

SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES

- I. Showmanship classes are not conformation, model or grooming classes, although grooming and fitting is certainly part of the judging criteria. **This is a performance class with emphasis to be placed on the exhibitor's ability to show their animal.**
- II. Club member and equipment:
 1. Personal appearance of the club member: neat, clean, well groomed, attentive, courteous, and in appropriate attire. An SEI or SEI/ASTM approved equestrian helmet with fastened chin harness is required in all divisions.
 2. Equipment:
 - c) Western: Clean, adjusted halter to fit the horse. Fancy halters shall not be given preference over good working halters. No whips or bats permitted.
- III. Horse (fitting and grooming):
 1. The horse should be clean, well groomed, and fitted for its type.
 2. The horse's feet should be cleaned and either trimmed or properly shod.
- IV. Method of showing (Showmanship):
 1. Walk, trot, turn, stop, back and pose your horse as directed by the judge or ring steward.
 2. Lead from the left side of your horse with your right hand on the lead shank or bridle reins. When showing your horse at a walk, walk by his side - never directly in front of him. His head should be about even with your shoulder. When moving, keep your horse's neck, head, and body in a straight line and maintain precise control. Move him directly toward or away from the judge, unless the judge indicates that he wishes to see him from the side.
 3. Show the horse with a shank short enough to assure maximum control and responsiveness from the horse. The basic position of the exhibitor should allow constant observation of the horse's feet and also permit observation of the judge and ring officials.
 4. Never obstruct the view of the judge and do not stand directly in front of the horse.
 5. Run by the left side of your horse when you are showing him at the trot. He should move willingly toward or away from the judge with his head, neck and body in a straight line. He should trot freely, fast and be alert with head up but not too high.
 6. When a particular show ring procedure being used by a judge requires horses to be reversed, they should be turned to the right. Turn in as small a space as possible and attempt to keep the horse's hind feet planted in one place while turning. All turns should be made natural. Any turn requiring more than 90 degrees should be made to the right.
 7. Keep your horse posed at all times and know where the judge is and what he wants. A good showman always gives the judge the best view of the horse. You cannot change your horse's type and conformation but you can improve his style and appearance. Make it easy for the judge to see your horse to its best advantage.
 8. Keep your proper position in line, and allow reasonable space (at least six feet) between your horse and the other horses. Never let your horse interfere with another horse.
 9. Be alert when leading in a circle - observe the horse in front of you; bumping this horse from the rear is a serious fault in showmanship and very unsafe.
 10. If asked to change positions in the line, back your horse out of the line and approach the new position from behind. Space horses adequately.
 11. Move easily, quietly and with confidence when showing your horse. Be courteous, respond promptly to directions, and demonstrate good horsemanship at all times.
 12. Do your showing with the lead shank or bridle reins.
 13. Faults in showing at showmanship:
 - a. Allowing the horse to remain out of position.
 - b. Standing directly in front of your horse.
 - c. Kicking horse's feet to move them.
 - d. Failure of the horse to lead properly.
 - e. Failing to stop before turning when showing at the walk or trot.
 - f. Failure to back.
 - g. Loud voice commands to your horse or other unnecessary actions.
 - h. Picking up the horse's feet for positioning purposes.