

I.1. Rules for Conduct of ECAHO Sport Competitions

I.1.1. Organizers

Officials, judges, participants, and riders will unconditionally submit themselves and their accompanying persons to the "Rules and Regulations of ECAHO Sport Competitions". These Rules will be interpreted when necessary under the provisions of the laws of Switzerland. Event organizers are not permitted to introduce rules which are in conflict with the "Rules and Regulations of ECAHO Sport Competitions".

I.1.2. Show Organizers, Judges and Riders

- a. The organizer will pay any reasonable travelling and accommodation expenses for appointed Judges and any applicable fee as determined by the NF/FEI and/or Western Riding Organization. A short agreement between Judge and organizer in written form is recommended.
- b. Judges, Event coordinator, Stewards, Ringmasters and respective probationers, hereafter referred to as 'Official(s)'
No Judge is allowed to judge a class in which a horse is subject of a conflict of interest. Such Judge must stand down for the whole class/finals. Officials invited to officiate at ECAHO affiliated shows agree to do so with integrity and honesty and to carry out their duties solely with the objects of ECAHO and the welfare of the horses in mind. Officials appointed at a show will not knowingly officiate in a class in which horses are entered concerning which there may be an actual or apparent conflict of interest.
- c. No member of the organizing committee may judge. No appointed Judge may ride, drive or handle an entered horse, or pursue any other activity not consistent with his duties at the show in which he is officiating.
- d. The show organizer reserves the right to refuse any entry but must give the reason for refusal. The organizer is personally responsible for compliance with these rules and with ECAHO Sport Commission instructions given for his level of contest.
- e. ECAHO Sport Commission "Rules for Affiliation of ECAHO Sport Competitions" are binding on organizers and exhibitors.
- f. Exhibitors will declare on the entry form any actual or apparent conflict of interest with any of the officials invited for the show. Any exhibitor not declaring an existing conflict of interest, of which he is aware, will forfeit all entry fees and will be prevented from showing the horse.
- g. Organizers will not accept any entries for which any actual or apparent conflict of interest with one of the appointed officials has been indicated by the exhibitor, unless a reserve official is available.
- h. Officials will not visit exhibitors' premises or accept exhibitors' hospitality during a 30 day period before or during the show concerned.
- i. Officials will not accept benefits or gifts that could bring into question the Official's integrity or honesty.
- j. Any actual or apparent conflict of interest that arises before or during the show shall be immediately reported to the Showoffice & Eventcoordinator (Eco). The Eco shall consult all parties involved and use all sources to their disposal to decide as necessary. The ECo must include all information in their report and forward to ECAHO after the show. At no time may the organizer take any decision that is in conflict with the jurisdiction of ECAHO and its' rules and regulations.
- k. Any actual or apparent conflict of interest that arises after the show shall be reported immediately to ECAHO for consideration.
- l. An actual or apparent conflict of interest may occur if a horse is exhibited that:
 - Is being trained or handled by a member of the official's family
 - has been bought or sold by an official either as owner or agent

