

EASTERN IDAHO GAITED HORSE ASSOCIATION

HORSE SHOW RULES & ETIQUETTE

JUNE 2007

Mission Statement: “To promote the enjoyment, use and responsible breeding of all gaited equines by sponsoring clinics, trail rides, shows and fellowship.”

The Eastern Idaho Gaited Horse Association extends a heartfelt thanks to Nya Bates and Lori Moore for researching and writing the Rule Book for us.

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1. PURPOSE OF THE EIGHA HORSE SHOW RULES AND ETIQUETTE BOOK

The purpose of the 'EIGHA Horse Show Rules and Etiquette' book, (hereafter referred to as the Rule Book), is more than a guideline. It provides the standard by which gaited horses included in this Rule Book, competing in a variety of disciplines and exhibiting a variety of gaits, must be judged. The purpose of the Rule Book is to eliminate as much as possible the subjectivity too often found in horse shows and replace it with an objective and measurable standard common to all judges that can be depended upon by exhibitors, spectators and show management.

2. PROTESTS AND COMPLAINTS

- a. Protests and complaints must be submitted to show management no later than one hour after the end of a specific class, or one hour after the last class of competition.
- b. Protests and complaints must be submitted in writing and contain all pertinent information as follows:
 - c. Cite the section of the Rule Book alleged to have been violated.
 - d. Describe the relevant circumstances and facts supporting the allegation(s).
 - e. Name any individuals who witnessed or were involved in the event(s) supporting the allegation(s).
 - f. Sign the protest or complaint. The Complainant shall have the burden of proving a violation of the Rule Book has occurred by a presenting a preponderance of evidence.

3. RULES GOVERNING ALL CLASSES IN ALL DIVISIONS

a. GENERAL

- i. Horses are to be treated with dignity, respect and compassion, and must be sound in both body and mind. Horses showing signs of undue stress or inhumane treatment will be penalized. The exhibition of a horse that has a cut or abrasion showing clear evidence of fresh blood in the mouth, nose, chin, shoulder barrel, flank, lower leg or hip area must be considered to be ineligible to receive an award in that respective class.
- ii. Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear in any division or class without penalty from the judge. EIGHA strongly encourages all riders to wear protective headgear passing or surpassing current applicable ATSM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards with harness secured while riding anywhere on the competition grounds.
- iii. Proper tack is required at all shows.
- iv. Electronic communication devices used for purposes of coaching exhibitors shall be prohibited in all classes. Exempt from this rule are handicapped exhibitors who have submitted written proof of the special need for such devices.
- v. No award will be given to any exhibitor participating in any class while displaying the incorrect number, or no number. The number must be clearly visible to the judge(s), and, if the exhibitor chooses to place the number on the saddle blanket, it must be on both sides.
- vi. The in and out gates must be closed after exhibitors are in the ring and competition begins on the rail. The gates must also be closed when any single exhibitor/horse team is competing in a pattern class, (i.e. Trail Obstacle).

b. ETIQUETTE

- i. No stopping on the rail at any time, including during warm-up periods, unless requested by judge(s) or show management. Exhibitors have the right-of-way during warm-up periods. Ride in the direction of the majority during warm-up periods.
- ii. If, during the course of a rail class, you make the decision to pass another exhibitor, please make that decision in a timely manner, at least one full horse length ahead of time, to avoid “riding up” on another horse and causing that horse to spook. The same follows for getting back onto the rail.
- iii. No dogs are allowed in the show arena or the show arena building at any time, and dogs otherwise on the show grounds must be on a leash.
- iv. Pick up your manure and trash.
- v. Pay attention to the announcer and the gate people:
 1. When the announcer asks exhibitors to clear the arena after a warm-up period, please do so immediately.
 2. Don’t block the in and/or out gates; if the announcer or gate person asks that you clear the gates, please do so immediately.
 3. It’s not the in-gate person’s responsibility to find you for your class.
 4. Do not argue with the in-gate person when being assigned your “go” order in a particular class, (i.e. halter, sportsmanship, trail, pattern classes).
 5. Be aware of how your behavior and that of your horse may affect others.
 6. Exhibit good sportsmanship.
 7. Read the Rules.

