

## NATIONAL SPORT PERFORMANCE PONY

### Standards and Halter Division Rules

#### 4.1 Eligibility

The National Sport Performance Pony Registry is open to any pony 14.2 hands and under that can be verified by DNA that one parent is registered either ASPC or AMHR.

#### 4.2 Standard

The NSPPR Pony Division is a performance division. Therefore, the appearance of the NSPPR pony should show style and substance, beauty and symmetry, being a balanced individual regardless of size and correct in all aspects of conformation with regard to form to function.

The correct NSPPR type should be based on Form Follows Function. The more correct type will be dictated by the discipline in which it is engaged or exhibited, such as performance halter classes, light or heavy harness, hunter/jumper, competitive driving, or as a mount for riding disciplines.

#### 4.3 Quality

- A. The pony should be well proportioned, in good health and flesh (not too fat or too thin), with the overall appearance of refinement, style, beauty and substance.
- B. Healthy mane, tail and forelock should be present.

#### 4.4 Gaits

- A. The walk should be straight with a long easy stride; true and flat footed.
- B. The Western jog should be soft, relaxed and quiet with a definite two beat gait. At no time should it resemble a running walk nor should it be rough or stilted. The speed and stride should be compatible with the size of the pony. The English trot should be a free-moving, ground covering stride, executed in a long, low frame. Excessive knee or hock action is at no time desirable. Quick, short strides should be penalized.

- C. The lope/canter should be rolling and comfortable with strong emphasis on a natural three beat, soft lope/canter. A four beat lope/canter is at no time desirable and should be penalized.

#### **4.5 Manners**

Good manners are demonstrated by the pony's obedience to all commands and includes the ability to stand quietly, back readily, walk, jog/trot, lope/canter or halt as requested and, in general, to be guided by a light mouth. Pulling on the bit, head tossing, breaking stride, traveling sideways and wringing the tail are objectionable.

#### **4.6 Presence**

Ponies should exhibit an animation, self-assurance, alertness and personality that stems good grooming, good care, good training and good handling. Evidence of being "professional" in its line is also present, in that the pony senses what is required and readily expends the effort necessary to obey the demands of its rider, drive or handler.

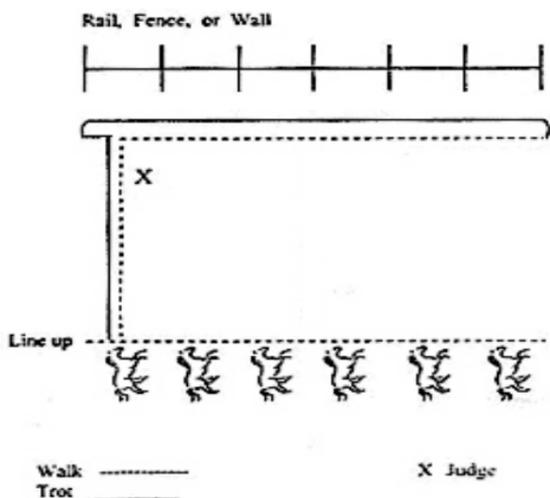
- 4.7 Height of ponies** - Small ponies are not to exceed 12.2 hands (50"); medium ponies are over 12.2 (50") and do not exceed 13.2 hands (54"); large ponies are over 13.2 hands (54") and do not exceed 14.2 hands (58"). Classes are open to all ponies not exceeding 14.2 hands (58").

#### **4.8 Performance Halter Class:**

- A. Halter Classes shall be judged 40% on manners and 60% on conformation, quality and performance. Conformation, quality and performance should consist of motion or way of going, form to function.
- B. Blemishes, such as scars, splints, and spavins are to be marked down according to their effect on the soundness of the NSPPR pony. Transmissible weakness and/or unsoundness are to be counted strongly against the pony. Complete or partial loss of sight in either eye will not be a disqualification if the loss of sight results from a traumatic injury. A licensed veterinarian must verify the etiology of the sight loss as traumatic and such copy must accompany the ponies' papers.

