



**Michigan
Interscholastic
Horsemanship
Association**

**2011
Season
Rules and
Regulations**



Michigan Interscholastic Horsemanship Association

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Article VII - Competition

Competition Meets shall be conducted according to the rules found below:

- A. Suggested Class Order at the high school meets shall be:
1. Western Fitting and Showing
 2. Hunt Seat Fitting and Showing
 3. Saddle Seat Fitting and Showing
 4. Saddle Seat Equitation
 5. Saddle Seat Pattern
 6. Saddle Seat Bareback
 7. Hunt Seat Equitation
 8. Hunt Seat Bareback
 9. Equitation Over Fences
 10. Western Equitation
 11. Western Bareback
 12. Western Riding or Western Reining
 13. Trail
 14. Flag Race
 15. Cloverleaf
 16. Timed Events Pattern
 17. Two-Person Relay Race
- B. Suggested Class Order at the Junior Division meets shall be:
1. Western Fitting and Showing
 2. Hunt Seat Fitting and Showing
 3. Saddle Seat Fitting and Showing
 4. Saddle Seat Equitation
 5. Saddle Seat Pattern
 6. English Equitation (Hunt Seat or Saddle Seat) Walk/Trot
 7. Hunt Seat Equitation
 8. English Bareback (Hunt Seat or Saddle Seat) – Class to be Walk/Trot, but only Walk, Trot, Canter riders are eligible to participate.
 9. Equitation Over Fences
 10. Western Equitation Walk/Trot
 11. Western Equitation
 12. Western Riding or Western Reining
 13. Western Bareback Class to be Walk/Trot, but only Walk/Trot/Canter riders only are eligible to participate.
 14. Trail
 15. Flag Race
 16. Cloverleaf
 17. Timed Events Pattern
 18. Two-Person Relay Race
- C. Western Riding/Reining Pattern, Trail, Saddle Seat Pattern, Equitation Over Fences and the Two-Person Relay Race will have a limit of THREE entries per class per team, with the remaining classes to have a limit of FOUR entries per class per team. Each available entry space will be called a “slot”.

D. In each event the following points shall be awarded:

FIRST place 8 Points

SECOND place 7 Points

THIRD place 6 Points

FOURTH place 5 Points

FIFTH place 4 Points

SIXTH place 3 Points

SEVENTH place 2 Points

EIGHTH place 1 Point

NINTH place Honorable Mention (0 Points)

1. At the District Level, placing ties not broken by the Judge shall remain tied. Tied entrants shall receive equal points. The next lower placed team shall not receive more points than the tied teams. Points will be determined by this calculation – the number of points awarded for the winning placing, added to the next lower number of points for each team involved in the tie, then that point total will be split evenly among the tied teams. The next place finisher (team) not involved in the tie will receive the placing and points following (the number of) the teams involved in the tie. Examples:

a. A two-team tie for first place will be calculated by adding 8 points (1st place) + 7 points (2nd place) = 15 points. 15 points, divided by 2 = 7.5 points per tied team. (8 + 7 = 15 divided by 2 = 7.5) The next place finisher will be awarded 3rd place and 3rd place points = 6 points.

b. A three-team tie for 2nd would be 7 points (2nd place) + 6 points (3rd place) + 5 points (4th place) = 18 points divided by 3 = 6 points per tied team (7 + 6 + 5 = 18 divided by 3 = 6) The next place winner will be 5th place, receiving 5th place points = 4 points.

Exception to this point system will be the Two-Person Relay Team Event which will receive one score and will use only one slot per team. The “Point Rider” will need to be designated at least two classes prior to the commencement of the Two-Person Relay Race. The second rider in the Two-Person Relay Race will be called the “Silent Rider” and will not use any of their available slots by participating in the Two-Person Relay Race.

E. The team that has the highest number of points at the completion of all events shall be considered the winner.

F. In the event of a tie, there will be no run-off. Each first place team will stand as co-champions. In the event of two teams tying for second place each team will stand as co-reserve champions. In the case of two teams tying for first place a reserve champion will still be named. This includes regular meets, Regional Meets and the State Championship Meet.

G. Meets shall be judged according to rules found in the Handbook under section titled Rules and Regulations. Each event shall have a detailed description to further explain guidelines of the events in the Rules and Regulations section of this book.

H. Registration for events shall be submitted for entire team by Coach prior to commencement of first class in the meet. No

changes shall be made once preceding class enters the ring, except in the event of an illness or injury to a horse or rider. In this case, a substitution would be allowed as long as the affected class is not detained.

- I. A Coach is to request all tack changes to entry table. Tack changes will be limited to 5 minutes. Timing of tack changes will be done by announcer or ringmaster. He/she is to use a stop watch. Timing will begin when last horse from previous class leaves the ring.
- J. Judges are responsible for the placing of the competitors in each class. The judge's decision is final.
- K. The District Chairperson is responsible for all on-site activities other than judging. All complaints regarding, but not limited to, rider/team conduct and safety, will be directed to the District Chairperson.
- L. Any claimed infraction of an MIHA rule during competition must be registered (protested) with the District Chairperson by a registered adult coach prior to the commencement of the second following class. The start of judging of the next class constitutes a waiver of any alleged violation of MIHA rules. The District Chairperson will notify the judge through the ringmaster of the grievance. Otherwise, the judge's decision is final.
- M. The Regional Chairperson is responsible for all on-site activities. All complaints regarding, but not limited to, rider/team conduct and safety will be directed to the Regional Chairperson.
- N. Any claimed infraction of an MIHA rule during regional competition must be registered (protested) with the Regional Chairperson by a registered adult coach prior to the commencement of the next class in the division. The start of judging of the next class constitutes a waiver of any alleged violation of MIHA rules. The Regional Chairperson will notify the judge through the ringmaster of the grievance. Otherwise, the judge's decision is final.
- O. PROTEST FEES: No fee is required for a protest at the District level. A \$25.00 fee is required for a protest at the Regional level. A \$50.00 fee is required for a protest at the State Meet. All fees must be in cash.
- P. These Fees will be refunded if the protest is found to be valid.

Article VIII - Organization of Districts

Seasonal competition in MIHA is arranged so that the equestrian teams may play other neighboring MIHA teams regardless of school or team size. This system preserves traditional interscholastic rivalries and minimizes travel.

- A. District is a grouping of high school and middle school (Junior Division) teams within a geographical area having a minimum of ten and a maximum of nineteen high school teams. Districts may be combined for Junior Division competition to facilitate appropriate numbers.
 - 1. A District must hold three qualifying meets for each high school team per season in order to send teams to the MIHA Regional and State Championship Meets barring any unforeseen natural disasters.

- a. A District will hold one Junior Division meet for each team per season (in the spring) and it may hold up to two additional Junior Division meets. All expenses incurred for the second and third meets will be the responsibility of the individual District. There will not be any structured inter-District playoff system.
2. Sportsmanship Trophies will be given out to the districts at Rider Registration.
3. Each District must have a District Chairperson who is responsible for overseeing the seasonal competition within the district.
 - a. This person must be a registered adult coach, assistant adult coach or volunteer selected by a majority vote of the registered adult coaches in a district.
 - b. The election for all District Chairperson will be coordinated by the existing District Chairperson with the nomination, election and submission of proper documentation by December 31st.
 - c. If the District Chairperson fails to provide the appropriate documentation by said date, the Executive Board will coordinate the election of the District Chairperson for the district during the immediate following January.
4. Responsibilities of the District Chairperson are:
 - a. A District Chairperson may appoint an individual (a registered adult coach, a registered assistant adult coach or a registered adult volunteer), with the approval of the Junior Division Coaches in the District, to serve as the District Junior Division Coordinator and be responsible for overseeing the Junior Division within the District. This individual shall be responsible to the District Chairperson.
 - b. The District Chairperson is responsible for the selection of judges, meet locations, planning meet dates, and any plans necessary to organize their series of meets for the fall competition. Under no circumstances shall any team, without express authority from the District Chairperson be allowed to hire any judges for their district meets.
 - c. The District Chairperson, in consultation with the registered adult coaches, is responsible for all safety issues of competition within said District.
 - d. Each District Chairperson and/or District Treasurer, will handle all financial matters of the district and submit an annual District Financial Report (which can be found on the website at www.miha.org), covering income and expenditures from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 and year-end balance, to the State Treasurer no later than the third Saturday of January of the next year. All financial statements are available to the public. Failure to do so shall result in sanctions imposed upon the District Chairpersons/District Treasurer by the Executive Board.

- e. Each District Chairperson will receive an annual Team Financial Report, covering income and expenditures from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 and year-end balance, from each coach by January 1st . The forms for the Team financial reports can be found on the website at www.miha.org and the State Financial Report may be used as an example for these financial reports. All financial statements are available to the public.
 - f. Each District Chairperson will be responsible for the accurate registration of riders and their mounts. The rider registration forms for each team are to be held by the District Chairperson until after the completion of the State Championship Show.
 - g. Each District Chairperson will deliver rider registration forms of their district's division team champions to the Regional show Office/Chairperson prior to the start of the Regional meet. The Regional Show Chair will deliver rider registration forms of the regions division champions and reserve champions to the State Show Office/Chairperson prior to the start of the State Championship meet. Under no circumstances will the winning teams' rider registrations be returned to the coach after the regular District season or before the State Championship.
 - h. Each District Chairperson will deliver judge payment information such as name, address, telephone, and social number to the State Treasurer by November 30 each year. The form can be found on the website at www.miha.org. Failure to do so shall result in sanctions imposed upon the district/ Regional Chairpersons by the Executive Board.
5. A District with twelve to nineteen teams, and seventy-five or more riders, may hold meets at two sites simultaneously (total of six meets per season). Each team will attend three meets, with teams arranged so the meets will be approximately the same size. A District with fifteen to nineteen teams, and over 150 Riders, may hold meets at three sites simultaneously (total of nine meets per season); with each team attending three meets. All teams shall play each other in rotation in these divided Districts, and it is required teams compete against all other teams sharing their division (A, B, C or D). Meet size can vary according to team size and number of riders present at each meet.
6. Districts reaching twenty teams can be divided into two Districts. Size of teams and number of riders should be considered to warrant splitting the Districts. A committee of the State Chairperson, District Chairperson(s) and District Coaches will decide whether to split or reorganize Districts.
- B. The Board of Directors is allowed to review districts. Decisions on redistricting will be based on the criteria of size, geographical area, and the arena facilities.
- 1. Upon this review the Board of Directors shall recommend team changes to the District Chairperson of the said district and give notice to the team change.

2. There will be a 15 day comment period for the team involved; the Executive Board will make the final decision on the change at the end of that period. Executive Board decisions are final, registered letters will be sent to the coaches of the teams involved.
- C. Provisional Districts may be formed in order to facilitate growth of the Association.
1. A geographical area with five to nine potential teams, if located too far from existing districts, may request Provisional District status.
 2. This status will be granted for two years upon approval by the MIHA Board of Directors. An additional two years of provisional status may be granted if deemed necessary and appropriate by the MIHA Board of Directors.
 3. A Provisional District must hold three meets per season.

Article IX – Organization of Regions

- A. The Board of Directors will annually determine which Districts will compete in each of the Regional Meets.
- B. Each year after the Districts have held their three qualifying meets, MIHA will hold regional meets, consisting of one meet in each of the regions.
- C. A region is a grouping of Districts within a geographical area having a minimum of three districts and a maximum of six districts.
1. Each region will have a Regional Chairperson, selected by a majority vote of the District Chairpersons of that region. The Regional Chairperson, in consultation with the District Chairpersons of that region, is responsible for the selection of judges, meet location and any plans necessary to organize their regional meet, and all safety issues of competition within said region.
 2. Each Regional Chairperson or Regional Treasurer will submit an annual Regional Financial Report covering the income and expenditure for their Regional Meet to the State Treasurer no later than December 1st following the said meet. Failure to do so shall result in sanctions imposed upon the Regional Chairpersons and/or Regional Treasurer by the Executive Board.
 3. Each Regional Chairperson will be responsible for overseeing that the MIHA Rules and Regulations are followed in their region. Failure to do so shall result in sanctions imposed upon the Regional Chairperson by the Executive Board.
- D. Regional Meets are conducted using the same format as the State Championship Show as found under By-Laws, Article XIII - STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.
1. All teams selected to compete begin the Regional Meets with zero points; no cumulative season points will count.
 2. Awarding of District trophies will be at the Regional Meets unless voted otherwise by the Board of Directors.
 3. Awarding of the Regional Champion and Reserve Champion trophies in each division will be at the State Championship unless voted otherwise by the Board of Directors.

4. Electric timers with at least one manual backup will be mandatory for contesting classes at all Regional Meets. The backup timer(s) will be used only when the electric timers fail. The number of backup timers utilized, will be determined by the Regional Show Chairpersons, prior to the start of the meet.
 5. Protests must be in writing and received by the show office prior to the commencement of the next class in your division. Any protest submitted at the Regional Meets, must be accompanied by a fee of \$25.00. This fee will be refunded if the Protest is found to be valid.
- E. The teams qualifying to attend the Regional Meets will be competing in their respective division for the MIHA Region (#) Division A Regional Championship and Reserve Champion, Region (#) Division B Regional Championship and Reserve Champion, Region (#) Division C Regional Championship and Reserve Champion, Region (#) Division D Regional Championship and Reserve Champion and will receive recognition as such at the State Championship Meet.
- F. Each District/Regional Chairperson will be responsible for overseeing that the MIHA Rules and Regulations are followed in their District/Region. Failure to do so shall result in sanctions imposed upon the District/Regional Chairpersons by the Executive Board.
- G. Any excess funds (funds left unused by a Region) following their annual meet shall be returned to the MIHA for redistribution to the regions for the next year.
1. Each year each region will target to return \$500.00 to State MIHA from their meets, to help fund the following years Regional Meet.
 2. For each high school season, \$5.00 from the registration fee will provide to the Regional Meet funds.

Article X - Organization of Teams

A High School Equestrian Team shall consist of students 9th through 12th grade, attending one educational institution, interested in participating in MIHA. An educational institution is defined as a Public School, Private School or an Alternative Educational School. The team shall be led by a registered adult coach. A Junior Division Equestrian Team shall consist of students 6th through 8th grade, of the school year ending, attending one educational institution, interested in participating in MIHA, led by a registered adult coach. The coach shall deliver the entire High School team roster (riders and mounts) to the District Chairperson. The District Chairperson will then register that team with the Executive Board prior to fall competition. The Junior Division coach shall deliver the entire Junior team roster (riders and mounts) to the District Chairperson. The District Chairperson will then register that team with the Executive Board prior to spring competition.

- A. Educational institution not to include school districts.
- B. Ninth grade (Junior High) students must participate with the educational institution they will be attending. In school districts where 6th, 7th, and 8th grade are not housed in one educational institution, students must participate with the educational institution they will be attending.
- C. Students enrolled in grades 6 through 12 of a private school, School of Choice, or home school, may compete on the

team of the public school serving the area of their legal residence. Students enrolled in Alternative Education Programs in grades 9 through 12 may ride for the High School which issue their diploma. If four or more students from one private school, School of Choice or alternative education school join MIHA, they will be required to form their own team and will no longer be able to compete on the public school team.

- D. Each team will be categorized as either
1. Division A Team 10 or more riders
 2. Division B Team having 5 to 10 riders
 3. Division C Team having 2 to 5 riders
 4. Division D Team having 1 or 2 rider
A Division A Team may use up to 63 slots
A Division B Team may use up to 42 slots
A Division C Team may use up to 24 slots
A Division D Team may use up to 16 slots
- E. Junior Division Districts with only one “A” team, the “A” team may split and show as two or more “B”, or two or more “C” teams, with the approval of the District Chairperson (or the District Junior Division Coordinator).
- F. Schools having 15 or more riders may have 2 teams, one being an A team and the other a Division B or C as members warrant. The A team must be filled with 11 or more riders before a B or C team can be formed. No rider may interchange between teams.
- G. Schools having 25 or more riders may have three teams; an A team, a B team, and a C team. The A team must be filled with 11 or more riders before a B or C team may be formed. No rider may interchange between teams.
- H. Schools having 31 or more riders may have four teams.
1. Two – A teams, one – B team and one – C team.
 2. One – A team, two – B teams and one – C team.
 3. The A team(s) must be filled with 11 or more riders. The B team(s) must be filled with 6 – 10 riders and the C team will have 2 -5 riders.
- I. Team size, used to establish Division A, B, C and D and slot allotment, will be determined by the number of riders registered at the beginning of the season and will not change.
- J. A team shall not restrict or limit the number of riders participating on the team for the purpose of competing in a particular division. A team shall not limit or restrict the number of riders on the team to (1) or (2) rider(s) for the purpose of competing in the “D” division rather than the “A”, “B”, or “C” division. A team shall not limit or restrict the number of riders on the team to between two (2) and five (5) for the purpose of competing in the “C” division rather than the “A” or “B” division. A team shall not limit or restrict the number of riders on the team to between five (5) and ten (10) for the purpose of competing in the “B” division rather than the “A” division.
- K. Each year, the date of rider registration will be decided at the Annual Winter Meeting by a majority vote of the membership present.

