

## **FREEDOM REINS HORSE CLUB BYLAWS - 2023**

### **Article I. Name and purpose of the organization**

Freedom Reins Horse Club is a small, non-profit group who volunteers to hold horse shows and other equine events in the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Horse shows are held at the Baraga County Fairgrounds in Pelkie. We have organized to encourage and facilitate involvement with and garner interest in horses and various equine-related activities by people of all ages, experience levels, disciplines and incomes. We promote sportsmanship, healthy competition, and education as a way to challenge our members and participants to strive to do their best, and continue to progress in their horsemanship. We accomplish this by hosting horse shows, clinics, trail rides, tack swaps as well as other functions and fundraisers conducted in a non-judgmental friendly atmosphere.

### **Article II. Membership – Prior year statement deleted.**

1. Membership is open to any person of any age or gender who pays annual dues and abides by the regulations of Freedom Reins Horse Club.
2. Members in good standing who participate at a minimum of two-thirds of the shows in each class are eligible for year-end awards. You are not required to be a member to show, but only members will accumulate points.
3. Members are obligated to volunteer at Freedom Reins Horse Club events. Each paid membership (family, single, etc) is required to contribute 10 volunteer hours per year, or obtain 10 sponsorships or donations. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from year end awards.  
**Deleted - 12/05/2022.**
4. Membership begins on the date the membership fee is paid and is not retroactive.
5. The cost of a membership will be determined by the FRHC board of directors.
6. Family membership is limited to a spouse, significant other, and children under 18 residing in the same household 100% of the time. - **Deleted - January 9, 2023.**
6. Household membership includes any person residing in the household regardless of age or family affiliation. – **Added – January 9, 2023**
7. All monies collected from membership dues shall be used for year-end awards.
8. Board members must pay their dues on the day of or before the first club function of the year.
9. Membership can be revoked with a majority vote of the board.
10. Honorary memberships can be issued with a majority vote of the board.
11. All members are entitled to receive a copy of the rules.

### **Article III. Officers and Decision-making**

1. Officers will consist of: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Show Secretary.
  - a. The President will preside over all meetings and be responsible to organize events. The President shares access to the bank account with the Treasurer.
  - b. The Vice-President will act as President in the absence of the President. The Vice-President will manage club promotion and advertising, club news, fliers and also purchase year end awards

and ribbons.

- c. The Secretary will take meeting minutes, and maintain an accurate and up-to-date history of the club. The Secretary will also maintain copies of the Treasurer's report and bank statements from all meetings.
  - d. The Treasurer shall maintain all club financial records and turn in a Treasurer's report and bank statement to each officer and director at each meeting.
  - e. The Show Secretary shall keep membership and Coggins records, process show registrations, collect membership and show registration fees, prepare the show class entry ledger, maintain show results and member point totals (1-5-16).
2. Directors and officers are required to be present at all meetings. Failure to attend meetings can be cause for termination from the board or officer position. Directors and officers who miss more than 3 meetings may be removed from their position by a majority vote of the board. Other obligations include working at least half of Freedom Reins Horse Club events, helping to obtain sponsors, being involved in decision making and organizing, and any other day to day operation of the club aside from their delegated duties.
  3. Directors and officers are elected by a majority vote of current directors and officers. Unless running unopposed. (3-7-2018)
  4. Directors and officers will serve for one year.
  5. If no one challenges an officer, he or she may remain in office indefinitely. If there is one or more challenger for the same office, they must make their intent known at least 30 days before the Year-End Banquet. A vote will then be held at the banquet of the entire membership. If an officer resigns, interested parties in the position must notify the board within 14 days. If there is one interested party the remaining board shall vote. If two or more, the entire membership must vote. An election of the entire membership shall be held in a public place. Members will vote by secret ballot. A member may request an absentee ballot. The member shall sign and date the ballot and return it in a sealed envelope clearly marked "ballot" by mail or by hand to any current officer.
  6. Amendments to the bylaws are made by a majority vote of the board.

