

SHW300. EQUIPMENT.

SHW300.1 When exhibitor equipment failure causes a delay or a run to be discontinued, the judge will disqualify the entry, except in working hunter and jumping.

SHW300.2 In any approved class, the judge shall have the authority to require the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment or accoutrement which is unsafe, or in his opinion, would tend to give a horse an unfair advantage or which he believes to be inhumane.

SHW300.3 Tails may be lengthened by hair attachment only with no attachments of any kind to the tailbone.

SHW300.4 The use of weighted tails is acceptable.

SHW300.5 The use of earplugs or cotton in the horse's ears is acceptable.

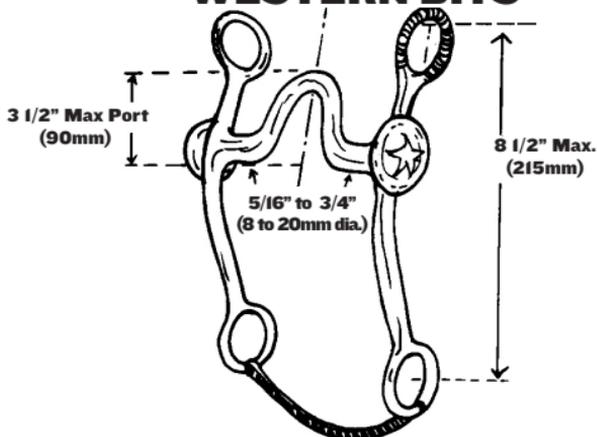
SHW300.6 Reruns will not be allowed in instances of equipment failure.

SHW300.7 Failure by exhibitor to wear correct number(s) in a visible manner shall result in disqualification.

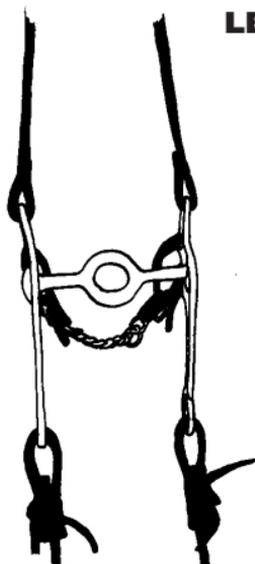
ACCEPTABLE CHAIN CURB STRAPS



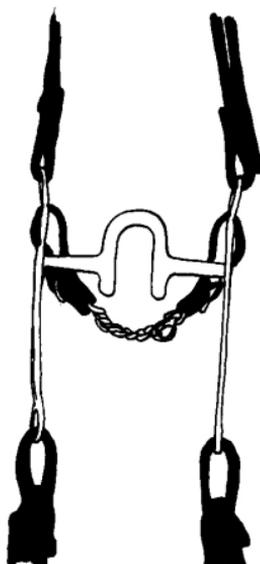
WESTERN BITS



LEGAL BIT



DONUT BIT



PRONG BIT

ILLEGAL BIT

SHW305. WESTERN EQUIPMENT.

SHW305.1 Hackamore means the use of a flexible, braided raw-hide, leather or rope bosal, the core of which must be flexible. A hackamore must use a complete mecate rein, which must include a tie-rein. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered. Horse hair bosals are prohibited. This rule does not refer to a mechanical hackamore.

SHW305.2 Snaffle bits in western performance classes mean the conventional O-ring, egg-butt or D-ring with a ring no larger than 4" in diameter (100 mm). The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments which would provide leverage. The mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid, but smooth or latex-wrapped. The bars must be a minimum of 5/16" (8 mm) in diameter, measured one inch (25 mm) in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, connecting ring of 1 1/4" (32 mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10 mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable. Optional leather strap attached below the reins on a snaffle bit is acceptable.

SHW305.3 Bit in western performance classes means the use of a curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit.

SHW305.4 The description of a legal, standard western bit includes:

SHW305.4.1 8 1/2" (215 mm) maximum length shank to be measured as indicated in the diagram on the previous page. Shanks may be fixed or loose;

SHW305.4.2 concerning mouthpieces, bars must be round, oval or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal of 5/16" to 3/4" (8 mm to 20 mm) in diameter, measured 1" (25 mm) from the cheek. However, wire on the sway bars (above the bars and attaching to the spade) of a traditional spade bit is acceptable. They may be inlaid, but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs, including upward prongs on solid mouthpieces. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, connecting ring of 1 1/4" (32 mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable;

SHW305.4.3 the port must be no higher than 3 1/2" (90 mm) maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, halfbreeds and spades are standard;

SHW305.4.4 donut and flat polo mouthpieces are not acceptable;

SHW305.4.5 a curb bit must be used with a curb strap or curb chain properly attached so as to make contact with horse's chin;

SHW305.4.6 slip or gag bit is permitted in speed events

SHW305.5 Except for hackamore/snaffle bit classes or junior horses shown with hackamore/snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand must not be changed. The hand is to be around the reins; index finger only between split reins is permitted. In trail, it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle. Violation of this rule is an automatic disqualification.

SHW305.6 Romal means an extension of braided or round material attached to closed reins. This extension shall be carried in the free hand with a 16-inch (40 cm) spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the romal. When using romal reins, the rider's hand shall be around the reins with the wrists kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top and the fingers closed lightly around the reins. When using a romal, no fingers between the reins are allowed. The free hand may not be used to adjust the rider's length of rein in any reining class. During reining, the use of the free hand while holding the romal to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand is considered to be the use of two hands and a score of 0 will be applied, with the exception of any place a horse is allowed to be completely stopped during a pattern. In all other classes, including the reined portion of working cow horse, the free hand may be used to adjust the rider's length of rein.

SHW305.6.1 The romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or to signal or cue the horse in any way. Any infraction of this rule shall be penalized severely by the judge.

SHW305.7 Junior horses competing in junior western pleasure, western horsemanship, reining, working cow horse, western riding and trail that are shown with a hackamore or snaffle bit may be ridden with one or two hands on the reins. The tails of the reins must be crossed on the opposite side of the neck when riding with two hands on split reins except in working cow horse and reining. Closed reins (example mecate) may not be used with a snaffle bit, except in versatility ranch horses, working cow horse and reining, where a mecate is permitted.

