

hide or leather and must have a flexible nonmetallic core attached to a suitable headstall with maximum diameter of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " at the cheek. Attached reins may be of hair, rope or leather. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with a bosal, i.e., steel, metal or chains (Exception: smooth plastic electrical tape is acceptable). Ponies shall not be shown with artificial appliances that would tend to alter their performance. Curb chains and leather chin straps may be used but must be flat and at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in width and lie flat against the jaws of the pony. No wire, rawhide, metal or other substance can be used in conjunction with or as part of the leather chin strap, or curb chains. Rounded, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited. A light lip strap is permissible. Hackamore bits, bosals, cavesson type nosebands, martingales and tie-downs are prohibited. A judge does not have the authority to add or to remove any of the standard equipment as specified above. Bandages and boots of any type are prohibited.

E. Falls

A fall of a horse and/or rider in a working western class will result in a zero; while showing in a western pleasure or trail class it will be cause for elimination.



**SECTION XIV**

**SHOWMANSHIP  
RULES**

**2019 RULEBOOK**

of the  
**American Shetland Pony Club**  
**American Miniature Horse Registry**  
**American Show Pony Registry**  
**National Sport Performance Pony Registry**  
**American Shetland Pony International Registry**



## SECTION XIV

### Showmanship Division Rules

#### 1.1 Modern/ASPR Showmanship

- A. Exhibitors are to enter the ring at the trot, single file on the rail and then line-up at center ring. Exhibitor is to show his/her pony to the presiding (call) judge only. Pony is to be posed, parked out but not excessively stretched. Pony should have ears up and be alert. As the judge walks around the pony, the exhibitor is to move right and left around the pony's head to allow the judge a clear view of the animal. At the Ringmaster's or Judge's direction, the exhibitor is to move the pony to the rail at a flat walk, in a straight line.
1. Exhibitor to work pony in both directions on the rail, at a collected show trot, then return to line-up and set up the pony as before.
  2. Emphasis to be placed on presentation of pony, responsiveness of handler to pony, constant attention to pony, with adjustment to position of handler to give the Judge a clear view of entry. Showing to continue until the Judge's card is turned in.
  3. Handler may carry a short whip and may have a tailer who may carry a whip. Tailer to be another youth or adult. Tailer to retire to the end gate following the rail work as with other Modern Youth Halter classes.
  4. Required attire: slacks, white short or long-sleeved shirt, tie and gloves. Boys are required to wear hats. Vests or jackets are encouraged but are optional.
  5. Only mares or geldings 1 year or older are to be shown in showmanship and are to be shown in a bridle or show halter.
  6. There are to be no patterns or pivots as required in other divisions. There is no penalty for touching the animal as needed for optimum showing.

7. Judging is to be 10% on attire, 40% on line-up and 50% on rail work considering both the pony's AND handler's performance.

## 1.2 Classic/AMHR/NSPPR Showmanship

- A. **Showmanship at Halter** - Showmanship is designed to evaluate the exhibitor's ability to execute, in concert with a well-groomed and conditioned horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position.

In Showmanship classes, exhibitors are to show to the presiding (call) Judge only. Only the handler is judged, the pony or horse is merely a prop to show the showmanship ability of the handler.

Show management and/or judges define the showmanship pattern, which must be posted at least 2 hours prior to the commencement of the class.

- B. **Class Procedures** - All exhibitors may enter the ring and then work individually or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually (show and go), except that in classes with more than 10 exhibitors, show and go must be used.

The following maneuvers are acceptable for use in the pattern: lead the horse at a walk, trot, extended trot, or back; execute any of the gaits (including back) in straight and/or curved lines or a combination of straight and curved lines; stop; turn 90, 180, 270 360 degrees or any combination or multiple of these turns. The pull turn is an unacceptable maneuver. The pattern must require the exhibitor to set the horse up squarely for inspection sometime during the class.

- C. **Equipment** - When showing in Western tack and attire, Western style show halters with lead are to be used. A chain under the chin is allowed, no lip chains or chains over the nose are allowed. When showing in English tack and attire, appropriate English bridle or English style show halter are to be used. Showmanship whips,

war bridles or like devices or any type of wire or rope over a horse's head are not permitted.

D. **Scoring** - Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to 100 with 70 denoting an average score.

1. Points are given for the following:

a. **Overall Presentation of Exhibitor and Horse.**

The exhibitor's overall poise, confidence, appearance and position throughout the class and the physical appearance of the horse will be evaluated.

b. **Presentation and Position of Exhibitor.** When showing Western style, appropriate western attire must be worn; Long sleeve shirt, boots and hat are required (see exception for COOL classes in COOL rules). When showing English style, appropriate English attire must be worn. Gloves are optional in both styles. Clothes and person to be neat and clean.

Exhibitors should be poised, confident, courteous and genuinely sportsmanlike at all times, quickly recognizing and correcting faults in the positioning of the horse. The exhibitor should continue showing the horse until the class has been placed or they have been excused, unless otherwise instructed by the judge. The exhibitor should appear business-like, stand and move in a straight, natural and upright manner, and avoid excessive, unnatural or animated body positions.

The exhibitor must lead on the horse's left side holding the lead shank or reins in the right hand near the halter with the tail of the lead loosely coiled in the left hand unless requested by the judge to show the horse's teeth. It is preferable that the exhibitor's hand not be on the snap or chain portion of the lead continuously. The excess lead should never be tightly coiled, rolled, or folded. When leading, the exhibitor should be positioned between the eye and the mid-point of the horse's neck, referred to as the leading position.