#### **Article IV. Amendment 3/17/2015 Reg: Article IV. Meetings.**

1. Meetings will take place on the first Wednesday of the month. These changes were adopted by majority vote at the March 17, 2015 meeting. Signed: Roberta Coppler-President, Laurie Hayes-Vice-President, Craig Kent-Secretary, Samantha Schneider, Show-Secretary – Replaced – 12/5/2022

#### **Article IV. Meetings.**

1. Meetings will take place on the first Monday of the month. Amended – 12/5/2022

#### **Article V. Purpose and Dissolution Clause. Amendment 3/17/2015**

1. The Freedom Reins Horse Club is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Upon the dissolution of the Freedom Reins Horse Club, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the

Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. These changes were adopted by majority vote at the March 17, 2015 meeting. Signed: Roberta Coppler-President, Laurie Hayes- Vice-President, Craig Kent-Secretary, Samantha Schneider, Show-Secretary

#### **Article VI. Liability**

1. Members of the Board of Directors shall not be personally liable to Freedom Reins Horse Club or its members for monetary damages for conduct as a member of the Board of Directors except for their liability (I) for acts of omissions which involve gross negligence or intentional misconduct, or a knowing violation of the law: (II) for any transaction from which the Board Member will personally receive a benefit in money, property or services to which the Board Member is not legally entitled.
2. Freedom Reins Horse Club shall have the power to fully indemnify, protect, defend and hold harmless any existing or former Board Member or agent for the Corporation for any action or inaction taken on behalf of Freedom Reins Horse Club
3. Under the Michigan Equine Activity Liability Act, an equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in an equine activity resulting from the inherent risk of the equine activity.
4. The club shall annually purchase liability insurance to cover spectators and participants in the events.

# Rules & Regulations

## **Membership – Prior year statement deleted.**

1. Membership is open to any persons paying annual dues and abiding by the regulations of the Freedom Reins Horse Club.
2. Members in good standing who participate at a minimum of two-thirds of the shows in each class are eligible for year-end awards. Participants wishing to accumulate points towards year-end awards must be Freedom Reins Members. Participants who are not paid members may show but cannot accumulate points. Point accumulation will be effective at the time that the contestant is a paid member; points are not retroactive.
3. Cost of member dues will be announced each year prior to the first show. Dues will be: \$15 single non-showing, \$25 single showing membership or \$25 for first household member - plus \$10 for the second - plus \$5 each thereafter. Family membership is limited to spouse, significant other, and children under 18 and their siblings residing in the same household 100% of the time. – Deleted – January 9, 2023. Household membership includes any person residing in the household regardless of age or family affiliation. – Added – January 9, 2023. Showing fee for each additional horse will be \$5 per horse.
4. All members (current and previous one year) who have provided an email address to the Club will receive a copy of the rules and the annual “e-packet” by email.

## **Points Accumulation – Member – Prior year statement deleted.**

5. Five places will be awarded in each class. Points on riders will be accumulated in the following manner:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place = 5 points
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 4 points
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place = 3 points
  - 4<sup>th</sup> place = 2 points
  - 5<sup>th</sup> place = 1 point
6. In case of a tie, the award will go to the horse/rider with the most first place points or the greatest number of higher placings, ie: most seconds, most thirds, etc. If all that is equal, two co-grand champion awards will be given, and no reserve champion will be awarded (2-2-16).

## **Points Accumulation - Horse– Prior year statement deleted.**

7. Points may be accrued on horses who are nominated. Any horse accumulating 100 points in any one division will receive a recognition award at the year-end awards banquet. 100 points earns a ROM (Register of Merit) award and 200 points earns a Superior Award, etc, see AQHA rules. Points may be earned under different riders and in different age divisions. Points will be awarded to the horse by divisions: Each 100-point level award value shall not exceed \$ 50.00. (3-7-2018)
  - 1) HALTER HORSE: All halter classes except Tiny-Tot.
  - 2) TRAIL HORSE: All trail classes except Tiny-Tot.
  - 3) KID’S HORSE: All Tiny-Tot classes including games.
  - 4) ENGLISH HORSE: All English pleasure, English walk-trot classes and all jumping classes including ground poles.

- 5) WESTERN HORSE: All Western Pleasure and Western walk-trot classes, including "AQHA" Ranch.
- 6) SPEED HORSE: (Barrels, Pole Bending, and Plug classes only) (3-1-16)
- 7) YOOPER HORSE: All Yooper Division classes

8. Once a horse acquires points, the points are recorded and for the life of that horse and will follow that horse upon new ownership. Horse must be owned by a Freedom Reins member during the time points are earned. Exhibitor need not be a member.

