

WCHA Standard Procedures and Policy for Tracking and Lameness (These Procedures Must Be Followed At All WCHA Events)

CLASS PROCEDURE

A. Only the exhibitor and the horse are to be allowed to enter the alleyway according to the established draw or working order. There will be no trainers, parents or grooms with the exhibitor or horse once the exhibitor breaks the plane of the alleyway or in sight of judges in the arena set up is allowable.

B. Each exhibitor and horse must complete the prescribed pattern. The pattern is as follows:

- Horses will walk *straight* to the judge (*walk horse directly to judge*) one at a time. As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the right (left of the horse) to enable the horse to trot *straight and to the right* of a cone placed approximately 30-50 feet away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and continue trotting until it reaches the next cone *which will be placed approximately 30-50 feet away*.

C. In multi-judged shows, the judges may inspect as the horse enters at the walk, one judge will ask for the exhibitor to show the horse's teeth. All stallions and mares will be inspected for parrot mouth or monkey mouth. All stallions 2 years of age or older will be inspected for cryptorchidism.

D. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge.

E. Loose horse – Any horse that becomes detached from its handler and is no longer under control may be disqualified, however the rules of the event and decision of show management will take precedence. If the initial horse exhibiting poor mannerisms causes other exhibitors to lose their horse, only the initiating horse may be disqualified.

F. Disruptive horse – Any horse that is disruptive, a danger to the exhibitor, other exhibitors or horses may be disqualified at the judge's discretion.

G. Lameness: Obvious lameness shall be cause for disqualification. Obvious lameness is:

- Consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances.
- Lameness is observable at a walk.
- Minimal weight-bearing in motion and/or at rest and inability to move.

H. A judge shall have the authority to excuse a horse upon determination that the horse has a lack of bodily control and stability after tracking. This type of "lack of control/stability" can be severe looseness in gait of hind quarters, bobbing of the hind end or severe lack of balance while tracking. If a horse is excused after tracking the result would be disqualification.

EXHIBITOR PROCEDURE

The exhibitor must track the horse ***straight to and away*** from the judge. The exhibitor should make every attempt to track the horse on the first track.

The exhibitor should begin trotting after the judge/judges move to the right, trot to the right of the first cone, continue trotting and make a smooth left turn around the cone and ***continue trotting to the next cone*** which will be placed approximately 30-50 feet away. The exhibitor shall have a maximum of 3 attempts in order to execute the tracking segment of the class. If the exhibitor fails to execute the tracking segment in 3 attempts, the exhibitor will be excused and disqualified.

TRACKING EXEMPTION RULE: Any non pro/youth exhibitor who is physically unable to perform the “trot through” portion of the pattern may use a designated leader to lead the horse through the tracking portion of the class and into the line-up. The exhibitor will then take the horse ***prior to setting up for individual inspection***. A letter from the exhibitor’s doctor verifying the disability must be submitted to show management two weeks prior to competition before an Exemption is granted. Show management can designate a leader, or another non pro competitor, can assist in this variance. The designated handler will “stand by, no closer than 15 feet of the exhibitor, without verbal assistance, to assist if there is an unsafe disruption in the class. The handler can assist in leading the horse after the judging is completed or if there is re-judging under individual judges but the “exhibitor” must set the horse up for inspection when required.

JUDGING PROCEDURE

Judge should be positioned to be able to see the entire tracking for each horse.

Judge should make every effort to track each horse in only one track to examine gaits and lameness. (unless the exhibitor is not able to perform the required pattern, there is a maximum of three attempts)

Judge should mark their respective card independently, no discussion with other judges while in the arena.

Judge should notify only their ring steward/scribe in the individual case of lameness.

If a judge marks a horse as lame, their individual card will reflect a disqualification in the final placings.

In a single judged show, if a horse is determined to be lame, the judge will notify the ring steward/scribe after all horses in the class have tracked and the exhibitor will be excused.

In a multi-judged show, if a horse is determined to be lame by a judge they will give that exhibitors number to the ring steward/scribe, only the ring stewards/scribes will confer and at the conclusion of the tracking, if the majority of the judges determine that the horse is lame, the exhibitor will be excused.