- L. Team coaches may request a move from their existing district to a new district only during the period of time starting one day after completion of the State Championship and ending one day before the date of the Annual Winter Coaches Meeting. As an example, this would be October 22nd through February 10th. Specific dates will vary from year to year. The procedure would require written approval by the accepting district and letters of intent to the district you would like to leave, as well as the MIHA Executive Board. All communications must be in writing. Copies of all correspondence must be sent to all parties involved. The Executive Board reserves the right to disallow the change from one district to another if it is found to compromise the spirit and/or purpose of the Association.

Junior Division Teams

- A. Two or more schools may elect to form a cooperative program for the MIHA Junior Division, and show as one team, under the following conditions.
1. One of the cooperating schools will be designated as primary, all of the other schools participating in the cooperative program will be considered secondary.
 2. The primary school may have any number of riders on the team formed under the cooperative program.
 3. A maximum of two (2) riders from any one secondary school may participate in the cooperative program. If there are three (3) or more riders from a single secondary school they will be required to form their own team and will not be permitted to participate in the cooperative program.
 4. All riders from the primary school and all secondary schools must participate on the same cooperative program team. Riders attending one school may not participate on different teams, except as noted in C above for private school and Schools of Choice students.
 5. The Coach of the primary school will inform the chairman of the district of their intent to form a cooperative program prior to spring Junior Division registration.
 6. The School Administration, from any of the cooperating teams recognized by their school as a school activity, club or sport, must approve of the cooperative program.
 7. The MIHA Junior Division Steering Committee approves each cooperative program.

Article XI - Coaches and Assistant Coaches

COACHES and Assistant Coaches RESPONSIBILITIES shall be as follows:

- A. Coaches and Assistant Coaches shall further the Association's goals. Coaches and Assistant Coaches are to hold good sportsmanship as one of MIHA's highest goals.
- B. Coaches and/or Assistant Coaches shall provide adequate publicity for participation of members in spring (Junior Division) and fall (High School) competition.
- C. Coaches and Assistant Coaches will adhere to the "Purpose and Goals" of MIHA as set forth in our Constitution Articles II and III, including the no restriction By-Law located in

Article X, Item J. If the individual school athletic codes require that you not adhere to the above; the School Administrator, will submit in writing, coaching/team specifications to the Executive Board Officers for approval.

- D. Coaches will be limited to the coaching responsibilities of one school. Individual hardship cases will be reviewed by the Executive Board upon petition by the (team/coach) involved, through their District Chairperson. Assistant Coaches MAY CHOOSE TO BE LIMITED TO THE COACHING RESPONSIBILITIES OF ONE SCHOOL OR THEY MAY CHOOSE TO ASSIST OTHER COACHES/TEAMS, AS LONG AS THE TEAMS THEY ARE ASSISTING DO NOT COMPETE IN THE SAME DIVISION.
- E. Each Coach, Assistant Coach or Team Treasurer is responsible for all financial matters of that team including the submission of the annual Team Financial Report. Individual hardship cases will be reviewed by the Executive Board upon petition by the team, coach or assistant coach involved.
- F. Coaches and/or Assistant Coaches shall meet with the judge to discuss judging rules prior to commencement of the first class at each meet and again before the first Timed Events Class to discuss and clarify rules and regulations. This procedure will be followed at the Regional Meets and the State Championship Meet with the exception of the meeting before the Timed Events, which will be held at the discretion of the Regional Chairpersons and the State Championship Show Chairperson.
- G. Coaches and/or Assistant Coaches shall have the option to check over jump and trail class courses prior to commencement of said class. Conditions that are unsafe in the ring to rider, horse, or spectator are grounds for protest. The collective opinion of the coaches or their designated assistant coach that are present shall rule.
- H. Annual Financial Report. Each Team Coach, Assistant Coach, or Team Treasurer will submit an annual Team Financial Report, covering income and expenditures from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 and year-end balance, to their District Chairperson by January 1st. The State Financial Report may be used as an example for these financial reports. Forms found at www.miha.org.

Article XII - Riders and Mounts

The riders participating shall know and abide by the following rules and regulations of MIHA and by Coach's directions and decisions.

- A. Riders shall be limited to two mounts per season, registered with MIHA on the form which is to be provided by the Association. This registration must be completed before a rider can participate in a meet.
 - 1. Mounts may be shared only by members of immediate family riding on the same team.
 - 2. Mounts becoming unfit for competition as substantiated by a veterinarian certificate may be replaced. This certificate and the new horse's registration form must be filed with the Association before replacement mount can be used in competition. This mount may not have been registered by another rider during the current season.

- B. Current year's negative Coggins test required, in accordance with the Michigan State Law.
- C. TRANSPORTATION is the responsibility of team member.
- D. NO STALLIONS shall be allowed.
- E. PARTICIPATION
 - 1. A rider cannot participate more than once in any one event, per meet.
 - 2. A horse cannot participate more than once in any one event, per meet.
 - 3. In order to compete in the Regional Meets/State Championship, a rider and either registered mount(s) must have competed in at least one meet during the regular District Season. This registered pair would then be eligible for the Regional Meets/State Championship. There will be no substitution of mounts between the regular District season and the Regional Meets/State Championship except as set forth in Article XII, A, 2. The District Chairperson is to deliver each division's winning teams rider registration forms to the Regional Show Chairperson/Office at the Regional Show.
- F. Coaches will assign class slots to each rider. Each rider shall not participate in more than EIGHT EVENTS in any one meet unless one of the following occurs.
 - 1. A Division D Team exists-16 slots total
 - a. A two rider team-no rider may be assigned more than 10 slots
 - b. A one rider team-allot 16 slots for the rider
 - 2. A Division C Team exists-24 slots total
 - a. A three rider team-no rider may be assigned more than 11 slots
 - b. A two rider team-no rider may be assigned more than 14 slots
 - c. A one rider team-allot 16 slots for the rider
 - 3. A Division B Team exists-42 slots total
 - a. A six rider team-no rider may be assigned more than 10 slots
 - b. A five rider team-no rider may be assigned more than 11 slots
 - c. A four rider team-no rider may be assigned more than 13 slots
 - d. A three rider team-no rider may be assigned more than 15 slots
 - e. A two rider or less team-no rider may be assigned more than 17slots
 - 4. A Division A Team exists- 63 slots
 - a. A eight rider team-no rider may be assigned more than 9 slots
 - b. A seven rider team-no rider may be assigned more than 10 slots
 - c. A six rider team-no rider may be assigned more than 11 slots

- d. A five rider team-no rider may be assigned more than 13 slots
 - e. A four rider team- no rider may be assigned more than 15 slots
 - f. A three rider or less team –no rider may be assigned more than 17 slots
5. Absent Rider Slot Allotment. In the event that a registered team member would:
- a. Decide not to be a participating member of the team for the entire season and notifies the coach of this decision,
 - b. Becomes injured and unable to compete at any or all of the meets,
 - c. Notify the coach that they cannot attend one or more of the meets,
 - d. Becomes ineligible to compete because of grades or disciplinary action:

The coach must notify their District Chairperson or Regional Chairperson of the situation and change the number of riders competing on the team for the meet. This must be done in the time allotted, as defined within each district or region. In the case of the State Championships this will be determined by the Chairperson of the State Championship Meet. If all requirements are met, the team would then be allowed to use the absent rider's slots. They need to comply with the formula stated in Article XII Section F.

G. CONDUCT OF RIDERS

- 1. No registered rider is allowed to use alcoholic beverages, smoking materials or illegal drugs at any MIHA sponsored event.
- 2. The use of foul language or unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated at any MIHA sponsored event.
- 3. Mistreatment, abuse or neglect of any animal at an MIHA sponsored event will not be tolerated.

H. Failure to abide by the rules and regulations of MIHA will lead to any or all of the following:

- 1. Loss of points for rider or team.
- 2. Disqualification for rider or team.
- 3. Suspension of rider or team.
- 4. Expulsion from Association.

I. Horses ridden in MIHA competition must be serviceably sound. This means that the registered horse must not show evidence of lameness, broken wind, or any other signs of unsoundness. If soundness of a horse, registered with MIHA is in question, a veterinarian's certificate of soundness may be required to establish eligibility for use in competition. At all MIHA competitions the judges decision on serviceably is final.

J. If questions, other than protest, arise from a rider, parent or legal guardian in regard to MIHA; they should be directed to the registered adult coach for the team. If they are not satisfied with the coach's response and the question pertains to the High School division, then they may contact the District Chairperson, and from there the MIHA Executive Board for resolution. If the coach's response is

unsatisfactory to a question regarding the MIHA Junior Division, the complainant may contact the District Chairperson (or the District Junior Division Coordinator), and from there the Junior Division Steering Committee for resolution. The Junior Division Steering Committee may present the question to the Executive Board for resolution. In either case (High School or Junior Division) the matter may be presented to the Board of Directors for decision, as deemed necessary by the Executive Board. All communications must be in writing. Copies of all correspondence must be sent to all parties involved by the complainant, in writing via registered mail.

K. CONDUCT OF PARENTS AND GUESTS OF RIDER

Those parents and guests of each rider shall conduct themselves in an appropriate adult manner while attending MIHA sponsored events. Inappropriate conduct may be cause for disqualification of their rider for one or all events of the day. Such determinations shall be the responsibility of the District Chairperson at MIHA meets, the Regional Chairpersons at Regional Meets and the Executive Board during State Championship.

Article XIII – Regional/State Championship

- A. The highest scoring large team, medium team, small team, and extra small team will qualify to advance to the MIHA Regional Meets. These teams will be called District (#) Division A Champion, District (#) Division B Champion, District (#) Division C Champion, District (#) Division D Champion and will receive recognition as such at their Regional Meet. If the highest scoring team is unable to advance to the Regional Meet, then the second highest scoring team will advance to the Regional Meet. The highest scoring teams will be considered the District Champions, whether or not they are able to advance to the Regional Meet.
- B. Each Region will send eight teams to the State Championship Meet, their regions' Division A Champion and Reserve Champion, Division B Champion and Reserve Champion, Division C Champion and Reserve Champion and Division D Champion and Reserve Champion. In the event a region does not have two Division A, Division B, Division C, and Division D teams, the region will have the number of teams they may send to the MIHA State Championship Meet reduced to match the divisions in which they had teams.
- C. Each year after the Regions have held their qualifying meets, MIHA will hold a State Championship Meet or Meets. The teams qualifying to attend this State Championship Meet will be competing for the MIHA Division A State Championship/ Reserve Championship and trophies, the MIHA Division B State Championship/Reserve Championship and trophies or the MIHA Division C State Championship/Reserve Championship and trophies and the MIHA Division D State Championship/Reserve Championship and trophies. In the case of ties at Regional competition all Champion and Reserve Champion teams will advance on to the State Championship.

- D. Regional and State Championship Meets are conducted exactly as the regular season meets with the following exceptions:
1. In judged events (using the two judge system), for each judge: The judges will place 11 exhibitors with first place receiving 10 points, second place receiving 9 points... tenth place receiving 1 point, and eleventh place receiving zero points.
 2. In the timed events there shall be two rounds in each event with participants and points as follows: * First round shall have all riders entered in the event with first place receiving 10 points, second place receiving 9 points, third place receiving 8 points...tenth place receiving 1 point and eleventh place receiving zero points. In regional and state competition the second round will be run with the same riders regardless of placing or qualification in round one. Scoring shall be the same as round one.
 3. At all Regional and State Championship Meets the second round of the four Timed Events must be with the slowest times running first progressing down to the riders with the fastest times running last.
- E. Division A teams will compete only against other Division A teams for the Division A State Championship. Division B teams will compete only against other Division B teams for the Division B State Championship. Division C teams will compete only against other Division C teams for the Division C State Championship. Division D teams will compete only against other Division D teams for the Division D State Championship.
- F. All teams selected to compete begin the State Championship Meet at zero points; no cumulative season points will count.
- G. Awarding of Regional and State Championship titles will be done after Class 17 is completed and scores are tallied.
- H. State Championship meet location shall be approved by vote of MIHA through the District Chairpersons. State Championship meets will be run by the State Championship Chairperson and the Executive Committee. A volunteer from each of the Districts attending the state meet will assist the show committee as needed.
- I. Electric timers, with at least one back-up, will be mandatory for contesting classes at all Regional/State Championship meets. The back-up timer(s) will be used only when the electric timers fail. The number of back-up timers will be determined by the Regional/State Championship Show Chairperson, prior to the start of the meet, barring any unforeseen natural disasters.
- J. Protests must be in writing and received by the show office prior to the commencement of the next class in your division. A \$25.00 fee is required for a protest at the Regional level. A \$50.00 fee is required for a protest at the State Meet. All fees must be in cash.
- K. This fee will be refunded if the protest is found to be valid.

- L. Timed tack changes are not enforced at the MIHA Regional and State Championship Meet, unless deemed necessary by the Regional Chairperson at the Regional Meet or by the State Championship Show Chairperson and/or the Executive Board at the State Championship Meet.

Article XIV - Investigation of Rule Infraction

Suspected rule infractions are to be treated through the formal-protest procedure to qualify for an investigation. Once a suspected rule infraction has been filed as a formal protest the investigation will be handled as follows:

- A. The investigation will be handled by either the District Chairperson at a District Meet, the Regional Chairperson at a Regional Meet or by the Executive Board Officers at the MIHA State Championship.
- B. The District Chairperson, the Regional Chairperson or the Executive Board Officers will notify the coach of the team with the suspected rule infraction. Team members and/or parents will not be approached without the coach being present.
- C. The District Chairperson, the Regional Chairperson or the Executive Board Officers will approach the investigation with an open mind and will treat the parties involved and/or the accused as innocent until proven guilty and will handle the investigation accordingly.
- D. The District Chairperson, the Regional Chairperson or Executive Board Officers will complete the evaluation in a timely fashion prior to the final placing of the teams involved in that particular meet and will make a determination based on their findings.
- E. Once the District Chairperson, the Regional Chairperson or Executive Board Officers has made a determination, they should handle it accordingly. Therefore if the suspected rule infraction has merit the District Officers or the Executive Board Officers will take the appropriate disciplinary action. Likewise, if the parties involved/accused are found not guilty, they should be treated as innocent.
- F. The District Chairperson, the Regional Chairperson or the Executive Board Officers will close the matter by making a general announcement of their findings and the action being taken. The announcement should be along the following lines:
 - 1. In the case of the formal protest regarding the following suspected rule infraction, (state rule infraction), the District Chairperson or the Regional Chairperson or the Executive Board Officers, after a through investigation have found the protest to HAVE merit. We have taken the following action (state the action taken) in order to correct the rule infraction stated in the formal protest. We expect that all parties involved or otherwise will treat this as a closed matter.
 - 2. In the case of the formal protest regarding the following suspected rule infraction, (state rule infraction), the District Chairperson or the Regional Chairperson or the Executive Board Officers, after a through investigation have found the protest to be WITHOUT merit. We are of the opinion that this protest warrants no further investigation. We expect that from this point forward, all parties involved or otherwise will treat this as a closed matter.