9. A Horse Nomination Form must be completed and fees paid each year in order to earn points; points are not retroactive. Points are based on the number of horses in the class (See Points Table). An initial nomination fee of \$10 per horse must be paid before the first show or before points will accrue. Each year thereafter, a \$5 nomination fee applies.

#### POINTS TABLE FOR 100 POINT AWARD ON HORSES:

(Across = number of horses in class, down = placing)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1st	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
2nd	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3rd	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
4th	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5th	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

#### **Year-End Awards – Prior year statement deleted.**

10. All money collected from membership dues will be used for year-end awards.

11. Year-end awards will be earned according to Grand and Reserve Champion in each class for the pleasure and game shows.

12. Each Grand is worth 2 points and each Reserve is worth 1 point.

13. Grand and Reserve points will be totaled and then divided into the total of the membership dues so that a dollar amount may be applied to each Grand and each Reserve. The quality and cost of the awards will be based on the dollar amount there is to spend.

14. If the club can afford to, the board may take money from the general fund and add to the membership account in order to increase the dollar amount to spend.

15. Each horse and rider combination is eligible for year-end awards. One owner showing multiple horses who earn year end awards will receive one award each, unless the owner prefers to combine the money for one award. (3-7-2018)

16. There will be a Game Show High Point award, and a Pleasure Show High Point award. For High Point awards, only points from one horse/rider combination will count.

17. In case of a tie for Grand Champion, the award will go to the horse/rider with the most first place points or the greatest number of higher placings, ie: most seconds, most thirds, etc. If all that is equal, two co-grand champion awards will be given, and no reserve champion will be awarded (2-2-16).

18. Freedom Reins Horse Club has created the following Awards to reward its members for upholding the goals of our organization. We have organized various equine-related activities to promote sportsmanship, healthy competition, and education as a way to challenge our members and participants to strive to do their best, and continue to progress in their

horsemanship. To honor outstanding members the Board of Directors may select members for the following Awards:

**Try Award** – Awarded to a member that has pursued their goals of improving their horsemanship. Regardless of set-backs and all of the obstacles life throws in one's way, the recipient continued on with perseverance.

**Good Horsemanship Award**- Awarded to a member that showcased sensitivity to the horse's well-being by listening to and rewarding the horse for trying. The recipient clearly was riding to better the horse's experience in and out of the show ring.

**Camaraderie Award** - Awarded to a member who is a champion of sportsmanship during competition and who fosters support, mutual trust and friendship among their fellow members.

**Outstanding Volunteer Award** – Awarded to a member that has gone above and beyond in an effort to support FRHC with their time and talent.

### **Safety**

19. The primary responsibility for the safety of the exhibitor rests with the exhibitor and parent, legal guardian or Instructor. A judge or at least two board members may excuse any unsafe equipment or any unruly horse from competition.

20. No one under the age of 18 shall work the gates at the shows or events.

21. Protective headgear and boots– All riders must wear boots with a heel. All participants in all English and Jumping classes, and participants under age 18 in Game/Speed classes, are required to wear properly secured protective riding helmets when in their classes. The exhibitor (or his or her parent, legal guardian, or instructor/trainer if the exhibitor is a minor) – not the show officials or judge – is solely responsible for complying with the headgear and boot rule. In other words, helmets and boots are required, if you chose not to wear them; you do so at your own risk.

22. There will be no discrimination against protective headgear, even if the style does not match the style of riding.

23. In all Western, English and Gymkhana classes, tying or securing the rider or any part of the rider in the saddle or to any other equipment is unsafe. Such action will disqualify the rider.

24. Horses may be excused from the ring or the grounds when obviously out of the rider or handlers' control, or anytime the animal is deemed a danger to other participants, at the discretion of the judge or at least two board members.

### **Liability**

25. Under the MICHIGAN EQUINE ACTIVITY LIABILITY ACT, an equine professional is not liable for injury to or the death of a participant in an equine activity resulting from an inherent risk of the equine activity. All persons exhibiting or attending Freedom Reins events do so at their own risk.

The club shall annually purchase liability insurance to cover spectators and participants in the events.