- has been bred or is owned in whole or part by the official or by a member of the official's family, or business partner in an Arab horse business venture
 - has been leased by the official, at any time
 - has been bred by or is the property of a breeding organization in which the official is or was an employee
 - has been regularly trained, examined or treated by the official in a professional capacity
 - is the subject of an on-going negotiation to buy or lease, or a provisional purchase condition to which the official is a party.
- m. An actual or apparent conflict of interest may further occur, amongst others, if the Official, irrespective of the payment or receipt of a remuneration or any other consideration, during the period of one year (365 days) before a show at which the Official officiates:
- has entered into any business relationship with an exhibitor at that show,
 - Has received, whilst being involved with the organization of any show or event, sponsorship from an exhibitor at that show or event.
This does not apply to those events organized on behalf of a National Association which is a Full Member of ECAHO, as long as the Official has no financial benefit from the sponsorship.
 - has performed consulting for an exhibitor at that show,
 - has purchased or sold a horse from or to an exhibitor at that show,
 - was involved with the breeding of a horse of an exhibitor at that show,
 - was involved in similar activities with an exhibitor at that show.
 - is employed in any way by the Show organizers.
 - In case of doubt, the Eco & Eventmanager decision will prevail.
 - Any Official must decline to officiate if they consider themselves to have a conflict of interests concerning a horse, its' Rider/Driver/Handler or its' owner(s).
- n. If, during the show a conflict of interests of which the exhibitor was un-aware becomes apparent, the following options are available:
if the official with the conflict of interests is a judge:
- the judge will suspend his/her duties for the duration of the class and the championship where the conflict exists
 - a published reserve judge or another judge from the judges' panel may be used for the class and the championship where the conflict exists
 - if the above mentioned (i) is not applicable and if no reserve judge is available or there are no more members of the judges' panel, the total points in the class will be multiplied by the factor of planned number of judges divided by the actual number of judges, to calculate a comparable score in case of ties
- o. In the show ring, all communication between judges and handlers prior to the presentation of prizes will be through the Ringmaster.
- p. Judges may withhold any award if in their opinion the exhibit does not merit such an award.
- q. Judges may exclude any horse that is lame or ill. Other rights of Sport Judges follow NF/FEI or Western Riding Rules.
- r. The Liberty/Halter Class/Type & Confirmation Judges may refuse to judge a competitor who is not neatly dressed.
- s. The organizer has to provide the "Rules and Regulations for ECAHO Sport Competitions" and the "Appendices" at the disposition of the competitors.

I.1.3. Enforcement

Only competitors at the event may lodge a complaint alleging infringement of these rules. Such complaint is to be made in writing within 1 hour of the alleged infringement occurring. A deposit of CHF 80.- (or equivalent) will be lodged with the NF/FEI steward of warm up or show office manager and may be retained if the complaint is considered frivolous at the discretion of the event appealing committee (1 of the judges, 1 from the organization, 1 from involved riders). The decision has to be done during the show on the day of protest. Appeal can be sent to the ECAHO Sport Commission within one week after the event. Any dope tests are following the FEI Veterinary Rules.

I.1.4. Disguising of horses

- a. No alteration of the basic colour of the skin, coat or hooves is permitted. Hoof paints, coat dyes and cosmetic operations including skin grafts are forbidden.
- b. Artificial methods of dilating the eyes or affecting the natural action of the horse or otherwise influencing its action or behaviour by oxygenating the bloodstream or by the use of weights or artificially weighted shoes, or by electrical or chemical treatment of any kind at any time before or during the performance are forbidden. Burns, cuts or other marks on the body of any exhibit in such places or positions as to indicate prohibited methods have been used, will be regarded by NF Steward, Judges as full and adequate grounds for exclusion of any exhibit from competition.
- c. Horses may be fully or partly body clipped, subject to eyelashes being left uncut, hair inside the ears left unshaved and tactile hair left intact around the nose, muzzle and the eyes.
- d. No equipment intended to alter the natural appearance of the horse is permitted in the stables, including neck sweats, neck collars, tail racks, hobbles or weights. Exhibitors using such equipment on the showground will be suspended by the ground jury for the period of the show.

I.1.5. Cruelty

Excessive whipping, use of electric shock devices or infliction of pain by any means is forbidden in all parts of the showground, or stable areas, at all times.

I.1.6. Misuse of drugs

1. The administration of any substance not a normal nutrient (including ginger and similar irritants), whether intentionally or unintentionally which may affect the performance, temperament or soundness of an exhibit is forbidden. Such forbidden substances are listed in FEI Veterinary Regulations, an up to date copy of which will be maintained by the ECAHO Sport Commission.
2. The NF/FEI or ECAHO Sport commission can order Doping Test. FEI veterinarian has to take these samples and has to send them to FEI approved official Lab. Result to ECAHO Sport Commission and Owner/rider.

