

HALTER CLASSES

(A) A halter class is defined as a class where the horse is judged based upon its conformation.

(B) The purpose of the class is to preserve the specific breed type by selecting well-mannered individuals in the order of their resemblance to their breed ideal and that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement with appropriate breed and sex characteristics and adequate muscling.

(C) The ideal horse shown at halter is a horse that is generally possess eye appeal and most closely resembles the represented breed standard. All stallions 2 years old and over shall have two visible testicles.

The horse should be a balanced athlete that is muscled uniformly throughout.

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(D) HALTER EQUIPMENT

(1) Stallions 1 year of age and older may not be shown with any chain through the mouth with the sole exception that they may be shown with lip chains with unsecured keepers so long as at least two links of the chain remain outside of halter before attachment of keeper or leather part of lead shank.

(E) PROCEDURE FOR JUDGING THE CLASS:

(1) 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.

(a) Any horse that becomes detached from its handler and is no longer under control by the handler will automatically be disqualified and excused. If the initial horse exhibiting poor mannerisms

(i.e. rearing, backing or falling into others, etc.) 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.

(b) The fall of a horse being judged in halter shall be cause for disqualification. A horse is considered having fallen when he or she is on their side with all four feet extended in the same direction.

(2) All lame horses should be excused from the ring prior to final placing by the judge. All stallions 2 years old and over shall be examined to confirm that they have two visible testicles. The judge should line the horses to be placed in a head to tail order according to preference.