

ENGLISH RIDING DIVISION

English Riding Division

ENGLISH APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE (ENGLISH SADDLE SEAT) – A flat English-type saddle is required. Unconventional saddles combining characteristics of English and western styles are prohibited.

Full bridles are preferred for equitation and pleasure, but pelhams are permitted. Any curb strap or chain should be adjusted so that approximately two fingers can be inserted between it and the horse's chin. No martingales or tiedowns are allowed. Four reins on the bridle are required and no converters are permitted. Kimberwicks are not permitted in saddle seat classes. When using pelham bridles, the shank of the bit should be 4 inches or more in length. Tennessee walking horses may be shown in a walking horse bit with a single rein. No braiding of forelocks, manes or tails – with the exception of saddle-type horses or ponies with show ribbons – is permitted in saddle seat classes.

APPOINTMENTS OF RIDER (ENGLISH SADDLE SEAT) – Basic appointments of riders for this section are the same as for the Fitting and Showing: English Saddle Seat section (see pg. 4).

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE (ENGLISH HUNTER SEAT) – Wraps or protective boots are allowed only in classes over fences. A hunting saddle of the English forward seat type is required. Unconventional saddles combining characteristics of English and western styles are prohibited.

Regulation snaffles, pelhams, kimberwicks and full bridles, all with leather browbands and cavesson nosebands, are required. Martingales are prohibited in all classes on the flat but are permitted in classes over fences. Stirrup pads are suggested. Split reins are not permitted. Unconventional and wire bits and nosebands may be penalized at the judge's discretion.

APPOINTMENTS OF RIDER (ENGLISH HUNTER SEAT) – Basic appointments of riders for this section are the same as for the Fitting and Showing: English Hunter Seat section (see pg. 4). Protective headgear is required (see General Rule 3 on pg. 1). Spurs without rowels, crop, bat and gloves are optional. Gloves are preferred for equitation.

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE AND RIDER (GAITED HORSES) – Horses and riders should be outfitted in accordance with the rules of their breed; however, no artificial devices to enhance a horse's gait, other than standard horse shoes, are permitted.

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ENGLISH CLASSES

◆ Open English Pleasure

Open English Pleasure Scorecard	Points
Horse's performance	90
Appointments of horse and rider	10
Total	100

Scorecard Explanation

HORSE'S PERFORMANCE – The rider should have the horse walk, trot (or second gait) and canter (or third gait) both ways of the ring. The horse should stand quietly and back readily. Extended gaits may be called for at the discretion of the judge. The emphasis should be on suitability to riding style, manner and way of going. All seats should be given equal consideration.

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE AND RIDER – See column 1 on this page.

ENGLISH SADDLE SEAT

◆ Saddle Seat Equitation

Saddle Seat Equitation Scorecard	Points
Rider's position and appointments of horse and rider	90
Horse's performance and suitability	10
Total	100

Scorecard Explanation

RIDER'S POSITION – Riders should establish and maintain a seat that is thoroughly efficient and comfortable for riding the type of horse called for, at any gait and for any length of time. The method of holding the reins should be consistent with the type of equipment being used. Both hands should be used and both reins must be picked up at one time. The bight of the reins should be on the off side; the hands should be in line with the bit and the elbows. The feet should rest with the balls of the feet on the stirrups and the heels down. No swaying of the legs should be visible.

To obtain the proper position, the rider should place himself or herself comfortably in the saddle and find his or her center of gravity by sitting with a slight bend at the knees without the use of the stirrups. While in this position, the rider should adjust the leathers to fit. Each stirrup iron should be placed under the ball of the foot (not under the toe or "home"), with even pressure on the entire width of the sole and the center

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of the iron. The feet should be positioned with the toes forward, neither in nor out, and heels should be down. A vertical line drawn from the rider's shoulders downward should pass through the shoulders, hips and heels. The upper calves of the rider's legs should have contact with the horse (see fig. 5).