I.1.7. Ladies Side Saddle Classic & Western

Level N, A, M, European Championships

WESTERN / CLASSIC

Level N

To be shown both directions of the ring at the walk, trot or jog-trot. Horses should back readily if requested by the Judge and stand quietly. To be judged 85 % on manners, performance, suitability, quality

and conformation; 15 % on appropriate side saddle attire. Manners and suitability of purpose shall be emphasized. (Suitability refers to the horse being suitable as a side saddle mount.)

Level A

To be shown both directions of the ring at the walk, trot or jog-trot, canter or lope. Horses should back readily if requested by the Judge and stand quietly. To be judged 85 % on manners, performance, suitability, quality and conformation; 15 % on appropriate side saddle attire. Manners and suitability of purpose shall be emphasized. (Suitability refers to the horse being suitable as a side saddle mount.)

Level M

To be shown both directions of the ring at the walk, trot or jog-trot, canter or lope. Horses should back readily if requested by the Judge and stand quietly. A halt out of the canter or lope can be asked by the Judge. To be judged 85% on manners, performance, suitability, quality and conformation; 15 % on appropriate side saddle attire. Manners and suitability of purpose shall be emphasized. (Suitability refers to the horse being suitable as a side saddle mount.) Riders will be asked by judge to enter in trot/ or walk on the middle line of the arena one by one

General

- Western and Classic divided or together in one class (depending on the number of entries)
- Safety is of utmost importance in tack and attire!
- if western & classic riders are together in a mixed class, it is on the discretion of the western rider to show his horse in every allowed bridle(snaffle or bosal) also & in both hands. Or not
- Results: class in class - western & classic riders, one ranking! If possible by numbers of entries (minimum 3 each) two classes.

Rider's equipment

- Either Classic or Western style
- Spurs, whips or crops optional
- Incomplete clothing might be penalized.

Classic:

- English side saddle attire, long skirt, hat or dark top hat with net, boots, gloves, hair net, no apron

Western:

- a long-sleeved blouse/shirt, a western or divided skirt, no apron, hat, western boots

Horse's equipment

- Bits must be used according to the rules. (one hand)
- A change of the hand holding the reins during the competition is not allowed.

Classic:

- Hunter or Dressage bridle,
- saddle including balance girth, two horns
- Classic Pleasure gaits are to be shown

Western:

- Pleasure bridle/saddle including back cinch, two horns
- Western Pleasure gaits are to be shown
- In classes where Classic & Western together, the Western can use two reins with snaffle or bosal in two hands. Bit only in one hand, equal.

Qualifying Gaits

The horse should give the impression of being a pleasure to ride and show a mannerly attitude. All gaits must be performed straight and willingly with ease, cadence, and balance. Transitions should be smooth.

- Competitors enter the ring in counter clockwise direction at the Trot (classic) or Jog (western)
- a ground-covering Walk, a comfortable Jog/Trot and a flowing, smooth Lope/Canter are required
- Back: straight and fluent, without any resistance, to be performed on the centre line
- Quiet standstill is a must!

Judging

- Judging starts in the moment the competitor enters the arena.
- All gaits are judged equally.
- 85 % on manners, performance, suitability as a side saddle mount, quality, and conformation
- 15 % on equipment
- The rider himself will not be judged but, of course, influences the performance of the horse.
- Disqualifications: according to FEI: fall off the horse, riding additional manoeuvres, wrong/not allowed equipment, blood, lameness
- Penalized: if wrong gaits shown, kicking, bucking, biting, rearing, bolting, pulling, disturbing other competitors

I.1.8. Traditional Arabian Riding

Levels: N, A, M, European Championship

Levels:

Level N - To be shown at a walk and canter; extreme or reckless speed to be penalized. Horses shall stand quietly. To be judged 75% on performance and manners, 25% on appointments.

Level A - To be shown at a walk, canter and hand gallop; extreme or reckless speed to be penalized. Horses shall stand quietly. To be judged 75% on performance and manners, 25% on appointments.