SHW305.8 In all western classes except for speed events, team-penning, ranch sorting, roping and cowboy mounted shooting, horses will be shown in a western saddle and appropriate bridle, snaffle bit or hackamore for the duration of the class. A western saddle is a common type of saddle distinguished by a large noticeable fork on which there is some form of horn, a high cantle and large skirts. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. Horses 5-years-old and younger may be shown in a snaffle bit, hackamore, curb bit, half-breed or spade bit. Horses 6-years-old and older may only be shown in a curb bit, half-breed or spade bit. Any horse of any age shown in any Rookie/**Level I** (Novice) youth or Rookie/**Level I** (Novice) amateur class may be shown two handed with a snaffle bit/hackamore. When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required, but must meet the approval of the judge, be at least one-half inch in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Curb chains cannot be tied to the bit with string or cord. A broken strap or chain is not necessarily cause for disqualification.

SHW305.9 SPEED EVENT, TEAM PENNING, RANCH SORTING, ROPING AND COWBOY MOUNTED SHOOTING EQUIPMENT:

SHW305.9.1 In roping, speed events, team penning and ranch sorting and cowboy mounted shooting western - type equipment must be used. Use of rawhide or mechanical hackamores or other type of bridles is the optional choice of the contestant. However, mechanical hackamore nosepieces must be covered in leather and cannot have visible or bare metal in contact with the horse's head. The judge or steward may prohibit the use of any bit or equipment they consider inhumane or would tend to give a horse/rider an unfair advantage.

SHW305.9.2 Tie-downs, used for roping, speed events and team penning, ranch sorting, and cowboy mounted shooting must be leather, flat nylon or rope a minimum of 3/8 inch in diameter.

SHW305.9.3 Bonnets (tie-down that goes over the poll and/or across the forehead) made of rope, flat nylon webbing or leather only (minimum 3/8 inch diameter) are permitted.

SHW305.9.4 Martingales and draw reins are permitted for speed events, team penning, ranch sorting and cowboy mounted shooting. However, martingales used with curb bits must have rein stops. Draw reins may not be attached between or around the front legs.

SHW306. WESTERN: OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

SHW306.1 Rope or riata; if used, the rope or riata must be coiled and attached to the saddle.

SHW306.2 Hobbles attached to saddle.

SHW306.3 Tapaderos, except in working cow horse where they are not allowed.

SHW306.4 Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are allowed in reining, working cow horse, team penning, barrel racing, pole bending, stake racing, jumping, tie-down roping, breakaway roping, dally team roping - heading, dally team roping - heeling, cutting, western horsemanship, ranch horse pleasure, **versatility ranch horse, ranch riding and ranch trail**. The use of slip on (easy care) horse boots or related footwear are not considered as protective boots and are permissible to be worn in all classes.

SHW306.5 Spurs; not to be used forward of the cinch.

SHW307. WESTERN PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

SHW307.1 Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are prohibited in western pleasure, trail, halter, western riding and showmanship.

SHW307.2 Wire curb straps, regardless of how padded or covered, or curb strap with tacks/rivets.

SHW307.3 Any curb strap narrower than one-half inch.

SHW307.4 Chain, wire, or metal tie-down or bonnets are prohibited, regardless of how padded or wrapped.

SHW307.5 Saw tooth bits; hock hobbles; tack collars; tack curb staps or tack hackamores; whips used for showmanship; war bridles or like devices; riding in a curb bit without a curb strap; wire or solid metal curb straps no matter how padded; wire cavesson; wire or cable tie-downs; bumper bits; metal bosals (no matter how padded); chambons; headstalls made of metal (no matter how wrapped or padded), twisted rawhide, or rope may not be used on a horse's head (3/8 inch rope may be used with a slip/gag bit or a bonnet); running martingales used with curb bits used without rein stops; draw reins attached between or around the front legs will not be allowed at AQHA-approved events.

SHW307.6 Jerk lines for roping.

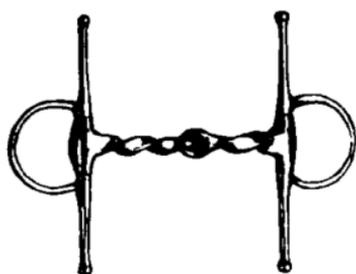
SHW307.7 Tack collars for roping.

SHW307.8 Tie-downs may not have a built in cavesson or noseband.

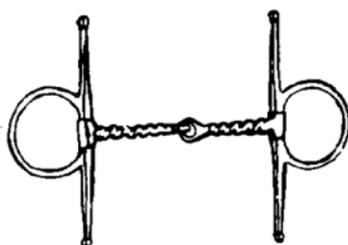
SHW310. ENGLISH EQUIPMENT. In all English classes, an English snaffle (no shank), kimberwick, pelham and/or full bridle (with two reins), all with cavesson nosebands and plain leather brow bands must be used.

SHW310.1 In reference to mouthpieces, nothing may protrude

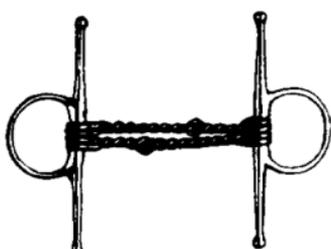
ACCEPTABLE ENGLISH BITS FOR ALL AGES



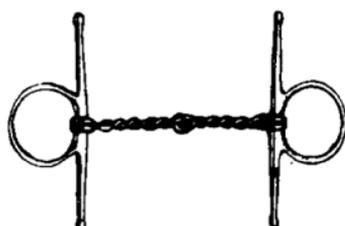
SLOW TWIST



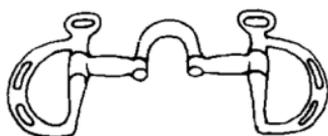
CORKSCREW



**DOUBLE TWISTED
WIRE**



**SINGLE TWISTED
WIRE**

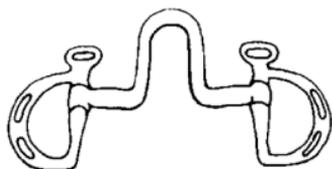


CORRECTION BIT

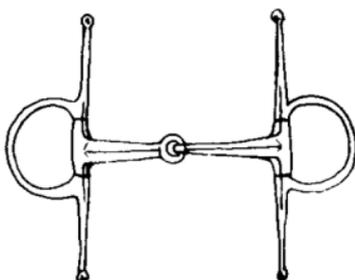


**SNAFFLE BIT WITH
CONNECTING FLAT BAR**

UNACCEPTABLE ENGLISH BITS



EXCESSIVE PORT



TRIANGULAR MOUTH

below the mouthpiece (bar). Solid and broken mouthpieces must be between 5/16" to 3/4" (8 mm to 20 mm) in diameter, measured 1" (25 mm) from the cheek and may have a port no higher than 1 1/2" (40 mm). They may be inlaid, synthetic wrapped, including rubber or plastic or incased, but must be smooth. On broken mouthpieces only, connecting rings of 1 1/4" (32 mm) or less in diameter or connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10 mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lie flat in the horse's mouth, are acceptable. Snaffle bit rings may be no larger than 4" (100 mm) in diameter. Any bit having a fixed rein requires use of a curb chain. Smooth round, oval or egg-shaped, slow twist, corkscrew, single twisted wire, double twisted wire mouthpieces and straight bar or solid mouthpieces are allowed.