### **Photographs and Media**

26. Pictures are randomly taken at shows and may be presented to the L'Anse Sentinel and possibly posted on internet sites, such as, but not limited to, the Freedom Reins website, Upper Michigan Horses and Facebook. Anyone wishing not to be in pictures or in the media should make this known to any board member. Otherwise, by attending these events, consent to take and use pictures is assumed.

### **Equipment Breakdowns, Animal Lameness & Falls**

27. Judges will examine and check all horses brought into any class for lameness. Obvious lameness shall be cause for disqualification at the discretion of the judge or two board members. Obvious lameness is: consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances, marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride and/or minimal weight-bearing in motion or at rest; inability to move.
28. If tack or equipment breaks or a horse loses a shoe and the exhibitor cannot safely complete the class or course, he or she may be disqualified. However, if the exhibitor is able to continue the course despite the difficulty and without cruelty to the horse and without causing a safety hazard, the exhibitor may continue and complete the class or course.
29. A competitor is considered to have fallen when he or she is separated from the horse in such a way as to necessitate remounting.
30. Any fall from the horse will result in a disqualification.

### **Sportsmanship, Fair Play & Humane Treatment of Animals**

31. Good sportsmanship is to be displayed at all times by all exhibitors, their families and spectators. Good sportsmanship is defined as respectful treatment of judges, show management, other competitors, and all horses involved. In addition, respect for the tradition of the sport and spirit of showing horses is paramount. Any individual not displaying good sportsmanship may be disqualified or excused from the event at the discretion of the judge or at least two board members.
32. Overt/excessive coaching from outside the arena will be penalized at the judge's discretion.
33. No person on the show grounds may treat a horse in an inhumane manner. The show grounds include, but are not limited to, the barns, stalls, practice areas and show arenas. When a report or discovery of inhumane treatment is made, show management will investigate the incident. The standard for measuring conduct or treatment is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training procedures, would determine to be cruel, abusive and inhumane. Abuse or inhumane treatment may be grounds for warning, disqualification, or being excused from the ring or the grounds, depending upon the severity. This will be determined by the judge and/or at least two board members.
34. Exhibited animals should not be excessively thin or fat but should demonstrate a Body Condition Score of 4 or greater, as determined by the Henneke Body Condition Scoring System. For more information on Body Condition Scoring visit [www.extension.org/horse](http://www.extension.org/horse) and search on "horse body condition scoring."
35. Excessively thin or sickly horses may be asked to leave the ring or the grounds and may be disqualified at the discretion of the judge and or at least two board members.
36. All equine-related state laws are to be followed at Freedom Reins events, and it is the responsibility of the exhibitor, parent or legal guardian or instructor to be aware of these.

### **Pleasure Show Divisions**

37. Divisions will be adjusted only as necessary, based upon the current membership and anticipated numbers so as to have fair and evenly spaced competition and in order to have all classes as evenly filled as possible, but any changes in age divisions will be made prior to packet distribution and will remain final for that year.
38. Open Show Divisions-
- Tiny-Tot: age 10 & under

- Age 3-13
- Age 14-18
- Age 19 & Over
- Walk/Trot: any age
- Open: any age.

39. To qualify for Novice classes, a rider must genuinely be a beginner, lack experience in that class, and have not yet received a year-end award in that class.

#### **Game Show Divisions-**

40. Tiny-Tot: 10 & under, Half-Arena. If you prefer to use the whole arena, you may show in the Youth Division instead.

- Walk-Trot
- Walk
- Leadline

41. Tiny-Tots may show above their level as they wish, in order to improve, without penalty. ie: a Leadliner may come off the leadline at times without penalty, a Walker may trot a few strides, a Trotter may canter a few strides.

42. If someone is obviously showing well below their level (a Walk-Trotter who is cantering well, safely, consistently and is getting exceptionally good times compared to other Walk-Trotters, should move up to Youth classes)

43. Open:

- Youth 13 & under (cantering well)
- Junior 14-19
- Senior 20 and over

#### **Proper Tack and Equipment**

44. The use of proper and appropriate tack and equipment for both the age of the horse and the style of riding are essential in teaching our beginner riders and young children proper show etiquette and proper horsemanship. Riders using the wrong style of tack for the style of riding or the wrong bit for the age of the horse, etc. may be placed lower or DQ'd at the judge's discretion (with the exception of Yooper Classes).

