 9/9/06
Last revision - September 2006

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Article 1 - General Purpose of the Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization of Ohio

1.1 Statement of Purpose

The purpose of Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization of Ohio is to promote the use of Standardbreds outside the traditional use as harness racehorses.

The SPHO of Ohio desires to avoid the excesses and extremes in both training and exhibition that have come to be associated with some gaited breeds. Regardless of the division in which the gaited horse is shown, the horse must retain the characteristics of a pleasure horse. Exaggeration and extremes in style and form are not to be rewarded, whether the extremes are manifested in excessive animation and speed, or in the direction of the least animation and speed. In every division the gaited horse must be fluid, natural, smooth and appear to be a true pleasure to ride if it is to be rewarded with a horse show ribbon. **Please note:** There are separate rules governing the SPHO Standardbred Roadster Division (See Article 9). **Manners of the horse and the horse's attitude are more important than the horse's conformation.**

1.2 Mission Statement:

The mission of the Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization of Ohio is to promote and educate the general public about the Standardbred breed as a versatile and useful pleasure horse before, during, and after any racing career.

1.3 Pursuing & accomplishing this mission

The SPHO of Ohio promotes the breed through trail rides, open and Standardbred-only horse shows, and activities such as staffing a booth to promote the breed. In addition, the SPHO of Ohio may also host or sponsor retraining clinics and foster further horsemanship education of its members.

1.4 Registration Requirements

In order to be able to compete in Standardbred-only classes or events, the horses must be registered as "Standard" with the United States Trotting Association (USTA) or Standardbred Canada (SC). The horse must be full Standardbred. Proof of registration is a 5-character lip tattoo, 5-character freezebrand on the right side of the neck (for horses born in 1995 and later), or a photocopy or original registration certificate from the USTA or SC that matches the horse.

1.5 Artificial Appearance: Standardbreds under saddle or in harness are to exhibit a style of movement that appears completely natural for the conformation of the horse.

1.6 Fitness to Compete

All horses must be serviceably sound for competition purposes; i.e. animal must not show evidence of lameness or broken wind. At the discretion of the judge, animals with complete loss of sight in either eye may be found serviceably sound.

1.7 Drug and Medication Policy and Restrictions

The administration of any drug affecting the central nervous system (stimulant or depressant) to a horse shown in any class at an SPHO show is strictly prohibited. The full use of modern therapeutic measures for the health of the horse, including the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, is permitted unless the drug given may also stimulate or depress the circulatory, respiratory, or nervous system. The use of irritants (including blisters, ginger, or similar soring or pain-inducing substances or devices) that affect the gait, carriage, or performance of the horse are forbidden.

Any exhibitor guilty of showing an animal under the influence of any prohibited drug, or using any forbidden substance, will be disqualified and will forfeit all winnings for the show. Additional penalties may also be given by the show committee, based on the situation.

1.8 General Appearance of Standardbreds

At all times, the appearance of the Standardbred in the show arena should be as close to natural as possible. A natural mane and tail are preferred. A braided foretop is allowed, as is a braid at the beginning of the bridlepath, with or without colored ribbon braided into the hair, as per the breed's history. English/dressage braiding or western banding of the mane according to a discipline, for the purposes of showing in open competition, are allowed and should not be penalized, but a natural appearance is preferred in SPHO shows. False tails are optional. **Blemishes and scars, including freezebrands, natural or man-made scars--such as those from freeze firing or pin firing--are not ever to be considered against the horse.**

1.9 Safety / Courtesy Precautions

If a horse is known to kick when approached closely from the back or sides, a red ribbon is required to be rubber-banded or braided into the tail, near the dock. If a horse is green (first of second year of showing), a green ribbon may be rubber-banded or braided into the tail, near the dock to warn other class exhibitors to give considerate distance to the green horse.

Article 2 - Definition of Terms relating to the club & competition

2.1 Age Classifications

- Juvenile, Junior or Youth Exhibitors are defined as persons who have not reached an 19th birthday as of January 1st of a new competition year. Youth may continue to show in the juvenile division for the competition year based on their age on January 1st.
- Age specific classes for age groupings, like "11 and under" or "65 and over," may be established by show management in any division.
- Adult exhibitors are those who have reached an 19th birthday as of January 1st of a competition year.

2.2 *Age of Horses for show purposes:* All horses become one year old on January 1st, unless otherwise specified in registry rules.

2.3 *Disqualified:* See Eliminated

2.4 *Eliminated:* The entry may complete the class but may not be placed. The presence of prohibited equipment results in automatic elimination. Off pattern or off course also will result in disqualification/elimination.

2.5 *Excused:* The entry is removed from the ring at the discretion of the judge.

2.6 *Favorite Gait or Country Pleasure classes:* These classes consist of the walk and any other gait with the exception of the hand gallop. A smooth trotting horse is to be considered on an equal par with any other gaited horse in this division.

2.7 *Novice Rider:* An exhibitor who is in his or her first or second year of showing under saddle or in harness.

2.8 *Novice Horse:* A horse that is in its first or second year of showing under saddle or in harness.

2.9 *Novice Handler:* An exhibitor who is in his or her first or second year of showing in in-hand classes.

2.10 *Intermediate gait:* Any gait the horse performs naturally between the walk and the canter, including but not limited to: pace, trot, amble, foxtrot, running walk, rack, single-foot, and stepping pace. They are all to given equal consideration unless it is a specialty class with special gait requirements.

2.11 *Mandatory, must, is to, shall or required:* Where required elements are part of a class, a horse that does not complete the mandatory elements may not be tied over other horses that do, although such a horse may be tied over eliminated horses.

2.12 *May:* Optional; at the judge's discretion; not necessarily to be rewarded or penalized.

2.13 *Open Classes:* An open class is open to horses of any age, size or sex, unless otherwise limited by show management, and with no limiting qualifications for the rider.

2.14 *Penalized:* A penalty is adjudged against the entry with discretion on the part of the judge allowed to determine how heavily the specific failing is to be weighted in evaluation of the total performance. A penalized horse must be tied above a horse that fails to execute mandatory requirements.

2.15 *Prohibit:* Any action or article in this Rule Book described as prohibited is considered illegal and will result in disqualification or elimination of the entry.

2.16 *Should:* Suggested and/or preferred; addresses an area where some degree of subjectivity or discretion on the part of the judge may result in either reward or penalty as the judge sees fit.

2.17 *Specialty Classes:* At the discretion of show management any class may be specified to be a two gait specialty class and the canter will not be required. Two gaits must be exhibited each way of the ring in order for the entry to be judged.

2.18 *Three-gait classes:* Classes to be contested both directions of the ring, judged at the walk, intermediate gait, and canter.

2.19 *Two-gait classes:* Classes to be contested both directions of the ring, judged at the walk and intermediate gait.

Article 3 - Shoeing Regulations

3.1 General Shoeing Information

- Shoeing of horses at SPHO shows is optional. A horse shown barefoot, without shoes, is to be given equal consideration with a horse that is shod.
- SPHO shows do not allow timeouts for thrown shoes. Exhibitors who's horses throw shoes may elect to be excused from the ring or to complete the class minus a shoe. Shoes that are thrown in the ring will be presented to the judge and ringmaster at the conclusion of the class for inspection.
- Horses exhibited at SPHO sanctioned events are to be shod in accordance with accepted principles of farrier science in order to protect the animal's feet and to ensure correct footfall, not primarily to enhance performance.

3.2 *Therapeutic Shoeing*

In an attempt to allow horses with conditions like navicular or complications from founder to compete in a comfortable manner, therapeutic shoeing may be permitted on a case-by-case basis. Therapeutic pads are also allowed.

3.3 *Hoof Polish*

Hoof polish is not a consideration in judging. Clean, healthy hooves are preferred. Clear or black hoof polish is allowed but not required. Horses with natural, clear polished or black polished hooves should be given equal consideration.

Article 4 -Description of Gaits Acceptable in the Standardbred

Walk

4.1 *Walk on a loose rein:* The walk on a loose rein is a slow, even, four-beat walk. The horse is relaxed with a lowering of the head. The reins are loose and swinging. The horse must give no indication of, or attempt to speed up or get away from the rider.

4.2 *Working walk:* The walk is a bold, ground covering gait that must be even and four beats. The working walk is not a speed gait, however. Each foot must leave and strike the ground independently. The horse should appear to pull with his front legs and drive from his rear legs. Tracking up is preferred.

Intermediate Gaits

4.3 *Trot:* A forward, balanced two-beat diagonal gait. The right fore and left hind legs move together, while the left fore and right hind legs move together. English riders should rise at the trot, or post the trot, on the correct diagonal, unless a sitting trot is called for.

4.4 *Pace:* A two-beat lateral gait where the right fore and hind legs move together and strike the ground, and the left fore and hind legs move together and strike the ground. Sitting or posting is allowed per the rider's preference.