SHW310.2 In the jumping class only, mechanical hackamores may be used.

SHW310.3 Saddles must be black and/or brown leather of traditional hunting or forward seat type, knee insert on the skirt is optional. Saddle pads should fit size and shape, except when necessary to accommodate numbers on both sides, for which a square pad or suitable attachment may be used. Saddle pads and attachments shall be white or natural color with no ornamentation.

SHW311. ENGLISH OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

SHW311.1 Spurs of the unrowelled type that are blunt, round or that include a smooth rolling rubber ball and no longer than one inch

SHW311.2 Crops or bats

SHW311.3 Gloves

SHW311.4 English breast plate

SHW311.5 Braiding of mane and/or tail in hunt style

SHW311.6 Standing or running martingales in working hunter, jumping and equitation over fences only

SHW311.7 Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are allowed in hunt seat equitation on the flat and hunt seat equitation over fences.

SHW311.8 Colored saddle pads or pads with AQHA's corporate logo can be used on saddle pad in jumping only.

SHW312. ENGLISH PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

SHW312.1 Bits of any style (pelham, snaffle, kimberwick) featuring mouthpieces with cathedrals, donuts, prongs, edges or rough, sharp material shall be cause for elimination. Square stock, metal wrapped or polo bits shall be cause for elimination. If a curb bit is used, the chain must be at least 1/2" (15mm) in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse.

SHW312.2 Draw reins

SHW312.3 Rowelled spurs

SHW312.4 Standing or running martingales except in working hunter, jumping and equitation over fences

SHW312.5 Figure 8 or flash cavessons except in jumping

SHW312.6 Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are prohibited in pleasure driving, hunter under saddle and boots of any description (except outdoors during inclement weather) in hunter hack, green working hunter and working hunter. The use of slip on (easy care) horse boots or related footwear are not considered as protective boots and are permissible to be worn in all classes.

SHW312.7 Rubber reins (except jumping)

SHW312.8 Slip on spurs

SHW313. PLEASURE DRIVING EQUIPMENT.

SHW313.1 Shall include a whip suitable to the cart, light horse breast collar harness to include surcingle with shaft tie-downs and crupper, standard bridle, overcheck or check reins. Only traditional driving bits: half cheek snaffle, liverpool, elbow driving bit and Bra-doon overcheck bits are acceptable. Mouthpieces must be of the same dimensions as required in SHW310.1. If a curb chain is used, it must be at least 1/2" (15 mm) in width, and be flat against the jaw of the horse. The exhibitor shall be the only person permitted in such cart while the horse is being exhibited, and no pets shall be allowed in such cart during such exhibition. The cart shall be a pleasure-type two-wheel single horse cart with seats for one or two persons. All carts must be basket-type, equipped with 24-inch (60 cm) through 48-inch (1.2 meters) cart wheels. No stirrup-type carts or sulkies will be allowed. Dash and basket cover optional.

SHW314. PLEASURE DRIVING OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

SHW314.1 Blinders

SHW314.2 Breaching, shaft keepers or thimbles

SHW314.3 Running martingales

SHW314.4 Cavesson nosebands

SHW315. PLEASURE DRIVING PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

SHW315.1 Wire chin straps, regardless of how padded or covered

SHW315.2 Excessive ornamentation on harness, bridle or cart shall be penalized.

SHW320. ATTIRE

SHW320.1 In halter, speed events, team penning and other western classes, appropriate western attire is required which includes pants (slacks, trousers, jeans, etc.) long sleeves and collar (band, standup, tuxedo, etc.) western hat and cowboy boots. Special exception because of religious reasons or physical handicap must be requested by filing a written request to AQHA and obtaining written approval prior to participation. It is optional that an exhibitor may wear a hard hat with harness in all classes. The hat must be on the rider's head when the exhibitor enters the arena. At show management's option, a fine may be imposed to an exhibitor for loss of hat. Spurs and chaps are optional. In youth, Level I (Novice) youth and open division speed events, exhibitors 18 years of age or under may use a rubber band per foot (maximum width of 1/4 inch) during competition, but may not be tied, buckled or fastened by any other means during competition.

SHW320.2 It is mandatory for riders in all hunter, jumper and equitation classes, including hunter hack, where jumping is required and when jumping anywhere on the competition ground to wear properly fastened protective headgear that meets ASTM/SEI standards or equivalent international standards for equestrian use. The helmet must also be properly fitted with harness secured. It is optional that an exhibitor may wear a hard hat with harness in all classes; however, it is mandatory that all youth and recommended that amateurs wear a ASTM/SEI approved hard hat with harness in all over fence classes.

SHW320.3 In all English classes, riders should wear hunt coats of traditional colors such as navy, dark green, grey, black or brown. Maroon and red are improper. Breeches are to be of traditional shades of buff, khaki, canary, light grey or rust (or jodhpurs), with high English boots or paddock (jodhpur) boots of black or brown. Black, navy blue or brown hard hat (with harness for youth in any over fence classes) is mandatory. A tie or choker is required. Gloves,

spurs of the unrowelled type that are blunt, round or that include a smooth rolling rubber ball and no longer than one inch and crops and bats are optional. Hair must be neat and contained (as in net or braid). Judges must penalize contestants who do not conform.

SHW320.4 In pleasure driving, the exhibitor shall be neatly attired. A coat, tie and hat of choice may be worn. No part of the exhibitor's legs may be exposed above mid-calf.

SHW320.5 Judges, at their discretion, may authorize adjustments to attire due to weather-related conditions.

SHW325. LAMENESS The judge shall examine and check for lameness of all horses brought into any class. The judge has the authority to excuse any horse from the class, due to lameness, at any time while being judged. This is essential regardless of whether or not the competition indicates it is necessary.

SHW325.1 Obvious lameness shall be cause for disqualification. Obvious lameness is:

SHW325.1.1 Consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances;

SHW325.1.2 Marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride;

SHW325.1.3 Minimal weight-bearing in motion and/or at rest and inability to move.