Both arms should be bent at the elbow with the elbows held close to the exhibitor's side and the forearms held in a natural position. Height of the arms may vary depending on the size of the horse/pony and exhibitor, but the arms should never be held straight out with the elbows locked.

The position of the exhibitor when executing a turn to the right is the same as the leading position except that the exhibitor should turn and face toward the horse's head and have the horse move away from them to the right.

When executing a back, the exhibitor should turn from the leading position to face toward the rear of the horse with the right hand extended in front to the exhibitor's chest still maintain slight bend in the elbow and walk forward. The ideal position is for the exhibitors left shoulder to be in alignment with the horse's left front leg.

When setting the horse up for inspection, the exhibitor should stand angled toward the horse and should never leave the head of the horse. The exhibitor is required to use the Half Method when presenting the horse (exhibitor must be on the opposite half of the pony/horse from the judge). When moving around the horse, the exhibitor should change sides in front of the horse, assuming the same position on the right side of the horse that they had on the left side.

The exhibitor should not crowd other exhibitors when setting up side-by-side or head-to-tail.

Leading, backing, turning and initiating the set-up should be performed from the left side of the horse. At no time should the exhibitor ever stand directly in front of the horse. The exhibitor must not touch the horse with their hands or feet, or visibly cue the horse by pointing their feet at the horse during the set-up.

- c. **Presentation of the Horse:** The horse's body condition and overall fitness should be assessed.

The hair coat should be clean and in good condition. The mane, tail, forelock and wither tuft may not contain ornaments, and may not be banded or braided. Hooves should be properly trimmed, clean and may be painted black or with hoof dressings or show naturally. Tack should fit properly and be neat, clean and in good repair.

- d. **Performance.** The exhibitor should perform the work accurately, precisely, smoothly and with a reasonable amount of speed. The horse should lead, stop, back, turn and set up willingly, briskly and readily with minimal visible or audible cueing.

The horse should be led directly to and away from the judge in a straight or curved line and track briskly and freely at the prescribed gait as instructed. The horse's head and neck should be straight and in line with the body.

The stop should be straight, prompt, smooth and responsible with the horse's body remaining straight.

The horse should back up readily with the head, neck, and body aligned in a straight or curved line as instructed.

On turns of greater than 90 degrees, the ideal turn consists of the horse pivoting on the right hind leg while stepping across and in front of the right front leg with the left front leg. An exhibitor should not be penalized if their horse performs a pivot on the left hind leg, but an exhibitor whose horse performs the pivot correctly should receive more credit.

The horse should be set up quickly with the feet squarely underneath the body. The exhibitor does not have to reset a horse that stops square.

2. **Faults** - The judge will determine the appropriate classification of a fault based upon the degree and/or frequency of the infraction.

**Minor Faults** (deduction of 5 points)

- Break of gait at walk or trot for up to two strides
- Over or under turning up to 1/8 turn
- Ticking or hitting cone
- Sliding a pivot foot
- Lifting a pivot foot during pivot and replacing it in the same place.

**Major Faults** (deduction of 10 points)

- Not performing the gait or not stopping within 10 feet of the designated area
- Break of gait at work or trot for more than 2 strides
- Splitting the cone (cone between horse and handler)
- Horse stepping out of or moving the hind end significantly during pivot or turn
- Horse stepping out of set-up during presentation
- Over/under turning 1/8 to 1/4 turn.

**Severe Faults** (deduction of 20 points). Severe faults avoid disqualification but should be placed below other exhibitors that do not incur a severe fault.

- Exhibitor not in required position during inspection
- Exhibitor touching the horse.
- Exhibitor kicking or pointing to horse's feet during the set-up
- Standing directly in front of the horse
- Loss of lead shank, holding chain, or two hands on shank
- Severe disobedience including rearing or pawing; horse continually circling exhibitor
- Off pattern

## E. Classes

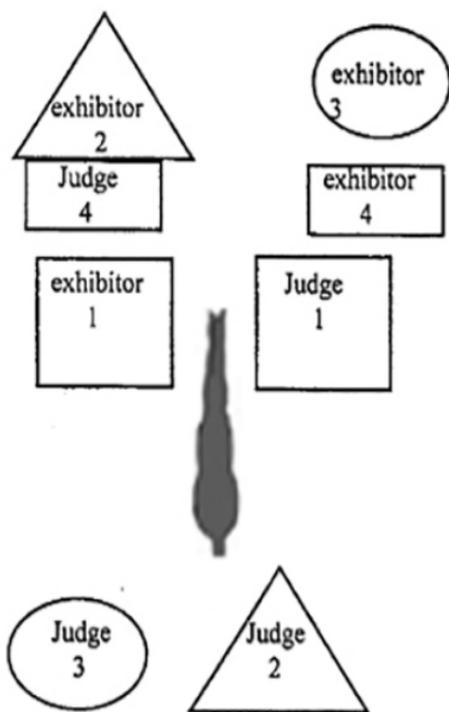
**Open Showmanship (ASPC only):** Open to Classic and Foundation stallions, mares or geldings. Entry to be made in the name of the exhibitor.

**Youth Showmanship (ASPC/AMHR/NSPPR):** Open to youth 17 years of age or younger (class may be divided

by age of exhibitor if total number warrants). Limited to mares and geldings only.

Amateur Showmanship (ASPC/AMHR/NSPPR):  
Open to amateur exhibitors, 18 years or older.

Half System to be used in exhibiting your pony or horse.



Exhibitor must be on the opposite half of the pony/horse from the judge. When Judge is in position 1 then exhibitor should be in position 1, when Judge is in position 2 then exhibitor should be in position 2, etc.