

## Flat Shod Walking Division

### General Description, Judging Criteria, and Rules

**A.) General Description:** The flat shod Tennessee Walking Horse should demonstrate the gaits associated with the breed without the use of action devices, boots, pads, or any other form of artificial equipment. Braced tails are prohibited.

**B.) General Judging Criteria:** In all flat shod classes a four-beat gait is desired with a cadenced head motion (shake). The head motion should be up and down. A side to side head motion is not desirable. Transitions from one gait to another should be smooth and effortless. Easy, ground-covering action is desired. Flat shod entries should never appear mechanical, crampy, or uncomfortable. Flat shod entries should not have the tendency to trot, pace, or rack. The cornerstone of the Tennessee Walking Horse is their stride and head shake. These two qualities should always be rewarded. They should appear calm and demonstrate the quiet nature associated with the breed. Horses should be expected to demonstrate more animation and extension of stride as shoe size increases with each division. As a general guideline, if a horse is not shaking, then it's not walking.

- **Desired Gaits:**

*(All flat shod entries will show both ways of the ring at the flat walk and running walk. A trail pleasure walk may be called for in trail pleasure classes. A canter may also be required in designated classes.)*

- 1.) Trail Pleasure Walk: This is the slowest of the gaits and is also known as a “dog walk.” Horses should perform in a relaxed manner and with a loose rein. The horse may appear alert but never nervous. (A trail walk is only called for in trail pleasure classes.)
- 2.) Flat Walk: This is a smooth four beat gait. Horses at this speed should have an overstride with their hind feet along with a head shake. Overstride is defined as the hind foot sliding over the front tracks. The horse's hind quarters should be in a vertical motion that has perfect rhythm. The rear end of the horse should not be out behind itself but rather up under itself. The head shake should be in a vertical motion and in time with the movement of the horse. All parts of the horse should be in rhythm with one another.
- 3.) Running Walk: The running walk is an extension of the flat walk. Horses in this gait should show a faster speed than in the flat walk. The horse should also extend its stride and cover more ground. Excessive speed is not desired.
- 4.) Canter/Lope: This is a three beat gait. When traveling counter clockwise the horse should exhibit the left canter lead. The first beat of the left lead is the right rear leg, followed by the left rear and right front together, ending with the left

front. On the third beat the horse's left front and left rear legs will be "leading" the right. The reverse of this will be the right lead.

Horses MUST perform all appropriate gaits both ways of the ring.

### **C.) General Rules for All Flat Shod Entries:**

#### **1.) General Shoeing Rules:**

- a.) Any material other than cold rolled steel or aluminum is prohibited in all keg shod country pleasure, country pleasure, and trail pleasure classes.
- b.) All flat shod shoes must be attached by nails.
- c.) Bands are permitted on all flat shod entries.
- d.) No additional weight should be added on or in the hoof other than the shoe and nails.
- e.) No bare plate or weight should be placed inside the shoe.
- f.) The caulk must not exceed 1 1/2" inch turn back (measured from front to back of caulk) and the shoe must not extend more than 1/4 inch beyond the hoof at the toe.
- g.) The heel of the shoe must not extend beyond the bulb of the horse's heel when a perpendicular line is drawn from the bulb of the horse's heel to the ground.
- h.) The use of borium is permitted on the caulks of the pleasure shoes, but the specifications are as follows:
  - Borium is allowed on the toe of a keg shod county pleasure shoe. (1 1/2" wide at the toe and spots on the heel no more than 1/8" thick.)
  - Borium is permitted on the caulks of the shoe in trail pleasure and country pleasure divisions, (excluding specifications for keg shod country pleasure) but the thickness of the shoe, caulk, and borium must not exceed 7/8" in thickness.
  - Borium is permitted on the caulks of the shoe in lite shod and plantation/park pleasure divisions, but the thickness of the shoe, caulk, and borium must not exceed 1 1/8" in thickness.
  - Clips optional when drawn from the original steel or poured

#### **2.) General Bit Rules for All Flat Shod Entries:**

- a.) Bits with shanks over 9 1/2" are prohibited. (Judges may check the length of the bit during the line up if deemed necessary.)
- b.) Gag bits without shanks are prohibited.
- c.) Cross chain cavessons are prohibited.
- d.) Excessively tight curb chains are not desired. The curb chain must be flat against the jaw and be at least 1/2" wide.

- e.) All flat shod entries should be rode on a loose rein. Pumping or bumping of the reins must be penalized.
- f.) Snaffle bits are permitted.