SHW330. GAITS - WESTERN CLASSES. The following terminology shall apply:

SHW330.1 The walk is a natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait. The horse must move straight and true at the walk. The walk must be alert, with a stride of reasonable length in keeping with the size of the horse.

SHW330.2 The jog is a smooth, ground-covering two-beat diagonal gait. The horse works from one pair of diagonals to the other pair. The jog should be square, balanced and with straight, forward movement of the feet. Horses walking with their back feet and trotting in the front are not considered performing the required gait. When asked to extend the jog, it moves out with the same smooth way of going.

SHW330.3 The lope is an easy, rhythmical three-beat gait. Horses moving to the left should lope on the left lead. Horses moving to the right should lope on the right lead. Horses traveling at a four-beat gait are not considered to be performing at a proper lope. The horse should lope with a natural stride and appear relaxed and smooth. It should be ridden at a speed that is a natural way of going. The head should be carried at an angle which is natural and suitable to the horse's conformation at all gaits.

SHW331. GAITS - WESTERN PLEASURE. The following terminology is a description of western pleasure gaits:

SHW331.1 The Walk

SHW331.1.1 Poor walk - uneven pace and no cadence. Has no flow and may appear intimidated or appear to march.

SHW331.1.2 Average walk - has a four-beat gait, level top-line and is relaxed.

SHW331.1.3 Good walk - has a flowing four-beat gait, level top-line, relaxed and is bright and attentive.

SHW331.2 The Jog

SHW331.2.1 Extremely poor jog - cannot perform a two-beat gait and has no flow or balance in the motion.

SHW331.2.2 Very poor jog - hesitates in the motion. Does

not keep an even and balanced motion or a level top-line. May appear to shuffle.

SHW331.2.3 Poor jog - average motion but has negative characteristics such as; walking with the hind legs, dragging the rear toes or taking an uneven length of stride with the front and rear legs.

SHW331.2.4 Correct or average jog - has a two-beat gait, a level top-line and a relaxed appearance.

SHW331.2.5 Good jog - has an average motion with positive characteristics such as balance and self-carriage while taking the same length of stride with the front and rear legs.

SHW331.2.6 Very good jog - is comfortable to ride while having a consistent two-beat gait. The horse guides well, appears relaxed and has a level top-line.

SHW331.2.7 Excellent jog - effortless and very efficient motion. Swings the legs yet touches the ground softly. Confident, yet soft with its motion while being balanced and under control. Moves flat with the knee and hock and has some cushion in the pastern. Has a bright and alert expression and exhibits more lift and self-carriage than the "very good jog".

SHW331.3 Moderate Extended Jog

SHW331.3.1 Poor extended jog - never lengthens the stride and may appear rough to ride.

SHW331.3.2 Average extended jog - moves up in its pace and appears smooth to ride.

SHW331.3.3 Good extended jog - has an obvious lengthening of stride with a slight increase in pace while exerting less effort and appears smooth to ride.

SHW331.4 The Lope

SHW331.4.1 Extremely poor lope - does not have a three-beat gait. Has no flow, rhythm or balance. Uncomfortable to ride.

SHW331.4.2 Very poor lope - appears to have a three-beat lope but has no lift or self-carriage. The horse shuffles, has no flow and bobs his head, giving the appearance of exerting a great deal of effort to perform the gait. Also may appear uncomfortable to ride.

SHW331.4.3 Poor lope - has an average motion but exhibits negative characteristics like head bobbing, not completing the stride with the front leg and leaving the outside hock well behind the horse's buttocks.

SHW331.4.4 Average lope - has a true three-beat gait with a level top-line and very little head and neck motion. He is relatively straight (not over-canted), guides well and has a relaxed appearance.

SHW331.4.5 Good lope - has an average motion but exhibits positive characteristics in his performance like self-carriage, a steady top-line, relaxed appearance and is responsive to the rider's aids.

SHW331.4.6 Very good lope - has more lift and flow than the average horse. He has a strong but smooth drive from behind. He may bend his knee slightly yet still has a level top-line while exhibiting self-carriage with a relaxed appearance. Appears comfortable to ride.

SHW331.4.7 Excellent lope - has a round back with an effortless strong, deep stride with the rear legs and a flat swing with the front legs. He keeps a level top-line, a relaxed

yet alert and confident appearance and is correct but soft. A special horse with a great degree of lift and self-carriage.

SHW331.5 The Back-Up

SHW331.5.1. Poor back-up - is resistant and heavy in front. May gap the mouth and throw his head or back crooked.

SHW331.5.2 Average back-up - backs straight and quietly with light contact and without hesitation.

SHW331.5.3 Good back-up - displays balanced and smooth flowing movements. Backs straight with self-carriage without gapping the mouth with light contact and without hesitation.

SHW332. GAITS - ENGLISH CLASSES. The following terminology shall apply:

SHW332.1 The Walk

SHW332.1.1 Poor Walk - This horse may have an uneven pace that lacks a four beat cadence or have a stop and start or robotic appearance that resembles a march. He may appear nervous and on the muscle or intimidated and fearful of going forward. He may anticipate or try to jog or break or he may appear dull, bored and listless dragging his legs and losing rhythm and flow.

SHW332.1.2 Average Walk - The horse will walk with a four beat gait, a balanced top line and a relaxed appearance. He may slow down some but still maintains forward motion. He keeps his body straight and has cadence and rhythm. All of this done correctly and with manners is average.

SHW332.1.3 Good Walk - This horse has a four beat, a balanced and comfortable top line, relaxed demeanor and appears bright and attentive. He maintains rhythm, flow and cadence and travels straight with light contact from the reins. He reaches from his shoulder and tracks up from behind with his reaching legs staying close to the ground. His feet enter the ground softly and maintain the same pace coming out of the ground as he has going into it.

SHW332.2 The Trot

SHW332.2.1 Extremely Poor Trot - This is a horse that cannot seem to do a two beat gait and appears very uncomfortable in his attempt to accomplish it. He does not have any flow or balance in his motion and appears uncomfortable to ride. He may be weak and sloppy in his hocks causing a loss of forward motion or use his hocks loosely or too far back causing a loss of cadence and rhythm. This also could be a horse that is misbehaving and is unwilling to perform the gait properly and therefore is not exhibiting acceptable motion.

SHW332.2.2 Very Poor Trot - This is a horse that may have an uneven cadence or be unwilling to go forward. He may not keep an even and balanced motion with a level top line. This horse may appear quick legged or seem to move in an up and down fashion or may be on the muscle looking nervous and tense or he may be on a loose and sloppy rein causing a lack of collection or to travel heavy on the forehead. He may cover the ground by taking more frequent steps instead of correctly increasing the length of the strides.

