

Working Plantation Horse Competition

The Working Plantation Horse Competition showcases the athletic ability and versatility of the Tennessee Walking Horse as a working ranch or farm horse required to perform a variety of tasks. This horse may be asked to pull, drag and carry objects, open and close gates, travel over rough terrain, cross water, work for long hours, and remain tied or hobbled for extended periods. A well-trained working plantation horse is truly a versatile animal, prized by farmers, ranchers and recreational riders who value the all-around horse

General Rules:

1. Horses must be registered with TWHBEA.
2. The open division is for a horse shown by an adult or a youth. A youth division may also be offered for exhibitors 17 years and under riding a horse owned by the exhibitor or a member of the exhibitor's immediate family.
3. The competition is comprised of 5 events and each horse/rider combination must compete in each event. Horse/rider combinations will be judged on performance only except in the conformation class, in which horses will be judged by the breed standard. Each event will be judged and the competition winner will be chosen by points accumulated in all 5 events. While event winners will be recognized, exhibitors should keep in mind that this is an overall competition and not just 5 separate events.
4. The judge will excuse, at his discretion, a rider for unsportsmanlike conduct, vulgar or profane behavior, cruel treatment of a horse or any activity that endangers people or animals. An excused rider is not eligible for a refund.
5. The judge will, at his discretion, excuse a rider/horse combination if the horse is deemed to be unsound. An excused horse is not eligible for a refund.
6. Tack and attire should be workmanlike and suitable for work around the farm or ranch, serviceably clean and in good repair. Silver on tack is discouraged but not penalized. No formal riding attire is allowed. Boots are required. Attire should be neat and practical, of a kind that would be worn around the farm or ranch. (Jeans, long sleeved shirt, straw hat or cowboy hat, khaki slacks. No ball caps or t-shirts may be worn in competition. In cold weather, sweaters and/or jackets are acceptable. Workmanlike chaps optional with western attire.
7. Horse should be well groomed and neat in appearance. Trimming inside ears is discouraged but not penalized. Bridle paths may be trimmed. Tails may be braided if tail length will interfere with the horse's ability to maneuver through class requirements. No braids, no hoof black or polish (Remnants of polish from other shows are not penalized)

8. Horses may be barefoot or shod with a shoe not to exceed 1" in width.
9. It is recommended that copies of all score cards be given to the rider after the score has been recorded to allow the rider to review the card and use it as a springboard to improving performance in future events. Where time allows, the judge may review each score with the riders in a group setting so the each rider may ask questions and fully understand why the score was given.
10. Event management may choose to affiliate a competition with an HIO for the purpose of inspecting entries for compliance with the HPA. In the event management chooses not to affiliate a competition, management must accept responsibility for ensuring that entries are in compliance with the Horse Protection Act. For that purpose, a steward, veterinarian or other personnel may be provided.

Events

At the beginning of the competition, if space allows, contestants will bring tack to center ring and tack changes will be made there between classes. If space does not allow, contestants may leave arena to make tack changes between classes. If space allows, the judge may choose to have each horse complete the trail course immediately after finishing the working western pattern. This must be announced at the start of the competition.

1. Conformation (Halter)

Criteria:

- The conformation class will be based on balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristic with balance being the most important.
- The horse should have a neat head with well-shaped ears, alert eyes and a tapered muzzle. The expression should be intelligent and kind.
- The neck should be long and graceful, rising from muscular, sloping shoulders.
- The horse should be deep in the girth, well ribbed and the chest should be well proportioned.
- The back should be short and well coupled at the loins.
- The croup should be sloping and the hips well muscled.
- The legs should be flat and cordy, with hoof enough to support the weight of the horse. Hoof length should lend itself to usefulness on the trail or on a variety of terrain.
- Extreme sickle hocks, cow hocks, etc., should be penalized.
- Transmissible weaknesses and/or unsoundness must be penalized. Minor blemishes are not penalized.

Procedure:

- Horses are to be shown in a good working halter (rope, braided, nylon or plain leather).