c. GENERAL GAITED HORSE SHOW RULES

- i. In all gaited divisions, the gaited horse must be correctly gaited, demonstrating a four-beat gait, (or three-beat in the canter), must be fluid, natural, smooth and appear to be a true pleasure to ride. Execution and quality of gait are paramount. Entries that exhibit an artificial way of going, to include “hang time,” crampy movement, or other characteristics of a horse that would be considered to be laboring rather than forward moving, will be penalized. All movements of the horse should be governed by the use of nearly imperceptible aids.
- ii. Safety of horse & exhibitor is paramount at all times during a show, whether in the ring or on the show grounds.
- iii. Exhibitors 17 years of age and under must wear a helmet. (The Club will have “loaner” helmets on hand.)
- iv. Schooling (excessive and/or cruel correction or stewarding) of horses is prohibited in the ring and discouraged on the show grounds.
- v. Judges observe the entrance of a 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.
- vi. During the lineup, the judge may ask exhibitors to dismount so that bits can be dropped for inspection and/or shoes checked and measured.
- vii. All judge’s decisions are final.
- viii. No judge may judge an exhibitor or any entry with which they have had any sort of contractual relationship for training services, either orally or in writing, within 90 days of the event, other than a clinic that is open to the general public.

- ix. While not prohibited, judges are discouraged from being a houseguest of any exhibitor during the show, as the potential for protests by other exhibitors may arise, and the objectivity of the judge may appear to be at risk.
- x. Plantation shoes are not allowed. If the horse is shod, it must be “lite shod.” The lite shoe must be no wider than $\frac{3}{4}$ ”, no thicker than $\frac{3}{8}$ ”, with the exception of the caulk, which must be no thicker than $\frac{3}{4}$ ” and the turn back must not exceed 1”. Diamond toe weights are prohibited.
- xi. Exhibitors enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction, unless otherwise requested by the presiding judge(s).
- xii. Light contact must be maintained with the reins at all times.
- xiii. There should be a noticeable difference in the rate of speed between the first gait and the second gait, but a good second gait should never allow proper form to be sacrificed for excessive speed. (Note: Some horses travel faster than others in their gaits, so the term “excessive speed” should be interpreted as “out of control,” “deterioration of the second gait into pacing or trotting,” and/or generally not performing the gait called for.) Excessive speed will be penalized. The pace or trot will be penalized. The lite shod pleasure horse should perform the breed specific gaits in a relaxed fashion with an alert and willing attitude.
- xiv. Horses are to be judged on quality of gaits, manners, performance, suitability, quality, and conformation.
- xv. The judge may call for a halt on the rail to test for quietness. Horses must stand quietly and back readily, if asked, with head in normal position, on a straight track, and with mouth closed, showing no resistance, (i.e. gaped mouth, swishing tail, exhibitor jerking or sawing on the reins).
- xvi. No gimmicks, artificial appliances or training devices are allowed while in the show ring during competition.

- xvii. No tape, latex or similar substance may be placed on the reins, although bits may be wrapped.
- xviii. Bandages or boots of any description for use on the horse are prohibited, (with the exception of reining, gymkhana and speed classes, where overreach boots and protective wraps are allowed). In the event of an injury to the horse, the judge may permit a protective bandage.
- xix. Judges must severely penalize pumping of the reins in the canter.
- xx. No person under the age of 18 shall exhibit or handle a stallion on the grounds.
- xxi. The term “Novice” refers to any horse or rider who has never won a blue ribbon prior to this show.
- xxii. Two-year old horses are discouraged from performing under saddle for more than ten minutes during any one period, with at least five minutes of rest between the first and second period.
- xxiii. Stay on the rail during rail classes, except when passing another exhibitor. Do not cut corners.
- xxiv. Any exhibitor “covering” another exhibitor on the rail, or otherwise intentionally obscuring another exhibitor from the judge’s view, is an illustration of extremely poor sportsmanship & will be penalized.
- xxv. When asked to reverse, turn away from the rail.
- xxiv. The judge has the authority and the responsibility to excuse from the ring any horse that exhibits a bad image or appears to be lame, who exhibits unruly behavior or who otherwise fails to conform to the EIGHA rules.