Article XV - Disciplinary Procedure

- A. Any member or non-member may be disciplined, suspended, or expelled from the MIHA when it has been established by satisfactory evidence that such member has violated the Purpose (Article II of MIHA Constitution), Goals (Article II of MIHA Constitution) Membership (Article IV of MIHA Constitution) or has violated the By-Laws, Rules or Regulation of MIHA.
- B. The Executive Board Officers shall have sole authority to investigate possible or alleged violations of the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules and Regulations of MIHA.
 - 1. In order for a complaint, other than one that can be verified by credible testing, to be considered for investigation, it must be in writing, signed and dated. The individual(s) filing the complaint must follow current procedure (Article XII, J) and be prepared for full disclosure of the complaint to the party (parties) concerned in the complaint and must be prepared to appear at a hearing as deemed necessary.
- C. When it is determined that there is sufficient cause for a hearing, the person charged shall be given no less than ten (10) days' notice of a time and place for hearing such allegations by the Executive Board Officers, at which time and place he shall have the opportunity, to be heard and to present evidence in his/her own behalf, and to hear and receive evidence.
 - 1. The Executive Board Officers shall make its decision and action within (10) days of the hearing. (The decision and action of the Executive Board Officers shall be final and binding on all parties with approval of the Board of Directors.
- D. In regard to any violation of Article III of the Constitution of MIHA (see page 3), as a part of its disciplinary action, the Executive Board Officers may revoke participation privileges in all MIHA approved events for definite or indefinite period.
- E. Pending final hearing by the Executive Board Officers, the Board may, by giving written notice of their action:
 - 1. Temporarily suspend such member the effect of which shall be to deny him/her further MIHA privileges until the Executive Board Officers can hear the matter and take the appropriate disciplinary action.
 - a. If the Executive Board Officers exercise their discretion prior to the date set for the hearing, the date for the hearing before the Executive Board Officers shall not be later than (20) days after the Executive Board Officers exercises their power pursuant to this Section.
- F. On or after such time as any person have been denied participation privileges in MIHA approved events, but that their membership privileges are not affected, the following restrictions shall apply:
 - 1. The person shall not be eligible to participate in any MIHA approved event.
 - 2. That person shall not be eligible to officiate at any MIHA approved event.

3. During the period of denial of MIHA privileges, failure to comply with these restrictions are further grounds for disciplinary action.
- G. On or after such time as any person has been suspended, expelled or denied further MIHA privileges, in addition to other provisions of this rulebook or policy of the MIHA the following restrictions shall apply:
1. That person shall not participate in any MIHA approved event.
 2. That person shall not be eligible to officiate at any MIHA approved event.
- H. During the period of expulsion, suspension or denial of MIHA privileges, failure to comply with these restrictions and any other express conditions or restrictions of said disciplinary actions may constitute grounds for further disciplinary action.
- I. When a member is disciplined, suspended, or expelled, or a non-member is denied membership privileges, or when a member or non-member is temporarily suspended by the Executive Board Officers, pending hearing, the name and address of such member or non-member may be publicly announced in the next notice of meeting of the Board of Directors.

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING COMPETITION

Showing a horse is an art and should be considered as such by the showman and judge alike. Proper showing testifies to the obvious pride the showman has in the animal being exhibited. This pride is evidenced by the condition and appearance of the horse and by the actions of the exhibitor and horse in the ring which indicate previous training to form a coordinated team.

MIHA embraces the use of different breeds and while MIHA has general standards, judges should recognize showmanship competence that follows breed standards for the breed being shown. Judges are expected to be familiar with all breed standards and judge on ability of the showman. Technical points and minor infractions of rules should not be over-emphasized to the extent that they outweigh an effective job of presenting a clean, well-conditioned, trained animal.

General Rules for Competition

- A. Riders must have their assigned number in a visible position, either on both sides of their saddle pad/blanket or in the center of their back. Failure to wear the correct number during competition is cause for disqualification. Riders with obstructed or illegible numbers will also be disqualified.
- B. When patterns are used in a class, riders should have access to those patterns at least ½ hour before the class. Not to be confused with individual tests the judge may ask for during a class where a pattern was not used.
- C. No rider is allowed to use any kind of electronic transmitting device during MIHA competition (except with a certified disability).
- D. A fall of the horse or rider either on course during a timed event or in the arena during any other class shall be a disqualification. A competitor is considered to have fallen when he or she is separated from the horse in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting back into the saddle. A horse is considered to have fallen when, at the same time, it's shoulder and hip on the same side have touched either the ground, or an obstacle and the ground.
- E. Contestants must be penalized for incomplete appointments. The penalty will depend on the nature and extent of the omissions or the inappropriateness of the appointments.
- F. Overt coaching from outside the arena may be penalized at the judges discretion.
- G. Judges, at their discretion, may authorize adjustments to attire due to weather-related conditions.
- H. One of the following class methods will be selected by the judge, in consultation with the show chairperson:
 - a. Rail work only: walk, jog/trot or second gait and lope/canter in each direction.
 - b. Rail work: walk, jog/trot or second gate and lope/canter in at least one direction, followed by a pattern or test of the top exhibitors.
 - c. A pattern will be performed by all exhibitors, with the top exhibitors only being called back to do rail work (walk, jog/trot or second gait and lope/canter) in at least

one direction. THE JUDGE MUST ASK FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WORK-OFF OF AT LEAST THE TOP EXHIBITORS AT THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MEET.

- I. The wearing of team apparel in any class other than timed events will be cause for disqualification.
- J. Leg wraps and draw reins will not be allowed in any class.
- K. The practice of tying horse's tongues will only be done with a standard cotton or nylon shoelace.
- L. A judge shall have the authority to require the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment which, in his/her opinion, would tend to give a horse or rider an unfair advantage.
- M. Show management shall have the authority to change or alter patterns, ring assignments or reschedule classes for safety reasons related to weather conditions.

Fitting and Showing

Conformation of the horse is not judged since the horse is considered a means of displaying the abilities of the showman. Judge(s) are to evaluate the class on the following criteria.

A. *Appearance Of The Horse*

1. Condition and Thriftiness

- a. Smooth, glossy-coat, showing hard, rippling muscles.
- b. Displays alertness and vigor.
- c. A loose, pliable skin that is clean and healthy with fine, smooth, glossy hair.
- d. Evidence of a correct balance of nutrition, care and exercise.
- e. Excess fat or a thin, unthrifty condition is objectionable.

2. Grooming

- a. Clean, well-brushed hair coat. Dust, dandruff and stains are objectionable.
- b. Areas around the eyes, ears, muzzle, and nostrils, between the legs and around the tail must be clean.
- c. Trimming of the mane and tail should correspond to breed standards. If not trimmed the mane and tail must be clean and free of snarls, with the mane trained properly to fall on the side of the neck. Note: In Hunt Seat Fitting and Showing, if you braid the tail you must braid the mane. If you have a roached mane, do not braid the tail. Braiding of the mane only will be acceptable. Braiding yarn should match the mane and tail in color. It is recommended that if you do braid, do both the mane and the tail, or let the mane and tail flow free and natural. Braiding is optional and the Judge is not to take preference. Banding of the mane is permissible.
- d. Feet should be clean and the hoofs trimmed properly. Hoof dressing is permitted but will not place over hooves cleaned and polished in a natural state.
- e. If the feet are shod, the shoes must fit and not show undue wear.

3. **Tack**

- a. Neat, clean and properly adjusted.
- b. Should compliment, not detract from the horse.
- c. Western Fitting and Showing classes are to be shown in a halter. Both nylon and leather show halters are permissible.
- d. Hunt Seat Fitting and Showing may be shown in a plain leather halter, a hunt seat bridle or a dressage bridle.
- e. Saddle Seat Fitting and Showing may use a show halter, a full bridle (Weymouth and snaffle) with or without the snaffle, or a Pelham bridle with or without a snaffle rein. If snaffle rein has not been removed, it should be placed over the horse's withers. The horse is led and presented with the curb rein only.
- f. All show halters, regardless of the class shown, must have a throat latch and be acceptable to breed standards.
- g. The use of a chain and lead shank with chain under the horse's jaw or over the horse's nose shall be permitted for reasons of safety.

B. *Showing the Horse*

1. **Ring Deportment**

- a. The exhibitor should be ready when the class is called, entering the ring in a brisk, alert manner. Follow the instructions given by the ring steward.
- b. Pattern to be used is up to the show committee, but should be appropriate for the discipline being shown.
- c. Exhibitor should remain attentive for any instructions from the ring steward or judge.
- d. Showmanship is practiced from the time of entering the ring until retired from the ring after the class is completed.

2. **Actions**

- a. Manners and actions in handling the horse reflect the time and effort spent in training. Actions of the horse indicate willing response to showman.
- b. Works calmly and quietly in the class.
- c. Showman and horse work as a team. The horse responds to the slightest signals.
- d. Exhibitor stays alert and is quick to respond to requests from the judge or steward.
- e. Actions do not draw attention from horse to exhibitor.
- f. Keeps horse showing to best advantage during the period in the ring. (Over-showing is objectionable, the showman should not make the horse nervous).

3. **Leading**

- a. Lead from the left side of the horse with the lead shank held in the right hand about 8 to 12 inches from the halter. (Smaller exhibitors may need a long hold). Emphasis should be placed on the light control of the

horse with a minimum of pressure to allow the horse to hold its head naturally. A loose flopping lead strap is objectionable. Excess strap is held loosely in the left hand in a figure eight or coil for safety.

- b. The horse should move readily and freely at a walk or trot with a very minimum of urging by the exhibitor. The exhibitor should stay in position by the near side of the horse's neck, preferably half way between the horse's head and shoulder. A well-trained horse will move readily at a speed of gait equal to the speed at which the exhibitor is moving.

4. Posing

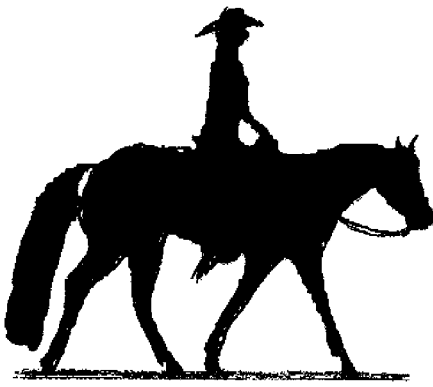
- a. The horse should set up quickly, stand squarely and move forward or back freely.
- b. Note the shaded areas in the drawing below. These are the safe areas used by experienced horsemen when handling strange or unschooled horses. When using the safe areas, the showman is out of the direct line of a sudden lunge, a strike from the front legs, or a kick from a back leg. Since a horse uses its head and neck to balance its body, the safe areas are the positions where maximum control can be exerted by pulling the horse's head to the side. Do not stand in the "danger zone". It is permissible to cross the danger zone to get from one side of the horse to the other. It is permissible for the showman to pass between the judge and the horse as the judge moves around the animal. Do not block the judge's view of the animal and the exhibitor should step quickly and quietly.
- c. The horse is trained to pose by use of the lead strap and soft voice commands. Kicking the horse's legs into position is prohibited.
- d. Stance of the horse should be appropriate to the breed as in Saddle Seat Fitting and Showing.
- e. Sufficient room should be allowed for safety and courtesy to fellow showmen.



C. The Exhibitor

1. **Appearance** - Exhibitor should have a clean neat appearance with well fitting clothes. Appointments for each of the disciplines are as follows:
 - a. Western - Exhibitor must wear a western hat or protective headgear. A long sleeve shirt or jacket with collar and long pants. Western boots with a walking or riding heel. A tie, pin, choker, necklace or scarf is required for open collared shirts and jackets. Gloves are optional.

- b. Saddle Seat - A derby, homberg, snap brim or protective head gear is required. Clothing must include Kentucky jodhpurs that match the jacket. Jodhpur boots, a dress shirt, vest and tie are required. Whips, gloves and small boutonnieres or lapel pins are optional.
 - c. Hunt Seat - Hunt caps and Hunt coats must be of conservative colors. Dress shirt with dress tie, standard English shirt with ratcatcher tie is acceptable. Dress or field boots in black or brown. Riding breeches in standard colors. Gloves are optional.
2. **Attitude** - Courteous, attentive, and maintains sports manlike attitude to officials and other exhibitors.



Western Performance Classes

A. *Clothing and Equipment*

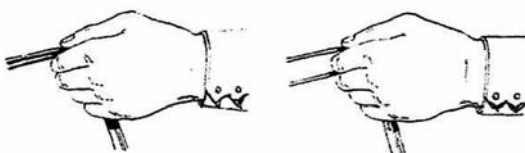
1. **Appointments of Horse:** Western tack and saddle should fit horse and rider. Horses 6 years old and older must be ridden with a standard western bit. Horses 5 years old and younger have the option of using a standard western bit (with one hand used for reining), a snaffle, or bosal (flat against the jaw of the horse). With a snaffle or bosal two hands may be used for reining. References to snaffle bits mean conventional O-ring, Egg-butt or D-ring. A curb strap or curb chain is required but must be flat and be at least $\frac{1}{2}$ "in width. The curb strap or chain should be adjusted to allow at least two fingers between the chin and the chain. A bosal should allow room for approximately three fingers between the bosal and horses jaw. Nosebands, hackamore bits, running martingales, tie-downs are prohibited. Skid and split boots are optional in western riding pattern, western reining and trail but are prohibited in equitation classes.
2. **Appointments of Rider:** Rider must wear western hat or protective headgear (not required to be of western style), long sleeve shirt with any type of collar, pants or trouser, belt and western boots. A vest, jacket, coat or sweater may also be worn. Chaps, gloves and spurs are optional. No bats, hand quirts or whips of any kind.

B. *Western Equitation*

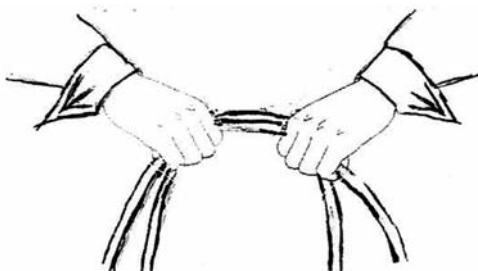
1. **Hands:** Soft hands on reins, neck rein with hand reining straight across on horizontal plane, reasonable loose rein without undue restraint, arms are in a straight line with body, the one holding reins bent at elbow. Only one hand is to be used for reining and hands shall not be changed. Hand to be around reins. End of split reins should be on the same side as the reining hand. It is permissible in this class for rider to use a finger between reins. When using romal no finger between reins is allowed. The hand not being used for reining should be carried in a relaxed and consistent position and rider may hold romal reins to keep from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins, provided it is held at least 16 inches from the reining hand. Reining hand should be positioned above pommel and as near to it as possible. Hands do not touch saddle or horse. Horses 2-5 may be ridden in a snaffle or bosal, rider should show with both hands on reins.



Hand when a romal is used



Hand when split reins are used.



Hands when a bosal is used or slit reins with a snaffle bit.

2. **Position:** Riders must sit straight and in the center of the horse's balance, keeping complete contact with the saddle. The rider should sit the saddle with legs hanging straight and slightly forward to the stirrups, or with knees slightly bent and weight directly over balls of the feet. In either position the stirrups should be just short enough to allow heels to be lower than toes. Body always should appear comfortable, relaxed, and flexible. Rider should sit to jog/trot and not post. The obvious shifting of the riders weight, leaning to direct the horse, or over use of spurring should be penalized.
3. **Mounting and Dismounting:** To mount, take up reins in left hand and place hand on horse's neck in front of the withers, with end of reins on the near side. Grasp stirrup with right hand, place left foot in stirrup, then grasp saddle horn with right hand and mount. If a romal is used it should be placed on the off-side after mounting. End of split reins should be on the same side as the reining hand. It is permissible in this class for rider to use a finger between reins. To dismount, reverse the above procedure and step down facing the horse's head. In dismounting and mounting with split reins, it is optional with the rider whether the right rein be left up or taken down. The size of the rider is to be taken into consideration.
4. **Suitability:** Rider should fit horse, and the spirit of the horse should be equal to the rider's ability. Horse must be serviceably sound.

5. **Performance:** Results as shown by performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them
6. **When judges use individual tests during a class, they may use the following tests or any other they deem to be fair and appropriate.**
 - a. Individual performance on the rail.
 - b. Figure eight at the jog or second gait.
 - c. Figure eight at lope on correct lead with lead change.
 - d. Lope stop and back.
 - e. Ride without stirrups.
 - f. Extension of gaits.
 - g. Serpentine at a lope demonstrating lead change.
 - h. Serpentine alternating gaits.
 - i. Ride serpentine at jog or second gait.
 - j. Counter canter at least 15 feet from the rail.
 - k. Execute a 180, 270 or 360° turn.
 - l. Back
 - m. Answer questions judge may ask. It is recommended that identical questions be asked of each rider. An example would be one each of tack, anatomy and equitation.