With gaited horses, the rider's legs will be forward at the knee and will give the impression of a slightly reclined position to the upper torso.

When the horse is moving, the rider's position should change in the following manner:

- **Walk** – Slight motion in the saddle.
- **Trot or second gait** – Slight elevation in the saddle; hips under the body, not swinging forward and backward or moving up and down mechanically. Posting by breed standard.
- **Canter or third gait** – Close seat going with the horse.

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE AND RIDER – See page 10.

HORSE'S PERFORMANCE AND SUITABILITY – The rider will be asked to have the horse walk, trot (or second gait) and canter (or third gait) both ways of the ring. The order to reverse may be executed by turning either toward or away from the rail. Light contact with the horse's mouth is required. Riders may be asked for individual workouts. The emphasis should be on suitability to riding style, manners, and way of going. All seats should be given equal consideration.

Use of the third gait by gaited horses will be judged on the smoothness of the transitions.

General Guidelines

Judges should note that the required equitation seat should in no way be exaggerated, but should be the most efficient and comfortable seat for riding the type of horse called for, at any gait and for any length of time. In saddle seat equitation classes, the riders should convey the impression of effective and easy control.

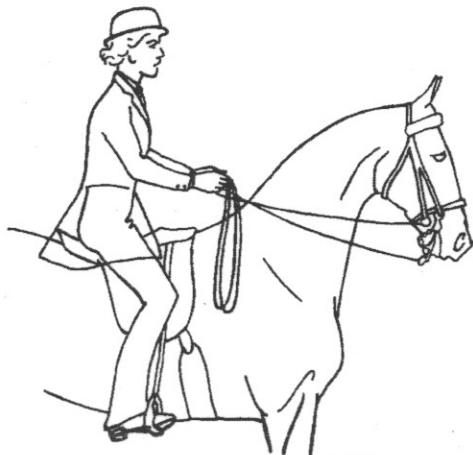


Figure 5. Correct hands and seat for saddle seat equitation.

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Mounting and dismounting – To mount, the exhibitor should take up the reins in the left hand and place that hand on the withers. The exhibitor should then grasp the stirrup leather with the right hand, insert the left foot in the stirrup and mount. To dismount, the rider may either step down or slide down. The rider's size should be considered.

Hands – The hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle, and should show sympathy, adaptability and control. The height at which the hands are held above the horse's withers depends on how and where the horse carries its head. However, the reins and the rider's forearm should form a straight line from the horse's mouth to the rider's elbow. The method of holding the reins is optional; however, it is necessary that both hands be used and all reins must be picked up at one time. The bight of the reins should be on the off side.

Judges should note that the required equitation seat should in no way be exaggerated, but should be the most efficient and comfortable seat for riding the type of horse called for, at any gait and for any length of time. In saddle seat equitation classes, the riders should convey the impression of effective and easy control, while displaying confidence.

Individual Tests

These tests may be performed individually or as a group.

1. Address the reins.
2. Back.
3. Individual performance on the rail.
4. Figure eight at the trot (or second gait), with a correct change of diagonals. At the left diagonal, the rider should be sitting the saddle when the horse's left front foot is on the ground. At the right diagonal, the rider should be sitting the saddle when the horse's right front foot is on the ground. When circling clockwise, the rider should be on the left diagonal. When circling counterclockwise, the rider should be on the right diagonal.
5. Figure eight at the canter with a change of lead through the walk (figures should begin in the center of the two circles so that one lead change is shown).
6. Change leads down the center of the ring or on the rail, with a change of leads through the walk.
7. Ride without stirrups (no more than 2 minutes at the trot). The class must be halted before starting this test. The riders will pick up the irons and cross them in front of the pommel for safety before the class is continued. At the end of the test the class must be halted so the riders can regain their irons.
8. Answer the judge's questions. It is recommended that the same questions be asked of each rider privately. An example would be one question each about tack, anatomy and equitation.

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9. Serpentine at the trot or canter demonstrating the correct diagonal or lead changes.