- Horses will be led both ways of the ring at least 1 circuit of the ring and lined up head to tail for individual inspection. (In a large ring, a portion of the ring may be used)
- The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear.
- The judge may ask any entry or entries to move out at either a flat walk or running walk

2. Working Plantation Pleasure

Criteria:

- Horses will be ridden in English tack
- Horses must display the correct four beat walking gaits with overstride in a manner geared toward covering ground, stamina and riding for long periods.
- Horses must be well mannered, responsive and quiet at all gaits.
- A horse should travel with his head held in a normal position, ears alert and moving at a natural speed for the gait requested.
- Smooth transition between gaits will be rewarded and a difference in speed must be readily noticeable between the flat walk and running walk.
- The canter must be relaxed and consistent without visible effort from the rider
- Horses also will be asked to stop and back.

Flat Walk: A bold, effortless, even, four-beat gait. The horse should drive with the rear legs and appear to pull with the front legs. The fore legs should move straight, breaking at the knees and reaching forward. The horse should be balanced in the degree of knee height to the amount of reach. The hind legs should reach up under the horse's body with minimal hock action, overstepping the print left by the front foot on the same side. Each foot should leave and strike the ground independently. The head should be carried in a natural, relaxed position and must have a pronounced and cadenced head nod which comes out of the shoulders as a result of timing out of the back-end of the horse, and not from simple flexion at the poll.

Running Walk: The running walk has the same footfall, gait quality and general motion as the flat walk, with additional speed and stride. The horse should exhibit a smooth, free and easy, gliding, overstriding, four-beat gait, with greater stride and accelerated head motion. The tendency toward trotting, fox trotting, racking or pacing should be penalized. Head motion must be maintained and form is not to be sacrificed for speed. Some horses will click their teeth and/or flop their ears in time with their head nod and should not be penalized for such. Horses with an exaggerated, hesitating way of going and/or a tendency to "point" must be penalized. Head tossing, going sideways, laboring and tail switching are not desirable

Trail Walk: The trail walk must be on a loose rein. At the trail walk, the rider should be able to take a sandwich out of his/her saddlebag and eat it while the horse quietly moves forward in a relaxed and willing manner.

Canter: The canter is a smooth, controlled and straight three-beat gait. The horse should not be walking behind, but cantering on both ends with a rolling, rocking chair motion. A horse that is on the wrong lead or cross cantering must be penalized. Excessive pulling or pumping the reins at the canter must be penalized.

Procedure:

- Horses enter the ring in a counter-clockwise direction and perform all three gaits both ways of the ring.
- Upon direction of the judge or ring steward, horses will line up and be asked to back individually.

3. Water Glass Each rider will hold a full glass of water as the horse performs the flat walk and running walk both ways of the ring. In case of a tie, the canter may be called and other maneuvers as devised by the judge may be used. Tack may be either English or Western but not a combination of both.

4. Working Western

Criteria:

- Horses will be ridden in Western tack
- Gaits are flat walk, running walk, trail walk, lope and extended lope.
- Horses must display the correct four beat walking gaits with overstride in a manner geared toward covering ground, stamina and riding for long periods.
- Horses should travel quietly on a loose rein with heads held in a relaxed position, ears alert and moving at a natural speed for the gait requested. High headedness and heads behind the vertical are not desirable.
- Smooth transition between the gaits will be rewarded and a difference in speed must be readily noticeable between the flat walk and running walk.
- The lope must be relaxed and consistent without visible effort from the rider
- Extended lope should be slightly faster but not a gallop and must remain under control at all times.
- Trail walk must be on a loose rein and horse should be relaxed but alert and responsive to rider's commands.

Procedure:

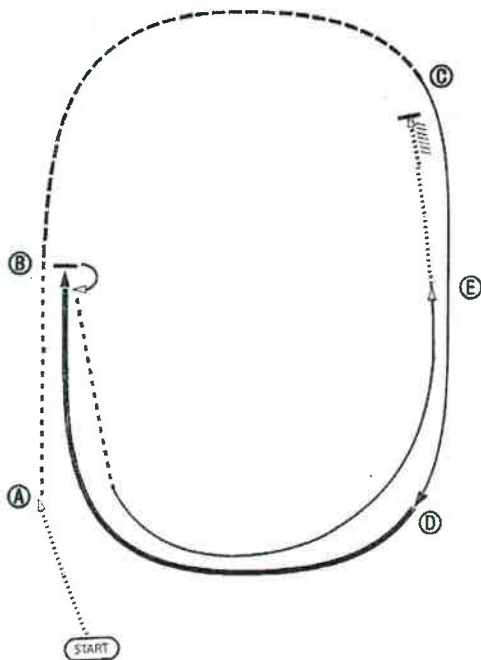
- Horses work the pattern one at a time, with each horse ready to begin when the previous horse finishes the pattern.
- Reins must be held in one hand and cannot be changed during the class. If a rider uses two hands on the reins of a western horse at any time, the entry will be eliminated from consideration for top placings. **The exception is when using a bosal or ring snaffle on a junior horse, the rider may use both hands on the reins. When using both hands, the**

reins should be crossed with the ends falling on either side of the horse.