C. *Western Bareback Equitation*

1. To be judged the same as Stock Seat Equitation except there will not be a saddle or pad of any kind. Work-offs in all bareback classes are optional.
2. Junior Division performance will be rail work, walk and jog in each direction. In addition, the judge may ask for a walk/jog pattern or test of the top exhibitors. Exhibitors participating in Western Equitation Walk/Trot or English Equitation Walk/Trot are not eligible to enter Western Bareback.

D. *Western Riding Pattern*

This class is a combination class which is designed to show characteristics of control and skills used in equitation, reining and trail classes. Further, it combines the maneuvers needed for a handy working ranch horse and rider.

The rider is judged in this class on his/her ability to govern, control and properly exhibit the mount he/she is riding in the required pattern. (See appendix for pattern of the year). Particular emphasis shall be placed upon basic position in the saddle, lightness of hands, change of leads, use of aids, smoothness of performance, steadiness of gaits and response to the rider. Conformation will not be judged. Preference shall be given to flying changes of leads midway between the markers throughout the entire class. This indicates the control of the rider over his/her mount.

The position of the rider's free hand is optional but should indicate a relaxed, not sloppy, balanced attitude of the body and should be kept free of the horse and equipment.

Any horse not following the exact pattern will be disqualified. Knocking down of markers or obstacles will also disqualify a contestant.

Using two hands on the reins (unless riding with a snaffle or bosal), changes hands on the reins, or touches any part of the saddle with his/her free hand is a disqualification. Only one hand may be used on reins and hands must not be changed. Hands are to be around reins; one finger between reins permitted.

Spurs or romal shall not be used forward of the cinch. While horse is in motion, the rider's hands shall be clear of the horse and saddle.

On the pattern:

1. The eight small circles represent pylon markers (cones are recommended). These should be separated by a uniform measured distance of not less than 30 feet nor 50 feet on the sides with 5 markers (see diagram in appendix) in pattern one the three markers on the opposite side should be set adjacent to the appropriate markers, in pattern three the two markers on the opposite side should be set adjacent to their appropriate markers. It is recommended that markers be set a minimum of 15 feet from the fence and with 50 to 80 foot widths, in the pattern, as the arena permits.
2. A solid wood log or pole should be used, and be a minimum of 8 feet in length.
3. The long serpentine line indicates the direction of travel and gaits at which the rider is to travel. The recommended lead changing point is equal to 1/2 stride length before or after the center point between the markers. The recommended lead changing point is shaded in all pattern diagrams. The dotted line (.....) indicates walk, the dash line (---) indicates jog, and the solid line (____) indicates lope.

Scoring:

1. Scoring will be on a basis of 0-100 with 70 denoting an average performance. Judge is to use his/her own method of scoring or judging.
2. Scoring guidelines to be considered: points will be added or subtracted from the maneuvers on the following basis, ranging from plus +1.5 to minus -1.5; with -1.5 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -.5 poor, 0 average, +.5 good, +1 very good, +1.5 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined independently of penalty points.
3. A rider shall be penalized each time the following occur:
Five (5) Points
 - a. Failure to change leads including cross cantering (note: failures to change, including cross-cantering, at two consecutive change areas would result in 10 penalty points).
 - b. Blatant disobedience.
 - c. Use of hand to instill fear in horse.

Three (3) Points

- a. Not performing the specific gait (jog or lope) or stopping when called for in the pattern, within 10 feet of the designated area.
- b. Break of gait at the lope.

- c. Simple change of leads.
- d. Additional lead changes anywhere in pattern (except when correcting an extra change or incorrect lead).
- e. In pattern one, failure to start the lope within 20 feet after crossing the log/pole at the jog.
- f. Break of gait at walk or jog more than two strides.
- g. Extra lead changes anywhere in the pattern.
- h. Starting pattern out of lead.

One (1) Point

- a. Break of gait at walk or jog up to two strides.
- b. Hitting or rolling log/pole.
- c. Out of lead for more than one stride to the cone.
- d. Splitting the log/pole (log/pole between the two front or two hind feet) at the lope.

One half (.5) Point

- a. Tick or light touch of log/pole.
- b. Hind legs skipping or coming together during lead change. Out of stride from 1/2 to 1 stride.

Disqualified

- a. Fall to ground by horse or exhibitor.
- b. Off course.
- c. Completely missing log/pole.
- d. Holding on with the free hand.

The following characteristics are considered as faults and should be judged accordingly:

- a. Horse opening mouth excessively or raising head on maneuvers.
- b. Anticipating signals or early lead changes.
- c. Stumbling.
- d. Rider losing stirrup.
- e. Any unnecessary aid given by the exhibitor, such as unnecessary talking, petting, spurring, quirting or jerking of the reins.

Credits to the rider:

- a. Change of leads, hind and front simultaneously.
- b. Changes at designated point.
- c. Accurate and smooth pattern.
- d. Even pace throughout.
- e. Easy to guide and control with rein and leg.
- g. Manners and disposition.
- h. Maintaining correct seat throughout the pattern.

E. *Western Reining*

1. Each contestant will perform the required pattern individually and separately (see appendix for pattern of the year). Horse shall rein and handle easily, fluently, effortlessly and with reasonable speed throughout the pattern. Any horse not following the exact pattern will be disqualified.
2. Each horse and rider combination will be judged on the neatness, dispatch, ease, calmness and speed with which they perform the pattern.

Scoring:

1. Scoring will be on a basis of 0-100 with 70 denoting an average performance. Judge is to use his/her own method of scoring or judging.
2. Scoring guidelines to be considered: points will be added or subtracted from the maneuvers on the following basis, ranging from plus +1.5 to minus -1.5; with -1.5 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -.5 poor, 0 average, +.5 good, +1 very good, +1.5 excellent. Maneuver scores are to be determined independently of penalty points.
3. A rider shall be penalized each time the following occur:

Five (5) Points

- a. Use of hand to instill fear in horse.
- b. Holding saddle with either hand.

Two (2) Points

- a. Freeze up in spin or rollback.
- b. Break of gait.
- c. Simple change of leads.
- d. Additional lead changes anywhere in pattern (except when correcting an extra change or incorrect lead).
- e. Horse does not completely pass the specified marker before initiating stop position.

One (1) Point

- a. For each $\frac{1}{4}$ circle that the horse is out of lead. This score is cumulative, so one complete circle out of lead is a minus 4 points.
4. Faults against the rider to be scored at the discretion of the judge.
 - a. Opening mouth excessively.
 - b. Losing a stirrup.
 - c. Any unnecessary aid given by the rider (such as unnecessary talking, petting, spurring, quirting, jerking of reins, etc.)
 - d. Failure to run double loops within markers and/or beyond the markers is to be considered a fault, not a disqualification.
 - e. Lack of smooth straight stops.
 - f. Anticipating signals.
 - g. Stumbling.
 - h. Backing sideways.

Disqualifications:

1. Spurs or romal shall not be used forward of the cinch.
2. Equipment failure that delays completion of the pattern, including the loss of a rein that makes contact with the ground while the horse is in motion.
3. No hackamores, martingales, noseband or tie-down will be permitted.
4. Off-course or course not completed.
5. Use of more than one finger between the reins.
6. Changing hands on the rein or use of two hands on the reins (with the exception of junior horses in a snaffle or bosal).
7. Knocking over markers.
8. Blatant disobedience to include kicking out, biting, bucking and rearing
9. Fall by the horse or rider.

F. Western Equitation Walk/Trot (Junior Division)

To be judged as Western Equitation.

Performance will be rail work, walk and jog in each direction. In addition, the judge may ask for a walk/jog pattern or test of the top exhibitors.

Exhibitors in Western Equitation Walk/Trot may participate in Showmanship, English Equitation Walk/Trot, Trail and the timed events, but may not canter in any class entered.



Saddle Seat Performance Classes

A. *Clothing and Equipment*

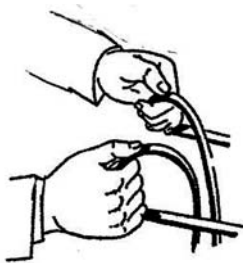
1. **Appointments of Horse:** Saddle must be a flat English type or dressage saddle which has no suede. Forward Seat, Western and Side saddles are prohibited. Entries shall be shown in a full bridle (snaffle and curb bit) or Pelham. Four reins are required on the bridle and no bit converters are permitted. A Racking Horse or Tennessee Walking Horse may be shown in a typical Walking Horse (curb) bridle. The curb bit has a solid mouth piece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device. The curb chain should be adjusted to allow approximately two fingers between the chain and the horses chin. A lip strap is also recommended. Martingales and tiedowns are prohibited.
2. **Appointments of Rider:** Clothing need not be expensive, but must be neat, clean and well fitted. Jacket and Kentucky jodhpurs must match (this means the fabric must be of the same color). Contrasting pleasure (day) coats and evening attire, including tuxedos (with satin lapels and/or pant stripes), tuxedo shirts, bow ties, top hats are considered inappropriate and may be cause for elimination. Rider must wear a derby, homberg, snap brim or protective headgear (not required to be of Saddle Seat style). A dress shirt (button-down collar or collar bar preferred), tie, vest and jodhpur boots must also be worn. Matching gloves are preferred, but not mandatory. Spurs are optional, but must be of the English unroweled type. Only standard equitation whip (not to exceed 36 inches) may be carried.

B. *Saddle Seat Equitation*

1. **Hands:** Should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle, and should show sympathy, adaptability and control. The height the hands are held above the horse's withers is a matter of how and where the horse carries its head. However, the reins and the rider's forearm shall form a straight line from the horse's mouth to the rider's elbow. The method of holding the reins is optional, except that both hands shall be used and all reins must be picked up at one time. Bight of rein should be on the off-side.



Hands when a full bridle or Pelham are used.



Hands when a Walking horse bit is used.

2. **Position:** To obtain proper position, the rider shall place himself comfortably in the saddle and find his/her center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees but without use of irons. While in this position adjust leathers to fit. Irons should be placed under the ball of the foot neither at toe nor 'home', with even pressure on entire width of sole and center of iron. Foot position should be natural. Toes should not turn in (causing cocked ankles), nor out. In a natural foot position the toes may turn out at a very slight 15° angle. A vertical line drawn from rider's shoulder downward should ideally pass through shoulders, hips and heels. Judges should note that the required equitation seat should in no way be exaggerated, but should be thoroughly efficient and comfortable. In Saddle Seat equitation classes, riders should convey the impression of effective and easy control. The ideal is a rider who presents his/her horse and shows him/herself to the best advantage. The picture as a whole is of major importance.
 - a. Walk: slight motion in saddle.
 - b. Trot: slight elevation in saddle, hips under body at post, not swinging forward and backward. Motion should be fluid and timed with the horse's stride, not a mechanical up-and-down. (No posting at second gait.)
 - c. Canter: close seat, going with horse, not pumping.
3. **Mounting and Dismounting:** To mount, take up reins in left hand and place hand on horse's neck in front of the withers, with end of reins on the near side. Grasp stirrup with right hand, place left foot in stirrup, then grasp saddle with right hand and mount. To dismount the rider can either step down or slide down. When addressing the reins they must all be picked up at once. The size of the rider is to be taken into consideration.
4. **Suitability:** Rider should fit horse, and the spirit of the horse should be equal to the rider's ability. Horse must

be serviceably sound. The horse's performance, however, should be equal to the rider's ability for effective control. An infraction or misbehavior on the part of the horse should be noted in relation to the effectiveness of the method used by the rider to handle the situation

5. **Performance:** Results as shown by performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them. Walk, trot (or second gait) and canter both ways of the ring. Riders on gaited horses are not expected to post. The order to reverse may be executed by turning either toward or away from the rail. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Hand and leg aids should be subtle and quiet. Horses in Saddle Seat classes are presented in a highly-collected, animated fashion. The rider of a brilliant horse should not be penalized because the horse does not appear to give a pleasure ride consistent with the judge's personal preference. (Many Saddle Seat equitation horses are not pleasure horses.). Good timing and judgment should be recognized. (Infractions of the horse caused by the rider should, of course, be penalized.)
6. When judges use individual tests during a class, they may use the following tests or any other they deem to be fair and appropriate.
 - a. Address reins.
 - b. Back.
 - c. Individual performance on rail.
 - d. Figure Eight at trot, demonstrating change of diagonals. At left diagonal, rider should be sitting the saddle when left front leg is on the ground. At right diagonal, rider should be sitting the saddle when right front leg is on the ground. When circling clockwise the rider should be on the left diagonal, when circling counter clockwise the rider should be on the right diagonal.
 - e. Figure eight at canter. Lead change preference should be instructed by the judge (full stop, through the walk or through the trot), figures commenced in center of two circles so that one lead change is shown.
 - f. Change leads down center ring, stopping at each change.
 - g. Halt from the canter through the trot and walk.
 - h. Serpentine at the trot, changing diagonals. The rider should perform a series of left and right half circles equal in size along a straight line (usually the center line). When the rider crosses the line, the horse should be at right angles to that line for one stride before curving into the next half-circle.
 - i. Ride without stirrups.
 - j. Serpentine, alternating gates.
 - k. Extend the trot.
 - l. Answer questions judge may ask. It is recommended that identical questions be asked of each rider. An example would be one each of tack, anatomy and equitation.

C. *Saddle Seat Bareback Equitation*

1. All rules and specifications for Saddle Seat Equitation should also apply to Saddle Seat Bareback classes, with the exception of those which deal with the saddle. Work-offs in all bareback classes are optional.

D. *Saddle Seat Pattern*

1. Suggested Saddle Seat patterns (Patterns are shown in the Appendix section of this rule book.)
2. Pattern to be determined annually by the membership from suggested list.
3. Judge will use individual score sheets to be provided by MIHA (example found in the Appendix section of this rule book.)
4. A reader shall be permitted to read for the rider. Each movement of the pattern shall be read only once, not repeated. Error or lateness in reading the test shall not relieve the rider from error penalties.
5. Patterns should take place in a dressage type arena with letters marking the boundaries. The arena should be approximately, 20 meters X 40 meters or 66 feet by 132 feet.
6. Exhibitors should always enter and exit at A.
7. Exhibitors not entering or exiting at A or stepping all four feet out of bounds during the test shall be considered off course and disqualified.



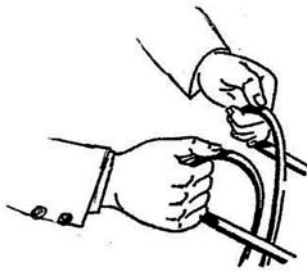
Hunt Seat Classes

A. *Clothing and Equipment*

1. Hunt Seat saddles are to be of the hunting or forward seat style. Dressage saddles are permitted. Only hunt seat and dressage style bridles are permitted. A cavesson or dropped nose band is required. Only regulation snaffles, pelhams, kimberwicks and full bridles (curb and snaffle) will be allowed. References to snaffle bits mean conventional O-ring, Egg-butt or D-ring. Breastplates are permitted but not required. Standing or running martingales, Bell and splint boots are permitted in over fences classes but are prohibited in flat classes. The use of a fitted saddle pad and stirrup treads are recommended. Crops must be of the Hunt Seat type is used.
2. **Appointments of the Rider:** Hunt coats (blazers are acceptable) and Hunt caps must be in conservative colors. Red coats are prohibited. Breeches to be of standard conservative colors (no blue jeans or white breeches). Dress or field boots in black or brown. Junior exhibitors have the option of wearing cuffed jodhpurs (in standard conservative colors) and jodhpur boots. Exhibitors must wear one of the following: English stock shirt with stock tie, ratcatcher tie or choker, dress shirt with dress tie. Crop or hunt type bat are permissible in all classes. Spurs are optional but must be of the English unroweled type. Hunt caps or safety helmets must be worn in all Hunt Seat classes, with strap or harness secured under the chin when jumping.

B. *Hunt Seat Equitation*

1. **Hands:** The method of holding the reins should be consistent with the type of equipment used. The hands should be over the withers, with the knuckles 30 degrees inside the vertical and the hands slightly apart. The arms should be positioned so that a straight line is made from the horse's mouth to the riders elbow. The hands should show sympathy, adaptability and control. One or two rein bridles may be used however, all reins must be picked up at the same time.



Hands when a single rein bridle is used.



Hands when a double rein bridle is used.