SHW332.2.3 Poor Trot - This is a horse with an average motion, exhibiting negative characteristics in their performance. For example, this horse may have an average trot gait

but have a dull, unhappy or resentful expression.

SHW332.2.4 Correct or Average Trot - This horse has a two beat diagonal gait in which the left front and right hind foot touch the ground simultaneously and the right front and left hind do so also. This is the standard trot and a horse **MUST** have a true two beat gait to be “average” or any of the levels higher than “average”. He has a level top line, with a relaxed appearance and pleasant expression, is shown on light contact and appears to go in a forward, obedient manner.

SHW332.2.5 Good Trot - This is a horse with an average motion, exhibiting positive characteristics in their performance. For example this horse may have an average trot gait but have excellent manners and expression with ears forward and appearing bright but relaxed and calm.

SHW332.2.6 Very Good Trot - This is a horse that appears very comfortable to ride, always has a consistent rhythmic cadenced two beat gait, is guiding well and has a relaxed and level top line. He has a good forward stride with balance and impulsion. Compared to the excellent horse he may not have as much stride as he may not have the degree of drive off the hind-quarters or as much reach with his shoulders. He may bend his knees or flex his pasterns a little but he is still obviously soft, smooth and relaxed. He has an attentive and calm appearance with a pleasant expression and maintains light bit contact.

SHW332.2.7 Excellent Trot - This horse's motions seem effortless and efficient. He utilizes his top line by rounding his back and driving evenly off his hind legs creating impulsion and suspension while still remaining soft and controlled. He takes long ground covering steps with deliberate full strides and stays close to the ground. He reaches from his shoulder and is flat with his knee and extends his leg forward and seems to enter the ground toe first, even though it actually lands flat. His drive from his hocks allows his hind leg to step into or in front of where his front foot left the ground using full extension of the stride. This horse is balanced, has a level top line and has an even rhythm and cadence. He has excellent manners and great expression appearing relaxed and happy, soft in his poll, jaw and mouth and is shown on light contact.

SHW332.3 The Extended Trot

SHW332.3.1 Poor Extended Trot - This horse never appears to lengthen his stride but just trots faster. He may also appear to be jarring and rough to ride.

SHW332.3.2 Average Extended Trot - Is a horse who when asked to extend, moves up in his pace and still appears smooth to post on.

SH2332.3.3 Good Extended Trot - Is a horse who when asked to extend has an obvious lengthening in his stride with a slight increase in his pace making him more versatile. This horse is still smooth but appears to have more length with less effort being exerted.

SHW332.4 The Canter

SHW332.4.1 Extremely Poor Canter - This is a horse that does not have a true three beat gait. He has no cadence, no rhythm, and no balance, appears out of sync and obviously is not comfortable to ride. This may also be a horse that is misbehaving and is unwilling to perform the gait properly and

therefore is not exhibiting acceptable motion.

SHW332.4.2 Very Poor Canter - This is a horse that may appear to have a three beat gait but lacks self carriage. He may be flat in that he has either not rounded his back, or failed to engage his hindquarters and therefore lacks drive, impulsion and suspension. He may be weak hocked causing him to pull himself forward with his front end or he may not be balancing off his hindquarters causing him to be heavy on his forehand. This horse may lack forward motion, smoothness of gait, or consistency of speed. He may not use his shoulders properly causing excessive knee action. He may be showing on loose reins and be strung out and lacking collection or be nervous and on the muscle causing a shortening or quickening of stride.

SW332.4.3 Poor Canter - This is a horse with an average motion, exhibiting negative characteristics in his performance. For example, this horse may have an average canter but be lacking in expression or lack consistency in his top line.

SHW332.4.4 Correct Or Average Canter - This horse has a true three beat gait with a level top line, and a comfortable motion. This is the standard canter and a horse **MUST** have a true three beat gait to be considered "average" or any of the levels higher than "average". He is shown on light contact and is responsive to his rider and has a relaxed appearance with a pleasant expression.

SHW332.4.5 Good Canter - This is a horse with an average motion, exhibiting positive characteristics in his performance. For example, this may be a horse with an average canter gait but has great expression, consistency and lovely manners.

SHW332.4.6 Very Good Canter - This is a horse that has more style, drive, impulsion and suspension than the average horse. He has a strong but smooth drive from behind. He may bend his knee a little or not have quite the length of stride of the excellent horse, yet he still has a level top line and relaxed appearance, is correct and appears to be comfortable to ride. He has a pleasant expression and is responsive to his rider and shown with light bit contact.

SHW332.4.7 Excellent Canter - This is a horse that utilizes his top line by rounding his back, engaging his hindquarters to drive his hind legs deep underneath him creating impulsion and suspension in his motion. He has a strong, deep, forward stride behind and an equally forward, flat-kneed reach with his front legs. He appears effortless and totally in control of his motion with great self carriage. He creates energy yet stays soft and responsive to his rider. His weight is distributed properly onto his hindquarters and he moves with long, slow strides. He gives the appearance that, if asked, he could easily lengthen his stride and correctly perform a hand gallop. This horse has a great degree of suspension, impulsion and elasticity to his movement. He has great expression with ears forward and is consistent, relaxed and confident with light bit contact.

SHW332.4.8 Hand Gallop - should be a definite lengthening of stride with noticeable difference in speed. Horses should be under control at all times and be able to pull-up (not a sliding stop). If asked to pull-up, after the halt, riders must relax the reins and the horse must stand quietly.

SHW333. GAITS - PLEASURE DRIVING. The following ter-

minology shall apply:

SHW333.1 Walk - a natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait. Loss of forward rhythmic movement shall be penalized.

SHW333.2 Park gait - a forward, free-flowing, square trot with impulsion. Loss of forward, rhythmic movement or jogging shall be penalized.

SHW333.3 Road gait - an extended trot showing a definite lengthening of stride, with a noticeable difference in speed. Short, quick, animated strides and/or excessive speed shall be penalized.

SHW334 GAITS-RANCH PLEASURE. In all gaits, movement of the ranch pleasure horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse. The following terminology shall apply:

SHW334.1 Walk-The walk is a natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. The gait is rhythmic and ground-covering. As in all gaits, the horse should display a level, or slightly above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

SHW334.2 Trot- The trot is a natural two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.