4.5 *Stepping pace:* Also known as the broken pace. An even four beat lateral gait with a moderate but noticeable increase in speed. There must be a distinct upward transition in speed from the working walk.

4.6 *Amble:* An easy gait in which both legs on the same side are moved at the same time, alternating with the legs on the other side.

4.7 *Foxtrot:* A basically diagonal gait, performed by walking in front and trotting behind. The horse should reach with each stride, and an overstride is acceptable as long as the horse travels straight from all four corners and executes an authentic fox trot. A trappy or hocky way of going is to be severely penalized. Excessive elevation of knees and hocks in the fox trotting Horse is not desirable. The rear legs should have a smooth slide, rather than the snap that leads to a hard jar in other trotting breeds. The head and tail may be slightly elevated. A head nod is also acceptable but not required. Ear may indicate the step and rhythm and the tail should move in motion with the tempo of the gait, excessive wringing of the ears or of the tail should be scrutinized and evaluated as to whether or not it is part of the horse's natural way of going or whether it indicates soreness, artificiality in movement, or bad temper. If the latter are believed to be the case, the judge must penalize the horse. The step should be springy and elastic, consistent in stride and smooth. A marked up and down motion, a so-called sewing machine gait, should be penalized. The horse should be shown in a relaxed yet collected frame.

4.8 *Running walk:* The running walk is a smooth, gliding gait with the same footfall as the flat walk (four beats) but is executed with an increase in speed and stride. Speed, however, must never be tied over form. Its execution should appear to be a pleasure for both horse and rider. The appearance of laboring at the gait is to be penalized. The gait is natural to the breed and must not appear to be artificial in execution. The running walk is executed freely, with a looseness in motion. The horse must pull with its front feet and drive well up under itself with his hindquarters. Head shaking is not required.

4.9 *Rack:* also called a "single foot" gait because each foot hits the ground in a moment of individual action, creating a four-beat gait. At the rack, the footfall is one foot down and three feet in various phases of elevation, which causes the gait to be smooth and shock absorbing. Judges should evaluate the quality of the rack based on execution, speed appropriate to form and class, and action that does not appear to be artificial or contrived. Unless a class specifically calls for a fast rack, the slow rack is preferred and excessive speed is to be penalized; form is more important than speed. However, there should be a noticeable difference in speed between the rack and the working walk. The horse should travel on a straight track and bend appropriately through the curves. Head nodding is not desirable in a horse performing a rack. Correct form is preferred over excessive action or animation in the rack.

Canter

4.10 *Canter:* The canter in English classes or the lope in Western classes must be smooth, collected, straight on both leads, with a three beat count. The horse must canter on the correct lead for the direction of the ring unless a counter canter is requested. The horse must remain comfortably in hand while demonstrating this gait. Judges may ask that the gait be extended, meaning that the stride is increased in length, rather than speed. Judges may also request a hand gallop, a four beat gait.

Pumping or snatching of the reins must be severely penalized. Four beat canters will be penalized. Cross cantering or cross firing will be penalized. A horse that is run into the rail as a means of picking up the correct canter lead or a horse that is kicked in the shoulder or in front of the girth as a canter cue is to be severely penalized. Excessive speed at the canter must be penalized, as must be cantering in place. The horse must give the impression that the gait is conducive to forward movement. A mechanical or exaggerated rocking chair appearance is not desirable and must be penalized.

Hand Gallop

4.11 *Hand Gallop*: A four beat gait, faster than the canter, but in similar rhythm. Excessive speed is to be penalized. This gait will usually only be called for at the discretion of the judge, and only in three-gait classes. No more than 8 horses shall hand gallop at the same time.

Article 5 - Tack And Attire

5.1 *General* SPHO sanctioned events require a certain level of presentation with safety foremost in mind. Exhibitors should be neatly turned out, in tack and attire. Tack and attire requirements as outlined in this Article apply to all horses and exhibitors at SPHO sanctioned events.

5.2 *Special Exception to Tack, Equipment and Attire* Special exceptions to tack equipment and attire may be made to accommodate those with religious reasons or with a physical handicap. Special exceptions may include, but are not limited to, split riding skirts for women in both In Hand, Under Saddle, or Driving classes, and special arrangements to accommodate those with a physical handicap. Requests for approval of such exceptions must be submitted to Show management prior to participation in competition.

5.3 *Attire* Exhibitors should be neatly turned out. Acceptable attire consists of long pants, shirts, and shoes or boots with a distinguishable heel. Protective headgear may be worn in any class at a SPHO sanctioned event and will not be penalized for appearance by any judge. SPHO makes no warranty, express or implied, that the wearing of protective headgear will protect riders from all of the risks attendant with participation in equestrian sports but supports and encourages the use of such headgear in support of equestrian safety. Where states require the use of protective headgear, show committees will comply with the requirements of the state where a SPHO sanctioned event is held. Show committees will decide which classes will require mandatory protective headgear and it will be indicated on the showbill. Judges, at their discretion, may authorize adjustments to attire due to weather-related conditions.

Competitor must display the correct number that must be clearly visible while performing in any class unless otherwise stated in the prize list. Competitors will be penalized at the discretion of the judge for not displaying a number.

Boots or shoes worn while riding anywhere on the competition grounds must have a distinguishable heel.

5.4 *Tack* Any combination of tack and equipment is acceptable.

5.5 *Traditional Tack* Traditional tack as well as breed specific tack such as that for Peruvian Paso, Paso Fino, and Icelandic Horses, is acceptable. In some instances this traditional tack and attire may be different from the allowable tack and attire of this Rule Book. They may be shown in SPHO Sanctioned shows using traditional tack and attire even if this tack and attire requires mixing tack and attire and is of a style not considered English or Western.

5.6 *Other Acceptable Tack Options* Other acceptable tack options include: Buena Vista saddles, Australian stock seat saddles with or without horns, all purpose saddles and sidesaddles. Cruppers and fore girths are allowed if required to keep saddle in position. Saddle pads including gel pads may be used with all saddles.

5.7 *Schooling Shows* The primary purpose of a schooling show is education. At SPHO sanctioned schooling shows, mixed tack and attire is permissible. Casual tack and attire used for training, schooling or pleasure riding is acceptable. All prohibited tack and equipment or appliances outlined in this Rule Book are illegal at SPHO schooling shows. Tack and attire must be safe for both horse and rider. Nylon equipment is permissible.

5.8 *Allowable Training Aids on Show Grounds (Warm Up Ring)* Although not allowed in competition certain equipment is allowed on the show grounds and in the warm up ring. Side reins, draw reins, and standing and running martingales may be used in the warm up ring. Non-weighted bell boots may be used in the warm up ring prior entering the show ring, although they may be inspected at any time. Lunge whips may be used on the show grounds when exercising horses on a lunge line.

5.9 *Prohibited Tack* The use of any prohibited item of tack by an individual will result in disqualification or expulsion from SPHO sanctioned events. The following are prohibited: Wire curbs, any mouthpiece with a diameter of small than 5/16th of an inch, chin straps narrower than ½ inch, chin straps not laying flat, draw reins, standing or running martingales – except in over fence classes, shanks for curb bits greater than 6 inches, bits or mouthpieces made of bicycle or chain saw chain, ports higher than 2 inches, any item attached to the end of whips – i.e.: paper bags, balloons, rags, etc., headstalls with studs or other protuberances concealed within the leather, bare metal over the nose or poll, sharpened points on spurs. **An exhibitor using any tack or equipment deemed inhumane by judges or show committee will be excused from the class.**

Article 6 - Ring Protocol and Judging Procedures

6.1 *General Information* Judges will follow an established ring protocol in all under saddle classes. Judging does not commence until the gate is officially closed and the class called to order. Judges or show management may direct that the gate be closed after the announcement of a two-minute gate call. The ringmaster is responsible for timing of the gate call, and in the absence of the ringmaster the judge will keep the official time. Once the gate is closed, no entry will be allowed to enter the ring. Although horses enter at the walk, the judge may direct the class to go at ease while waiting for the class to fill. Riders may stop on the rail and use that time to make minor tack adjustments, as long as dismounting is not required.

6.2 *Requirements for Exhibition* All horses that enter the ring to compete must be controlled and must pose no danger to other entries. Fractious behavior will not be allowed to disrupt the performance of other competitors. In the event that an exhibitor does not request the gate if his horse becomes unruly, the judge must excuse the entry.

6.3 *Voluntary Requests to Be Excused* Any exhibitor has the right to request to be excused from consideration at any time during the competition but prior to the lineup. Once the lineup has been called, only the judge may excuse an exhibitor from a class. An exhibitor shall pull into center ring and request permission to be excused through the ringmaster. The exhibitor may choose to remain mounted or to dismount.