- C. Ponies are to be shown in hand at a walk and jog/trot.
- D. A pony's height shall not be discriminated against the pony's placing in halter classes
- E. Pony to be shown with natural or shortened tail. False tails or tail extensions are prohibited. Banding or braiding of mane is permitted.
- F. Pony can be shown Western or Hunter In Hand and will be judged according to type of discipline presented. Judging will not be discriminated against for type of in hand tack and attire.
- G. Correct number must be on the back of the exhibitor or the entry will be disqualified.
- H. Show Management may use a combined age class.
- I. Halter Class Divisions shall be as follows:
  - 1. Weanlings
  - 2. Yearlings and Two year olds
  - 3. Three year old and older
- J. Registration papers must show the animal is a gelding to participate in gelding classes.
- K. Championship at Halter
  - 1. Junior and Reserve Champion – chosen from first and second place winners in Weanling, Yearlings and Two Year Olds, in each mares, stallions and geldings classes.
  - 2. Senior and Reserve Champion – Chosen from first and second place winners in the Three Year Old and older classes, in each mares, stallions and geldings classes.
  - 3. Grand and Reserve Champion – Chosen from the Senior and Reserve and the Junior and Reserve Champions. A pony's height shall not be discriminated against the pony's placing in halter classes.
- L. Youth may not show stallions.
- M. **Ring Procedure**
  - 1. Ponies will enter the ring at a walk to the right of the ring and line up as indicated by the ringmaster.

2. Entries will be examined by the judge in the lineup.
3. Each entry will be worked individually on a line at a walk and a trot for the judge. Ponies to be worked a minimum of four feet parallel to the rail, or fence or wall.



4. Pony will stand squarely (hooves will be set squarely under the body) and remain quiet and exhibit good manners.
5. Pony will work the rail first way at a walk.
6. Pony will work the second way at a trot and trot back to the lineup.
7. Pony will line up for final inspection.

## N. Halter Tack and Attire

### 1. **Western Tack and Attire:**

#### a. Tack

- (1) Neat western show halter and lead strap are permitted. Whip or crop is not to be carried.
- (2) The chain of the lead strap may be in one of two positions:
  - (a) Under the chin

- (b) Through the lead ring on the halter and snapped back to the chin next to the lead strap.
  - (3) Lip chains are strictly forbidden.
  - (4) Artificial appliances including tail braces, false tails or tail extensions are strictly forbidden.
- b. Western Attire:

Western clothes consisting of western boots, western hat, pants and shirt with collar. Neat and clean blue jeans and short sleeve shirts with a collar are not to be penalized. Vests and coats are optional.

## 2. Hunter Tack and Attire

- a. Tack:
  - (1) Bridle is optional on yearlings and younger ponies but mandatory on ponies two and older. Decorative bridles and halters (silver or colored) are prohibited.
  - (2) Bridle must have egg butt, D-ring, O-ring or full-cheek snaffle bit and meet all specifications for English Performance Equipment.
  - (3) For ponies one year old and younger, the halter and lead must be a halter of plain leather.
    - (a) The chain on the lead may be over the nose or under the chin; however, no chains are allowed in the pony's mouth and no lip chains are allowed.
- b. English Attire:

Attire of the handler should permit free movement. Color may be chosen to compliment the pony, but should be conservative. Suitable attire shall be a collared polo shirt or collared dress shirt (solid-colored and either white or another

conservative color), vest, ties and gloves (optional) or suitable Huntseat attire. Trousers should be loose enough in which to run. Jeans are forbidden. Running shoes or paddock boots are required.

O. Shoeing:

1. Hooves must be clean and may have clear or black hoof dressings applied, or be shown naturally.
2. Ponies under one year of age may not be shod.
3. Ponies two year and older can show barefoot or with plain shoes of light weight, no pad, no caulks, no weights of any kind shall be permitted. Shoes shall be plain plates. No toe shoes, tapered shoes or recessed shoes will be allowed.