45. There will be no discrimination against work tack. If the performance is otherwise equal, silver or expensive show tack will not be placed above clean and proper work tack in good repair, in any class.

#### **General & Michigan 4-H Rules Statement**

It is strongly recommended that all exhibitors, family members and instructors familiarize themselves with the Michigan 4-H Rules. Although Freedom Reins has its own set of specific rules, the Michigan 4-H Horse & Pony Project Show Rules and Regulations has a lot to offer in the way of education and the proper ways of showing horses and judges will be looking for these things when placing classes. The current MI 4-H Horse & Pony Project Handbook can be found at:

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/michigan\\_4\\_h\\_horse\\_pony\\_project\\_show\\_rules\\_regulations](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/resources/michigan_4_h_horse_pony_project_show_rules_regulations)



46. If a situation arises that is not covered specifically by these rules, a decision will be made by the judge and/ or at least two board members. Other associations' rules may be referred to as a guide. These Associations include: AQHA (American Quarter Horse Association), APHA (American Paint Horse Association), AHA (Arabian Horse Association) and The Jockey Club. Other local Clubs' rules may also be taken into consideration, including TTRC (Timber Trails Riding Club) and UPHA (Upper Peninsula Horseman's Association).
47. A judge may only judge one point show every other year, unless circumstances arise in which there is no other option.
48. Any rule changes will be made prior to annual e-packet distribution (Jan-March) and will remain final for the entire year.
49. A current negative Coggins and Interstate Health Certificate (if out-of-State) are required for all horses on grounds. Copy of current negative Coggins required at time of registration for membership or at the first show. Original Coggins should be available on show day. Non-members must present a copy before unloading horse on grounds.
50. January 1st after the foaling year, the horse is considered one year old.
51. Handlers of stallions over age 2 must be 18 years of age or older.
52. In case of a non-sufficient funds check, participant will be given one week from the date on the check to resolve the problem. A \$10 service charge will be added to the bill with every unsuccessful attempt to cash it. If after two weeks the check still has not cleared, accumulated points will be dropped and participant will not be allowed to enter another show until past balance is paid in full. Weekly attempts to cash check will continue indefinitely with the \$10 charge being added each time.
53. Gaming Classes: A three (3) second penalty will be given for knocking over an obstacle. Rider will be disqualified for a break in pattern.

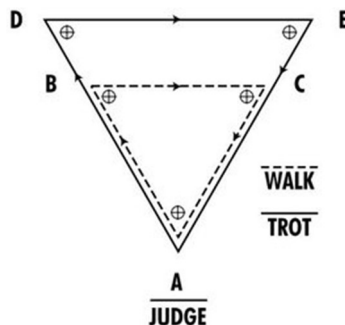
## CLASS DESCRIPTIONS:

### HALTER

Halter class is defined as a class where the horse is judged based on its conformation. One of the most important criteria in selecting a horse is conformation or its physical appearance. 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. The Judge should know breed characteristics and standards and places the horse highest who most closely meets its own breed standard.

**Hunter in Hand** - The horse is initially judged in the "open" position, which means all four legs are viewable when set up for inspection. Judged 60% on movement, 30% on conformation, 10% on temperament, the horse is then asked to first perform a ground covering walk around the smaller triangle -see illustration below. Once complete they swiftly and without hesitation move into an open trot that showcases their movement. Horses are expected to move around the triangle with ease, comfort and a quiet relaxed and natural headset suitable for their body type.

Handlers should wear a conservative collared polo, or collared button up shirt tucked into dress pants or khakis-belts must be simple without western flair. Running shoes are suggested, use of a crop is accepted and can be beneficial for horses who may be lazy.