SHW334.3 Extended Trot- The extended trot is an obvious lengthening of the stride with a definite increase in pace. The horse should be moving in a manner as if it were covering a large area on a ranch with an above level topline.

SHW334.4 Lope- The lope is a three-beat gait The lope should be relaxed and smooth with a natural, forward moving stride.

SHW334.5 Extended Lope- The extended lope is not a run or a race but should be an obvious lengthening of the stride, demonstrating a forward, working speed. The horse should display an above level topline with a bright, attentive expression.

SHW350. HALTER CLASSES. A halter class is defined as a class where the horse is judged based upon its conformation. The purpose of the class is to preserve American Quarter Horse type by selecting well-mannered individuals in the order of their resemblance to the breed ideal and that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement with appropriate breed and sex characteristics and adequate muscling.

SHW350.1 The ideal American Quarter Horse shown at halter is a horse that is generally considered to be solid in color and possesses the following characteristics: the horse should possess eye appeal that is the result of a harmonious blending of an attractive head; refined throat latch; well-proportioned, trim neck; long, sloping shoulder; deep heart girth; short back; strong loin and coupling; long hip and croup; and well-defined and muscular stifle, gaskin, forearm and chest. All stallions 2 years old and over shall have two visible testicles. These characteristics should be coupled with straight and structurally correct legs and feet that are free of blemishes. The horse should be a balanced athlete that is muscled uniformly throughout.

SHW350.2 All horses whose registration certificates are marked with a parrot mouth notation per registration rules, cryptorchid notation per registration rules or excessive white notation per registration rules are ineligible to compete in halter classes.

SHW350.3 One of the most important criteria in selecting a horse is conformation, or its physical appearance. While it could be assumed that most horses with several years' seasoning and past performance have acceptable conformation, the goal in selection should always be to find the best conformed horse possible.

SHW350.4 Rating conformation depends upon objective evaluation of the following four traits: balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics, and degree of muscling. Of the four, balance is the single most important, and refers to the structural and aesthetic blending of body parts. Balance is influenced almost entirely by skeletal structure.

SHW351. GROUP HALTER CLASSES. Horses shown in a group class must be eligible to show in their individual halter class. The following classes are recommended if interest or entries justify them, but no points will be awarded for Register of Merit or Championship:

SHW351.1 Produce of Dam: Two produce, 4 years old and younger of either sex, per dam, may be shown. The dam need not be shown. The entry at the show must be made by the owner of the dam or by someone with written permission from the owner of the dam, but it is unnecessary for the produce to be owned by the owner of the dam.

SHW351.2 Get of Sire: Three get, 4 years old and younger of either sex, per sire, may be shown. The sire need not be shown. The entry at the show must be made by the owner of the sire or by someone with written permission from the owner of the sire, but it is unnecessary for the get to be owned by the owner of the sire.

SHW351.3 Broodmares. Mares that have produced and carried a full-term foal in the current year or the previous year. Mares may be any age. Mares shown in the broodmare class are not eligible to compete in any filly or mare class, nor is any mare shown in any filly or mare class eligible to compete in a broodmare class.

SHW355. Halter Equipment

SHW355.1 For purposes of this rule, the term “allowed lip chain” shall only mean a lip chain that:

SHW355.1.1 has an unsecured keeper with at least two links of the chain outside of halter before attachment of keeper or leather part of lead shank.

SHW355.1.2 is applied only over gum and not through mouth; and

SHW355.1.3 with respect to the portion applied over the gum, is made up of chain links having a gauge of at least 4.0mm

SHW355.2 Stallions 1 year of age and older may be shown with an allowed lip chain in open and amateur divisions; mares and geldings 1 year of age and older may be shown in amateur and youth divisions with an allowed lip chain. All other types of chains that do not meet the definition of an allowed lip chain are prohibited.

SHW355.3 The following horses may not be shown with an allowed lip chain:

SHW355.3.1 weanlings;

SHW355.3.2 any horse shown in a Performance Halter class;

SHW355.3.3 any horse shown in a Versatility Ranch Horse conformation class.

SHW355.3.4 mares, geldings in open division

SHW355.4 Applying excessive pressure on or excessive jerking of an allowed lip chain is prohibited.

SHW360. PROCEDURE FOR JUDGING HALTER. Horses will walk to the judge one at a time. As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the right (left of the horse) to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed 50 feet (15 meters) away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and trot toward the left wall or fence of the arena. After trotting, horses will be lined up head

to tail for individual inspection by the judge. The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear.

SHW362.1 At single judged shows, the judge should line the horses to be placed in a head to tail order according to preference.

SHW362.2 A well-mannered horse is a horse that (1) is under control by the exhibitor while tracking and standing for inspection and (2) is reasonably still and flat-footed while standing for inspection.

SHW362.3 For purposes of this rule, the term “disruptive behavior” includes, but is not limited to rearing, striking, biting, or backing or falling into others.

SHW362.4 Judges should disqualify and excuse from the ring prior to final placing a horse that:

SHW362.4.1 exhibits disruptive behavior such that it or other horses are unable to be inspected by the judge;

SHW362.4.2 exhibits disruptive behavior such that the safety of it, the handler, an exhibitor, a judge or another horse is endangered;

SHW362.4.3 is not under the control of the exhibitor;

SHW362.4.4 becomes detached from the exhibitor;

SHW362.4.5 has fallen and is on its side with all four feet extended in the same direction;

SHW362.4.6 is observed with blood on its body, including, but not limited to, the nose, chin, mouth, tongue, or gums, regardless of cause;

SHW362.4.7 is lame.

SHW362.5 Rather than disqualify, a judge may choose to fault a horse that is exhibiting disruptive behavior so long as such disruptive behavior does not qualify as being any of the behaviors described immediately above in **SHW362.4.1-5**

SHW362.6 If a horse exhibits disruptive behavior described in SHW362.4.1-5 and causes other exhibitor(s) to lose their horse(s), only the initiating horse will be disqualified and excused. The decision of the judge(s) will be final.

SHW362.7 All stallions 2 years old and over shall be examined to confirm that they have two visible testicles. All mares and stallions shall be examined for parrot mouth. If examination reveals that a horse has parrot mouth or is cryptorchid, such horse should be excused from the ring prior to final placing by the judge regardless of whether the parrot mouth or cryptorchid condition is marked on the horse’s registration certificate.

SHW362.8 A horse may be exhibited in only one point-earning open division halter class.

SHW362.9 In no individual halter classes may horses from two sex divisions be exhibited in the same class.