6.4 *Involuntary Dismissal from the Ring* The judge may exercise his/her discretionary power to excuse an exhibitor at any point in the class. When a judge makes this determination, the class will be stopped, the exhibitor will be asked to pull into center ring and the ringmaster will give the exhibitor a brief description of the reason for the dismissal. Discussion of the decision in center ring is not allowed. The announcer will make an announcement that the exhibitor has been dismissed at the request of the judge; the exhibitor will leave the ring; then, the class will continue.

6.5 *Time-Outs* Time-outs may only be called for tack breakage or repair. If an entry throws a shoe during the course of a class, the exhibitor has the option of continuing without a shoe, or requesting to be excused from the class. To request a time-out, the rider must pull into center ring and request the time from the ringmaster. The rider must remain mounted, unless to do so would constitute a danger to the exhibitor or the horse. In the absence of an emergency, the rider may dismount when permission for the time-out is given. Timing begins when the announcement of the timeout is made. No assistant or groom may enter the ring before the announcement. The only problem that may be corrected during a timeout is the problem for which the request was made. A total of ten minutes per individual entry is allowed for timeouts in a class. Regardless of the length of time expended, no more than one time-out per entry will be allowed per class. The ringmaster is the official timekeeper and will record the amount of time spent during the timeout in a notebook kept for that purpose. Other riders are to remain at ease during the time out and may make adjustments to tack that do not require the rider to dismount. Assistance in the ring or from over the rail is prohibited.

6.6 *Workouts* A judge may call for a workout for any or all of the entries in the class in order to determine the final placement of entries within the group designated for the workout. Horses may be worked out for other than the top placings. Horses may be tied for positions only against other horses considered within a section of the workout. Entries who have already been placed in the class will be asked to move to the center of the arena, or to one end of the arena until the workout is completed. All horses that have not been selected for the workout are excused after the final workout horses have been selected.

Workout entries are judged as if a new class has begun. Horses chosen for workouts must work at any gait requested by the judge. Cards are to be marked on the basis of the quality of the presentation during a workout. In any class having more than one judge, the presence of a horse on one judge's card is sufficient to allow the horse to be in the workout group. Judges may confer together if they are using the workout to tie specific places, rather than the entire class.

6.7 *Fall of Horse or Rider* The fall of a horse, defined as the shoulder and the point of the hip on the same side hitting the ground, or the fall of a rider from the horse will result in the entry being excused in that particular class.

6.8 *Weighting of Gaits in Competition* The gaits required in both specialty and three gait classes are to be given equal weighting by the judge. No one gait is considered to be any more important than the other two gaits.

6.9 *Use of Prohibited Tack or Equipment* The use of prohibited shoeing, tack, equipment and/or attire will result in disqualification.

6.10 *ATSM Helmets* The use of ATSM helmets is recommended and their appearance should not to be penalized as part of any presentation including equitation competition, traditional saddle seat, and western attire. **The use of ATSM helmets is required for all riders regardless of age at all SPHO sanctioned shows in all over fences classes.** No extra consideration shall be given to those who wear ASTM helmets.

6.11 *Judging Procedures* Entries begin competition at the walk, after proceeding counterclockwise through the gate. Judges observe the entrance of the class, before the gate is closed, for two purposes only: to count the number of entries in a class and to note any signs of lameness or potential disqualifying issues before the field is placed in competition. The judges has the responsibility and the authority to excuse from the ring any horse that exhibits a bad image way of going, appears to be “off” or lame, who exhibits unruly behavior, or who otherwise fails to conform to the SPHO Rules. Horses bleeding from the mouth or muzzle will be eliminated from consideration in any class. Horses that are excused, either from the lineup or from the rail, do not meet the criteria of having been shown and judged. The decision to excuse a horse from competition is not protestable. Judging takes place only when a class is called to order. Breaks in gait or other mistakes that occur before that time are not considered in the final evaluation.

After the class is called to order, the judge shall call for the performance of the gaits of the entries. Halting is optional, according to the discretion of the judge. Without exception, a horse that fails to exhibit any of the required gaits for a sufficient period to allow the judge to form an adequate impression of the entry may not be tied above other horses that do present all the called-for gaits.

Judges are cautioned not to overwork a class or to continue it past the point where the performance of the entries begin to suffer or horses are laboring.

During the lineup, the judge and the ringmaster will walk the line. At that time, the judge may ask that the bit be dropped for inspection. In this situation, the horse will step forward from the line. This is done at the discretion of the judge and may be requested in any class. The judge may excuse horses for signs of physical distress and observable violations of the rules, even if those rules were not noticed on the rail during competition. Horses that are excused, either from the lineup or from the rail, do not meet the criteria of having shown and judged.

For inspection, the judge may call for the rider to dismount to hold the horse in hand for inspection during the lineup. If the judge asks for riders to dismount, the riders will not be asked to remount in the ring.

In all classes where the parked position is a traditional part of the display of the entry, the horse must park and stand quietly but should not be overstretched. In all in hand classes, horses may be asked to square up as part of the judging and it is required that they do so in order to be considered for prizes.

Western horses are not to be parked in any division, either under saddle or in hand. They stand square on all four corners and stand quietly during any lineup.

All horses may be required to back a minimum of four steps on a straight track. A refusal to back four steps in a straight line, without jerking or sawing on the reins on the part of the rider, or with the exhibition of a gaped mouth or swishing tail, indicative of resistance or irritation, will be penalized in the final judging. If a rider is asked to back a horse standing in the parked position, the rider must first square the horse up, before asking for the rein back.

Article 7 - Judging Specifics for the Standardbred

7.1 IN HAND/ HALTER DIVISION

7.1A *General* In all in-hand classes, horses must be shown by a single competitor. Entries may be exhibited either in halters or bridles. A chain may be attached to the lead line and under the chin groove or over the bridge of the nose when horses are shown in halter. Unruly or ill-mannered horses must be excused from the ring. Emphasis in this division shall be placed on type, conformation, substance, quality, turnout and evaluation of the way of going. **Surface blemishes must be overlooked,**

including pinfire or freeze-fire marks, scars, or brands of any kind. Classes may be subdivided by age or gender at the option of show management.

7.1B *Standardbred Type and Conformation* In general the ideal Standardbred should have a neat head, well shaped ears, large eyes, and a large muzzle. There should be clear definition at the throatlatch. The ears may be large and the head may have a “noble” appearance or a slight roman nose, which are acceptable. Nostrils should be wide and open. The jaw should be well defined. The neck should be of a length proportionate to the remainder of the body and should not be heavy/common. Backs should tend towards the short with good coupling at the loins and should give the impression of strength in conformation. The chest should be of adequate width to allow for ample lung capacity. The body should be deep in the girth and well ribbed. Trotters tend to be slightly longer in body than pacers. Croups should generally exhibit a gentle slope while the hips should be well muscled with the muscle extending down the leg towards the hocks. Legs should be flat and should be well situated on the corners of the horse. The horse’s feet should be of a size sufficient to support the bulk of the body.

7.1C *Showmanship* Showmanship is designed to give the exhibitors an opportunity to demonstrate his or her ability to fit and show a halter horse. Judging shall be based on the exhibitor’s ability, and no consideration shall be given to the horse’s confirmation. Grooming and physical condition will be considered. No youth under the age of 18 may exhibit a stallion. Attire must be clean and neat. Whips are not permitted when showing in Western style attire. Horses must be shown in a halter or a bridle. Lead lines with chains are permitted.

Judging Showmanship Classes

Appearance of exhibitor: 10 points

Suitable attire and person are neat and clean.

Appearance of horse: 40 points

Condition— 15 points

Grooming— 15 points

Hair coat clean, well brushed. Mane and tail free of tangles and clean. Hooves trimmed or shod properly and clean; may be polished, but no extra consideration is to be given to polished hooves, nor are they to be penalized. Judge may inspect horse by lifting of the mane or tail to look underneath for cleanliness. **Scars, blemishes, pin-fire or freeze-fire marks are not to be counted against the horse.**

Trimming— 5 points

Outside of ears trimmed neatly; inside of ears is optional and no extra consideration is to be given to ears that are trimmed inside. The bridle path should be trimmed neatly. Long hairs on the jaw, legs, and pasterns are to be trimmed and neat.

Tack— 5 points

Halter and lead line should be neat, clean, and in good repair.

Showing horse in the ring: 50 points

Pattern — 15 points

Patterns for showmanship classes are to be provided by the judge which may include walk, halt, intermediate gait, backing, and turns (Standardbred horses are not required to pivot), horses must stand quietly in a squared position for western and hunt type style, or may be parked (stretched) for saddle type style.

Judges and showmen should be aware of the differences in the showing styles and for the various breeds or types of horses.