**3 & Under, Mares 4 & Up, Geldings & Stallions 4 & Up** – Self explanatory.

**Yoooper Halter** - Same as general description. This is a "Working Horse" class and the horse should not be presented as in the "regular" halter classes. Horse should be shown in "natural form" without excessive trimming. Trimming of the bridle path, fetlocks and excess facial hair is allowed. Hoof polish, tail extensions and the like are prohibited. Exhibitor should not be in show clothing. Clean, very basic/modest Western or English attire and western hats or helmets are acceptable, but should NOT be regular show clothing. Horse may be shown in any western type of tack, leather, rope or nylon. Silver trim and bling is prohibited. Bits should be proper for the horses age. Snaffle bits and bosals, as well as riding with two hands are allowed for horses 4 years of age and younger. Horses 5 years of age and older must be shown in a shanked bit, and ridden with one hand. Horses shown in Yoooper classes can cross enter into Open, Walk-Trot or Age Division classes.

**Color Breed Halter** - Open only to color breed horses (those with a color registry: Buckskin, Dun, Paint, Pinto, Appaloosa, Palomino, etc). Judged on conformation as above, condition, and also on color. The Judge will decide if the horse is eligible for color class if there is a discrepancy.

**Non-Color Breed Halter** - Open to any color or breed that is NOT eligible in Color Breed Halter.

**Stock Breed Halter-(Western Type)** - Open only to stock-type breeds. Stock breeds include: QH, Paint, Appaloosa, Mustang, etc.

**\*\*Horses with appropriate Appendix registration and grade horses may be shown in English or Stock at owner's discretion**

**Pony & Mini Halter** - Open to ponies (under 14.2 hands) and miniature horses.

## **SHOWMANSHIP**

Showmanship class shall be judged strictly on the exhibitors' ability to fit and show a horse at halter. The horse is merely a prop to demonstrate the ability and preparation of the exhibitor. The ideal showmanship performance consists of a poised, confident, neatly attired exhibitor leading a well groomed and conditioned horse that quickly and efficiently performs the requested pattern. A pattern is required and can be posted or kept simple by explaining pattern when class enters ring. The showmanship class is not another halter class and should not be judged as such. Tiny Tot exhibitors may have an adult or helper enter the ring with them and may be given minimal assistance as necessary to safely complete the class, but the adult may not excessively coach them through the class. Tiny Tot exhibitors may not be asked to trot but may trot if exhibitor is able. Judging will not be based on whether or not exhibitor trotted

## **TRAIL**

This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles. Must move on to the next obstacle after three refusals.

**In Hand Trail** - Same as Trail, except horse is led over various obstacles according to pattern

**Tiny Tot Leadline Trail** - Entries will be age appropriate. Horse will have bridle with reins held by the rider, a halter over the bridle with lead line attached or a leadline attached to the bridle bit, held by a responsible person. Entries will be judged individually on their ability to independently maneuver through various obstacles, according to the pattern.

**Tiny Tot Walk Trail** - Same as Leadline Trail except there will be no lead shank attached and no handler. Entries will maneuver through various obstacles at the walk, according to the pattern.

**Tiny Tot Walk / Trot Trail** - Same as Walk Trail, but entries will maneuver through various obstacles at both the walk and trot, according to the pattern.

**Yooper Ranch Trail** - This is a "Working Horse" class and is designed to show your horse's willingness to perform several tasks that might be asked of him during the course of a normal work day on the ranch. The class consists of 7 obstacles and the three gaits of walk, trot and lope. Horse should be shown in "natural form" without excessive trimming. Trimming of the bridle path, fetlocks and excess facial hair is allowed. Hoof polish, tail extensions and the like

are prohibited. Exhibitor should not be in show clothing. Clean, very basic/modest Western or English attire and western hats or helmets are acceptable, but should NOT be regular show clothing. Horse may be shown in any western type of tack, leather, rope or nylon. Silver trim and bling is prohibited. Bits should be proper for the horses age. Snaffle bits and bosals, as well as riding with two hands are allowed for horses 4 years of age and younger. Horses 5 years of age and older must be shown in a shanked bit, and ridden with one hand. Horses shown in Yooper classes can cross enter into Open, Walk-Trot or Age Division classes.

**Trail Walk Trot** - same as basic trail except no cantering.

## **TINY TOT CLASSES**

**Leadline 10 & Under** - Entries will be age appropriate. The horse must have a bridle, with reins held by rider, a halter over the bridle with lead line attached or a leadline attached to the bridle bit, held by a responsible person. Entries will be judged in a group on the rail going in both directions and will be asked to back the horse. The judge may ask the exhibitor simple questions. Exhibitor should demonstrate independence as much as possible, showing ability to direct and cue the horse without assistance from the handler. May ride English or Western. Appropriate attire and tack, including appropriate bit for age of horse and type of riding, one or two hands on the reins, etc. should be used. (See description under Western or English Pleasure).