2. **Position:** To obtain proper position, the rider shall place himself comfortably in the saddle and find his/her center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees. Irons should be placed under the ball of the foot neither at toe nor 'home', with even pressure on entire width of sole and center of iron. Foot position should be natural, ankles flexed in, heels down, calf of the leg in contact with the horse and slightly behind the girth. A vertical line drawn from rider's shoulder downward should ideally pass through shoulders, hips and heels. Judges should note that the equitation seat should be thoroughly efficient and comfortable
3. **Mounting and Dismounting:** To mount, take up reins in left hand and place hand on horse's neck in front of the withers, with end of reins on the near side. Grasp stirrup with right hand, place left foot in stirrup, then grasp saddle with right hand and mount. To dismount the rider can either step down or slide down. When addressing the reins they must all be picked up at once. The size of the rider is to be taken into consideration.
4. **Suitability:** Rider should fit horse, and the spirit of the horse should be equal to the rider's ability. Horse must be serviceably sound.
5. **Performance:** Walk, trot/second gait and canter both ways of the ring. Riders on gaited horses are not expected to post. Results as shown by performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them. The order to reverse may be executed by turning either toward or away from the rail. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. The Hunt Seat horse should move with a long, low stride and cover ground with relaxed free flowing movement. Mounts should be responsive and smooth during transitions.

6. When judges use individual tests during a class, they may use the following tests or any other they deem to be fair and appropriate.
 - a. Back.
 - b. Individual performance on the rail.
 - c. Figure Eight at trot, demonstrating change of diagonals. At left diagonal, rider should be sitting in the saddle when left front leg is on the ground. At right diagonal, rider should be sitting the saddle when right front leg is on the ground. When circling clockwise the rider should be on the left diagonal; when circling counter-clockwise the rider should be on the right diagonal.
 - d. Figure Eight at a canter on correct lead with simple change of lead. Figures to be commenced in center of two circles so that one change of lead is shown.
 - e. Ride without stirrups. Stirrups must remain hanging unless otherwise directed by the judge.
 - f. Canter a straight line with lead change.
 - g. Execute serpentine at the trot, changing diagonal and/or canter demonstrating simple or flying change of leads. A series of left and right half circles off center of imaginary line where correct diagonal or lead change must be shown.
 - h. Execute a 180, 270 or 360 degree turn on the forehand.
 - i. Address reins.
 - j. Hand gallop and pull up.
 - k. Counter canter at least 15 feet of the rail.
 - l. Serpentine alternating gaits.
 - m. Answer questions judge may ask. It is recommended that identical questions be asked of each rider. An example would be one each of tack, anatomy and equitation.

C. *Hunt Seat Bareback*

To be judged the same as Hunt Seat Equitation except there will not be a saddle or pad of any kind. Work-offs in bare back class are optional.

D. *Equitation Over Fences*

The class is judged on the rider's ability over the fence not the horses. Only the effect the rider has on the horse is to be considered, i.e. horse knocking or dropping a rail. Any refusal should be considered a major fault. How the rider elects to ride the course, the pace and approach to the jumps is used to evaluate the rider's judgment and abilities. The exhibitor is being judged the minute they step into the arena. They may enter the ring at a walk. They may transition to the canter from any gate before approaching the first fence. Each competitor may circle once before approaching the first obstacle, and then proceed around the course keeping an even hunter pace. Correct &/or consistent strides between jumps should be rewarded. Riders should obtain correct leads when making turns throughout the course. At the end of the course riders should display a courtesy circle and leave the arena at a walk.

1. Fence height for horses/equine over 14.2 hands competing on the High School team will be 2'6" with an "In and Out" set at 24 feet.
2. Fence height for ponies/equine 14.2 hands and under competing on the High School team will be 2'3" with an "In and Out" set at 22 feet. When requested by a coach.
3. Three refusals (cumulative) on course will eliminate the entry. Except for refusals, jumping faults of the horse such as touches and knock-downs, are not to be considered unless it is the result of the rider's ability.
4. If a rider is off-course, this automatically eliminates the ride.
5. If a fall, three refusals, or off-course occurs during a work-off, the entry shall be placed last of all those chosen for a work-off.
6. ASTM/SEI protective headgear must be secured with chin strap when jumping. Infraction of this rule will result in disqualification.
7. If a refusal occurs in a combination jump with elements listed as A and B, the rider must jump element A and element B in order during the second attempt at the combination jump. Failure to jump both elements in order on the third attempt will result in a disqualification for being off course.
8. One practice fence will be set up inside or outside the ring 1/2 hour before the jump class.

E. *Equitation Over Fences Course*

1. Suggested Hunt Seat Pattern or courses (see Appendix).
2. Pattern or course to be determined annually by Board of Directors from suggested list.
3. Ground poles are required on the approach side of each jump.
4. Any jump over two feet is required to use two poles as an obstacle or use fillers, such as bales or barrels which might be available at the site.
5. Any variation of obstacles is up to the discretion of host team. Should a coach feel an obstacle to be hazardous to the rider or horse, he/she may protest. The Judge's decision as to its change or elimination shall be final. (This must be done prior to the start of the class.)
6. Riders will be allowed to walk the course before the Equitation Over Fence class begins.
7. It is recommended the jumps be set at distances of multiples of 12 feet, with minimum of 36 feet between jumps. (See In and Out for distance.)
8. In case of knockdown on a jump used more than once on a course, the rider must pull up and circle until the jump is reset.
9. It is recommended that all jumps have wing gates.

Junior Division English Classes

A. English Equitation Walk/Trot (Junior Division)

1. To be judged as Hunt Seat or Saddle Seat Equitation.
2. May be ridden in either Hunt Seat or Saddle Seat. The tack and attire must match the seat being ridden.
3. Performance will be rail work, walk and trot in each direction. In addition the judge may ask for a walk/trot pattern or test of the top exhibitors.
4. Exhibitors in English Equitation Walk/Trot may participate in Showmanship, Western Equitation Walk/Trot, Trail and the timed events, but may not canter in any class entered.

B. English Bareback (Junior Division)

1. To be judged as Hunt Seat or Saddle Seat Equitation except there will not be a saddle or pad of any kind.
2. Performance will be rail work, walk and trot in each direction. In addition the judge may ask for a wall/trot pattern or test of the top exhibitors.
3. Exhibitors participating in Western Equitation Walk/Trot or English Equitation Walk/Trot are not eligible to enter English Bareback.

C. English Equitation Over Fences (Junior Division)

1. Only walk, trot, canter riders will be allowed in this class.
2. Riders have the option of approaching the first fence at a trot.
3. Junior Division fences to be 18" regardless of the horse or pony height. If cross poles are used the height is to be measured at the center of the cross of the poles.

Trail Class

A. *Clothing and Equipment*

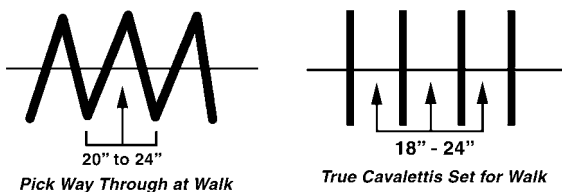
1. **Appointments of the Rider:** Appointments of the rider must match the seat ridden (Stock Seat, Hunt Seat, Saddle Seat or Timed Events) and conform to the rules and regulations of that seat. Optional: hat to match the seat ridden or ASTM/SEI protective headgear may be worn and the strap or harness must be secured under the chin during competition. Team apparel of any type is prohibited in trail.
2. **Appointments of the Horse:** Appointments of the horse must match the seat ridden (Stock Seat, Hunt Seat, Saddle Seat or Timed Events) and conform to the rules and regulations of that seat.

B. *Rules*

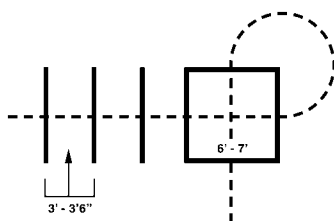
1. There may be a maximum of eight obstacles used in a MIHA trail class, chosen from the approved list of obstacles.
2. A rider may make three attempts at each obstacle. If the third try is unsuccessful, the rider must go on to the next obstacle.
3. A three minute time limit is allowed for the completion of the class. A rider exceeding the three minute time limit is excused but not disqualified and will be scored on that part of the class completed within the time limit.
4. If the majority of coaches present at a meet consider an obstacle dangerous, it will be removed from the class before it starts.

5. If the class is not held in a fenced arena, boundary lines must be designated.
 6. If the Trail Class is set up ahead of time, it must be supervised. Any horse and rider on course before the judging begins will be disqualified from the class, and no substitutions of rider by coach will be allowed.
 7. Riders with a coach will be allowed to walk the course before the trail class begins.
 8. Time to start and finish is when rider crosses a set timing line. Host team will specify if riders are to ride in and out or lead in and out.
 9. Riders may change hands on the reins to negotiate an obstacle.
- C. ***The following will result in a zero score for the obstacle, but will not cause disqualification:***
1. Doing an obstacle differently than described in the pattern.
 2. Missing or not attempting an obstacle.
 3. Failing to complete an obstacle.
 4. Failing to be in the prescribed gait while doing the obstacle.
 5. 3rd refusal or evade of an obstacle.
- D. ***The following will be cause for disqualification:***
1. Not doing obstacles in the posted order.
 2. Major disobedience of the horse such as: rearing, bucking, bolting off course or rider's inability to control their horse.
 3. Working outside the course boundaries.
- E. ***Approved Obstacles***
- Obstacles should simulate situations that are encountered on the trail. The "trail course" should remain constant throughout the class.
1. Can Drag: Rider picks up rope from post, pulls bag of cans from 15 feet away up to the horse, lifts bag in the air until he/she can grasp the bag in his/her hand.
 2. Carry Object: Bag of cans, bucket, letter etc.. to be picked up from one spot, and carried to another designated barrel or post.
 3. Water Obstacle: Such as tarp, box or natural, NO metal or slick bottom boxes will be allowed.
 4. Back through ground rails or brush. Three (3) to five (5) foot width.
 5. Mailbox
 6. Bridge: Stationary and sturdy, minimum width shall be 36 inches.
 7. Slicker
 8. Side pass over logs or poles
 9. Side pass between logs or poles.
 10. Lope/canter or jog/trot through cones or markers.
 11. Turn on forehand: or with forelegs in circle (chalked).
 12. Walk, trot or lope over cavalettis or ground poles set at 6 foot increments.

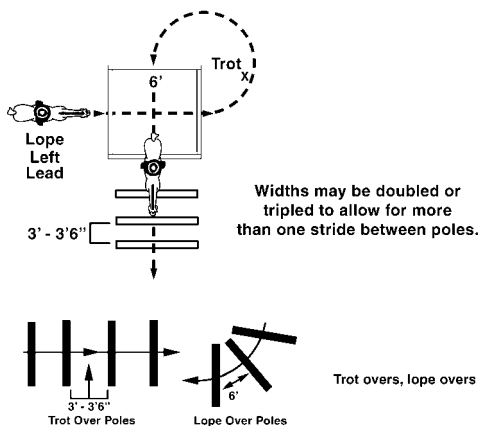
- i. Walk cavalettis will be set at a distance of 18" to 24" for true cavalettis (set parallel to each other). If walk cavalettis are set at angles designed for a horse to "pick" his way through, the open end of cavalettis should be set at a distance 20" to 24" apart. (See diagram for specifics.)



- ii. Trot cavalettis will be set at a distance of 3' to 3'6" or widths can be doubled or tripled to allow for more than one stride between poles.



- iii. Canter/lope over cavalettis or ground poles will be set at 6 foot increments.



13. Back through or around an obstacle or obstacles.
14. Turn on the haunches.
15. Walk-over while mounted. Walk-over to be 12 inches maximum.
16. Open, passing through, and closing gate.
17. Ground tie.
18. Make a 360 degree turn within a square, the sides of which are 5 to 6 feet long.
19. Dismount, lead horse over any of the above approved obstacles.
20. Dismount and remount: side to be designated.
21. Walk, trot or lope into or through straight chute (poles on ground). Minimum of 3 foot width.

22. Back through straight chute (poles on ground). Minimum width of 30 inches.
23. Walk through ground pole patterns (L, U, Z etc.) Minimum width of 2 feet.

F. ***UNACCEPTABLE OBSTACLES***

1. TIRES
2. LIVE ANIMALS
3. HIDES
4. PVC PIPE
5. ROCKING OR MOVING BRIDGE
6. WATER BOX WITH FLOATING OR MOVING PARTS.
7. FLAMES, DRY ICE, FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, ETC.
8. BACKING OVER AN OBSTACLE.
9. LOGS OR POLES ELEVATED IN SUCH A MANNER THAT PERMITS THE LOG OR POLL TO ROLL.
10. FIREARMS REAL OR TOY.

G. ***Junior Division Trail Class***

1. To be judged same as Senior Division trail.
2. Junior Division trail patterns are to be designed so cantering is not included.



TIMED EVENTS

A. ***Clothing and Equipment***

1. **REQUIRED:** Pants and boots must match the seat ridden as defined under Western Classes, Saddle Seat Classes, or Hunt Seat Classes. Upper body apparel with long sleeves will match seat ridden or may be team apparel with long sleeves (sleeves to be down). STM/SEI protective headgear must be worn in all "Timed Events" and the strap or harness must be secured under the chin in a manner that will insure that the headgear stays on the riders head for the duration of the event in which they are competing while in the ring.
2. **OPTIONAL:** Spurs, ties, belts, pins, jewelry, chaps or jackets to match seat ridden. Hackamores, tie-downs, martingales and splint, skid, shin or bell boots are allowed. Stirrups may be wrapped with a non-skid tread. Bats, hand quirts, and crops of any type as long as they match the seat ridden may be used behind the cinch only.

3. **PROHIBITED:** Draw reins, leg wraps, over & unders, the practice of rubber banding the rider's feet in their stirrups and the use of any device designed to hold the rider in their saddle. Hitting the horse or pony with reins and hitting the horse or pony in front of the cinch with anything including the hands is prohibited.

B. General Rules – FOR ALL TIMED EVENTS

1. Fall of the rider or horse shall disqualify the entry. Rider has fallen when he/she is separated from his/ her horse (which has not fallen) in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle. Horse has fallen when its shoulder and haunch on the same side touch the ground or touch an obstacle and the ground. Fall of the rider or horse shall disqualify the entry when fall of horse or rider occurs while being timed on course.
2. Riders must have their assigned number in a visible position, either on both sides of their pad or in the center of their back, during the class in which they are competing. Riders with hair covering and/or obstructing the view of their numbers shall be disqualified. Failure to wear a number or wearing an incorrect number while competing is cause for disqualification.
3. Re-rides will be given in the event of timer malfunctions and when course equipment is not in it's proper position, including the flag in flag race, being blown out of position.
4. Rider will be given one minute to start after his/her number has been called, or be disqualified.
5. When entering the arena, the gateman should make sure the judge and timers are set up and ready for the next rider before opening the gate and letting horse and rider enter.
6. It will be at the discretion of the rider to either lead or ride their horse into and out of the arena, under control. The use of a header while mounting inside the arena at the gate area is allowed.
7. Any horse showing evidence of inhumane treatment will be disqualified.
8. A rider's time will be publicly announced immediately after the ride.
9. Going off-pattern will result in disqualification.
10. If starting keg, drum or cone is knocked over, rider will be disqualified.
11. Spurring or kicking in front of the cinch or girth, will cause disqualification. Excessive spurring/kicking while the rider's feet are in or out of the stirrups will cause disqualification at the Judge's discretion.
12. The judge, at his/her discretion, may disqualify a rider for excessive use of a bat, crop or whip.

Spur or spurring is defined as: a pointed device fastened to the back of a rider's boot or used to urge a horse on with spurs.

Kicking is defined as: to strike out or hit with the foot (with nothing attached to the boot).

Excessive is defined as: more than is usual, acceptable or needed.

13. Once the plastic barrels are set in the arena for the contesting events, no rider is allowed to practice the pattern that is set. If a rider or riders are caught they will be disqualified from the class which is set up and no substitutions of rider by coach will be allowed.
14. In classes where judges will be required to make a "line" call (Keyhole, Speed & Action and 2-Man Relay) the horse will be considered disqualified when the hoof touches the line. Pushing the line from inside the mark or the kicking of dirt that may make the line disburse will not be considered as a disqualification.
15. Junior Division exhibitors who participated in Western Equitation Walk/Trot or English Equitation Walk/Trot may only walk and trot in the timed events. Walk/Trot exhibitors will be disqualified if they canter three (3) or more consecutive strides while performing a timed event.