Posing the horse— 15 points

When posing the horse, the exhibitor should stand at a diagonal facing the horse beside the throat area of the horse with his or her toes pointing toward the horse’s eye or head. Never stand directly in front of the horse. Always stay in a position where the exhibitor has view of the judge at all times. The exhibitor should keep good eye contact with the judge.

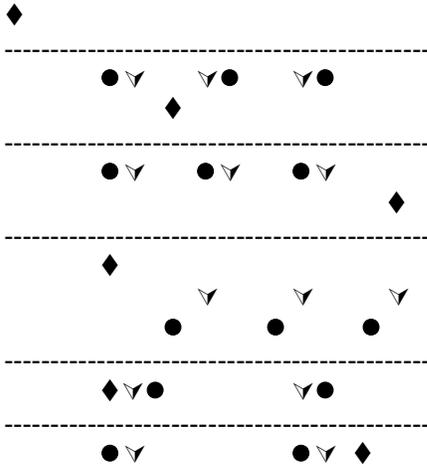
The quarter system is used for judging the horse while in line up. With the quarter system, the horse is divided into four sections by drawing an imaginary line down the horse’s back and another across the horse’s middle. When the judge is looking at the horse’s hind quarters, the exhibitor stays on the same side of the horse as the judge, with his or her toes pointed toward the horse’s eye or head. When the judge looks at either front quarter of the horse, the exhibitor crosses to the opposite side of the horse. Never crowd other exhibitors. Always leave one horse’s length between you and the next horse.

Poise, Alertness, and Merits— 20 points

Keep alert and be aware of the position of the judge at all times. Do not be distracted by persons or things outside the ring.

Line up formation, using the Quarter System: ♦ = Judge ▼ = Horse ● = Exhibitor

▼● ▼● ▼●



7.1D *Leadline Classes* Designed to furnish young or inexperienced exhibitors an opportunity to learn and demonstrate basics of horsemanship. Handlers of horses must be an adult (age 18 or older) unless the rider is an adult. Judging should be on the basis of the rider's abilities. Horses must be at least 2 years old or older. No stallions permitted. Exhibitor's feet must be in stirrups. The use of Velcro, tape or tying of the rider's feet in the stirrups is strictly forbidden. Handler and rider's attire must be clean, neat and uniform. A lead line is mandatory and must be attached safely. Handler should allow sufficient slack in the lead line to give the exhibitor some control of the horse.

Judging Leadline classes

Appearance of rider and handler: 30 points

Cleanliness, neatness, and uniformity.

Rider's performance: 40 points

Correct seat position and poise. Correct rein carriage and hand placement. Alertness. Options judge may ask of the rider, such as asking for a change of direction. Various general questions regarding the name of the horse, the person's age, name, and simple parts of the horse and tack. Riding forward through cones or backing the horse 4 steps may also be asked of the rider.

Appearance of horse: 20 points

Physical condition of the horse. Hair coat clean, well brushed. Mane and tail free of tangles and clean. Hooves trimmed or shod properly and clean; may be polished, but no extra consideration is to be given to polished hooves, nor are they to be penalized. Judge may inspect horse by lifting of the mane or tail to look underneath for cleanliness. **Scars, blemishes, pin-fire or freeze-fire marks are not to be counted against the horse.**

Tack: 10 points

Tack should be neat, clean, and in good condition.

7.2 UNDER SADDLE DIVISION

Note: *There are no cross-entries allowed in any under saddle classes. An entry must select either a two-gait or a three-gait class and may not enter both with the same horse. An entry constitutes same horse/same rider combination.*
EXCEPTION: Two-gait entries may participate in contest (timed) classes and the Can You Canter? class.

General After the class is called to order, the judge shall call for the performance of the gaits. Two-gait classes are to be performed at the walk and intermediate gait in both directions. Three-gait classes to be performed at the walk, intermediate gait and canter (lope) in both directions. The order of gaits in both two-gait and three-gait classes will be called for at the discretion of the judge. All horses may be required to back a minimum of four steps on a straight track. A refusal to back four steps in a straight line, without jerking or sawing on the reins on the part of the rider, or with the exhibition of a gaped mouth or swishing tail, indicative of resistance or irritation, will be penalized in the final judging. If a rider is asked to back a horse standing in the parked position, the rider must first square the horse up, before asking for the rein back.

Without exception, a horse that fails to exhibit any of the required gaits for a sufficient period to allow the judge to form an adequate impression of the entry may not be tied above other horses that do present all requested gaits.

7.3 DRIVING DIVISION

General Any serviceable two or four-wheel vehicle is permitted in the driving classes. Preferably, classes should be split between two-wheeled vehicles and four-wheeled vehicles. Leather, nylon or other synthetic harness is acceptable. Blinders or blinkers are allowed. Flash nosebands are optional only with a snaffle bit. An Overcheck bit may be used. Whips are allowed up to 6 feet including the lash. **EXCEPTION:** Only two-wheeled vehicles allowed in the Standardbred In Harness class.

Article 8 - CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS

This list is not all-inclusive

Classes are listed alphabetically – not by division

8.1 Barrel Race This is a timed event. **All contest classes will be contested with a closed gate.** Helmets are encouraged for all riders. In the event of a tie, a run-off is required.

All barrels must be a safe distance from the wall of the arena, at least 20 feet from the wall. The pattern is set in a triangular pattern. Barrels 1 and 2 must be equidistant from Barrel 3. The pattern requires three 55 gallon barrels, preferably plastic. A designated starting line should be clearly marked. It is recommended that an electric timer, or two stop watches be used to time the event. In the event stopwatches are used, the average time between the two shall be the official time.

Upon a signal from the ring master or timer, contestants begin the pattern with a running start behind the starting line. Timing begins when the horse's nose crosses the start line and will stop when the horse's nose passes the finish line, after completion of the pattern listed below:

The contestant runs to barrel #1, making a right hand turn around the barrel and proceeds to barrel #2. At barrel #2 the rider makes a left hand turn around the barrel, and proceeds to barrel #3. At barrel #3 the rider once again makes a left hand turn around the barrel and then runs for the finish line. The barrel course can be run either to the right or the left. If the pattern is run to the left, the first turn around barrel #1 would be to the left, the 2nd barrel would be turned to the right, and the 3rd barrel would be turned to the right.

Knocking over a barrel causes a five second penalty to be added to the finish time. Brushing or touching the barrel by the horse or the rider's leg will not carry a time penalty, so long as the barrel does not fall. An exhibitor who breaks the pattern or goes "off course" will receive no time and be disqualified.

8.2 Can You Canter? This class limited to registered Standardbreds only. Horses will be judged primarily on the quality of the canter. The class is designed to give the horses the chance to compete at the canter in the show ring without the distraction of other horses. The Can You Canter? class is open to both two-gait and three-gait Standardbreds. This class may be split into two separate classes: Can You Canter? Two-Gaited horses and Can You Canter? Three-Gaited horses.

To be judged primarily on the quality of the canter and whether it is a pleasure to ride. Consistency of the canter, and a straight balanced forward-moving canter is desired.

Class to be contested individually. Individual entry is called into the ring. The rider is to ask for the canter at or before a marker placed in the ring, such as a cone, and must canter down one long side of the arena. If the rider wishes, they may continue to canter one full lap of the ring. At the judge's discretion, horses may be asked to canter in both directions to exhibit both leads.

Excess speed is to be penalized. Indications of temper or discomfort shown by flattened ears or twitching and/or clamped tails are to be penalized. A four-beat or "pacey" canter is to be penalized. Excess goading, use of spurs, whipping, or slapping the horse with the reins are to be severely penalized or disqualified.

8.3 Carrot Race This is a timed event. **All contest classes will be contested with a closed gate.** Helmets are encouraged for all riders. In the event of a tie, a run-off is required.

Riders enter the arena individually. Upon a signal from the ring master or timer, the rider will proceed to the opposite end of the arena, go around a barrel (*participants will be disqualified if they do not go around the barrel*), dismount, (care is to be taken to tie up reins securely so the horse does not get caught in them), and take one carrot out of the bucket that is sitting on

the barrel. The rider (now dismounted) is to coax their horse back to the opposite end of the arena with the carrot. Timing begins when the horse's nose crosses the start line and will stop when the horse's nose passes the finish line, after completion of the above described pattern. Any horse that runs ahead of the rider or is ever more than six (6) feet away from the rider in any direction will be disqualified.

8.4 Catalog Race This is a timed event. **All contest classes will be ran with a closed gate.** Helmets are encouraged for all riders. In the event of a tie, a run-off is required.

Riders enter the arena individually. The announcer will tell each contestant which page number they are to remove from the catalog. Upon a signal from the ringmaster or timer, the rider will proceed to the opposite end of the arena, go around the barrel, (*participants will be disqualified if they do not go around the barrel*), dismount, find their specified page in the catalog **and remove only that page** (*participants will be disqualified if they remove more than one page*), remount their horse, then proceed to the finish line. Timing begins when the horse's nose crosses the start line and will stop when the horse's nose passes the finish line, after completion of the above described pattern.