- When using split reins, the reins should come over the hand with the thumb resting on top and the rein ends coming out the bottom of the hand and falling free on the same side as the hand holding the reins. One finger may be placed between the reins.
- When using rommel reins, the reins should enter the bottom of the hand with the excess rein coming out the top of the hand and the thumb resting on top of the reins. A finger between the reins is not allowed with rommel reins. The extension is carried in the free hand, falling either straight or neatly coiled. The hand holding the rommell must be at least 18 inches away from the rein hand. The rommel may not be used forward of the cinch or used to signal or cue the horse in any way.

Working Western Pattern

1. Trail Walk from start cone to cone A.
2. Flat Walk from A to B.
3. Running Walk from B to C.
4. Lope on the right lead from C to D.
5. Extend the lope from D to B.
6. Stop at B, hesitate, turn and flat walk to A.
7. Lope on the left lead from A to E.
9. Trail Walk from E to C.
10. Stop and back approximately one horse length.



5. Trail Obstacle

Criteria:

- Course includes a minimum of six obstacles designed to show a horse's ability and willingness to perform several tasks that might be asked of him during the course of a normal day's farm or ranch work.
- Highest credit will be given for horses performing the obstacles fluidly, efficiently and willingly.
- A horse will be rewarded with higher credit for performing the gaits correctly (in the case of the canter, on the correct lead) and with an alert attitude.
- Judging for an obstacle shall include the approach, which will begin immediately after departing the starting line or upon departing the preceding obstacle.
- While the course is not judged on time, the horse and rider should make efficient use of time without hesitation or excessive pauses.

Procedure:

- Realistic or natural obstacles are encouraged and the course should be set outside an arena using the natural terrain of the land whenever possible.
- The course may include all three gaits: flat walk, running walk and canter, performed between the six obstacles to be determined when the judge chooses the pattern
- Horses will negotiate the course individually in a timely manner. A reasonable time limit may be set, at the judge's discretion, and contestants may be penalized for exceeding time limit.

Mandatory obstacles

1. Opening, passing through and closing a gate.
2. The rider dismounts, removes the bit completely from the horse's mouth and re-bridles, ground ties and picks up a designated foot or feet.
3. Flat walk between 2 rows of cones, poles, logs or similar objects 24 inches apart with real or simulated crop material such as cotton, corn, or other row crops. Tennis balls on top of cones may be used, but plant material is preferred.

Optional obstacles

1. Dragging a small log or branch either in a straight line or around a set pattern.
2. Water hazard - The horse should show willingness to cross a small ditch or shallow pond.

3. Hobble or ground tie (contestant's option) - The horse shall remain in place while the rider dismounts and performs a normal task such as moving a rail, moving a bale of hay, etc.
4. Put on and remove slicker - Rider approaches slicker, removes slicker from holder, puts on slicker and replaces slicker to holder.
5. Remove, carry and replace item - Requires the exhibitor to carry or remove an item that is used everyday on horseback such as mail from a mailbox, sack, rope, etc.
6. Bridge - Horse shows willingness to walk across a bridge or obstacle designed to simulate a bridge.
7. Roping a stationary or simulated steer head. This obstacle is used to show the willingness of the horse to have a rope thrown from its back. The judge will give credit to the horse that stands quietly while the contestant makes the swing and throw at the stationary steer. Shying from the rope will be penalized, but missing the stationary steer will not be penalized.
8. Ride or lead horse over at least four logs laid at odd angles.
9. Move a cow or group of cattle from one area of a pen to another. A gate may also be a part of this task and can substitute for the mandatory gate.
10. Other realistic obstacles to be determined by the event manager and approved by the judge.

A judge has the right and duty to alter the course in any manner or remove any obstacle deemed unsafe. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to eliminate any possible accidents. No jumps, no tires, no obstacles which are designed purely to attempt to scare the horse. Animals may only be used if they are to be worked by the horse in some manner.

Note: If space allows, the judge may choose to have each horse complete the trail course immediately after finishing the working western pattern. This must be announced at the start of the competition.