C. *Flag Race*

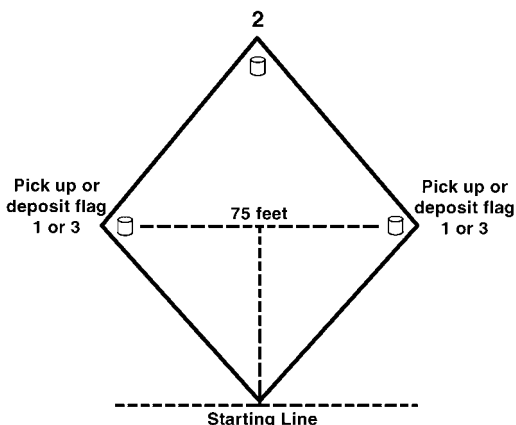
1. **Causes for Disqualification**

- a. See general rules for timed events.
- b. Failure to pick up flag on the first pass.
- c. Failure to place flag in second bucket on first pass.
- d. Hitting any part of the horse's body with the flag or stick.
- e. Dropping the flag.
- f. Knocking over any barrel or knocking bucket over or off barrel.
- g. Putting the flag end of the stick down in the barrel.

2. **Equipment for Pattern**

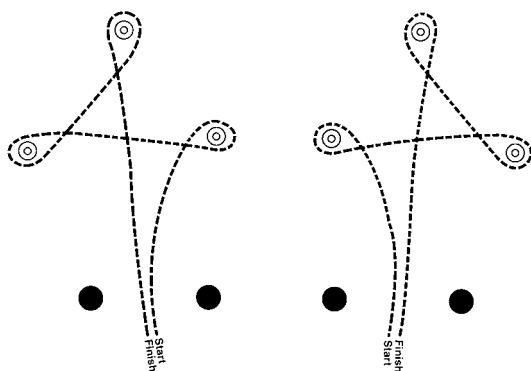
- a. Three 55 gallon plastic barrels or drums, minimal dimensions of 23.5" diameter top and 35" tall.
 - b. Two 5 gallon plastic buckets, with handles removed, minimal dimensions are a 12" opening and 14.5" tall.
 - c. Five inches (5") of playground sand will be placed in the bottom of each bucket.
 - d. One flag stick 21" long of wooden doweling 1" in diameter.
 - e. Flag is to be 6" square, firmly attached to the doweling. Flag material will be "nylon flagging". If multiple flags are to be used in the same event, the fabric and color must be the same.
 - f. Two starting markers such as: cones, kegs or drums.
3. **Course design:** Horse must start within 25 feet min., 50 feet max (ideal) depending on arena size, of two starting markers set at fence line. Three 55 gallon plastic barrels or drums shall be set to form an isosceles triangle. All barrels shall be at least 15 feet from any fence or wall. Riders may have the option of riding course A or B. Course A the rider shall cross the time line and staying on the outside of barrel 2 and deposit the flag in the bucket on top of barrel 3, then re-cross the time line. Course B is ridden by crossing the time line and riding the triangle in the opposite direction and then re-crossing the time line.

4. The flag race will be timed from when the horse's first leg crosses the time line until the first leg returns across the line.



D. Cloverleaf Race

1. **Cause for Disqualification**
 - a. See General Rules for Timed Events.
2. **Cause for Penalty**
 - a. Knocking over a barrel carries a five second penalty for each barrel.
3. **Equipment for Cloverleaf**
 - a. Three 55 gallon plastic barrels or drums.
 - b. Two starting markers such as cones, kegs or drums.
4. **Course Design (See Below):** Horse must start within 25 feet min., 50 max (ideal) depending on arena size, of two starting markers set at fence line. Three 55 gallon plastic barrels set in a triangle (the same Pattern used for the Flag Race) will be used. Rider will cross time line and run to the barrel on the right, make a right hand turn around the barrel, run to the left barrel, turn left around it, run to the third barrel, make a left turn around it and recross the timing line. The course may be run going left around the first barrel and right around the next two barrels.



E. *Timed Events Patterns*

There are four timed events patterns: Speed and Action, Keyhole, Pole Bending and Dash Race.

Pattern number to be run will be determined annually by the membership from the suggested list.

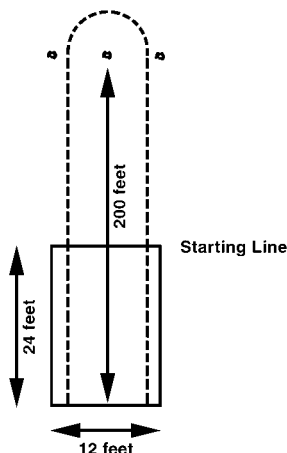
1. **Pattern #1 – SPEED AND ACTION**

a. **Course Design/Rules**

- i. Seven Markers are needed. Use four of the markers to form a 12 foot wide by 24 foot long box. Lines are to be made on both of the 24 foot sides as well as the back side of the box (see diagram on page 42) using lime or similar substance. The remaining 3 markers are to be placed at 7 foot intervals (from center to center) in a straight line parallel and a maximum of 200 feet from the starting line or a minimum of 25 feet back from the furthest rail, allowing for different arena sizes.
- ii. The horse and rider are to start by running through the box and past the start/finish line. Then continue to the markers 200 feet away, ride through two markers, circling the center marker and returning to the box. (Rider can turn either right or left around the center marker.) The rider must then ride past the start/finish line and stop within the box.

b. **Causes for Disqualification**

- i. See general rules for timed events.
- ii. Failure to start/finish between the start/finish markers.
- iii. Knock down any of the seven markers.
- iv. Leaving the finish box before being released by the judge.
- v. Jumping markers, the horse hoof touches the line before being released by the judge.
- vi. Horse to be considered on course when entering closed end of box. Hoof touching or stepping over either of the 24 foot side lines before horse reaches timing line is to be considered off course.



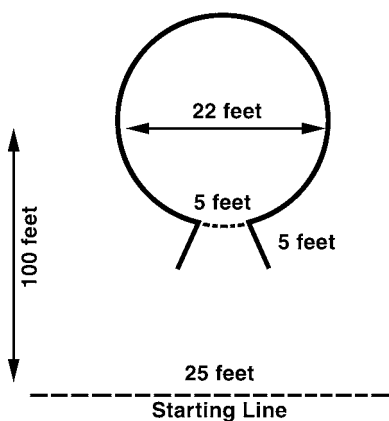
2. *Pattern #2 – KEYHOLE*

a. **Course Design/Rules**

- i. The ground will be laid out with a limed key hole on the ground with the opening of the keyhole facing the starting line.
- ii. The center of the circle should be 100 feet from the timing line.
- iii. The keyhole will be in the form of a broken circle 22 feet in diameter with the throat 5 feet wide. The angled sides are 5 feet long.
- iv. The horse can have a running start across the timing line.
- v. The horse will cross the timing line, enter the circle of the keyhole, turn around, (in either direction) entirely in the circle of the keyhole and recross the timing line.

b. **Causes for disqualification**

- i. See general rules for timed events.
- ii. The horse will be considered disqualified when the hoof touches the line.
- iii. Turns around in the throat of the keyhole rather than in the circle.
- iv. Failure to complete the pattern.



3. *Pattern #3 - POLE BENDING*

a. **Course Design/Rules**

- i. Six poles a minimum of 6 feet high set on top of the ground, with bases 10 inches to 14 inches in diameter will be set 21 feet apart in a straight line perpendicular to the starting line. The first pole will be set 21 feet from the starting line and the remaining 5 poles at 21 feet intervals thereafter. It is recommended that a small amount of line be placed under each base for ease of placement. (See diagram below.)
- ii. Contestants may start on either side of the line of poles. Horse and rider will begin by running through the start/ finish line, move in an approximately straight line to pole 6, make a 180 degree turn around pole 6, then pass between pole 6 and 5, bending through the poles to pole 1, circle pole 1, pass between

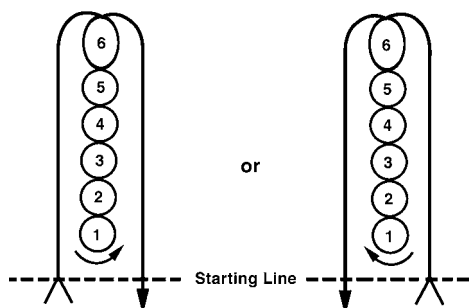
pole 1 and 2, bending through the poles back to pole 6, make a 180 degree turn around pole 6 and run down on the opposite side of the poles that the horse and rider started on and through the start/finish line (see below).

b. Causes for Disqualification

- i. See General Rules for Timed Events.

c. Causes for Penalty

- i. Knocking over a Pole carries a five second penalty for each pole.



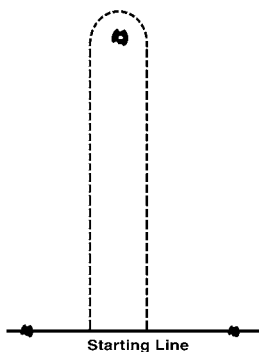
4. Pattern # 4 - DASH RACE

a. Course Design/Rules (See diagram below.)

- i. One plastic 55 gallon barrel will be placed at a minimum of 25 feet off the start/finish line which will be designated with two markers set 40 feet apart. Horse and rider will begin by running through the start/finish line (between the markers); continue riding to the far end of the arena and around the barrel (turning around the barrel either right or left is acceptable) then running back across the start/finish line (between the markers).

b. Causes for Disqualification

- i. See General Rules for timed Events.
- ii. Knock down of barrel.
- iii. Failure to start/finish between markers.



F. *Two-Person Relay Race*

1. **Course Rules**

- a. Each team may have three Two-Person Relay teams and will ONLY use one slot per team. The “Point Rider” will need to be designated at least two classes prior to the commencement of the Two-Person Relay Race. The second rider in the Two-Person Relay Race will be called the “Silent Rider” and will not use any of their available slots by participating in the Two-Person Relay Race.
- b. A rider cannot participate more than once in the Two-Person Relay Race.
- c. A horse cannot participate more than once in the Two-Person Relay Race.

2. **Causes for Disqualification**

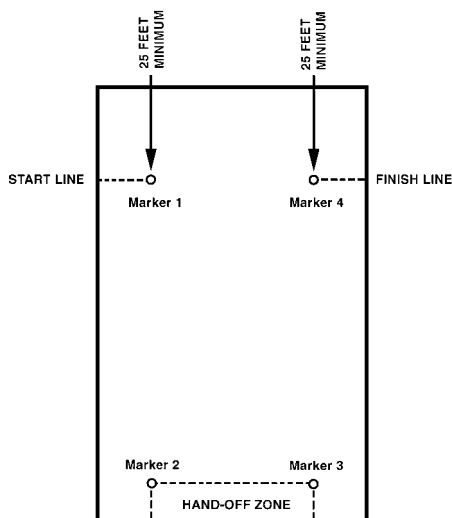
- a. See General Rules for Timed Events.
- b. Horse knocks over or cuts inside a marker.
- c. Horse is hit with the baton.
- d. Baton is dropped.
- e. Rider 1 or rider 2 or both riders go outside the hand-off zone before hand-off is completed. Riders cannot leave hand-off zone and then return.
- f. Rider 1 circles marker three or goes on into the course after the hand-off, chasing the 2nd horse.
- g. Rider 2 enters the course before the hand-off.
- h. The horse will be considered disqualified when the hoof touches the line.

3. **Equipment for Two-Person Relay Race**

- a. Four markers such as cones, 55 gallon barrels or drums. If drums are metal, tires or safety wraps are to be put around the top of each drum.
- b. Lime or flour.
- c. Baton: 2 foot long, 3/4” flexible hose, such as pressure hose used for cars.

4. **Course Design (see diagram on next page).**

- a. Four markers or cones are to be set a minimum of 15 feet off the arena wall or fence to form a rectangle at the four corners of the area.
- b. The start and finish line will be in a line from the wall through barrels 1 and 4 to the opposite wall.
- c. The hand-off zone will be marked with lime or flour from the arena wall to barrel 2, from barrel 2 to barrel 3, and back to the wall (see diagram below). The depth of this box will be a minimum of 30 feet and a maximum of 40 feet. The length of the box will be a minimum of 70 feet and a maximum of 90 feet.



5. Pattern for Two-Person Relay Race

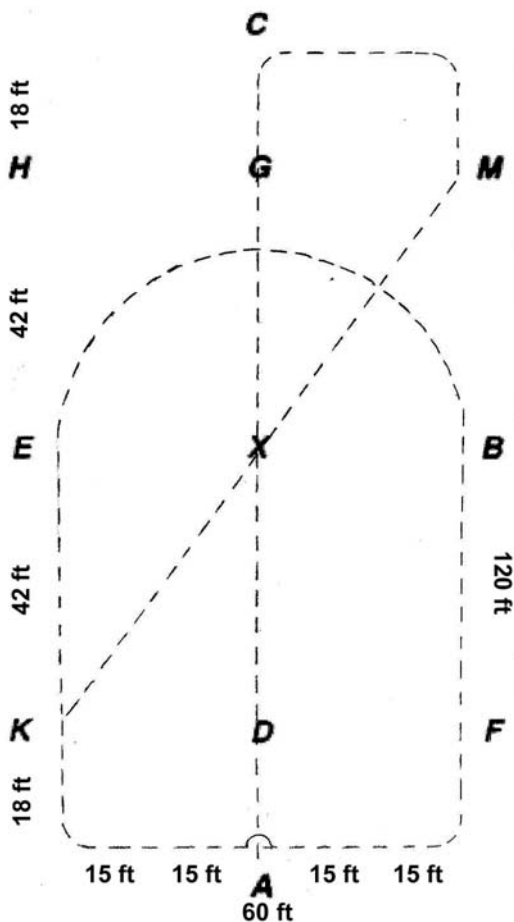
- a. Rider 1: Has the choice of riding the pattern either direction of the arena.
- b. Rider 1: Must start within 25 feet min., 50 max (ideal) depending on arena size, of starting time line and follow course past marker 1 and marker 2 carrying the baton in either hand. Upon entering hand-off zone, rider 1 must successfully hand off the baton to rider 2 within the lined off area of the zone. Method of hand-off can be done at the rider's discretion. Rider may stay in box or may pull up to center and under no circumstances chase the second horse.
- c. Rider 2: Enters hand-off zone before the start of the race and stands quiet. Rider may take a position anywhere in the hand-off zone. Method of hand-off is at the rider's discretion. After hand-off, rider 2 will then continue on around marker 3 to the timing line at marker 4 and end the race.

MICHIGAN INTERSCHOLASTIC HORSEMANSHIP ASSOCIATION

High School Saddle Seat Pattern #1

Each item to be scored from 0-10 points.
Total possible is 100 points.

#	Letter	Movement	Points	Score
1	A G	Enter sitting trot or second gait down center line. Halt.	10	
2	G G	Address the reins. Proceed rising trot or second gait.	10	
3	C MXK	Track right Extend the trot or second gait. Change rein, changing diagonal at K.	10	
4	K A	Normal rising trot. Walk.	10	
5	F B	Canter left lead. Circle left 1/2 circle 20 meters.	10	
6	E K	Track straight ahead. Walk.	10	
7	A A	Halt. Execute 180 degree turn to the right on the forehand. Proceed at the walk.	10	
8	K E	Canter right lead. Circle right 1/2 circle 20 meters.	10	
9	B F A	Track Straight ahead. Walk. Exit Arena.	10	
10		Rider's position and effective use of cues.	10	
		Total	100	

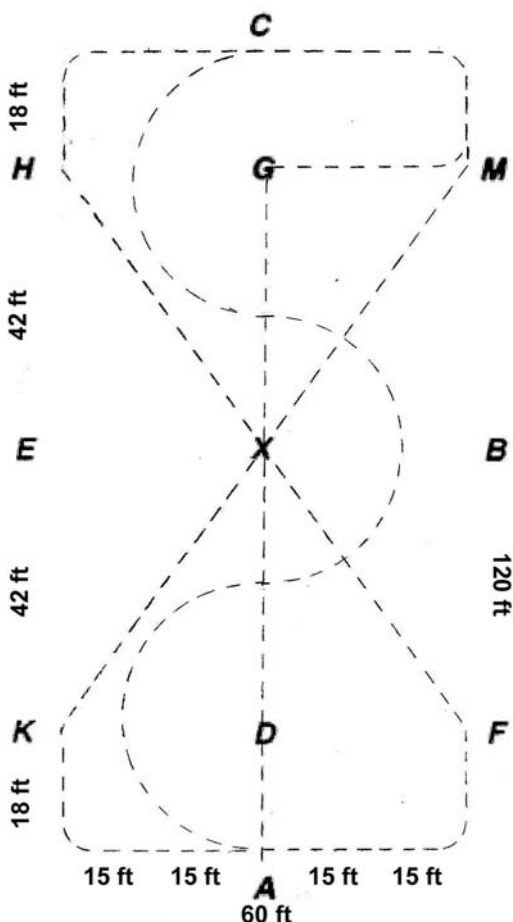


MICHIGAN INTERSCHOLASTIC HORSEMANSHIP ASSOCIATION

High School *Saddle Seat Pattern #3*

Each item to be scored from 0-10 points.
Total possible is 100 points.