4. GAITS...Remember: *“Style & Grace, Not a Race.”*
- a. QUALIFYING GAITS (Note: In order to accommodate several gaited horse breeds in the open classes, the gait calls for open 2-gait classes will be “first gait” and “second gait.” The gait calls for open 3-gait classes will be “first gait,” “second gait,” and “canter.” Horses are to perform the gait as per their breed standards. Because different gaited breeds perform different gaits, judges may feel free to ask each exhibitor the breed of his/her horse if it would make adjudicating the class easier. The United Mountain Horses (KMSHA/RMSHA) should consider the “first gait” to be the equivalent of their “slow gait,” and the “second gait” to be the equivalent of their “fast gait.”)
- i. FIRST GAIT: To be performed at a speed slightly faster than a dog walk.
1. Flat Walk: Performed by the Tennessee Walking Horse, Missouri Foxtrotting Horse and Paso Fino, is a four-beat gait, with each of the horse’s feet hitting the ground separately at regular intervals. The footfall sequence is RH, RF, LH, LF. Additionally, the Tennessee Walking Horse should overstride the front foot track with the hind foot. The head should nod in rhythm with the cadence of the feet; the head nod should be vertical, (up-and-down), as opposed to side-to-side. Each stride should reach forward, with no snap or pop. The head and tail carriage are slightly elevated.
 2. Paso Llano: Performed by the Peruvian Paso, is a four-beat gait, with each of the horse’s hooves hitting the ground separately at regular intervals. In this gait, the Paso will exhibit termino in the front legs and ample stride behind.
 3. Pleasure Walk: Performed by the Racking Horse, is a four-beat gait, in which the horse and exhibitor are completely at ease.
 4. Show Gait: Performed by the United Mountain Horse, (KMSHA/RMSHA), is a smooth, collected four-beat gait performed at moderate speed. Neither animation nor excessive speed is desired.

5. Show Walk: Performed by the Spotted Saddle Horse, is a smooth four-beat walk. Head nod is acceptable.
- ii. SECOND GAIT: To be performed at a faster speed than the first gait. Form and consistency are considered paramount and should not be sacrificed for speed.
1. Show Walk: Performed by the Spotted Saddle Horse, is a smooth four-beat walk. Head nod is acceptable.
Running Walk: Performed by the Tennessee Walking Horse, is a brisk, four-beat, lateral gait. It is executed at a speed faster than the Flat Walk, with overstride and vertical head nod. Footfall sequence is RH, RF, LH, LF.
 2. Fox Trot: Performed by the Missouri Foxtrotting Horse, is a diagonal gait, with the horse walking in front and trotting behind, with reach in each stride. Although the Fox Trot is not a high-stepping gait, it should be performed in a stylish manner. The rear feet should exhibit a sliding action when set down, and the horse may overstep his track. The head should nod vertically in rhythm with the cadence of the feet.
 3. Paso Corto: Performed by the Paso Fino Horse, is a smooth, steady, evenly timed four-beat gait. It is rhythmic, executed with moderate extension and mild collection. The headset is to be relaxed and natural.
 4. Sobreandando: Performed by the Peruvian Paso Horse, is faster and slightly more lateral than the Paso Llano and exhibits termino and stride.
 5. Rack: Performed by the Racking Horse, is an evenly timed, smooth, bold, four-beat gait with overstride. The head is generally carried slightly higher; the rack can be performed at varying speeds.
 6. Pleasure Gait: Performed by the United Mountain Horse, (KMSHA/RMSHA), is an even four-beat gait executed with form and more speed than the Show Gait.
- iii. Canter: To be performed as a relaxed three-beat gait in a collected manner, on the correct lead and straight on both leads. Pumping of the reins will be penalized.

b. UNACCEPTABLE GAITS

- i. Trot: A two-beat diagonal gait, LH-RF, RH-LF.
- ii. Pace: A two-beat lateral gait, LH-LF, RH-RF.