Options for the Catalog Race:

- 1) The show committee may choose to have a specified aide stationed at the barrel to hold each contestant's horse while they search for their page in the catalog and remount.
- 2) Or it can be left up to the individual contestant whether or not they wish to use the specified aide at the barrel to hold their horse while they search for their page and remount. Exhibitors using the aide will have no extra consideration in the placing in the class. The aide is for safety precautions only.

8.5 Champagne Glass Each exhibitor enters the ring and receives a glass to be filled with water.

One hand only is to be used in holding the glass. The hand may not cover the top of the glass, and the glass should be held as if the rider were drinking out of it. The glass should be held out and away from the body of the horse and rider.

Once the glasses are filled, the exhibitors are put on the rail and perform the walk and intermediate gait both ways of the ring. A noticeable change in speed between the walk and the intermediate gait is mandatory; the horse must be excused if a distinct change in speed is not performed.

Upon completion of the gaits, exhibitors are brought to center ring. The exhibitor with the most water remaining in his/her glass wins the class. In case of tie, a ride-off may be called.

8.6 Championship Classes Championship classes will be judged on the overall combined performance of the rider or driver and horse as a team. In order to qualify for a championship class you must have been placed 1st thru 3rd place in specific previously held classes. Championship classes are open to those entries pre-qualifying in Standardbred classes and Open classes.

Championship classes are to include: Two-Gait Championship, Three-Gait Championship, Driving Championship

The entry who pre-qualifies as a horse/rider/driver team must be the same entered in the Championship class. No substitutions of rider/driver or horse will be allowed.

If entries warrant, additional championship classes may further be added or split by age (either horse or exhibitor), or between Equitation/Horsemanship and Pleasure. They may also be further divided between Open and Standardbred championships.

8.7 Down & Back This is a timed event. **All contest classes will be contested with a closed gate.** Helmets are encouraged for all riders. In the event of a tie, a run-off is required.

Upon a signal from the ringmaster or timer, the rider will proceed to the opposite end of the arena, go around the barrel, (*participants will be disqualified if they do not go around the barrel*) then proceed to the finish line.

Timing begins when the horse's nose crosses the start line and will stop when the horse's nose passes the finish line, after completion of the above described pattern.

Options: Down & Back Potato Race: Same as above except the rider will receive a potato upon entering the arena. Upon a signal from the ringmaster or timer, the rider will proceed to the opposite end of the arena, go around the barrel while at the

same time dropping the potato into a bucket on top of the barrel, then proceed to the finish line. *Participants will be disqualified if they miss putting the potato into the bucket.*

8.8 Dressage The purpose of the Dressage division is to demonstrate that the horse has been systematically trained to be responsive to the aids, is forward moving and supple, is capable of clean transitions, is not resistant, and is able to execute with precision a series of gymnastic exercises at prescribed locations as required by the test. Continuity of movement and consistency of tempo are paramount.

The primary purpose of the dressage test at a SPHO sanctioned show is to measure the training of the horse and to indicate areas where improvement can be made or increased attention is required. The placing of the horse is secondary to the education opportunity that the ride should provide.

Riders who have not memorized the test will be required to provide their own readers. Memorization of the test is not required for competition. The Dressage test will be listed on the showbill.

Riders must enter the arena at their ride time. The rider has one minute to enter the competition arena. The ringing of a bell or the blowing of a whistle by the judge during a test will signal to the exhibitor and error has been made. The rider will then come to the judge for instruction and then proceed with the remainder of the test. Such errors receive penalty points in the final scoring.

A horse that steps outside the arena during a test must be eliminated from competition for awards although they may re-enter the arena and complete the test. A score will be given for educational purposes only.

Because the intermediate gaits are not standardized, meaning that each horse may execute an intermediate gait in a variety of ways, at SPHO sanctioned dressage events there will be a coefficient for quality of gait given only for the walk and for the canter, gaits that are common to all breeds. The walk in dressage tests should be a true working walk. The intermediate gait shall be considered that which comfortably falls between the medium walk and canter for each individual horse and rider.

At SPHO sanctioned shows, dressage tests approved by SPHO will be scored as per the written requirements for each test.

8.9 Driven Cones This class requires following a set pattern. This pattern must be posted at least one hour prior to the class being held. Contestants shall enter the arena individually. The contestant should wait to be acknowledged by the judge before starting, and when finished should stand quietly and wait to be excused by the judge.

Scoring shall be as follows:

Cleanliness – cleanliness, condition and fit of the horse, driver, harness and vehicle = 25 points.

Pattern work – Patterns may include serpentines, a figure 8, a cloverleaf, straight lines and backing. Patterns are to include both gaits (walk and trot) = 75 points.

Faults in Driven Cones: Rearing in the shafts is cause for elimination. • Deviation from the correct intermediate gait and breaking into the canter from any gait. • Erratic movement, hesitation in going forward, inconsistency in the gaits • Unsafe behavior (mandatory dismissal) • Resistance to the lines, throwing of the head or gaping of the mouth • Balking or refusing to go forward or to turn

General Rules for Driving • Only the driver is permitted in the vehicle, with the exception of the youth provision

Note: Allow 14' between cones at the walk; 18' between cones at the trot.

8.10 Equitation/Horsemanship *Equitation is the art of horsemanship.* The rider must demonstrate the ability to influence the horse to perform properly and to smoothly execute gaits and commands. In addition the rider must demonstrate an elegant and correct seat.

The physical impairment of a horse such as blindness in one eye, a nerved horse or similar conditions shall not count against the equitation rider unless the impairment of the horse is sufficient to affect the ability of the judge to evaluate the rider's performance or the condition causes the horse observable distress while under saddle.

The performance of the rider is paramount in equitation/horsemanship classes. The horse is to be considered as a factor only when its performance reflects a lack of ability or control on the part of the rider.

Show management may divide equitation/horsemanship classes into sections based on age, youth and adult status, open and amateur status, and other breakdowns as may be appropriate.

A fall from the horse by the rider or a fall by the horse will result in disqualification.

Equitation classes may be either two or three-gait. When a three-gait class is in session, an extended canter or the hand gallop may be requested by the judge. No more than eight entries may hand gallop at the same time.

Judges may require that tests or patterns be ridden in equitation classes. The following elements, in any combination, may be required: back the horse and address the reins (Saddle Seat); back the horse and do execute a 360 degree turn, (on the haunches not required); a circle at the walk; a figure eight at the walk; a canter or lope down the centerline with a stop at the midpoint of the arena; a three loop serpentine ridden at the walk; a figure eight at the canter or lope with a simple or flying lead change at the midpoint; a turn on the forehand; leg yielding from the rail.

8.11 Flag Race. This is a timed event. **All contest classes will be contested with a closed gate.** Helmets are encouraged for all riders. In the event of a tie, a run-off is required.

Three barrels will be placed in the ring, in the pattern of a barrel race (please see rule 8.1 Barrel Race, page 10), with buckets of sand or dirt placed on top of Barrels 1 and 2. Flag Race may be run in either direction; rider must specify to the ringmaster, timer, or ring assistant which side he or she wants to start on. The first barrel is to be no more than 30 feet from the timer. Flag may not be used as a bat or whip. Pattern will be run on the outside of the barrels. The bucket must be filled at least 1/3 full with sand or loose dirt. If either bucket or any barrel is knocked over, this will result in disqualification. Flag must be placed and remain inside of the 2nd bucket. Failure to stick a flag is a disqualification. Failure to pick up a flag is a disqualification.

8.12 Good Grooming Judged on the overall cleanliness and trimming of the animal as well as clean tack (halter or bridle) and a neat, clean appearance of the exhibitor for the correct style of riding. To be shown in hand at the walk only. Exhibitors will line up for inspection by the judge after entering the arena as a group.

8.13 Hunter Hack Horses are first individually required to jump two 18" post and rail fences. Jumps do not have to be set on a line. However, if the jumps are set on a line they must be a minimum of 36 feet apart or in increments of 12 feet, up to 60 feet. A ground rail should be used for each jump. Horses will then be shown as a group at the walk and intermediate gait; in both directions. Horse must stand quietly and back readily in the line-up. Horses to be judged 70% on jumping, and 30% on flat work. The hunter hack horse should move in the same style as a working hunter. **ASTM Helmets are required in this class.**

Option: This class may also be separated into two classes as: Two-Gait Hunter Hack and Three-Gait Hunter Hack. In which case, the three-gait hunter hack horses will be required to canter, and at the discretion of the judge, the contestants may be required to hand gallop, pull up, and stand quietly following the last fence.