#	Letter	Movement	Points	Score
1	A G	Enter rising trot or second gait down center line. Halt.	10	
2	G	Address reins.	10	
3	G	Execute 90 degree turn to right on forehand. Proceed at a sitting trot or second gait.	10	
4	M	Track left.	10	
5	C-A	Serpentine at a posting trot or second gait showing two changes of diagonal. (On center line, three loops)	10	
6	A	Walk.	10	
7	FXH C	Canter right lead. Walk.	10	
8	MXK	Canter left lead.	10	
9	Before A A	Walk. Exit arena.	10	
10		Rider's position and effective use of cues.	10	
		Total	100	

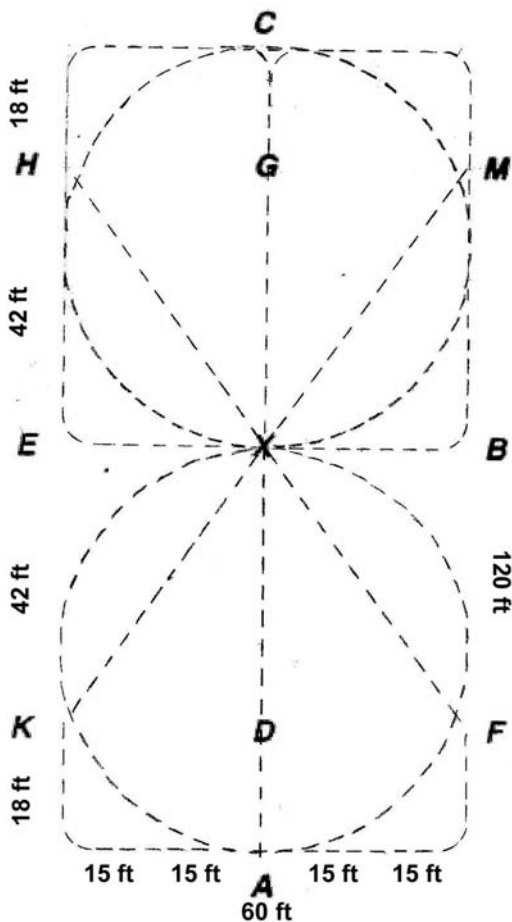


MICHIGAN INTERSCHOLASTIC HORSEMANSHIP ASSOCIATION

High School Saddle Seat Pattern #4

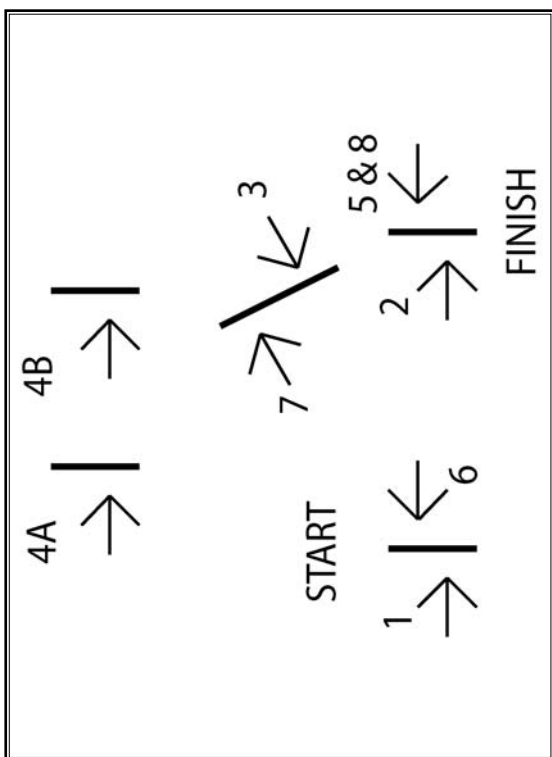
Each item to be scored from 0-10 points.
Total possible is 100 points.

#	Letter	Movement	Points	Score
1	A C	Enter rising trot or second gait down center line. Track left.	10	
2	H E	Walk. Track left.	10	
3	X	Trot two figure eights. First circle sitting trot or second gait. Second, third and fourth circles rising trot or second gait showing change of diagonal.	10	
4	B M	Track left. Walk.	10	
5	C	Canter left lead.	10	
6	HXF	Continue to canter showing simple lead change at X.	10	
7	KXM	Continue to canter showing simple lead change at X.	10	
8	C X	Track left down center line. Halt.	10	
9	X A	Execute 2 180 degree turns on the forehand. First to the left then to the right. Proceed at a walk. Exit arena.	10	
10		Rider's position and effective use of cues.	10	
		Total	100	

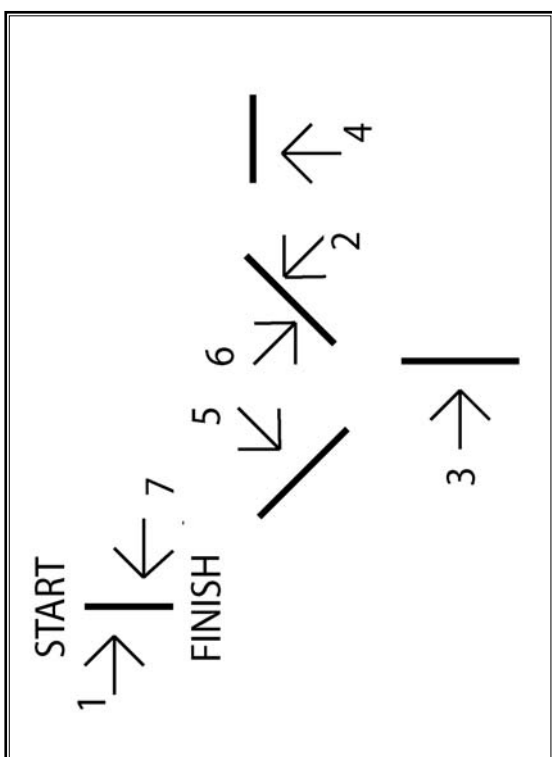


High School
Equitation Over Fences

PATTERN #1

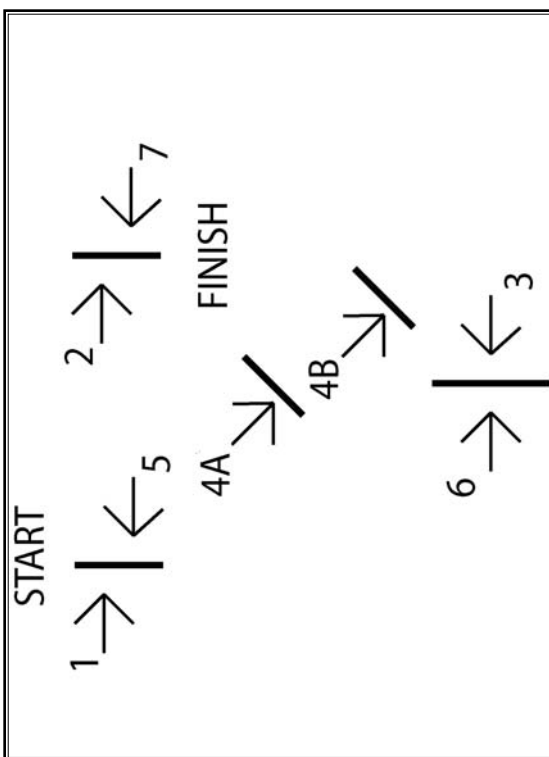


PATTERN #2

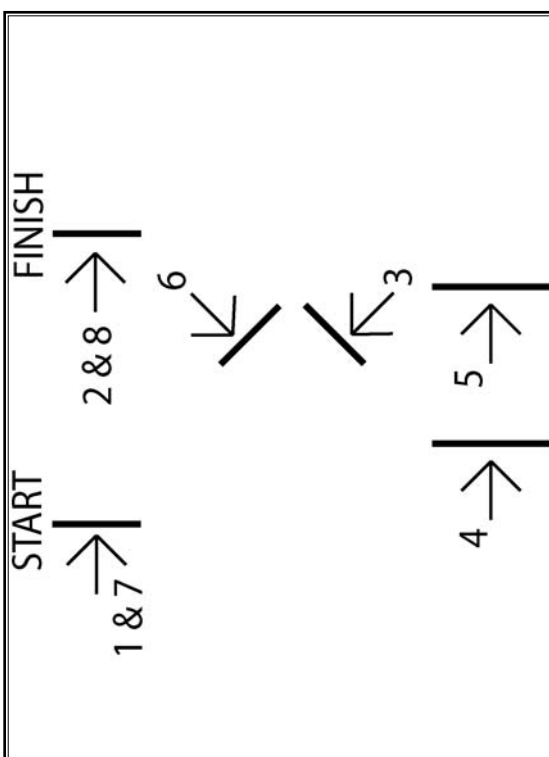


High School
Equitation Over Fences

PATTERN #3

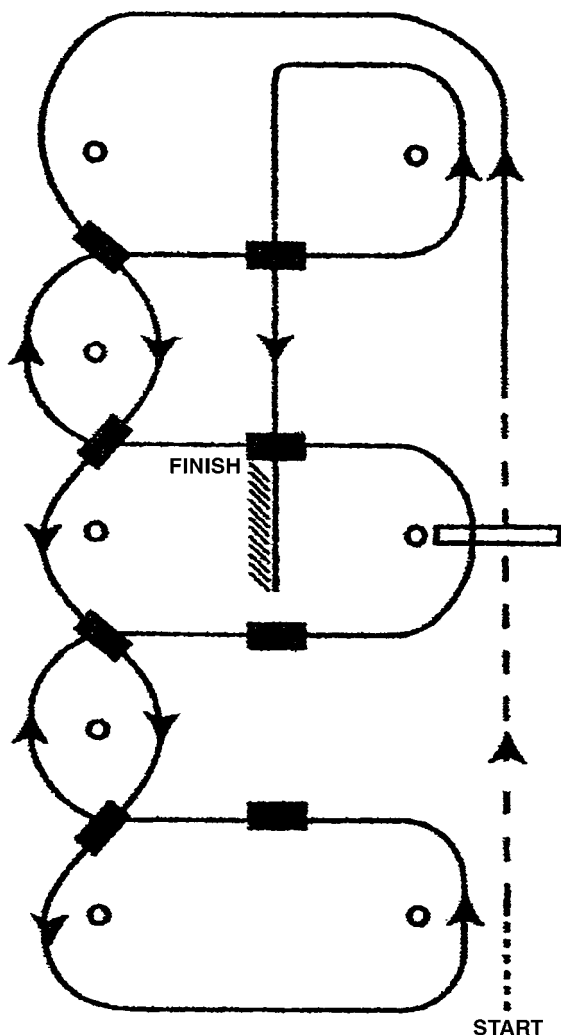


PATTERN #4



MICHIGAN INTERSCHOLASTIC HORSEMANSHIP ASSOCIATION

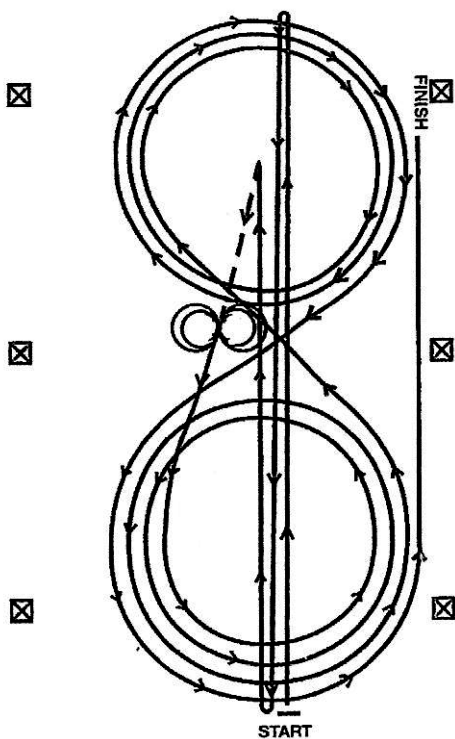
High School Western Riding Pattern #1



Walk.....	Marker ○	
Jog-----	Recommended changing area	■
Lope_____	Log	▭
Back //////////////		

1. Walk, transition to jog, jog over log.
2. Transition to left lead and lope around end.
3. First line change.
4. Second line change.
5. Third line change.
6. Fourth line change and lope around the end of arena.
7. First crossing change.
8. Second crossing change.
9. Lope over log.
10. Third crossing change.
11. Fourth crossing change.
12. Lope up the center, stop and back.

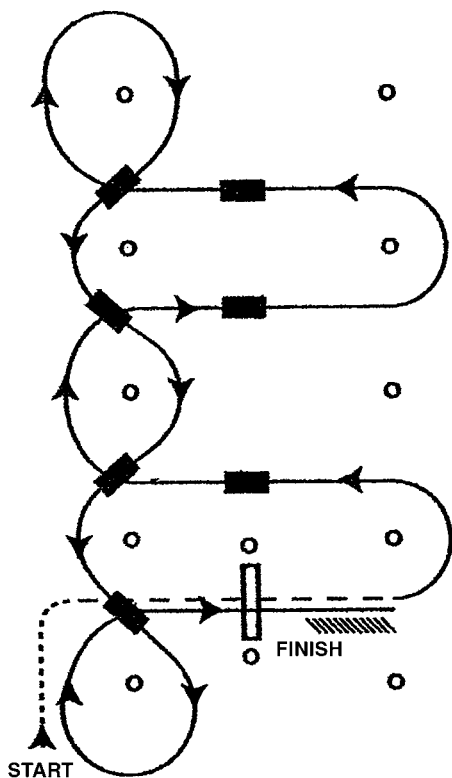
High School
Western Reining Pattern #2



1. Run at speed to the far end of the arena past the end marker and do a left rollback – no hesitation.
2. Run to the opposite end of the arena past the end marker and do a right rollback – no hesitation.
3. Run past the center marker and do a sliding stop. Back up to the center of the arena or at least 10 feet. Hesitate.
4. Complete two spins to the right. Hesitate.
5. Complete two and one-quarter spins to the left so that horse is facing left wall or fence. Hesitate.
6. Begin on the left lead, complete three circles to the left: the first circle large and fast: the second circle small and slow: the third circle large and fast. Change leads at the center of the arena.
7. Complete three circles to the right: the first circle large and fast: the second circle small and slow: the third circle large and fast. Change leads at the center of the arena.
8. Begin a large fast circle to the left but do not close this circle. Run straight up the right side of the arena past the center marker and do a sliding stop at least twenty feet from the wall or fence. Hesitate to demonstrate the completion of the pattern.

MICHIGAN INTERSCHOLASTIC HORSEMANSHIP ASSOCIATION

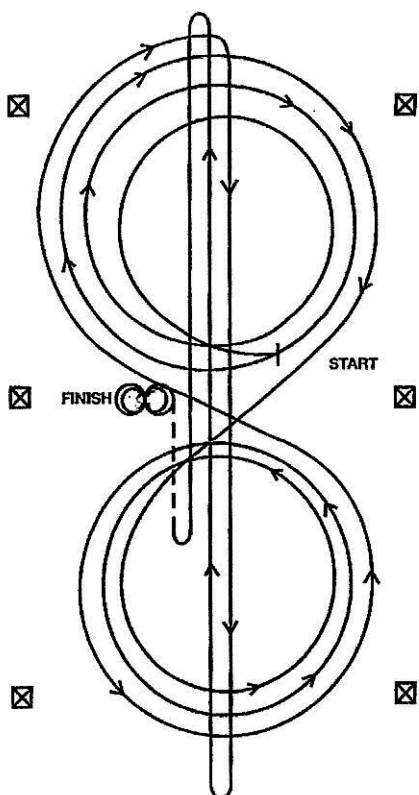
High School Western Riding Pattern #3



Walk.....	Marker ○
Jog-----	Recommended changing area ■
Lope_____	Log □
Back //////////////	

1. Walk, transition to jog, jog over log.
2. Transition to left lead.
3. First crossing change.
4. Second crossing change.
5. Third crossing change.
6. Circle and first line change.
7. Second line change.
8. Third line change.
9. Fourth line change and circle.
10. Lope over log.
11. Lope, stop and back.

