

WESTERN DRESSAGE

ATTIRE:

It is mandatory to wear appropriate western attire, including long sleeves and collar (band, standup, tuxedo, etc) western hat and western boots. The hat must be on the rider's head when the exhibitor enters the arena. Spurs and chaps are optional. It is optional that an exhibitor may wear a safety helmet, which conforms to the current Australian Safety Standards, however it is mandatory that any exhibitor under the age of 18 years to wear a safety helmet at all times.

EQUIPMENT:

Western Saddle and bridle with either; plain snaffle, hackamore or light grazing bit.

HACKAMORE: means the use of a flexible, braided rawhide or leather, or rope bosal, the cor4 of which may be either rawhide or flexible cable. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered. Horsehair bosal are prohibited. This rule does not refer to a so-called mechanical hackamore.

SNAFFLE: Reference to snaffle bits in western performance classes mean the conventional O-ring, egg-butt or D-ring with a ring no larger than 100mm (4")

GRAZING BIT: means the use of a curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit.

MOVEMENTS:

Free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with Horse/Pony's conformation. The Mount should cover a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. Ideally, the mount should have a balanced, flowing, forward motion, driving from behind. The Mount should carry its head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with its poll level with or slightly above the level of the withers. The mount should not carry its head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. The mounts head should be level with his nose slightly in the front of the vertical, having a bright expression with its ears alert. The mount should be shown on a reasonably loose rein, but with light contact and control and should be responsive, yet smooth in transitions when called for. When asked to extend, the mount should move out with the same flowing motion. Maximum credit should be given to the flowing, balanced and willing mount, which gives the appearance of being fit and a pleasure to ride.

FAULTS:

1. Excessive speed (any gait)
2. Being on the wrong lead
3. Breaking gait
4. Excessive slowness in any gait, loss of forward momentum.
5. Failure to take the appropriate gait when called for.
6. Head carried too high.
7. Head carried too low tip of ears below the wither.
8. Over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical.
9. Opening mouth excessively
10. Use of spurs forward of the girth
11. If reins are draped to the point that light contact is not maintained.