**Tiny Tot Walk** - Entries will be age appropriate. Entries will be judged in a group on the rail going in both directions and will be asked to back the horse. The judge may ask simple questions. Exhibitors may have an adult or helper enter the ring with them and may be given minimal assistance as necessary to safely complete the class, but the adult may not excessively coach them through the class. Judging typically will be 50% on horse, 50% on rider. May ride English or Western. Appropriate attire and tack, including appropriate bit for age of horse and type of riding, one or two hands on the reins, etc. should be used. (See description under Western or English Pleasure).

**Tiny Tot Walk Trot** - Same as Tiny Tot Walk except riders will walk and trot in both directions.

## **ENGLISH & JUMPING**

**English Equipment** – English bridle with English appropriate bit. Horse is ridden two handed (with a rein in each hand). Saddle is any English type, without a horn. Rider wears a hunt coat, breeches, high English or Paddock boots and hard hat or helmet. Tie or choker is required. Gloves, spurs of the un-roweled type and crops or bats are optional. Hair should be neat and contained as in a net or tied up braid.

**ENGLISH PLEASURE** - (Includes Saddle seat, HUS, etc)

These horses should reach forward with ease and smoothness, be able to lengthen stride and cover ground with relaxed, free flowing movement, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gaits is a major consideration. Horses should be obedient, have a bright expression with alert ears and should respond willingly to the rider with light leg and hand contact. The horse should be under control at all times and be able to halt in a smooth, balanced manner. Entries will be judged in a group on the rail going in both directions at the walk, trot, and canter, and will also be asked to back the horse.

**Green Horse English Pleasure** - open to green horses only, no age limit.

**English Pleasure Walk Trot** - same as English Pleasure except no cantering.

## **ENGLISH EQUITATION**

English Equitation is an evaluation based on the ability of a rider to perform various maneuvers in harmony with his/her horse. The communication between horse and rider should be subtle. Equitation is judged on the rider and his/her effect on the horse and the rider's seat and position. Usually a pattern is posted however the Judge may just explain a simple pattern. Entries will be judged individually according to a posted or stated pattern and may also be asked to demonstrate rail work at the walk, trot, and canter

**English Equitation Walk Trot** - Same as English Equitation except no cantering.

**Low Jumper (Cross Rails)** - Judged as horse rider combination- 50/50, fences will not exceed 2.5 feet, may or may not include a change of direction. Height of fences will be determined by directors with consideration of exhibitors' experience and ability. Circling once upon entering the ring is permissible. Elimination will be by three refusals, break in pattern, jumping obstacle before it's reset, or fall from the horse

**Hunter Over Fences** - A hunter course shall be any course that directors deem a fair test of a hunter. One practice jump is allowed at the request of exhibitors immediately prior to the class. Horse will navigate obstacles according to the posted course, with at least one change of direction. Height of fences will be determined by directors with consideration of exhibitors' experience and ability. Circling once upon entering the ring is permissible. Elimination will be by three refusals break in pattern, jumping obstacle before its reset, or fall from the horse.

**Handy Hunter** - Horse must maintain an even forward movement over fences. At least one change of direction must trot over one fence.

## **WESTERN**

**Western Equipment** - Horses aged 5 & under may be shown two handed in a shankless bit, bosal, or a shanked bit. Horses aged 6 & over must be ridden one handed in a shanked bit. The saddle is Western, with a horn and skirts. Silver is optional and will not take precedence over working tack in clean condition and good repair. Western clothing consists of pants (slacks, trousers or jeans) for both men and women, a long sleeved and collared shirt for men, and a slinky and vest or jacket, or long sleeved and collared shirts for women. Western hat and boots. Spurs, chaps and ties are optional.

## **WESTERN PLEASURE**

Contestants, compete simultaneously, traveling the perimeter of the arena, and at the discretion of the judge, are asked to walk, jog, lope and reverse the direction of the horse. Horses are evaluated on quality of movement while staying quiet and calm, traveling on a loose rein. Horses will exhibit a natural head carriage and natural forward movement. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gaits is a major consideration. Horses should be obedient, have a bright expression with alert ears and should respond willingly to the rider with light leg and hand contact. The horse should be under control at all times and be able to halt in a smooth, balanced manner.