Level M - To be shown at a walk, canter and hand gallop; extreme or reckless speed to be penalized. Judges might ask for halt during the hand gallop. Horses shall stand quietly. To be judged 75% on performance and manners; 25% on appointments.

European Championships: Riders enter the arena on the centreline individually in working gallop.

General:

1. Rider must have complete control over the horse at all times.
2. Competitors enter the ring in a counter clockwise direction at the canter.
3. Judges are required to consider all gaits equally in adjudicating this class.
4. It is suggested that horses line up head-to-tail the length middle line of the ring.
5. Results class in class - western & classic riders, one ranking! If possible (3 participants each)
Two different classes.

Equipment

Safety is of utmost importance in tack and attire!

Rider's equipment

- Native Bedouin type costume including a flowing cape or coat, pantaloons, head dress, scarf or sash
- No whips or crops allowed!
- No objects may be carried other than reins (no weapons, no animals)

Horse's equipment

- Bits, bridles and saddles: either Classic or Western, decorated
- All legal snaffle bits may be used with two hands, Romal reins/bits only one hand.
- A change of the hand holding reins with bit during the competition is not allowed.
- Blanket has to cover the croup
- Breast collar mandatory
- No martingales or tie downs

Qualifying Gaits

The horse should give the impression of being a pleasure to ride and show a mannerly attitude. All gaits must be performed straight and willingly with ease, cadence and balance. Transitions should be smooth.

- Competitors enter the ring in counter clockwise direction at the Canter/Lope
- a ground-covering Walk, a correct, straight and smooth Canter/Lope and Hand Gallop are required
- No Jog/Trot demanded
- No Backing demanded!
- Line-up head-to tail in two lines (left and right of the centre line) leaving gaps for judging the attire
- Quiet standstill is a must!

Judging

- Judging starts at the moment the competitor enters the arena.
- All gaits are judged equally.
- 75 % on manners, performance, suitability, quality and conformation
- 25 % on equipment
- The rider itself will not be judged but, of course, influences the performance of the horse.
- Disqualifications according to FEI: fall off the horse, riding additional manoeuvres, wrong/not allowed equipment, blood, lameness
- Penalized or disqualified if wrong gaits shown, kicking, bucking, biting, rearing, bolting, pulling, disturbing other competitors

I.1.9. Trail in Hand

1. LEVELS:

Novice: simple pattern

Advanced: some elevated poles, side pass, combinations

Master: changing of leading hand at the gate following the requirements of the pattern. Lope over elevated poles combinations.

2. A trail horse is one that can manoeuvre through a course of obstacles with physical skill, expression and a good mental attitude. It should travel through and between obstacles with an inquisitive desire to go forward without compromising its calm, relaxed attitude and way of going. It should approach

each obstacle squarely with authority and correct form, with its own style, yet maintaining its willingness to be dictated to completely by the rider/handler with no apparent resistance. Maximum credit should be given to the trail horse that negotiates its way through an entire course efficiently, in a timely manner, without excessive hesitation, with curiosity, expression, smoothness and style; in a manner that raises the degree of difficulty without sacrificing carefulness, control, and/ or attitude. Ultimately, the trail horse is skilful, eye appealing, confident, and leaves one with the impression of being sure, safe and a pleasure to be handled over a course of obstacles.

3. All entered exhibitors will be allowed to walk and inspect the course with the judge prior to the start of the class. Junior exhibitors may be accompanied by their trainer.
4. The course must be designed to require each horse to show all two (2) gaits (walk, jog/trot at least thirty (30) feet, somewhere between and/or over obstacles as part of its work, and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the obstacle score. Unnecessary delays while approaching, or negotiating an obstacle, shall be penalized
 - 4.1. **Scoring system is following the Trail scoring system.** The horse will be judged not the handler. The judge will score the all over impression of handler & horse, the outfit and the condition of the horse in the total scores.
 - 4.2 **Penalization in the total score:** How the maneuvers are shown: moving side wards, too slow, not straight moving and stopping, missing of willingness at any time, will be penalized in the total score.
 - 4.3 **0 score:** (Disqualified, stay in the ranking)
 - a. The horse gets loose.
 - b. Leading the horse on the wrong side when enter the arena to start with the pattern.
 - c. Fall of handler or horse.
 - d. Horse does not stay on the right side of handler, additional or left out manoeuvres.
 - e. Handler touches horse by hand or whip.
 - f. Trail pattern as drawn is binding, mistakes in the gaits between the obstacles, wrong line between or over obstacles, working obstacles not in correct order
 - g. More than 4 steps back.
 - h. Turn over more than 90°.