5. RULES FOR ENGLISH CLASSES

a. ENGLISH APPOINTMENTS

- i. Braided ribbons may be worn in English and halter classes, but are prohibited in western classes, with the exception of the Missouri Foxtrotting Horse, which is traditionally worn braided ribbons in western classes.
- ii. Rhinestone or sequined browbands and cavesson fronts are permitted.
- iii. Curb chains must lie flat against the jaw and be at least ½” wide. Cross chain cavessons are prohibited.
- iv. Martingales and tie-downs are prohibited.
- v. Action devices and tail braces are prohibited.
- vi. Whips, not to exceed four feet, are allowed.
- vii. Severe bits must be penalized in the final judging. Bits with shanks over 9 ½” are prohibited. Only gag bits with shanks are allowed, (i.e. the Wonder Bit); such bits must be ridden with two hands and used on junior horses only, (horses five & under). Shanks are measured from the top of the metal to the very bottom of the metal; the rings are included in the measurement.
- viii. Gaited horses in English classes must utilize cutback or all-purpose English saddles. No forward seat saddles are allowed. The girth must be made of leather, web, string or suitable material.

- ix. Bridle must be light, show type; either single curb, single snaffle, curb and snaffle, or Pelham bit.
- xix. Informal saddle seat attire is required. No hunt-seat attire will be allowed. Hats or protective headgear are optional. English-type spurs are optional.

b. ENGLISH CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

i. ENGLISH EQUITATION

In equitation classes, only the exhibitor is being judged. Exhibitors will be judged on seat, hands, appointments of horse and exhibitor, and suitability of horse and exhibitor. The exhibitor's balance and position will be studied. The exhibitor will also be judged on how he/she handles the horse in a moment of distress; however, any exhibitor not having his/her mount under sufficient control will be penalized or dismissed. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them.

The exhibitor should have a pleasant but workmanlike appearance, seat and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control should any emergency arise. The exhibitor's ears, shoulders, hips and heels should be in alignment with each other. Both hands may be used on the reins and the bight (excess rein that falls away from the reining hand(s)) may fall on either side. The exhibitor's eyes should be up and the shoulders back, with heels slightly down and the calf of both legs in contact with horse slightly behind the girth. Feet should be placed in the stirrup irons with weight on the ball of the foot.

Horses will not be asked to lope.

A pattern is optional and at the judge's discretion. If a pattern is called for, it must be made available to exhibitors at least two hours prior to the class and may be walked by the

exhibitors before the class begins. Exhibitors are allowed to ask the judge, ring steward or pattern designer questions about the pattern before the class starts. No horses will be allowed in the ring before the class starts.

ii. ENGLISH 2 GAIT OPEN

This class is open to any breed of gaited horse. Horses shall enter the ring at the walk, and when the gait is closed, the class will be called as “first gait,” “second gait,” “first gait,” “reverse at the first gait,” repeat and line up. A halt on the rail and/or a back may be called for at any time.

iii. ENGLISH 2 GAIT (BREED SPECIFIC)

Horses shall enter the ring at the walk, and when the gate is closed, the class will be called according to the breed standard.

iv. ENGLISH 3 GAIT OPEN

This class is open to any breed of gaited horse. Horses shall enter the ring at the walk, and when the gate is closed, the class will be called as “first gait,” “second gait,” “first gait,” “canter,” “first gait,” “reverse at the first gait,” “second gait,” “first gait,” “canter,” “first gait” and line up. A back may be called for during the lineup.

v. ENGLISH 3 GAIT (BREED SPECIFIC)

Horses shall enter the ring at a walk, and when the gate is closed. The class will be called according to the breed standard.