**Yoooper Ranch Pleasure** - This class is designed to showcase the movement and versatility of ranch style horses. It will be an open, individually worked, scored class, similar to the ranch riding class in versatility ranch horse competition. The horses should not perform the gaits as they do in traditional western pleasure classes. Horse should be shown in "natural form"

without excessive trimming. Trimming of the bridle path, fetlocks and excess facial hair is allowed. Hoof polish, tail extensions and the like are prohibited. Exhibitor should not be in show clothing. Clean, very basic/modest Western or English attire and western hats or helmets are acceptable, but should NOT be regular show clothing. Horse may be shown in any western type of tack, leather, rope or nylon. Silver trim and bling is prohibited. Bits should be proper for the horse's age. Snaffle bits and bosals, as well as riding with two hands are allowed for horses 4 years of age and younger. Horses 5 years of age and older must be shown in a shanked bit, and ridden with one hand. Horses shown in Yooper classes can cross enter into Open, Walk-Trot or Age Division classes.

**Green Horse Western Pleasure** - open to green horses only, no age limit.

**Western Pleasure Walk Trot** - same as Western Pleasure except no lope.

**WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP** - Western Horsemanship is an evaluation based on the ability of a rider to perform various maneuvers in harmony with his/her horse. The communication between horse and rider should be subtle. Horsemanship is judged on the rider and his/her effect on the horse and the rider's seat and position. Usually a pattern is posted however the Judge may just explain a simple pattern. Entries will be judged individually according to a posted or stated pattern and may also be asked to demonstrate rail work at the walk, jog, and lope.

**Western Horsemanship Walk Trot** - same as Western Horsemanship except no lope.

**Yooper Ranch Riding** - Yooper Ranch Riding is a patterned class. Patterns may call for the riders to walk, trot or extend the trot over logs, spin, side-pass, back, and change leads on the fly or using a simple change. Simple changes are to be completed in three steps or less the horse will perform all these maneuvers willingly and smoothly, responding to softly to cues and working efficiently, as if on a ranch. Judges are looking for the smooth execution of transitions between gaits, correct leads and maintaining the correct gait between maneuvers In Ranch Riding. Riders may hold on to the saddle horn to show the extended trot and they may post or stand for this gait. Horse should be shown in "natural form" without excessive trimming. Trimming of the bridle path, fetlocks and excess facial hair is allowed. Hoof polish, tail extensions and the like are prohibited. Exhibitor should not be in show clothing. Clean, very basic/modest Western or English attire and western hats or helmets are acceptable, but should NOT be regular show clothing. Horse may be shown in any western type of tack, leather, rope or nylon. Silver trim and bling is prohibited. Bits should be proper for the horse's age. Snaffle bits and bosals, as well as riding with two hands are allowed for horses 4 years of age and younger. Horses 5 years of age and older must be shown in a shanked bit, and ridden with one hand. Horses shown in Yooper classes can cross enter into Open, Walk-Trot or Age Division classes.

**Western Riding** - This event is scored on a basis of 0 to 100, with 70 as an average performance. The western riding class is one of flying lead changes. It is a combination of control and skills, mixing techniques from trail, reining, and equitation. The horse is judged on his ability to change leads precisely, easily and simultaneously, using both hind and front legs. Following one of four patterns consisting of a log and a series of pylons, the horse and rider must change gaits – from a walk to a jog or a lope – throughout the course. Reward is given to the horse that changes fluidly and precisely between the middle of the pylons within the pattern

**Bareback Disciplined Rail** - Exhibitors must ride bareback. All horses enter the ring, on the rail. The judge controls the class. He may ask for a walk, jog/trot, canter/lope, turns on the forehand

or haunches, side pass off and then go back to the rail for more maneuvers, back and reverse direction. The reverse direction can be at a walk or jog/trot. He can stop the class on the rail and one at a time depart in a canter/lope or counter canter to a point then simple or flying lead change to the correct lead. The horse/rider combination who completes the judge's instructions to the highest quality will win the class.