### **3.) Other Rules and Regulations for All Flat Shod Entries:**

- a.) Flat shod pleasure classes are to be judged on true pleasure qualities and the performance of the horse. Overall neatness of the horse and exhibitor, and conformation of the horse should be considered in the final judging. Flat shod entries should stand quietly in the line-up. The judge must walk the line up in all flat shod walking classes. All horses should back individually. Entries should back readily without hesitation.
- b.) One attendant may be allowed in the line-up for any youth or amateur class if deemed necessary. The attendant may not touch the horse below the knees at any time. Ring attendants are strongly encouraged for all youth 11 and under classes.
- c.) The use of USDA approved lubricants (mineral oil, glycerin, petrolatum, or a mixture of the three) are permitted once the horse has passed pre-show inspection and only under the direct supervision of the DQP.
- d.) Appropriate riding attire/tack is required in all flat shod divisions. Entries may not have a combination of english and western attire/tack.
  - i.) Western attire includes a western hat or helmet, a long sleeve shirt, and boots. Chaps, spurs, jackets/vests are optional.
  - ii.) English attire includes english riding suit (underpasses on pants), english boots, and an english hat or helmet.
  - iii.) Western tack includes a western saddle and bridle. (Silver equipment shall not count over good working equipment.)
  - iv.) English tack includes an english saddle and bridle.
- e.) Martingales, tie downs, and Australian stock saddles are prohibited in all classes except timed and/or sporting events.

### **4.) Special Rules for all English Entries**

- a.) Cavessons are permitted.
- b.) Whips or riding crops under 4 ½ feet in length are permitted.
- c.) Ribbon braids in the mane are encouraged for all english entries.
- d.) English horses should turn into the rail (to the outside) on the reverse.
- e.) Horses in an english class, or in english attire, should be ridden with two hands.
- f.) English horses should be high headed and alert, but never appear nervous.
- g.) English attire includes english riding suit (underpasses on pants), english boots, and an english hat or helmet.

h.) English tack includes an english saddle and bridle.

**5.) Special Rules for all Western Entries**

- a.) Cavessons are prohibited.
- b.) Whips or riding crops are prohibited.
- c.) Ribbon braids in the mane are prohibited.
- d.) Western horses should turn away from the rail (to the inside) on the reverse.
- e.) **Horses in western attire may be ridden with two hands provided that the class is not a designated western class.**
- f.) Western horses should carry a natural head set and work off a loose rein.
- g.) Western attire includes a western hat or helmet, a long sleeve shirt, and boots. Chaps, spurs, jackets/vests are optional.
- h.) Western tack includes a western saddle and bridle. (Silver equipment shall not count over good working equipment.)

**6.) Special Rules for all Western Classes**

*(The following rules apply to classes designated specifically as a western class. Examples include: Western Trail Pleasure, Western Lite-Shod, and Western Plantation Pleasure)*

- a.) Horses four years of age and younger may be ridden with two hands provided that a snaffle bit or bosal is being used.
- b.) Snaffle bits include any O-ring, egg-butt, or D-ring. The ring must be no larger than four inches in diameter. Exhibitors have the option of using a loose chin strap made of leather or nylon. Reins should be attached above the chin strap.
- c.) Any western horse in a curb bit **MUST** neck rein regardless of its age. (One exception is the country pleasure division.)
- d.) Reins must be held in one hand and cannot be changed during the performance.
- e.) When using split reins, a hand around the reins or index finger between the reins is permitted. The free hand is not allowed to touch the reins.
- f.) Romal reins means an extension of braided material attached to closed reins. This extension is allowed to be carried in the free hand with approximately 16" spacing between the reigning hand and the free hand holding the romal. The romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or used to signal or cue the horse in any way. When using a romal, a hand should be around the reins. A finger between the reins is not permitted.
- g.) The judge may call for a halt to test for calmness. Horses should stand on the rail quietly.

- h.) The judge may ask entries to complete a 360 degree neck reined turn in the line-up. Entries should back completely out of the line up and turn to their discretion.

Special Note: All riders may use two hands in both english and western country pleasure classes.

**Any entry failing to follow any of the above rules or criteria must be penalized in the final judging, and cannot be placed ahead of an entry complying with all rules and regulations.**

**7.) Specific rules and judging criteria are listed below for individual classes.**

*(Please see “General Judging Criteria” for desired attributes for all flat shod entries)*

**a.) Keg Shod Country Pleasure**

- Class Definition: Horses in this division should demonstrate pure and foundational elements of the breed. Entries should appear relaxed and graceful. Horses should perform a four beat gait at the flat walk and running walk. Horses should be striding behind in a smooth and well balanced manner. The horse should appear to be in perfect timing/rhythm. Horses should be exhibiting head motion. Their head shake should be up and down (vertical). The keg shod country pleasure horse should not break more than 45 degrees in the knee. An excessive front end is not desirable and should be penalized.
- Shoe Size: Factory Manufactured Stamped Keg Shoe (Please see “General Shoeing Rules” for additional information) Tungsten prohibited.
- Specific Rules: Exhibitors may use two hands when riding both western and english entries. The keg shod country pleasure class is an amateur division. Country pleasure entries do not have to be registered. Country pleasure horses may not show in any other walking class at the same show.
- Possible Classes: Keg Shod Country Pleasure classes may be divided by the gender of the rider/horse, age of the rider/horse, or by english/western.