High School
Western Reining Pattern #4



Horses may walk or trot to the center of arena.
Horses must walk or stop prior to starting pattern.
Beginning at the center of the arena facing the left
wall or fence.

1. Beginning on the right lead, complete three circles to the right: the first circle small and slow; the next two circles large and fast. Change leads at the center of the arena.
2. Complete three circles to the left: the first small and slow; the next two circles large and fast. Change leads at the center of the arena.
3. Continue around previous circle to the right. At top of the circle, run down the middle to the far end of the arena past the end marker and do a right rollback – no hesitation.
4. Run up the middle to the opposite end of the arena past the end marker and do a left rollback – no hesitation.
5. Run past the center marker and do a sliding stop. Back up to the center of the arena or at least ten feet. Hesitate
6. Complete two spins to the right. Hesitate
7. Complete two spins to the left. Hesitate to demonstrate the completion of the pattern.

High School
Suggested Class Order

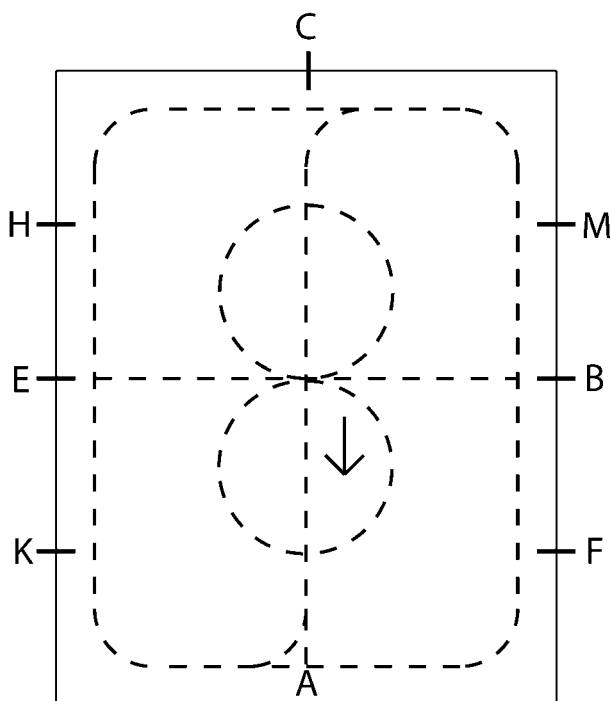
- 1. Western Fitting and Showing**
- 2. Hunt Seat Fitting and Showing**
- 3. Saddle Seat Fitting and Showing**
- 4. Saddle Seat Equitation**
- 5. Saddle Seat Pattern**
- 6. Saddle Seat Bareback**
- 7. Hunt Seat Equitation**
- 8. Hunt Seat Bareback**
- 9. Equitation Over Fences**
- 10. Western Stock Seat**
- 11. Western Bareback**
- 12. Western Riding Reining Patterns**
- 13. Trail**
- 14. Flag Race**
- 15. Cloverleaf**
- 16. Timed Event Patterns**
- 17. Two-Person Relay Race**

MICHIGAN INTERSCHOLASTIC HORSEMANSHIP ASSOCIATION

Junior Division *Saddle Seat Pattern #1*

**Each item to be scored from 0-10 points.
Total possible is 100 points.**

#	Letter	Test #1	Points	Total
1	A X C	Enter rising trot or second gait down centerline Walk, Track to the right	10	
2	Btwn C & M	Canter right lead	10	
3	K E	Walk Turn on middle line	10	
4	X	Demonstrate a figure-eight rising trot or second gait, left circle first, showing change of diagonal at X	10	
5	X B	Walk, then straight ahead Track to the left	10	
6	Btwn M & C	Canter left lead	10	
7	K	Rising trot or second gait	10	
8	A	Turn left on centerline	10	
9	X	Walk, track left on the rail. Turn across middle line	10	
10		Halt, Back four to six steps leave area at a free walk on a loose rein		
Entry #			Total Points	



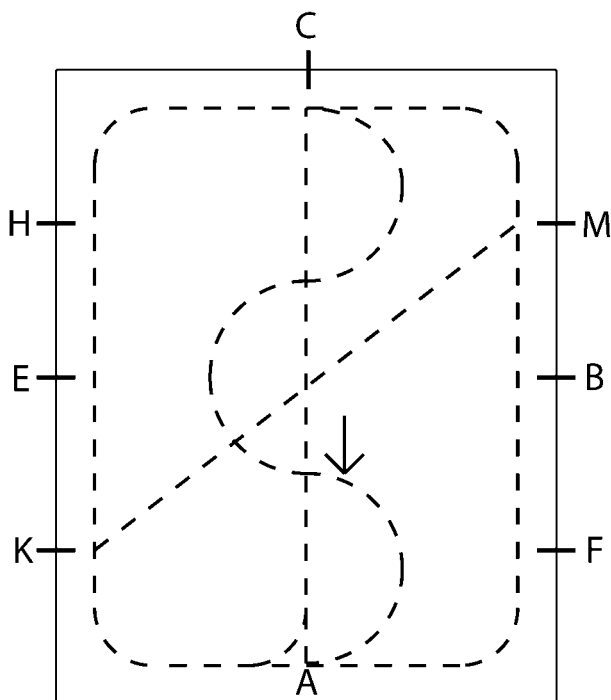
MICHIGAN INTERSCHOLASTIC HORSEMANSHIP ASSOCIATION

Junior Division *Saddle Seat Pattern #2*

Each item to be scored from 0-10 points.

Total possible is 90 points.

#	Letter	Test #2	Points	Total
1	A X C	Enter rising trot or second gait down centerline Walk, Track to the right	10	
2	C to A	Demonstrate a three (3) loop serpentine at the posting trot or second gait, showing two changes of diagonal (on centerline).	10	
3	A K	Track right on rail Walk	10	
4	Btwn H & C	Canter right lead	10	
5	A K-X-M	Walk Change rein	10	
6	Btwn M & C	Canter left lead	10	
7	K A	Trot Turn left on centerline	10	
8	X	Halt, Back four to six steps leave area at a free walk on a loose rein	10	
9		Rider's position and effective use of aids.	10	
Entry #			Total Points	

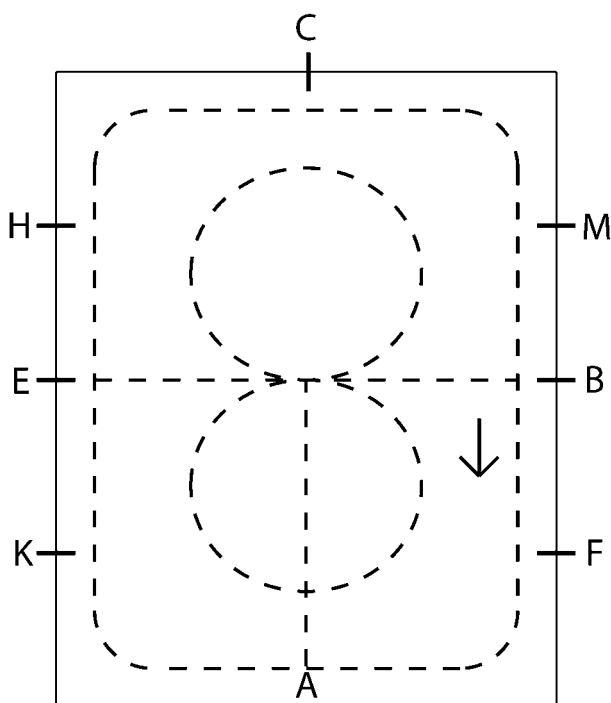


MICHIGAN INTERSCHOLASTIC HORSEMANSHIP ASSOCIATION

Junior Division *Saddle Seat Pattern #3*

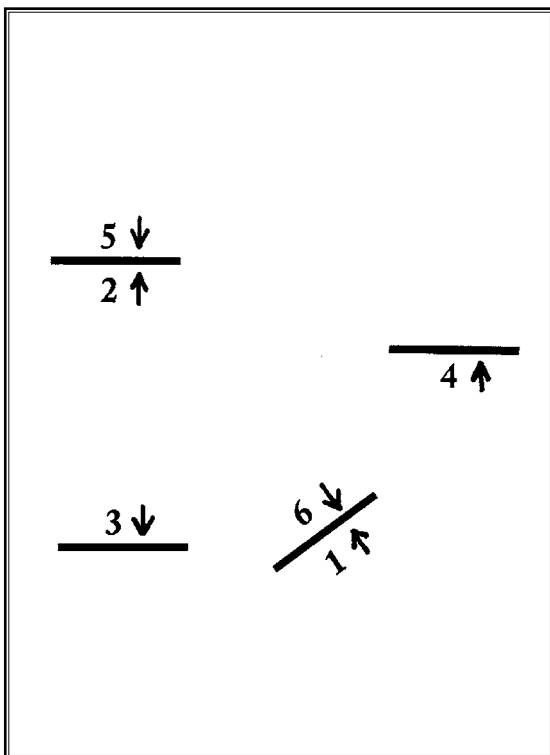
**Each item to be scored from 0-10 points.
Total possible is 90 points.**

#	Letter	Test #3	Points	Total
1	A X	Enter rising trot or second gait down centerline Halt	10	
2	X	Execute a ninety (90) degree turn on the forehand to face E	10	
3	X	Demonstrate a figure-eight rising trot or second gait, right circle first, showing change of diagonal at X	10	
4	X E	Sitting trot or second gait to E. At a walk turn right at rail.	10	
5	Btwn H & C	Canter right lead	10	
6	K E B	Walk Turn right on middle line Turn left on rail	10	
7	Btwn M & C	Canter left lead	10	
8	F B	Walk Halt, Back four to six steps leave area at a free walk on a loose rein	10	
9		Rider's position and effective use of aids.	10	
Entry #			Total Points	

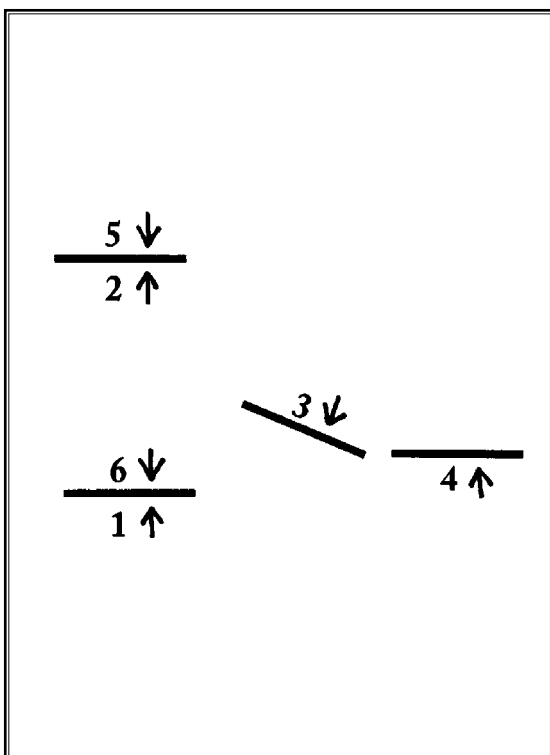


Junior Division
Equitation Over Fences

PATTERN #1

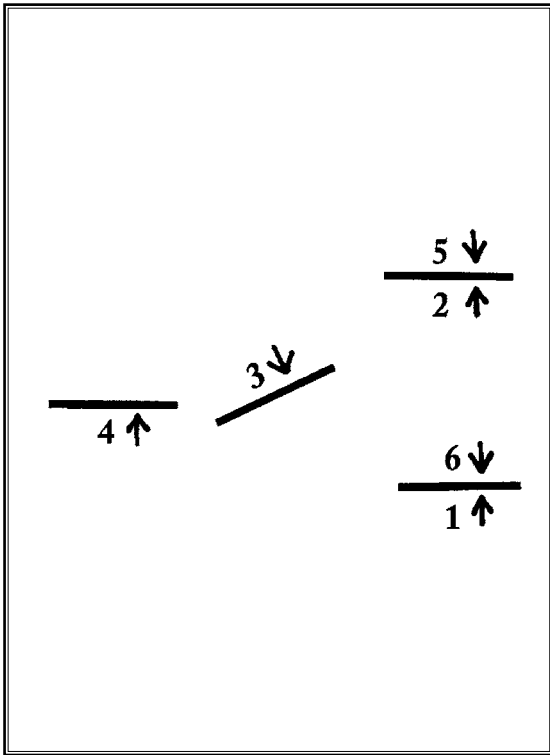


PATTERN #2

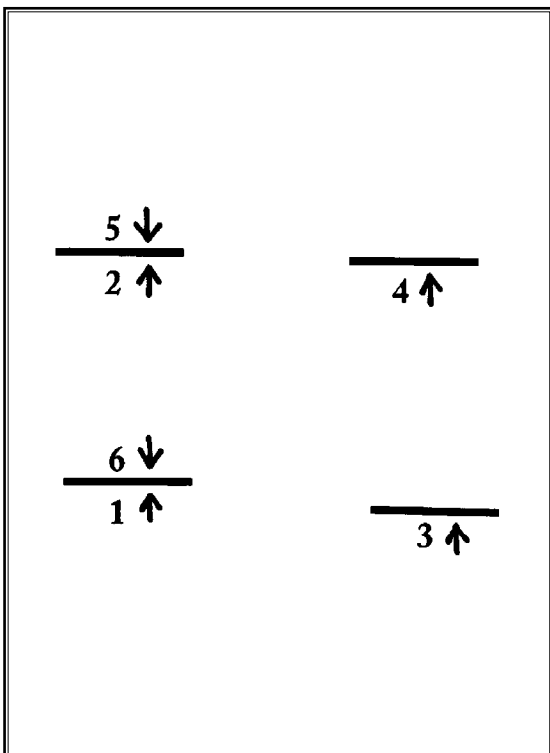


Junior Division
Equitation Over Fences

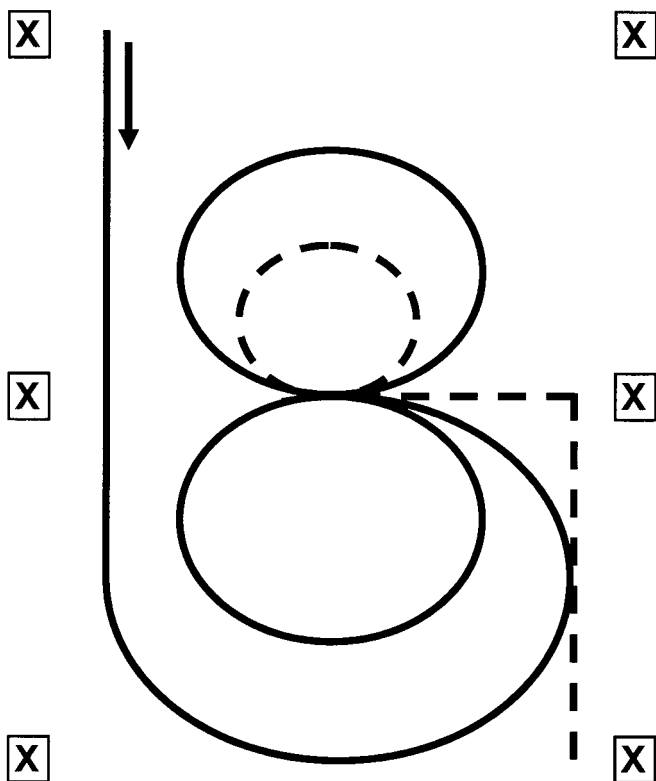
PATTERN #3



PATTERN #4



Junior Division
Western Reining Pattern #2



1. Jog along the right rail to the center marker. Stop.
2. Execute a ninety (90) degree turn on the haunches to the left. Jog to the center of the arena, and do a figure eight and one-half, first circle to the right at the jog, left circle at the canter, change leads at the center of the arena, then do a right circle at the canter. Stop at the center of the arena.
3. Execute a one hundred and eighty (180) degree turn on the haunches to the right.
4. Lope around the end of the arena and down the left side. Stop approximately even with the third marker.
5. Back at least ten (10) feet. Hesitate to show completion of the pattern.
6. Walk to the judge and stop for inspection.