4. RULES FOR WESTERN CLASSES

a. WESTERN APPOINTMENTS

- i. Braids are prohibited in western classes, with the exception of the Missouri Fox Trotting Horse, who is traditionally allowed to wear braided ribbons Western Pleasure as well as English classes.
- ii. Any western-type headstall, without noseband, in conjunction with any standard western bit shall be allowed. Rhinestone or sequined brow bands are permitted. A standard western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 9 ½ inches. Shanks are measured from the top of the metal to the very bottom of the metal; the rings are included in the measurement. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions, prongs or rivets designed to intimidate the horse or provide additional leverage. Severe bits are prohibited. Jointed mouthpieces are acceptable and may consist of two or three pieces and may have one or two joints. Only gag bits with shanks are allowed, (i.e. the Wonder Bit); such bits must be ridden with two hands and used only on junior horses, (horses five and under). Junior horses may be shown in a standard snaffle or bosal.
- iii. Western curb straps must be at least ½” wide, constructed of leather and attached to the bit with straps and buckles. Flat chain may lie between the leather. The curb strap must lay flat across the chin groove. Complete chain curbs are prohibited with a western bit.
- iv. When a standard western bit with a shank is used, only one hand may be used on the reins, and hands may not be changed, (with the exception of Trail Obstacle classes, where the obstacle requires a temporary change of hands). When using one hand on the reins and when the end of split reins fall on the side of the reining hand, one finger between the reins is required. The exhibitor may carry the free non-reining hand either resting in a relaxed manner on the thigh, or bent at the elbow and carried at the same height as the

reining hand. When using romal reins, or when ends of split reins are held in hand not used for reining, no finger between reins is allowed. Exhibitor may hold romal or end of split reins to keep them from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins provided hand is held at least 16 inches from the reining hand. Split reins or romal reins are equally acceptable.

- v. Whips are not allowed in western classes.
- vi. Any standard stock saddle is permissible, and silver equipment/embellishment will not count over a good working outfit.
- vii. Tapaderos may be used only with traditional Paso tack and attire.
- viii. Exhibitors shall wear western hat, long-sleeved shirt with any type collar, trousers or jeans, and western boots with a distinguishable heel. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty. Optional are vests, jackets, chaps and/or spurs, (no sharpened or otherwise severe spurs are allowed). It is suggested that pants be of sufficient length as to meet the bottom of the heel of the boot when the exhibitor is in the saddle. If the exhibitor chooses to wear a western hat as opposed to a helmet, the hat must be on when the exhibitor enters the ring and must stay on until the gate is closed and the class begins; if the hat comes off any time after the class begins, there will be no penalty.

b. WESTERN CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

- i. WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP (EQUITATION): In equitation classes, only the rider, (exhibitor), is being judged. Exhibitors will be judged on ability, seat, hands, appointments of horse & exhibitor, and suitability of horse to exhibitor. The exhibitor's balance & position will be studied. The exhibitor is also judged on how he/she handles the horse in a moment of distress; however, any exhibitor not having his/her mount under sufficient control will be penalized or dismissed.

The exhibitor should have a pleasant but workmanlike appearance, seat and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control should any emergency arise. The exhibitor's ears, shoulders, hips and heels should be in alignment with each other. The exhibitor's eyes should be up and the shoulders back, with heels slightly down and calf of leg in contact with horse slightly behind the girth. Feet should be placed in the stirrups with weight on the ball of the foot.

Horses shall not be asked to lope.

A pattern is optional and at the judge's discretion. If a pattern is called for, the pattern must be made available to exhibitors at least two hours prior to the class and may be walked by exhibitors before the class begins. Exhibitors are allowed to ask the judge, ring steward, or pattern designer questions about the pattern before the class starts. No horses will be allowed in the ring before the class starts.

If the class is a rail class (no pattern), the gaits will be called as "first gait," "second gait," "first gait," "reverse at the first gait," "second gait," "first gait," line up. A halt on the rail and/or a back may be called for at any time.

- ii. WESTERN 2 GAIT OPEN: This class is open to any breed of gaited horse. The gaits will be called as "first gait," "second gait," "first gait," "reverse at the first gait," "second gait," "first gait," line up. A halt on the rail and/or a back may be called for at any time.
- iii. WESTERN 2 GAIT (BREED SPECIFIC): The gaits will be called according to the breed standard.
- iv. WESTERN 3 GAIT OPEN: This class is open to any breed of gaited horse. The gaits will be called as "first gait," "second gait," "first gait," "canter," "first gait," "reverse at the first gait," "second gait," "first gait," "canter," "first gait," line up. A back may be called for during the lineup.