The obligatory obstacles for every pattern:

minimum 4 steps back up.

minimum 4 poles to walk or trot over

open & close gate, rope gate not wider than 2 m

5. If at any time the trail obstacle is found to be unsafe, it must be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted. No horse shall be asked to repeat the course, except in the case of a tie.
6. The course must be posted at least twelve (12) hours before the scheduled starting time for the class. One Day Shows and twenty-four (24) hours at National Championship Shows.
7. There shall be a minimum of six (6) obstacles and a maximum of ten (10) obstacles on any course. (Exception: National Championship classes have no maximum number of obstacles.)
8. The judge may alter the course prior to the course walk. Course designer is recommended.
9. The handler leads his horse on the rear (left) side with his right hand. If necessary, on an obstacle the leading hand can be changed. Judge should give credit to that horse do not need a change of leading hand. Changing of leading hand can be a part of the pattern (gate).

Trail In-Hand General:

In-Hand Trail may combine the Western and Classic style competitors.

Hand Trail will follow the ridden Trail rules in judgement.

Horses & handler competing in Trail in Hand are allowed to participate in Trail Novice classes
Combination Novice & Master is not possible with the same horse/rider/handler.

Age of Horse

From one year on, horses are allowed to be presented in Hand Trail. (Date of birthday is counting not only the year)

Age of Handler

following the General rules ECAHO Green Book minimum 8 till 12 years old, with accompanied by adult experienced person, standing outside the ring to assists if necessary.

In-Hand Tack

Suitable halter (leather preferred) (with or without silver trim), leather lead (with or without a chain) to be used. Rope Halters (Parelli style) are not allowed. If a chain is used with the lead it must not be run through the horse's mouth (recommended length: lead max 1,50 m; chain 0,80 cm; no lunge). Whip in dressage style max length 1,10 m with a short tassel or without is allowed. The whip should be only used to show the horse the commands and is not allowed to touch the horse.

The horse is not allowed to be touched by hand during the whole pattern.

In-Hand Attire

No crop, chaps, chinks, or spurs allowed.

Western or Classic Hand Trail Appointments

1. For rules regarding correct Western Trail appointments, refer to Western Pleasure or Western Trail - Appointments.
2. For rules regarding correct Classic Trail Appointments refer to Classic Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure Show Jumping or Dressage Appointments.
3. Dress of Handler: Western, Classic Show outfit or Halter show outfit.
4. Hand Trail is possible in costumes (horse + rider) with or without music, as written in invitation.

I.1.10. Classic Pleasure

Rider's & horse's equipment

- Equipment for dressage classes according to FEI
- Equipment should fit the class (novice, advanced, masters)
- No posting in Trot
- Spurs optional,
- whip or crop optional, but max. length 80 cm. Used in a way which is not irritating to the other competitors.

Qualifying Gaits

The horse should give the impression of being a pleasure to ride and show a mannerly attitude. All gaits must be performed straight and willingly with ease, cadence and balance. The horses should be balanced in all aspects and create the appearance they enjoy their job. Good pleasure horses have a brisk, animated stride that allows them to comfortably move forward with grace and elegance. The breed characteristics of the Arabian horse should be recognizable. It is particularly important to pay attention to an elegant supporting neck, which should be worn in a natural elevation. The horses should carry their weight on the hind legs and reach under the body. The frontline of the head should not be behind the vertical line.

Transitions should be smooth and correct. Any trot always sitting. No posting.