8.14 Pleasure Driving Pleasure driving is to be judged on the pleasure horse qualities of the horse in harness.

The gait is to be of the using variety rather than the highly animated. Animated entries should be placed in fine harness competition or roadster competition.

The walk and an intermediate gait are required both ways of the ring. Horses may be asked to back in the shafts. Any signs of unruly behavior or resistant behavior or any conduct that disrupts the class or puts other driving entries at risk will result in elimination from the class.

Youth drivers may be accompanied by an adult as a safety precaution. However, should the adult touch the lines during a class, the entry will be eliminated from consideration.

Class Routine: Driving horses are to enter the ring to at a walk and perform the trot or intermediate gait when the second gait is called for. The reverse is to be executed on the diagonal at a walk, at the direction of the ring steward or announcer. One header is permitted in the line-up but touching the horse results in a penalty. Horses must stand quietly and back readily. Driving classes are to be judged: 70% on manners, performance, condition, style and way of going; 20% on fit, condition and

appropriateness of harness and vehicle; 10% on the driver. In the event of a tie, the judge may ask the drivers to individually drive a pattern, such as a figure-8 or serpentine to help decide the class.

Faults in Pleasure Driving: Rearing in the shafts is cause for elimination. • Deviation from the correct intermediate gait and breaking into the canter from any gait. • Erratic movement, hesitation in going forward, inconsistency in the gaits • Unsafe behavior (mandatory dismissal) • Resistance to the lines, throwing of the head or gaping of the mouth • Balking or refusing to go forward or to turn

General Rules for Driving • Only the driver is permitted in the vehicle, with the exception of the youth provision • Large classes may be divided at the discretion of the judge if he feels that the space in the arena is inadequate for the numbers of vehicles in competition. Judges may select drivers from each section and combine them into a final workout in order to tie the class.

8.15 Reinsmanship This class is judged with emphasis on the driver's ability to control his/her animal on the rail and through obstacles and/or other tests of driving ability. The driver should also demonstrate good posture, light hands, and correct driving procedure. The class pattern must be posted at least one hour prior to the class being held.

Scoring shall be as follows:

Cleanliness - cleanliness of the horse, fit, condition, and cleanliness of harness and vehicle = 25 points.

Rail work – should be done first and is not part of the pattern. Horses are to work both gaits (walk and trot) both ways of the arena and reverse by going diagonally across the arena = 25 points. **Note:** When setting a course, show management should leave enough room along the rail for the rail work, providing the arena is large enough.

Pattern work – Should consist of at least four obstacles and no more than six. The contestant should wait to be acknowledged by the judge before starting, and when finished should stand quietly and wait to be excused by the judge = 50 points.

Obstacles –

- Mail box – stop, remove, and replace mail.
- Corner trot-through – use cones or straw bales set wide enough for the horse and vehicle to pass through.
- Figure 8 – walk or trot pattern around cones.
- Cloverleaf – walk or trot pattern around cones.
- Serpentine – weave in and out of four cones.
- Straight line – lay out a rope in a straight line on the arena floor; drive the cart wheel on one side of the rope and the horse on the other side of the rope.
- Back-in box – three rails are used to form an open-sided box; back in to the rear rail.
- Fan movement – horses may be asked to fan (side pass 90 degrees to the right or left of center, then side pass 180 degrees to the opposite side, and then 90 degrees to the center) showing control, willingness, and smoothness.

Note: Allow 14' between cones at the walk; 18' between cones at the trot. Back-in box is 6' wide and 10' deep.

8.16 Speed & Control Race This is a timed event. **All contest classes will be contested with a closed gate.** Helmets are encouraged for all riders. In the event of a tie, a run-off is required.

Riders enter the arena individually and stand their horse in a starting box. Upon a signal from the ring master or timer, the rider leaves the starting box and the timing of this event begins. The rider will weave through the poles or cones up and then back and then go back into the starting box and stop their horse completely. Once you are stopped, timing stops. A time penalty of five seconds will be assessed for stepping outside the box at the end or for knocking the poles making up the starting box will be made of ground poles, open on one side. An exhibitor who breaks the pattern or goes "off course" will receive no time and be disqualified.

8.17 Standardbred In Harness This class is designed to demonstrate the traditional ground-covering gait of the Standardbred. To be judged at the walk, pleasure intermediate gait, then working intermediate gait. Horses are to be worked both directions of the arena. Only two-wheeled vehicles are permitted in this class. **ATSM Helmets are required in this class. Excessive speed will be penalized. No more than two horses may show in the arena at the same time.**

After all entries have been worked and judged, horses will return to the arena as a group and line up for placing of the class. One groom/header is permitted for each horse. Horses may be unchecked for the line-up. The groom/header is permitted to handle the horse.

8.18 Trail Class Entries must negotiate a course of obstacles. The course will be posted no later than 1 hour before the class begins and will include a minimum of four different types of obstacles to be negotiated. Entries to be judged on how well they negotiate the obstacles and complete the pattern. Class to be individually contested. Obstacles must be chosen from the following list:

- A. Ride over at least four logs or poles. They may be in a straight line, zigzag, or raised. The space between logs according to the path the horse is to travel will be as follows: walk-overs, 20 to 24 inches; trot-overs, 36 to 42 inches; lope-overs, six to seven feet. Only walk-overs may be raised (Maximum height is one foot), and they must be at least 22 inches apart.
- B. Back through an obstacle. Thirty inches minimum should separate the sides of an L back through or for a back between parallel poles. A back through and around markers (pylons, barrels, poles, etc.) set in a line or in a pattern should be separated by a minimum of 40 inches. A back-through pattern with multiple rows requiring the horse to turn around between rows take about nine feet between the rows.
- C. Carry an object from one part of the arena to another.
- D. Cross a simulated wooden bridge. Should be at least three-feet wide, six-feet long, safe, and sturdy.
- E. Ride the horse across a pole obstacle at least 12" , but not over 24", in height. The jump is recommended only for advanced riders. The pole should be at least 12-feet long.
- F. Put on and remove a slicker.
- G. Open and close a simple gate. (Hands should not be changed on the gate while doing the obstacle.)
- H. Ride between bales of hay or other obstacles making a narrow passage of at least 48 inches width.
- I. Mailbox.
- J. Sidepass over or between poles or without poles.
- K. Ground tie (English riders must unbuckle reins to ground tie).
- L. Do a 360-degree turn in a six to seven-foot square box.

The judge shall break ties by his/her discretion. The judge may use a time limit or three refusals – a refusal is defined as a complete stop, or a step back or sideways in avoidance of the obstacle – before the rider must pass to the next obstacle. A time limit to do the complete class may also be used, and the exhibitor may be evaluated on what he/she was able to do in the time allotted.

The following will result in a zero score for the obstacle, but will not cause disqualification:

- A. Doing an obstacle differently than described in the pattern.
- B. Missing or not attempting an obstacle.
- C. Failing to complete an obstacle.
- D. Failing to be in the prescribed gait or on the correct lead while doing the obstacle.

The following will cause disqualification:

- A. Not doing obstacles in order.
- B. Fall to the ground by the horse or the rider.
- C. Illegal equipment.
- D. Major disobediences such as rearing, schooling, or horse bolting on course.

Article 9 - ROADSTER DIVISION

9.1 GENERAL

Type and Confirmation.

1. In order to compete all horses must be Standardbreds registered with the United States Trotting Association or the Canadian Trotting Horse Association. The Roadster must be attractive in appearance, balanced in confirmation and with manners which make a safe risk in the ring.
2. There are two types of Roadsters for competition – those suitable for bike and those suitable for road wagon. Occasionally there are horses which are suitable for both purposes. Usually the Road Wagon Roadster will have more scale and height than the Bike Roadster. Roadsters in the Wagon division must have the strength to comfortably pull a wagon without losing form. Roadsters in the Bike division are able to strongly perform three distinct speeds at the trot

and have the look of a refined race horse. Judges must emphasize that Roadsters are to be shown at three distinct speeds. Exhibitors executing gaits not called for must be penalized.

3. Horses must be serviceably sound and shown without artificial appliances (e.g., wired ears, chains, shackles, draw reins, kicking strap, conspicuous wire cavessons) except boots and inconspicuously applied tail switch or brace.
4. The Roadster should have a well chiseled head, smart ears, be fine in the throat latch, with a fine neck; should show depth through his chest, a good shoulder and good withers; well coupled, with short back and well proportioned hindquarters; should be a good full-made horse over the hips; should stand well on legs and have good flat bone. The Roadster should have a full mane and tail, and may be of any color. The tail should be carried outright.

Gait Requirements.

