

WSCA Futurity Guidelines



Equipment Checks

All exhibitors must allow their equipment and/or horse to be examined by the Judge. This includes, but is not limited to the use of the bit gauge, magnet or other equipment. At the judge's discretion, exhibitors may be requested to drop the headstall for the bit/bosal inspection. In the interest of safety when doing an equipment check of dropping the headstall/bridle, participants will be asked to "dismount" from the horse when the headstall/bridle is dropped.

Class Refunds & Payouts

Please note that all entries fees are non-refundable. Payouts will be made in the name of the person entering the horse.

General

Credit is to be given to the horse that, under light control and without intimidation, goes softly and quietly while correctly performing the required gaits. The overall picture of a good mover is a horse that goes forward with comfort, self carriage, confidence and willingness, a fluid stride with a full extension of the limbs, and a head and neck carriage that is naturally comfortable and compatible with the horses' conformation. Transitions will be smooth, without interruption of forward motion. The horse will exhibit a pleasant look, with clear, bright eyes and a willing attitude.

In all Halter and Longe Line classes a regular or show halter that is made of flat nylon or leather with a minimum width of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch must be used. Silver adornment will not count over a good working halter. During warm-up period, horses must be ridden with the same equipment required in the event.

Longe Line

The purpose of showing a yearling on a longe line is to demonstrate that the horse has the movement, manners/expression/attitude, and conformation to become competitive under saddle. Therefore, the purpose of this class is to reward:

- a) Quality of Movement,
- b) Manners/Expression/Attitude,
- c) Conformation suitable to future performance and the horse should be judged with its suitability as a

future performer under saddle in mind. This class should define what it means to be a "Western Pleasure prospect" or "Hunter Under Saddle prospect." Because these are yearlings, they are not expected to demonstrate the behavior or quality of a finished show horse, but only that performance necessary for a reasonable presentation to the judge.

Class Format

The class will consist of two parts:

- 1) a longeing demonstration lasting one and one-half minutes (90 seconds)
- 2) a conformation inspection.

a. Show Management is required to provide a 5-minute warm-up period for all exhibitors.

b. The conformation inspection will occur prior to the longeing demonstration. Each entry will be walked into the arena to the judge and pause for evaluation individually. They will then trot off straight and around a cone and take a place on the rail at the direction of the show official. All entries will be inspected in this fashion and as the "trot-off" is administered, horse showing evidence of lameness should be excused from the class at that time.

c. The longeing demonstration will begin at the sound of a whistle or other audible indicator. When the "begin" signal is given, the exhibitor will be allowed 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes (90 seconds) to present the horse at all three gaits in both directions. At the end of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, the signal will be given to signify the end of the demonstration. Show management has the option of adding a "half-way" signal if they choose.

Equipment

Horses are to be shown in a halter as described in under Equipment rules. Either a regular or show type halter is acceptable.

a) For the longeing demonstration, the only attachment allowed to the halter is the longe line. The longe line may not exceed 30' in length with a snap attached to the halter. The longe line must hang free from the halter without

touching any part of the horse. It is permissible to use a longe whip however, disqualification will occur anytime the exhibitor strikes the horse to cause forward or lateral movement at any time during the longeing demonstration.

b) No other equipment is allowed on the horse during the class. Mechanical or retractable longe lines are not allowed.

c) For the conformation inspection, a lead shank, such as used in halter or showmanship classes may be exchanged for the longe line prior to the longeing demonstration. No lip chains will be allowed. Exhibitors are not to be penalized for using regular halters and plain longe lines, nor are they to be rewarded for using show halters and longe lines. Only movement, manners/expression/way of going, and conformation are being judged. The type of equipment used is not to be a consideration in placing the horse as long as the equipment meets the requirements stated above.

Attire

Conventional Western attire is mandatory; except if a prospect is considered to be a Hunter prospect then conventional English attire is suggested (flat caps and fedoras are also acceptable). The type of attire worn by the exhibitor is not to be a consideration in placing the horse as long as the attire meets the requirements stated above.