- Competitors enter the ring in counter clockwise direction in Normal Trot or on the discretion of the judge. Riders are allowed to use at the rail parallel a second, third line.
- Walk: a four-beat gait, brisk, flat-footed with good reach
- Normal Trot: a two-beat gait, performed at medium speed with moderate collection, mannerly, cadenced, balanced and free-moving.

- Strong Trot: a bit faster and stronger than normal trot but with a visible difference to it; performed with a lengthened stride, powerful and reaching; in harmony with its own natural stride; show moderate collection without too much action in the front legs
- Canter: a three-beat gait, smooth, correct, straight with moderate collection on both hands, not hurried
- Hand Gallop: visible difference to canter; performed with a lengthened stride, powerful and ground covering but under control at any time; correct and straight on both hands; in harmony with its own natural stride; extreme speed will be penalized
- Back: straight and fluent, without any resistance, to be performed on the centre line

Judging

- Judging starts at the moment the competitor enters the arena.
- All gaits are judged equally.
- The rider itself will not be judged but, of course, influences the performance of the horse.
- The horses will be judged in the following order: correctness of gait first, quality of gait second, degree of difficulty third
- Disqualifications: fall off the horse or rider, riding additional manoeuvres, wrong/not allowed equipment, blood, lameness, wrong gates
- Penalized if kicking, bucking, biting, rearing, bolting, pulling, disturbing other competitors

Levels:

N	walk, normal Trot, Canter, back at the middle line
A	walk, normal Trot, Strong Trot, Canter, back at the middle line
M	walk, normal Trot, Strong Trot, Canter, Hand Gallop, back at the middle line
European Champ.	walk, normal Trot, Strong Trot, Canter, Hand Gallop, back at the middle line, Halt during the Hand Gallop, enter on the centreline individually in trot

I.1.11. Hunter Pleasure

Rider's & horse's equipment

- Equipment for hunter pleasure classes according to show jumping equipment. No dressage saddle, military saddle allowed. No protective boots, bandages, bell boots. No martingale.
- Horses are shown under saddle, no jumps
- Posting in trot and light hunter seat, ready to jump, in Canter
- Equipment should fit the level of the class (novice, advanced, masters)
- Braided mane (one plait) permitted
- Short Hunter jacket (colours: green, bay, dark blue, huntermodel/pattern, no hunter red) hunter cap, hunter breeches (no white colour, colours lighter than jacket colour), hunter riding boots, bay or brown colour
- Spurs, jumping whips or crops optional

Qualifying Gaits

The horse should give the impression of being a pleasure to ride and show a mannerly attitude. All gaits must be performed straight and willingly with ease, cadence, and balance. Transitions should be smooth. The horse & riders should give the impression that they are always ready to jump and move around and

over fences. Light contact on the leads. Suitable to take a jump safely & efficiently. Comparing to Classic Pleasure the horse should carry the neck lower, less bend at the poll, generally more relaxed and in a longer frame all over.

- Competitors enter the ring in counter clockwise direction in normal trot.
- Walk: a four-beat gait, brisk, flat-footed with good reach
- Normal Trot: a two-beat gait, performed at medium speed with moderate collection, mannerly, cadenced, balanced and free-moving.
- Canter: a three-beat gait, smooth, correct, straight with moderate collection on both hands, not hurried
- Hand Gallop: visible difference to canter; performed with a lengthened stride, powerful and ground covering but under control at any time; correct and straight on both hands; in harmony with its own natural stride; extreme speed will be penalized
- Back: straight and fluent, without any resistance, to be performed on the centre line

Judging

- Judging starts at the moment the competitor enters the arena.
- All gaits are judged equally.
- The rider itself will not be judged but, of course, influences the performance of the horse.
- Disqualifications according to FEI: fall off the horse, riding additional manoeuvres, wrong/not allowed equipment, blood, lameness, wrong gaits
- Penalized if kicking, bucking, biting, rearing, bolting, pulling, disturbing other competitors.