SHW362.10 Spayed mares may be shown only in performance halter and versatility ranch horse conformation classes, and may not be shown in any other halter class and are not eligible for grand and reserve.

SHW365. PERFORMANCE HALTER. The performance halter class is required in the open, amateur and youth divisions when halter classes are offered. Only an all-age class will be held. Separate classes will be held for stallions, mares and geldings in the open and amateur divisions. Separate classes will be held for mares and geldings in the youth division.

SHW365.1 First and second place in the performance halter

class will be eligible for Grand and Reserve in each sex division. The number of entries in the performance halter class count toward the total for each sex division in determining points for Grand and Reserve. First place performance horse will be named Champion Performance Halter in classes with five or more entries.

SHW365.2 For purposes of this rule, the term “AQHA Performance Points” includes points earned in any class outlined in ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS other than halter and racing.

SHW365.3 The following horses are the only horses eligible to compete in the performance halter class:

SHW365.3.1 horses that have earned a Racing Register of Merit;

SHW365.3.2 horses that have earned a Performance Register of Merit prior to January 1, 2010; and

SHW365.3.3 horses that earn a Performance Register of Merit after January 1, 2010 so long as their record reflects that they have earned at least 5 or more AQHA Performance Points during their career in competitions other than Showmanship At Halter. i.e. A horse earns a Performance Register of Merit prior to January 1, 2010. The 10 points earned to achieve the Performance Register of Merit consist of 6 Showmanship at Halter points and 4 Western Pleasure points; the horse is eligible to compete in a performance halter class. i.e. a horse earns a Performance Register of Merit after January 1, 2010. The 10 points earned to achieve the Performance Register of Merit consist of 6 Showmanship at Halter points and 4 Western Pleasure points; the horse must earn one more AQHA Performance Point in a class other than Showmanship at Halter to be eligible to compete in a performance halter class.

SHW365.4 For purposes of this rule, a Register of Merit or AQHA Performance Point is considered “earned” only after the Register of Merit or AQHA Performance Point has been officially recorded in AQHA’s records.

SHW365.5 Proof that a horse meets the eligibility requirements specified above must be provided to show management.

SHW365.6 The Register of Merit applies to the horse. If the horse is transferred, the horse is eligible to compete in performance halter with the new owner so long as the horse meets the eligibility requirements specified above.

SHW365.7 A horse may not show in the age division halter class and the performance halter class at the same show in a particular division.

SHW369. GRAND AND RESERVE CHAMPION. When judging of all classes in a halter division has been completed, all first and second-place class winners of that sex division, with the exception of spayed mares, shall return to the ring, with first-place class winners in one line and second-place horses from each class in another line.

SHW369.1 It is mandatory that the judge select a Grand Champion and Reserve Champion in each sex division in open, youth and amateur divisions having three or more entries.

SHW369.2 The judge(s) shall select the Grand Champion stallion, mare or gelding from the first-place class winners in the respective sex division. If the first-place horse does not return for any reason, the second-place horse will move up to the first-place line and be considered for Grand and Reserve. The third-place horse cannot move up to second place in the class. All first-place

horses will retain points in their respective class.

SHW369.3 The ring steward shall take the second-place horse in the class from which the Grand Champion had been selected and place it in the line with the first-place class winners, to be judged equally for the title of Reserve Champion stallion, mare or gelding in the respective sex division.

SHW369.4 In amateur halter or youth competition, when an exhibitor has qualified two or more horses for Grand and Reserve Champion, only another amateur or youth may assist that exhibitor as long as the amateur or youth who originally qualified the horses leads one of the horses in that class. An amateur cannot lead a non-owned horse in the open division for Grand and/or Reserve Champion.

SHW370. SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER. Available only in the amateur and youth divisions, showmanship is designed to evaluate the exhibitor's ability to execute, in concert with a well groomed and conditioned horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position.

SHW370.I It is mandatory that the judge post any pattern(s) to be worked at least one hour prior to the commencement of the class; however, if the judge requires additional work of exhibitors for consideration of final placing, the finals pattern may be posted. Pattern(s) should be designed to test the showman's ability to effectively present a horse to the judge. All ties will be broken at the judge's discretion.

SHW371. CLASS PROCEDURES: All exhibitors may enter the ring and then work individually or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When exhibitors are worked individually from the gate, a working order is required. The following maneuvers are considered acceptable: lead the horse at a walk, jog, trot or extended trot, or back in a straight or curved line, or a combination of straight and curved lines; stop; and turn 90 (1/4), 180 (1/2), 270 (3/4), 360 (full turn) degrees or any combination or multiple of these turns. The pull turn is an unacceptable maneuver. The judge must have exhibitors set the horse up squarely for inspection sometime during the class.

SHW372. Showmanship whips (dressage whips etc.), war bridles or like devices or any type of wire or rope over a horse's head are not permitted for showmanship purposes.

SHW373. SCORING: Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to 100. One-half point increments are acceptable. Run content scores will be indicated as follows:

+ = Above Average

√ = Average

- = Below Average

An additional + (Excellent) or - (well below average) may be given.

SHW373.I FINAL SCORING shall be on a basis of 0-100, with an approximate breakdown as follows:

90-100 Excellent showmanship, including body position and presentation of horse. Completes pattern accurately, quickly, smoothly and precisely; demonstrates a high level of professionalism.

80-89 Very good performance in execution of the pattern as well as correct showmanship and presentation of horse. Excellent showman that commits a minor fault.

70-79 Good pattern execution and average showmanship;

lacking adequate style and professional presentation to merit elevating to the next scoring range. A very good showman that commits a minor fault or an excellent showman that commits a major fault.

60-69 Fair pattern that lacks quickness or precision. Horse with consistently unwilling attitude or handler with obvious position and/or presentation faults that prevents effective showmanship. A good showman that commits one minor fault in the performance of the pattern. An excellent showman that commits a major fault.

50-59 One major fault or multiple minor faults in the performance or presentation or position of exhibitor that precludes effective communication with the horse.

40-49 Severe fault, two or more major faults, or multiple minor faults in the performance or the execution of the pattern and demonstrates a lack of handling ability and knowledge of correct body position.

10-39 Exhibitor commits more than one severe fault or multiple major faults in performance or position but completes the class and avoids disqualification.

SHW374. Overall Presentation of Exhibitor and Horse. The exhibitor's overall poise, confidence, appearance and position throughout the class, and the physical appearance of the horse will be evaluated.