- v. WESTERN 3 GAIT (BREED SPECIFIC): The gaits will be called according to the breed standard.
- vi. COUNTRY PLEASURE: This is a two-gait class and is open to any breed. The class may be ridden either English or Western. The ideal country pleasure horse should reflect the name of the division and should be the type of horse you would like to ride if you were going out to spend many hours in the saddle. The ride must be extremely smooth, the exhibitor comfortable and the horse not laboring. If riding western then only one hand is to be used for reining, with the exception of the snaffle or bosal.

All horses will be asked to enter at a first gait and will then be asked for an intermediate gait of their choice, excluding the canter, lope or hand gallop. Horses must be relaxed, forward moving (no high-stepping or animation) and must display exceptional manners and responsiveness to the exhibitor's commands. Horses must line up and stand quietly before being asked to back; the back should be performed with no resistance and on a straight track. The judge may require riders to dismount and mount while in the lineup.

- vii. ANIMATED PERFORMANCE: This class is a two-gait class and is open to any breed. English or western tack and attire may be used. Animated Performance classes require an animated, energetic way of going. The gait calls will be "first gait," "second gait," "first gait," "reverse at the first gait," "second gait," "first gait," line up, "back."
- viii. TRAIL OBSTACLE: This class is open to any breed and is a pattern class consisting of obstacles to be negotiated by the horse/exhibitor team. The pattern may be selected by the judge, or may be chosen by show management. The course pattern must be available to exhibitors at least two hours prior to the class. Exhibitors will be allowed to walk and inspect the course with the judge, ring steward and/or the course designer before the class begins. Horses are not allowed on the course prior to competition.

The class will be judged solely on the performance scores of the horse over and through obstacles, with emphasis on manners, willingness, level of training, responsiveness to the exhibitor, and attitude. Maximum credit should be given to the trail horse that negotiates its way through a course efficiently, without excessive hesitation but with curiosity, smoothly, in a manner that raises the degree of difficulty without sacrificing carefulness or control.

There should be a trail re-set steward in the ring to re-set any obstacles miss-placed or knocked over during a go. Once the course is set up and measured, lime, flour, white chalk, cornstarch, sawdust or equivalent material, should be set down to mark the correct placement of each obstacle.

At least six obstacles must be used, three of which must be from the mandatory list of obstacles and at least three different obstacles selected from the list of optional obstacles. All obstacles & courses are to be constructed & designed with safety in mind.

Penalties will include:

1. Each tick or hit of log, pole, cone or obstacle.
2. Touching the horse on the head or neck to give praise.
3. Break of gait called for.
4. Skipping over or failing to step into a required space.
5. Knocking down an obstacle.
6. Refusing an obstacle after three tries. (The judge, at his/her discretion, may ask an exhibitor to move on to the next obstacle if the horse is persistently unwilling to negotiate a particular obstacle.)
7. Loss of control or letting go of gate.
8. Blatant disobedience.
9. Failure to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction.
10. Riding outside designated marker(s).
11. Failure to perform correct line of travel between obstacles or otherwise going off course.
12. Use of hands to instill fear.

i. MANDATORY OBSTACLES:

1. Opening, passing through and closing a gate. The gate may be a rope gate or a panel gate and must be stable enough so as not to endanger horse or exhibitor. It should be approximately 60 inches high with a latch available at that height. Only one hand may be used to maneuver the gate. The pattern may call for a specific way of negotiating the gate, such as “right hand push,” etc., in which case the exhibitor may temporarily change hands and bight, (excess rein that falls away from the reining hand(s)), of rein to properly negotiate the gate.
2. Ride over at least four logs or poles at a first or second gait as called for on the pattern. The poles can be in a straight line, curved, zig-zag or raised to a maximum of eight inches. The space between the poles is to be measured. For first gait, the poles should be spaced 28” apart (inside to inside). For second gait, they should be 4’ apart (inside to inside).
3. Backing obstacle. This obstacle should be spaced at 40” inside to inside and may be configured in an “L,” a ”V” or a “U” shape, a straight line, or through and around at least three markers.
4. Bridge. Ride over a wooden bridge. The suggested minimum width for the bridge is 36 inches and it should be at least 6 feet long. It should not exceed 12 inches in height and should be extremely sturdy and safe. No rolling bridges are allowed.