**b.) Trail Pleasure**

- Class Definition: Horses in this division should demonstrate pure and foundational elements of the breed. Entries should appear relaxed and graceful. Horses should perform a four beat gait at the flat walk and running walk. Horses should be striding behind in a smooth and well balanced manner. The horse should appear to be in perfect timing/rhythm. Horses should be exhibiting head motion. Their head shake should be up and down

(vertical). The trail pleasure horse should extend their stride more than the keg shod country pleasure horse. As a general guideline, the trail pleasure horse may approach the 45 degree rule in the knee; however an excessive front end should be penalized. The trail pleasure horse should not be approaching the front end animation of a lite shod horse.

- Shoe Size: 3/8" thick x 3/4" wide (Please see "General Shoeing Rules" for additional information) Tungsten prohibited.
- Specific Rules: A trail walk may be called for by the judge in a trail pleasure class. English entries must follow all rules associated with english guidelines. Western entries must follow all rules associated with western guidelines.
- Possible Classes: Open Trail Pleasure or Amateur Trail Pleasure. Trail Pleasure classes may also be divided by the gender of the rider/horse, age of the rider/horse, or by english/western.

#### **c.) Country Pleasure**

- Class Definition: Horses in this division should demonstrate pure and foundational elements of the breed. Entries should appear relaxed and graceful. Horses should perform a four beat gait at the flat walk and running walk. Horses should be striding behind in a smooth and well balanced manner. The horse should appear to be in perfect timing/rhythm. Horses should be exhibiting head motion. Their head shake should be up and down (vertical). The country pleasure horse should extend their stride more than the keg shod country pleasure horse. The country pleasure horse may slightly exceed the 45 degree rule in the knee; however excessive front end should be penalized. As a general guideline, the country pleasure horse may exhibit more lift in their front legs than a keg shod country pleasure horse, but they should not be approaching the front end animation of a lite shod horse.
- Shoe Size: 3/8" thick x 1" wide maximum (Please see "General Shoeing Rules" for additional information) Tungsten prohibited.
- Specific Rules: Exhibitors may use two hands when riding both western and english entries. The country pleasure class is an amateur division. Country pleasure entries do not have to be registered. Country pleasure horses may not show in any other walking class at the same show.
- Possible Classes: Country pleasure classes may be divided by the gender of the rider/horse, age of the rider/horse, or by english/western.

#### **d.) Lite-Shod Plantation Pleasure**

- Class Definition: The lite-shod plantation pleasure horse should display brilliance and show presence while performing a true four beat gait. They should have a long, gliding overstride with its hind legs always in a forward

motion. The lite-shod horse should be more animated than horses in keg shod country pleasure, trail pleasure, and country pleasure. They should be “light and airy” (reaching) with their front feet. They should be high headed and alert, but not appear nervous. The western lite-shod horse should have a natural headset and work on a loose rein. The lite-shod horse should display show presence while still exhibiting true pleasure qualities.

- Shoe Size: 1/2” thick x 1” wide maximum (Please see “General Shoeing Rules” for additional information)
- Specific Rules: English entries must follow all rules associated with english guidelines. Western entries must follow all rules associated with western guidelines.
- Possible Classes: Open Lite-Shod Pleasure or Amateur Lite-Shod Pleasure. Lite-shod classes may also be divided by the gender of the rider/horse, age of the rider/horse, or by english/western.

**e.) Plantation Pleasure**

- Class Definition: The plantation pleasure horse should display brilliance and show presence while performing a true four beat gait. They should have a long, gliding overstride with its hind legs always in a forward motion. The plantation pleasure horse should be more animated in the front than the lite-shod pleasure horse. They should be “light and airy” (reaching) with their front feet. They should be high headed and alert, but not appear nervous. The western plantation pleasure horse should have a natural headset and work on a loose rein. The plantation pleasure horse should display show presence while still exhibiting true pleasure qualities.
- Shoe Size: 1/2” thick x 1 1/2” wide maximum (See “General Shoeing Rules” also)
- Specific Rules: English entries must follow all rules associated with english guidelines. Western entries must follow all rules associated with western guidelines.
- Possible Classes: Open Plantation Pleasure or Amateur Plantation Pleasure. Plantation Pleasure classes may also be divided by the gender of the rider/horse, age of the rider/horse, or by english/western.

**f.) Additional Pleasure Classes**

Show managers reserve the right to add any flat shod class not currently defined by the KY-HIO to their show bill. The show management is responsible for providing specific shoe regulations for any such class to the DQP before the show. (Shoe regulations must follow USDA protocol.) Show management must also communicate a clear definition of the class to the judge prior to the show.

This includes the desired criteria and gaits associated with the class. Examples of additional pleasure classes which a show may offer are included below.

**Examples:**

- a.) Park Pleasure
- b.) Classic Plantation Pleasure
- c.) Easy Gait Pleasure
- d.) “Go As You Please” Pleasure
- e.) Local Pleasure