Levels:

N	Walk, normal Trot (posting), Canter, back up on centre line, reverse at the walk
A	Walk, normal Trot, posting (sitting Trot can be asked by the judge), extended posting Trot, Canter, reverse at the Walk or normal Trot, backing on centre line.
M	Walk, normal Trot & extended Trot, posting & sitting, Canter, Hand Gallop, back up on centre line.

European Championships

enter the arena at the Walk, Trot straight along the centre line, Walk, normal Trot & extended Trot, posting & sitting, Canter, Hand Gallop, halt at the Hand Gallop, back up on centre line, follow the instructions of the steward.

I.2. Western

I.2.1. Trail

This class will be judged using the ECAHO, USEF = AHA, AQHA rules.

Western or Classic Trail Appointments

1. For rules regarding correct Western Trail appointments, refer to Western Pleasure - Appointments.

Advanced & Master levels depending on the age of the horse up to six years are allowed to use snaffle bit or Bosal, with correct Bridle: Snaffle bit with brow band & throat lash. Bosal with Hair rope/Mecate, no split reins used in both hands. To use a Bit on a younger horse is on the discretion of the rider.

6 years and older, only Western Bit or Bosal with Hair rope/Mecate, no split reins. Both possibilities only with one hand.

2 For rules regarding correct Classic Trail Appointments refer to Classic Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure or Dressage Appointments, no double bridle recommended.

Levels:

N minimum of 6 obstacles, easy transitions + simple pattern, maximum one lope over poles
A minimum of 8 obstacles, 2 combinations, maximum 4 poles elevated
M minimum of 10 obstacles, 3 combination, minimum 6 poles or more elevated, lead changes flying or simple

In NOVICE (N) horses regardless their age can be ridden with snaffle bit and both hands.

I.2.2. Western Pleasure

Levels:

N walk jog, lope, back up
A walk, jog, lope extended jog, back up
M walk, jog, lope extended jog, hand gallop back up

European Championships = Level M

In NOVICE (N) horses regardless their age can be ridden with snaffle bit and both hands.

Rider's equipment

- Western style according to the rules

Horse's equipment

- Snaffles & Bosal in two hands under 6 years or Novice.
Bits- split reins or Romal reins, or Bosal with Hair rope/Mecate, Romal, no split reins. Both possibilities only with one hand 6 and over. Must be used according to the rules.
- A change of reins during the competition is not allowed.
- Pleasure bridle/saddle/seat and attire

Qualifying Gaits

The horse should give the impression of being a pleasure to ride and show a mannerly attitude. All gaits must be performed CORRECT, straight and willingly with ease, cadence and balance. The horses should be balanced in all aspects and create the appearance they enjoy their job. Good pleasure horses have a brisk, animated stride that allows them to comfortably move forward with grace and elegance. The breed characteristics of the Arabian horse should be recognizable. It is particularly important to pay attention to an elegant supporting neck, which should be worn in a light natural elevation. The horses should carry their weight on the hind legs and reach far under the body. The frontline of the head should not be behind the vertical line. Transitions should be smooth and correct.

- Competitors enter the ring in counter clockwise direction at the Walk
- a natural, flat-footed Walk, a comfortable, smooth Jog and a flowing, smooth Lope are required

- Extended Jog and Canter (hand gallop) may be asked in advanced/master classes
- Back: straight and fluent, without any resistance, to be performed on the centre line
- Quiet standstill is a must!

Judging

- Judging starts at the moment the competitor enters the arena.
- All gaits are judged equally.
- The horses are judged on manners, performance, suitability as a pleasure horse, quality and conformation
- The horses will be judged in the following order: correctness of gait first, quality of gait second, degree of difficulty third
- The rider itself will not be judged but, of course, influences the performance of the horse.
- Disqualifications: fall off the horse or rider, riding additional manoeuvres, wrong/not allowed equipment, blood, lameness
- Penalized if wrong gaits shown, kicking, bucking, biting, rearing, bolting, pulling, disturbing other competitors

No back up on the rail!