SHW375. Presentation and Position of Exhibitor. Appropriate western attire must be worn; clothes and person are to be neat and clean. The use of any type of artificial aid including, but not limited to lighters, hay, dirt, sharp pins, etc. will be considered a disqualification.

SHW375.1 Exhibitors should be poised, confident, courteous and genuinely sportsmanlike at all times, quickly recognizing and correcting faults in the positioning of the horse. The exhibitor should continue showing the horse until the class has been placed or they have been excused, unless otherwise instructed by the judge. The exhibitor should appear business-like, stand and move in a straight, natural and upright manner, and avoid excessive, unnatural or animated body positions.

SHW375.2 The exhibitor must lead on the horse's left side holding the lead shank in the right hand near the halter with the tail of the lead loosely coiled in the left hand unless requested by the judge to show the horse's teeth. It is preferable that the exhibitor's hand not be on the snap or chain portion of the lead continuously. The excess lead should never be tightly coiled, rolled or folded. When leading, the exhibitor should be positioned between the eye and the mid-point of the horse's neck, referred to as the leading position.

SHW375.3 Both arms should be bent at the elbow with the elbows held close to the exhibitor's side and the forearms held in a natural position. Height of the arms may vary depending on the size of the horse and exhibitor, but the arms should never be held straight out with the elbows locked.

SHW375.4 The position of the exhibitor when executing a turn to the right is the same as the leading position except that the exhibitor should turn and face toward the horse's head and have the horse move away from them to the right.

SHW375.5 When executing a back, the exhibitor should turn from the leading position to face toward the rear of the horse with the right hand extended in front of the exhibitor's chest still maintaining slight bend in the elbow and walk forward. The ideal position

is for the exhibitors left shoulder to be in alignment with the horse's left front leg.

SHW375.6 When setting the horse up for inspection, the exhibitor should stand angled toward the horse in a position between the horse's eye and muzzle, and should never leave the head of the horse. The exhibitor is required to use the Quarter Method when presenting the horse. The exhibitor should maintain a position that is safe for themselves and the judge. The position of the exhibitor should not obstruct the judge's view of the horse and should allow the exhibitor to maintain awareness of the judge's position at all times. The exhibitor should not crowd other exhibitors when setting up side-by-side or head-to-tail. When moving around the horse, the exhibitor should change sides in front of the horse with minimal steps and should assume the same position on the right side of the horse that they had on the left side.

SHW375.7 Leading, backing, turning and initiating the set-up should be performed from the left side of the horse. At no time should the exhibitor ever stand directly in front of the horse. The exhibitor should not touch the horse with their hands or feet, or visibly cue the horse by pointing their feet at the horse during the set-up.

SHW376. Presentation of Horse. The horse's body condition and overall fitness should be assessed. The hair coat should be clean, well-brushed and in good condition. The mane, tail, forelock and wither tuft may not contain ornaments (ribbons, bows, etc.), but may be braided or banded for English or Western. The length of mane and tail may vary, as long as they are neat, clean and free of tangles. The mane should be even in length or may be roached, but the forelock and tuft over the withers must be left. The bridle path, eyebrows, and long hair on the head and legs may be clipped, except where government regulations prohibit. Hooves should be properly trimmed and if shod, the shoes should fit correctly and clinches should be neat. Hooves must be clean and may be painted black or with hoof dressings, or shown naturally. Tack should fit properly and be neat, clean and in good repair.

SHW377. Performance. The exhibitor should perform the work accurately, precisely, smoothly, and with a reasonable amount of speed. Increasing speed of the work increases the degree of difficulty, however, accuracy and precision should not be sacrificed for speed. The horse should lead, stop, back, turn and set up willingly, briskly and readily with minimal visible or audible cueing. Severe disobedience will not result in a disqualification but should be penalized severely, and the exhibitor should not place above an exhibitor that completes the pattern correctly. Excessive schooling or training, willful abuse, loss of control of the horse by the exhibitor, failure to follow prescribed pattern, knocking over or working on the wrong side of the cones shall be cause for disqualification.

SHW377.1 The horse should be led directly to and away from the judge in a straight or curved line and track briskly and freely at the prescribed gait as instructed. The horse's head and neck should be straight and in line with the body.

SHW377.2 The stop should be straight, prompt, smooth and responsive with the horse's body remaining straight.

SHW377.3 The horse should back up readily with the head, neck and body aligned in a straight or curved line as instructed.

SHW377.4 On turns of greater than 90 degrees, the ideal turn consists of the horse pivoting on the right hind leg while stepping

across and in front of the right front leg with the left front leg. An exhibitor should not be penalized if their horse performs a pivot on the left hind leg, but an exhibitor whose horse performs the pivot correctly should receive more credit.

SHW377.5 A pull turn to the left is an unacceptable maneuver.

SHW377.6 The horse should be set up quickly with the feet squarely underneath the body. The exhibitor does not have to reset a horse that stops square.

SHW378. FAULTS. Faults can be classified as minor, major or severe. The judge will determine the appropriate classification of a fault based upon the degree and/or frequency of the infraction.

SHW378.1 Minor faults include:

Break of gait at walk or jog/trot for one stride

Sliding a pivot foot or lifting foot and replacing in same place

SHW378.2 Major faults include:

Not performing gait or not stopping within 10 feet of designated area

Break of gait at walk or jog/trot for more than one stride

Splitting the cone

Stepping out of or moving the hind end significantly during a pivot or turn

Failure to stay in set-up during presentation

Over/under turning 1/8 to 1/4 of designated turn

SHW378.3. Severe Faults (avoids disqualification but should be placed below other exhibitors that do not incur a severe fault) include:

Exhibitor is not in the required position during inspection

Exhibitor touching the horse or kicking or pointing their feet at the horse's feet during set up

Standing directly in front of the horse

Loss of lead shank or holding chain or two hands on shank.

Severe disobedience including rearing or pawing; horse kicking at other horses, exhibitors or judge; or horse continuously circling the exhibitor

SHW379. Disqualifications (should not be placed) include:

Loss of control of horse that endangers exhibitor, other horses or exhibitors, or judge including the horse escaping from the exhibitor

Failure of exhibitor to wear correct number in a visible manner
Willful abuse

Excessive schooling or training, or use of artificial aids

Knocking over the cone or going off pattern

Never performing specific gait

Over turning more than 1/2 turn of designated turn

SHW380. Rookie/Level I (Novice) Classes Only. Exhibitor's going off pattern, knocking over or on wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait, or overturning more than 1/4 turn than designated, shall not be disqualified, but must always place below exhibitors not incurring a disqualifying fault.