Gaits

Gaits are to be judged according to rules for Gaits for Western Pleasure and Hunter Under Saddle classes.

Conformation & Equipment Inspection

Each horse is to be inspected by the judge on conformation, proper equipment and for evidence of abuse, inhumane treatment, or violation of rules. Horses will not be allowed to show in illegal equipment or if there is evidence of abuse, or inhumane treatment. It is mandatory that a horse must be tracked at a walk and jog/trot in the conformation portion of the class prior to longeing. Horses that show evidence of lameness will be excused prior to the longeing demonstration.

Judging

Judge(s) will be outside the longeing circle. The exhibitor will enter the arena and await the audible start signal. When the signal is given, the exhibitor will be allowed 1½ minutes (90 seconds) to present the horse. At the end of the 1½ minutes, a signal will be given again to signify the end of the demonstration. Show management is required to add a "half-way" signal. (The signal may be a bell, whistle or announcement.)

a) Once the class has started, a horse warming up prior to their go may only warm up at the walk.

The horse will be scored at all three gaits in both directions. Western Pleasure prospects are to show at the walk, jog, and lope. Hunter Under Saddle prospects are to show at the walk, trot and canter. Any horse that does not exhibit these gaits in each direction will be disqualified from the class. Additionally, judges shall immediately excuse any horse that exhibits obvious lameness at any time during the class. (See scoring.) Exhibitors may begin work in the direction of their choice (counter or clock-wise). Exhibitor must demonstrate at minimum ¼ of a circle at each gait. At the end of the 1 1/2 minutes, the signal will be given and the exhibitor shall at the request of show management, retire from the longeing area to the far end of the ring. The horses are to stand quietly on the wall while the other exhibitors present their horses.

The horses are to be judged on movement, Manner/ Expression/Attitude, Conformation suitable to their purpose and use of circle. Judges should judge the movement of the horse as defined in the rules for gaits.

If the horse is playing on the longe line, it shall not count against the horse. The judge will, however, penalize the horse for excessive bucking, or running off, stumbling, or displaying attitudes that are uncomplimentary to pleasure horses. Falling down will constitute disqualification.

Exhibitors are encouraged to exhibit their horse making full use of a 25' radius circle, as they will be scored on this.

An exhibitor may only show two horses in each Longe Line class. The same exhibitor must show both segments of the class. An additional handler may hold the second horse while the first horse is being worked. An additional handler may hold the first horse while the second horse is being worked. A maximum of two handlers may be used. Exhibitors and handlers may not do anything to disturb any horses in the class while they change

handlers, however if an exhibitor must exit the arena prior to the placings another exhibitor properly attired and wearing the correct number may stand-in once the conformation and longeing presentation is complete.

The conformation inspection will occur as the horse is walked into the arena prior to the longeing demonstration at which the judge will evaluate the horse for conformation suitable for future under saddle performance. The judge may not discriminate for or against muscling, but rather look for a total picture, emphasizing balance, structural correctness, and athletic capability

Scoring

The horses with the highest scores are the winners, scoring will be on a basis of 0-infinity with 70 denoting an average performance. Each evaluated element will receive a score that will be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should also be subtracted. The score reflects the horse's performance on that day. Conformation, Jog/Trot, Lope/Canter and Manners/Attitude will be scored on the following basis ranging from +3 Excellent, +2 Very Good, +1 Good, 0 Correct, -1 Poor, -2 Very Poor, -3 Extremely Poor and the Walk and Use of Circle will be scored on the following basis ranging from +1½ Excellent, +1 Very Good, +1/2 Good, 0 Correct, -1/2 Poor, -1 Very Poor, -1½ Extremely Poor. The judge(s) have the sole discretion to use their own personal preference to break any ties in total points.

It is require that the the score for each individual go be reflected on a component-by-component basis.