The principal gait assignment for Roadsters is the trot. They shall be asked to trot at three different speeds; the jog-trot, the Road Gait and then at full speed. Judges may ask a Roadster to walk, as when originally used on the roads they were walked occasionally for a chance to catch their breath and get a little rest. At all speeds they should work in form; that is their chins set and their legs working beneath them, going collectedly. At the trot a horse is whose action features folding of the knees, flexing of hocks, with straight true action of front legs and with hocks carried close together and with motions coordinated, is executing a balanced trot. Long sprawling action in front, dragging or trailing hind legs and straddle gaited action behind makes a balanced trot impossible. Animation, brilliance and competition ring presence should characterize the Roadster in working at a jog-trot or Road Gait. When asked to drive on, the horse must show speed and go in form. Pacey gaited or mixey gaited horses that pace and rack the turns or break and run on the turns shall be penalized. Judges must emphasize that Roadsters are to be shown at three distinct speeds. Exhibitors executing gaits not called for must be penalized.

9.2 SHOWING PROCEDURES

General.

1. Roadsters must enter the ring clockwise at the jog-trot then show at the Road Gait; turn counter clockwise at the jog-trot, show at the Road Gait and then trot at speed. Judges must emphasize that Roadsters are to be shown at three distinct speeds.
2. It is very important to emphasize that Roadster horses must trot solidly down the straight away as well as around the turns. Horses should be shown on the rail at all times except when passing and should go to the far end of every corner without side reining; should be light mouthed, capable of being taken up at any time, willing to walk and stand well when being judged in the center of the ring.
3. Any driver, rider or horse in the Roadster division exhibiting inappropriate or dangerous behavior or whose actions would in any way threaten the safety of any other exhibitor, their entries or the safety of class officials will be ordered from the ring.
4. Performance at all three gaits must be judged. In the event of a workout, entries chosen must be worked both ways of the ring, as in the original routine.
5. When horses are line up, no attendant is permitted and driver shall not leave his vehicle except for necessary adjustments. He may, however, uncheck and stand at horse's head when left in the center of the ring while a part of the class is on the rail for a workout. During the line-up, headers are permitted in Amateur, Ladies Amateur, and Juvenile Road Horse classes. The header must not touch the entry except for safety reasons. During a workout the header may uncheck and hold the entry. However, when the workout is over the horse must be rechecked and the attendant must move away from the horse. The attendant must take no action that would affect the performance of any animal.
6. An exhibitor is entitled to request only one time-out per class.
7. Championships. Championship classes are judged in the same manner as the qualifying classes. Saddle classes do not qualify a horse for Harness Championships. Wagon classes will qualify for a Bike Stake if a Wagon Stake is not offered. In amateur Championships, to bike or wagon, if qualifying classes are offered the horse must have been qualified by an Amateur in one other Amateur Harness Class.
8. In the Roadster Division a class is considered completed when the class has been judged according to the rules and the judges have turned in their cards. In qualifying classes the judge's cards must be turned in before an entry is qualified to show in the Championship class.

Equipment and Attire.

1. Harness. Blinkers of square pattern, snaffle bit and attached over check-rein; breast collar with straight-flaps, with traces made round with flat ends; (for pairs, collars of the English pattern are used); martingales are required. Breechings must be used in all Wagon classes. Reins to be leather and made round up to the hand pieces.
2. Vehicles. Roadsters shall be shown to a Bike, Road Wagon or Buggy of Caffrey style. All vehicles should be of good appearance and stability. Horse Bikes must be of standard size of at least 48" width with a double seat.
3. Attire. Exhibitors should be neatly turned out. Acceptable attire consists of long pants, shirts, and shoes or boots with a distinguishable heel. Protective headgear may be worn in any class at a SPHO sanctioned event and will not be

penalized for appearance by any judge. SPHO makes no warranty, express or implied, that the wearing of protective headgear will protect riders from all of the risks attendant with participation in equestrian sports but supports and encourages the use of such headgear in support of equestrian safety. Where states require the use of protective headgear, show committees will comply with the requirements of the state where a SPHO sanctioned event is held. Show committees will decide which classes will require mandatory protective headgear and it will be indicated on the showbill. Judges, at their discretion, may authorize adjustments to attire due to weather-related conditions.

4. Except as may otherwise be mandated by local law, protective headgear is strongly recommended for everyone showing in any class in the Roadster Division. Except as may otherwise be mandated by local law, while riding or driving anywhere on the competition grounds, all juniors riding or driving in Roadster to Bike or Roadster Under Saddle classes must wear properly fitting protective headgear which passes or surpasses ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag as specified. Harness must be secured and properly fitted. A matching cover may be worn over the protective headgear or the protective headgear may be painted in matching stable colors.

Division of Classes.

1. If there are more than 6 entries in a Road Horse to Bike or Wagon class it must be split.
2. If there are 10 or more entries in a Road Horse Under Saddle class it must be divided into separate sections.
3. Juvenile and Youth classes in the Road Horse Division must be divided at 6 entries.
4. It is recommended that classes for junior exhibitors be divided by age of driver and a Junior Exhibitor Championship offered.
5. Notification of intent to divide must be made to exhibitors prior to the start of the class.

9.3 CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

General

Stallions are prohibited in Youth Exhibitors. Classes may be divided according to sex or age of horse or driver.

Pairs.

To be shown to Wagon first at a jog-trot, and road gait, then reversed and shown at a jog-trot, road gait and then at speed. To be judged on performance, speed, quality, manners, style and appointments.

Article 10 - Complaints and Protests

10.1 Complaints Complaints will be handled through the show committee, who will clarify rules for SPHO horse shows.

10.2 Protests Protests may be filed in writing and signed by the party or parties making the protest if complaints cannot be resolved by the show committee.

- A \$50.00 fee must accompany the protest. The fee will be retained by the show committee and used to pay the costs of investigating the protest.
- The protest and fee must be filed with the show committee the same day as the show. The protest will be considered at the time designated by the show committee and will include the accused, the accuser, SPHO show committee members and any other needed parties. If a party cannot attend, a representative must be sent.
- A judge's decision on how a class is placed, or a decision on disqualification of an exhibitor based on the judge's interpretation of the rules for that class, shall not be protested.

10.3 Violations The show committee has the right to prohibit an exhibitor from showing if there is evidence that the exhibitor has violated SPHO show rules that would make the exhibitor ineligible to show.

Article 11 - Specifics Regarding SPHO Sanctioned Shows Guidelines for Sanctioning a Show with SPHO

Competition Classifications All sanctioned shows shall have the same weight and points for purposes of high point competition.

Recommendations for Sanctioned Shows

General

SPHO has both requirements and non-binding recommendations concerning shoeing, tack and attire, registration requirements, juvenile qualification and other issues not directly related to the performance of horses in competition insofar as gait and type of class are concerned.

Enforcement of Rules Competitions sanctioned by SPHO agree to adopt the standards of SPHO, as applicable, to the various divisions designed for the promotion and exhibition of gaited horses. Every person who competes, exhibits, or participates in any way at a SPHO sanctioned event is subject to the administrative rules of SPHO as published. Rules will be changed, modified, or added to, only at the conclusion of the SPHO official competition year that ends with the Grand Circuit Classic Show each year in the Fall. Signature on an entry form at any SPHO sanctioned event indicates an acceptance of all provisions in the Rules of SPHO.

Classes for Competition Show committees are encouraged to include a wide variety of classes for entries in their show programs.

Division of Classes Show committee may elect to divide classes by age and sex of both exhibitors and equines. Classes may be offered for combined Gaited Horses of all breeds or classes may be breed specific. Championship classes may be offered as combined classes, using breed specific classes as qualifiers.

Championship and Grand Championships Championship classes will be judged on the overall combined performance of the rider or driver and horse as a team. In order to qualify for a championship class you must have been placed 1st thru 3rd place in specific previously held classes. Championship classes are open to those entries prequalifying in Standardbred classes and Open classes.

Championship classes are to include: Two-Gait Championship, Three-Gait Championship, Driving Championship
The entry who pre-qualifies as a horse/rider/driver team must be the same entered in the Championship class. No substitutions of rider/driver or horse will be allowed.

If entries warrant, additional championship classes may further be added or split by age (either horse or exhibitor), or between Equitation/Horsemanship and Pleasure. They may also be further divided between Open and Standardbred championships.

Participant Responsibility Knowledge of the rules that govern SPHO events is the responsibility of all participating exhibitors, trainers, and owners. Competition participants assume the obligation and responsibility to be fully aware of the guidelines and enforcement provisions of this document and to remain current with changes made in subsequent editions. All individuals who

participate in SPHO sanctioned competitions agree by their participation and entry to be bound by these Rules and interpretations and enforcement provisions with respect to the Rules contained herein. Owners and lessees of entries have ultimate responsibility for the condition of the entry and the eligibility of persons to exhibit his or her horse.

Responsible Party In the event the owner of the entry is a juvenile or is a business entity or any entity other than a natural person, a Responsible Party who is a natural person must be identified on the entry sheet. The Responsible Party shall be responsible for all financial obligations associated with the entry, is the Party who must file complaints or protests on behalf of the juvenile arising out of the competition, and will be the individual held responsible for violations of any rule or regulation pertaining to the SPHO sanctioned event.