ii. OPTIONAL OBSTACLES (but not limited to):

1. Water obstacle. No metal or slick-bottom boxes to be used. Jumping the obstacle will be penalized. The water box may have no moving parts.
2. Serpentine obstacles at a first or second gait. Spacing should be 6’ for first gait and 21’ for second gait.
3. Carry objects from one part of the arena to another. Only objects that might reasonably be carried on a trail ride may be used.

4. Put on and remove a rain slicker that is located so that the rider can easily reach it. The reins may be dropped on the horse's neck or placed around the saddle horn while the rider puts on and removes the slicker.
5. Open a mailbox, remove "mail," replace "mail" and close mailbox.
6. Box. An obstacle consisting of four logs laid in a square. The box shall be a minimum of a six-foot square and maximum seven feet. Each exhibitor shall enter the box as designated. When all four feet are inside the box, the horse should execute a turn, as indicated, and depart.
7. Side pass over pole or log. To increase the degree of difficulty, more than one pole or log may be used and set at right angles.
8. Dismount and ground tie, (horse must not move after exhibitor has dismounted & dropped the reins). Walk ten feet away from horse, walk back to horse & mount.
9. Any other safe and negotiable obstacle(s) which could reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail ride or in the course of a working ranch horse's job and which meets the judge's approval.

iii. UNACCEPTABLE OBSTACLES:

1. Tires
2. Animals
3. Hides
4. PVC pipe
5. Jumps
6. Rocking or moving bridges
7. Water box with floating or moving parts
8. Flames, dry ice, fire extinguisher, etc.
9. Logs or poles elevated in such a manner that permits such to roll
10. Any other obstacle that is not safe for horse & exhibitor to negotiate

7. RULES FOR CART DRIVING

a. GENERAL

- i. Only the driver is permitted in the vehicle.
- ii. The walk, first gait and second gait will be performed both ways of the arena.
- iii. The canter or lope is not permitted in this class.
- iv. Horses must be able to back in the shafts, (unless the cart is a roadster).
- v. A header, (attendant), during the lineup is optional for adult drivers but is mandatory for youth drivers.
- vi. A horse must never be left unattended while put to a vehicle.
- vii. Excessive use of the voice, shouting or whistling to the horse will be penalized at the judge's discretion.
The driver should strive to control the horse's movements with a discrete use of vocal aids.
- viii. Drivers should strive to maintain a safe distance from other vehicles during the competition, in the warm-up, and in parking areas.
- ix. Dogs are not allowed in or anywhere near the vehicle during competition.

b. APPOINTMENTS

- i. All harness pieces must be clean, in good working condition and fit properly.
- ii. Breeching is required with wooden wheeled vehicles, but not with wire wheeled vehicles.
- iii. Any serviceable and safe two-wheel cart or four-wheel buggy is acceptable.

- iv. Bridles should fit snugly to prevent catching on the vehicle or other pieces of harness. A throatlatch and a noseband or cavesson are mandatory.
- v. Snaffle bits and other types of traditional driving bits are allowed. Overchecks are allowed when used in conjunction with a snaffle bit.
- vi. Blinkers or blinders are required.
- vii. A whip not to exceed six feet in length is permissible.

c. ATTIRE

- i. This is not a costume class. Attire should be appropriate for showing and of a style according to the present day.
- ii. Gloves are required.
- iii. Hats for both men and women are encouraged but not mandatory.
- iv. Ladies may wear skirts with blouses, conservative dresses or shirt with pants.
- v. Lap robes are optional.

d. FAULTS

- i. Rearing in the shafts.
- ii. Deviation from the correct gait or breaking into a canter.
- iii. Balking or refusing to go forward or to turn.
- iv. Incorrect or unsafe harness/equipment, to include incorrectly fitted or incomplete harnessing.
- v. Any behavior and/or equipment deemed unsafe.