◆ Saddle Seat Pleasure

Saddle Seat Pleasure Scorecard	Points
Horse's performance and manners	90
Appointments of horse and rider.....	10
Total	100

Scorecard Explanation

HORSE'S PERFORMANCE AND MANNERS – The horse should be shown at the walk, trot (or second gait), strong or extended trot (**not park trot**), and canter both ways of the ring. The horse must stand quietly and back readily. Excessive speed at the strong or extended trot will be penalized. Horses are judged on manners, quality, performance and suitability of horse to rider.

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE AND RIDER – See page 10.

◆ Gaited Pleasure

Judging

The purpose of the Gaited Pleasure class is to recognize correct gaiting for the breed being shown, smoothness in the horse's gait, the horse's responsiveness to its rider and harmony between the horse and rider. The horse and rider must work as a team. The rider should sit quietly in the saddle with little hand and leg movement. The horse should be quick to respond to changes and never break gait until another gait is called.

Failure to demonstrate a recognizable difference between the second and third gaits will be penalized. Some horses (such as the Peruvian paso and racking horses) may have the same movement in both gaits, but display a noticeable difference in speed. The judge may ask an exhibitor to demonstrate his or her horse's three gaits if the judge has seen no noticeable difference. No artificial devices are permitted to enhance a horse's gait, other than standard horse shoes.

Gaited Pleasure Scorecard	Points
Horse's performance, manner and gaits	90
Appointments of horse and rider.....	10
Total	100

Scorecard Explanation

HORSE'S PERFORMANCE AND MANNERS – The horse is to be shown in the following order both ways of the ring: walk, second gait, walk and third gait. The horse must stand quietly

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and back readily. The horse is to be judged as a pleasant riding horse with true road and trail qualities. Manners, performance, substance and conformation will be considered. The horse should be shown with a light rein at all gaits. "Bumping" and "pumping" of the reins will be penalized.

HORSE'S GAITS – The descriptions that follow apply to the gaits required in gaited pleasure horse classes. Many gaited horses bob or nod their heads with the rhythm of their second and third gaits, so that movement is not a clue to soreness or lameness the way it is in nongaited horses. Stiff legged front or rear motion and twisting the hocks (especially when entering the ring) are typical of the movement of a sore or lame horse, and the judge should immediately excuse any horse exhibiting this type of motion from the ring.

Walk – True, square and flat with a head motion conforming to breed standards.

Second Gait – Tennessee walking horses should display a smooth, gliding overstepping four-cornered gait, with the horse having stride and head nod. Their second gait (the running walk) should be free and easy. Horses exhibiting an exaggerated, hesitating way of going with a tendency to point or strike the ground heel first with the front feet are not in form.

Racking horses should display a smooth lateral (same side) action gait with the hind foot leaving the ground first to create a true four-beat, single-foot gait with only one foot off the ground while in the rack. The hind foot should overstep and should give a full reaching stride. Slight vertical head action is desired in the show walk. The horse should appear to be performing a broken pace when walking the stride from back legs to front legs (laterally) or the horse will appear to be performing a broken trot when the stride is viewed from the front to the back (diagonally). Some horses may pace, which can be detected by their side-to-side head motion. A pace is preferred over a trot. A high hock action is not characteristic of a true racker, and will, therefore, be penalized.

Third Gait – Tennessee walking horses should display the canter, smooth and straight on both leads, not walking behind but cantering on both ends with a rolling motion, comfortably in hand. Exaggerated pumping of the horse at the canter is not good form.

Rackers should display the same cadence as in the second gait, but the horse should increase its speed. The horse and rider should still not show any sign of strain at the increased speed. A gaited horse that is moving at excessive speed is apt to lose its gait and will be penalized. At no time should form be sacrificed for speed. Since this gait will not be picked up immediately from the walk, the smoothness and ease of the increase should be judged.

APPOINTMENTS OF HORSE AND RIDER – See page 10.