Judges are to evaluate movement based on the gait descriptions found in Guidelines. A 25' radius circle should be maintained at all gaits.

a) Walk. The walk will be scored on a scale of +1 ½ to - 1 ½ in each direction, with 0 being average/correct. Using a 25' radius, the horse must walk a minimum of two horse lengths for the judge to have sufficient time to evaluate and score the walk. Lower gait scores should reflect stumbling in the gait.

b) Jog or Trot. The jog/trot will be scored on a scale of +3 to -3 in each direction, with 0 being average/correct. Using a 25' radius, the horse should jog or trot a minimum of ½ circle both directions of the ring. Lower gait scores should reflect stumbling in the gait.

c) Lope or Canter. The lope/canter will be scored on a scale of +3 to -3 in each direction, with 0 being average/correct. Using a 25' radius, the horse should lope or canter a minimum of one full circle both directions of the ring. Lower gait scores should reflect stumbling in the gait.

d) Use of Circle. Scores for all gaits in both directions should reflect positive, consistent use of the 25' radius of the circle. Extra credit will be given for full, extended use of the circle on a slightly loose line. Lower gait scores should reflect lack of full use of the circle.

Manners/Expression/Attitude will be scored on a scale of +3 to -3 in each direction, with 0 being average/correct. Horses will be penalized for obvious signs of overwork and sourness such as ear-pinning, head-throwing, striking, tail-wringing, or a dull, lethargic manner of going. They will also be penalized for dangerous behavior such as excessive bucking, cutting into the circle, or running off. Additionally, incidental touching the horse with the whip, cross-cantering, balking, backing up on the longe line and excessive urging from the exhibitor should be penalized accordingly.

Conformation will be scored on a scale of +3 to -3, with 0 being average/correct. The horse will be judged on conformation suitable to future performance as a Western Pleasure or Hunter Under Saddle competitor. The judges should look for a total picture, emphasizing balance, structural correctness, and athletic capability.

Use of the circle. Consideration will be given to how well or how poorly the horse/exhibitor team uses the 25' radius of the longeing circle. A separate box on the scorecard is available to indicate an overall score (from + 1 ½ to -1 ½ with 0 being average/correct for use of the circle.

Circle Scores: A 25' radius is the appropriate size of circle in which to show a longe liner. Exhibitor must complete at least ¼ circle at each gait. It is the judge's responsibility to evaluate the circles and incorporate use of the circle in the gait scores based on the following scale:

+½ to +1½ points (Good to Excellent Use of the Circle). Horse consistently stays on the perimeter of the circle with slight looseness in the line. Horse turns around on the circle perimeter

0 points (Average/correct use of the circle). Horse is only slightly inconsistent in using the 25' radius of the circle

-½ to -1 ½ points (Poor to Unacceptable use of the circle) Horse is shown in a circle radius of less than 25'. Potentially dangerous slack in the line. Horse pulls exhibitor out of the circle

Other scoring considerations: This class should be looked upon as a class that defines what it means to be a "pleasure prospect" or "hunter prospect" suitable to become a future performer under saddle. Therefore, attitudes and attributes that contribute to becoming a future performer will be rewarded within the gait scores. Higher gait scores will reflect:

- a) Above average to exceptional manners, expression, alertness, responsiveness, and pleasant attitude,
- b) Above average to exceptionally smooth transitions between gaits,
- c) Above average to excellent cadence and consistency at all three gaits.

Penalties and disqualifications.

a) Five (5)-point penalties will occur per direction:

- 1) Failure to walk a minimum of two horse lengths
- 2) Failure to jog/trot a minimum of 1/4 (quarter) of a circle
- 3) Failure to demonstrate the correct lead for a minimum of 1/4 (quarter) of a circle

b) Disqualification will occur in the following instances:

- 1) Evidence of lameness - judge will immediately excuse horse from the arena
- 2) Striking of the horse to cause forward or lateral movement
- 3) Fall to the ground by horse.
- 4) Horse steps over or becomes entangled in the longe line
- 5) Improper equipment, evidence of abuse
- 6) Failure to show at all three gaits in both directions
- 7) Exhibitor shows disrespect towards the judge(s)
- 8) Any time the horse becomes detached from the handler
- 9) Failure to complete trot off for soundness in three attempts