Prohibited Conduct Unsportsmanlike or intimidating language or conduct is prohibited at any SPHO sanctioned event. Conduct at any time that in any manner appears directed at influencing judging or the outcome of any competition, other than pursuant to SPHO rules and procedures and the provision of training materials and information approved by the SPHO for such purposes, is prohibited. The show committee has complete authority to disqualify any exhibitor from further competition.

Disciplinary Action and Reporting The show committee has the authority to warn, reprimand, disqualify from further competition, and/or remove from show grounds, any individual violating any of the provisions of this section. The show committee shall forward a complete report of the incident, including the name of the individual(s) involved, the time and the action taken, to SPHO. Conduct in violation of this Section or any other provision of the Rules shall be subject to appropriate action by the show committee.

Situations Not Specifically Addressed Complete knowledge of the rules governing the SPHO sanctioned horse show is required of each participant and exhibitor. The final responsibility for enforcing the rules rests with the show committee. Regardless of how complete the rules may be, they will never cover every situation that arises at a horse show. In the event of a dispute that is not specifically addressed in the rules, the show committee will interpret the existing rules to the letter and extrapolate a ruling based on the logical extension of the existing rules to cover a particular situation. All placings of the judges will be final.

Abuse of Animals at any Sanctioned SPHO Event Abusive practices of any sort will not be tolerated on the grounds of any SPHO sanctioned event. Competition management is required to notify SPHO of any case of abuse that has been brought to their attention during the course of an event and to provide information concerning the incident, to include the name and address of the alleged violator and witnesses if that information is available. The following activities are considered to be cruel, abusive or inappropriate for SPHO sanctioned events. The list is not all-inclusive:

- Any violation determined by show management, veterinarian, or judge.
- Excessive use of a whip in a stall, barn aisle, schooling area, show ring, or at any place on the competition grounds. This provision includes activity before, during and after the conclusion of a competition. Striking the horse on the head, either on the poll or forward of the poll, is automatically considered to be excessive, as is lashing the horse about the legs.
- Rapping of the legs to induce animation or to encourage jumping
- The use of any electric device to shock a horse either to modify behavior or to gain compliance, including stewarding a horse for inspection, or loading or unloading a horse on the competition grounds.
- Use of explosive devices or noisemakers to "hype" the horse in an attempt to make him showier.
- Withholding of feed and water for prolonged periods in order to "calm a horse" or failure to provide adequate feed, forage, and water while on competition grounds.
- Removing blood from a horse for anything other than diagnostic purposes or for drug tests held in conjunction with the competition
- Excessive spurring of the horse, to include spurring in front of the girth or spurring so that blood is drawn
- Work at speed on hard surfaces in such a way to create low levels of inflammation as a means of enhancing animation.
- Any form of shoeing that results in pressure being applied to the sensitive tissues of the foot or attempts to contract the heel in order to create a pressure situation that results in higher animation.
- Killing, crippling, abandoning, mistreating, neglecting, or other forms of cruelty or abuse to the horse are included in this article.
- Actions taken by competitors, trainers, or exhibitors in violations of this section of the rules which are deemed excessive by a judge, veterinarian or show management, either in the show ring or the competition grounds, may be the subject of action by the show committee on the grounds of the event.

Responsibilities of Show Management

Changes in Competition Schedules The order of classes may not be changed at a competition without giving a minimum of one hour notice to exhibitors. This provision does not apply to classes cancelled for lack of entries. If a sanctioned event, already in progress, is cancelled due to inclement weather or some other unforeseen circumstance, show committee may elect to continue the event at another time during the regularly scheduled program, reschedule the remaining classes on another day, or cancel the remainder of the event. If the competition is cancelled, show management must refund entry fees for the classes that have not been held within 30 days of cancellation of the competition. If a show or classes are rescheduled, exhibitors are entitled to a refund of entry fees and are under no obligation to show at the rescheduled event. Requests for refunds must be made by exhibitors at the office. The show committee has up to 30 days after the cancellation to return all monies owed.

Warm-Up Areas Adequate areas for warming up or schooling of horses must be provided at SPHO sanctioned events. If "over fences" are offered, competitions must provide a practice fence in a section of the warm-up area for at least one hour before the class is called, or allow exhibitor to school over one obstacle in the show ring prior to the beginning of the class, which will be announced.

Prize Money Prize money may be awarded in any class at the discretion of show management with the exception of youth classes and equitation classes. Show committees are encouraged to award appropriate prizes in youth classes that would correspond in value to the prize money offered in other classes.

Protests The show committee has authority to deal with protests on the grounds of any sanctioned SPHO event. The show committee shall forward a report of all protests and the action taken to the current SPHO board.

Miscellaneous Responsibilities of Show Management The show committee is responsible for the operation of the horse show, which includes enforcing SPHO Rules and other local options that may apply. Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- To eliminate even if no protest has been filed, any horse, rider or entry that the show committee has reason to believe is ineligible for competition in a particular class.
- To pay premiums and other show expenses, including refunds, in a timely manner, usually within 30 days of completion of the show.
- To abide by all of the decisions made by the judge(s).
- To publish a showbill and to keep exhibitors informed if changes are made to the schedule, the fees, or any other published aspect of the show.
- To arrange for the prompt payment of fees to judges and other show officials.
- To print on the showbill that the

show is sanctioned by SPHO. • To ensure that no judge or member of their immediate family compete at any show in which they participate in an official capacity. No horse trained or owned by the judge may be exhibited for competition at this show with the exception of horses that are part of a bonafide lease agreement. • To maintain a copy of the current Rule Book in the show office. • To provide a judge's card for each class for the judge. • To provide a number for each horse being exhibited.

Post Show Responsibilities of Show Management The show committee must furnish a copy of the show results to SPHO members via the SPHO monthly newsletter or, members may obtain a copy by requesting one directly from the show committee chairman. The results must be furnished within 30 days of the show. The show committee chairman or designated committee member must retain entry sheets (listing winners and scratches or corrections, the name and address of the owner, identification by breed and registration numbers if available), and the completed Judges evaluation forms.

APPENDIX

SPHO Rule Change Proposal Submission Form

Proposals for rule changes should be submitted in writing to the SPHO executive board by November 1. Proposed changes will be voted on at the year-end general membership meeting held in December. Please submit one form per proposed change. Each form should include the following information:

Submit to: Current SPHO executive committee

Proposed change to rule book for year: _____

Rule Book section number (if applicable): _____

Topic (i.e. Allowable English tack, Shoeing requirements, etc.) *please explain in detail:* _____

Proposed Rule Book Change: _____

Reason for proposed change: _____

Change submitted by a judge? Yes _____ No _____

Name of person submitting rule change proposal:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Charge/Protest Form

Fee: \$50.00

In initiate formal proceedings, please complete this form. You must comply with all the requirements specified per the SPHO Rule Book and Guidelines for Competition. **Fee must accompany form.**

Date: _____

To: The SPHO show committee

Competition Names and Date(s) _____

Charge or Protest by:

_____ Name & Address

_____ phone #, and e-mail address

_____ Competition official/judge/steward

_____ Rider/Driver/Handler

_____ Owner

_____ Trainer

_____ Other – Explain:

Full Name of the accused: _____

Address(es) of the accused: _____

Rule(s) and article number(s) of each rule alleged to have been violated: _____

Please fully describe all of the acts that constitute the alleged violation. A complete statement of your observations at the time of the alleged violation should be made here. _____

Name(s), Address(es), & Phone number(s) of witness(es): _____

Post Judge Evaluation Form (for use by participants & exhibitors)

Please use the reverse of form for additional comments. Please mail completed form to the year's current SPHO secretary.

Name of Show _____ Date of Show _____

Location of Show _____

Name of Judge _____ Name of show committee chair _____

Number of classes you rode in and/or your horse appeared in: _____

Number of classes you watched (approximately): _____

Were you satisfied with the placing(s) of your horse(s)? Yes _____ No _____ Partially _____

Comments: _____

(Please use reverse if necessary)

Based on your observations and knowledge of the show rules and breed standards, how would you rate this judge on a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest score?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

In your opinion, the judge needed:

- a. more experience and training _____
- b. to know the rules _____
- c. to be able to judge classes more rapidly _____
- d. to take more time with classes _____
- e. no further training, a competent judge _____
- f. to be better able to identify gaits correctly _____
- g. other: _____

Were there specific incidents you observed where the judge did not follow the show rules or adhere to the breed standard as outlined in the show rules? _____

What were the strengths of this judge's performance? _____

What were the weaknesses? _____

Name _____

Phone number where you can be reached: _____

Email address _____

Your breed of horse: _____