

Parker Trail Riders
Pleasure Show Rules
(As of March 2012)



GENERAL

Each person is responsible for knowing the specific rules of the Parker Trail Riders Club. A copy of these rules will be available at each organized event and are posted on the Parker Trail Riders website, www.parkertrialriders.org. A signed "Release of Liability" must be signed by each participant (adults must sign for children 18 year of age and under), which will also be available at each organized event.

Pleasure Shows - Start **PROMPTLY** at 9:00 a.m. The show office will open one hour prior, at 8:00 a.m.

Parker Trail Riders will strictly enforce Colorado code and any rider(s) who appear to be under the influence of alcohol will be excused from the activity. Repeated offenders will be excluded from future events and forfeit their membership in the club.

Under no circumstances may a participant, parent, trainer or spectator badger, insult or be argumentative with the judge, the show committee, or a show volunteer. Any flagrant display of poor sportsmanship or disrespect by or on behalf of the exhibitor will result in immediate dismissal of all future classes. **No refunds will be given** and pending awards will be forfeited.

A judge may excuse any person or horse from the competition for bad conduct of one or both, or may disqualify any contestant for any excessive abuse of the horse.

The Show Committee may excuse horses that display signs of lameness or illness, from showing in additional classes. In such a case, the rider will be given a refund for classes not ridden. It is the final decision of the Show Committee and/or Judge to excuse a horse. Any and all "Statement of Equine Concern" forms received in the office will receive immediate attention.

Any unmanageable or unruly horse will be disqualified at the discretion of the Show Committee and/or Judge.

There is a returned check fee of \$20.00.

SHOW GROUNDS

1. Participants will be responsible for cleaning up around their trailers at all shows.
2. Horses and ponies must be kept at a walk at all times in the parking lot as well as outside the arena area, unless in a designated warm-up area.
3. Do not sit or stand on the arena fence.
4. If your horse kicks, tie a red ribbon in his/her tail and park away from other horses.
5. No spectators, horses or riders shall stand within 10 ft of the gate, except the gatekeeper. This area is for horses entering/exiting the arena. The gatekeeper will help maintain this safety zone.
6. No Stallions may be exhibited, ridden or handled on the grounds by anyone under 18 years of age. Those with Stallions need to park away from other horses.
7. All owners assume responsibility for their horse(s) actions and will be held liable for damage to the grounds and/or other property, public and or personal. Unruly horses may be asked to leave the show grounds.
8. All dogs brought to a show must be on a 6 foot leash or confined in a vehicle and not tied to a trailer.

EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE

EQUIPMENT

English Tack

In all English classes, an English snaffle (no shank), kimberwick, pelham and/or full bridle (with two reins), all with cavesson nosebands and plain leather brow bands must be used. In reference to mouthpieces, nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar). Snaffle bit rings may be no larger than 4" (100 mm) in diameter. Smooth round, oval or egg-shaped, slow twist, corkscrew, single twisted wire, double twisted wire mouthpieces and straight bar or solid mouthpieces are allowed.

Horses shall be shown with the appropriate discipline saddle. No western saddles in the English classes and vice versa. No training tack will be allowed in the Pleasure classes, with the exception of the Training Tack Class. Examples of training tack are Martingales, tie-downs, and draw reins.

Western Tack

Two hands are only allowed with a snaffle bit on ANY AGE horse, in all classes, including Novice. References to snaffle bits in western performance classes mean the conventional O-ring, Egg-Butt or D-Ring with a ring no larger than 4" (100 mm). The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments which would provide leverage.

If a curb bit is used, only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand must not be changed. The hand is to be around the reins; index finger only between split reins is permitted. Reference to a bit in western performance classes mean 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. Shanks may be fixed or loose. When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required, but must meet the approval of the judge, be at least one-half inch in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse.

Reference to romal means an extension of braided or round material attached to closed reins. This extension shall be carried in the free hand with a 16 inch (40 cm) spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the romal. When using romal reins, the rider's hand shall be around the reins with the wrists kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top and the fingers closing lightly around the reins. When using the romal, no fingers between the reins are allowed. The romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or to signal or cue the horse in any way.

Horses shall be shown with the appropriate discipline saddle. No western saddles in the English classes and vice versa. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. No training tack will be allowed in the Pleasure classes, with the exception of the Training Tack Class. Examples of training tack are Martingales, tie-downs, and draw reins.

ATTIRE:

Appropriate clothing is neat, clean and in good taste.

English clothing consists of clean riding breeches or leggings, appropriate English shirt; boots can be clean paddock boots or tall hunt boots. Helmets are mandatory for all youth riders. Hunt coats are **not** required, they are optional. Hair must be contained (as in a net or braid).

Western clothing consists of clean jeans, a Western long sleeve shirt (traditional shirt with collar that buttons down the front or a slinky), and Western heeled boots. NO tennis shoes are allowed, including "heels down" riding tennis shoes. Hats, vests, and chaps are optional.

T-shirts are not allowed for any classes, including Novice classes. Riders are encouraged to wear helmets.

PLEASURE SHOW CLASSES

General information

The classes will be posted on all show bills and will remain constant throughout the show season. Separate numbers will be assigned for each horse/rider combination and points awarded accordingly. Numbers must be worn on the riders back and not obscured by hair. If pad numbers are used, they must be exhibited on both sides.

Age Requirements - All classes for year-end high point (unless stated otherwise) will be divided into five brackets: 13 & under, 14-18, 19-49, 50 & over, and Open Class. Age is defined as the riders age as of *January 1st* of the current year. All riders must ride in their appropriate age division. Classes with 3 contestants or less may be combined at the discretion of the Show Committee and/or the Judge. Points will be accumulated based on the original age division. Upon receiving the approval of the Show Committee, a rider may move UP one age division - but must stay in that age group until the next year. This **MUST** be done before the first show and the request must be made by an adult, in writing. Open classes are open to all riders both amateur and professional and any age.

Scratched Classes - Contestants not at the gate when his/her class is called will forfeit the class and refunds **will not** be given. It is each rider's responsibility to know what classes they are in. If a change needs to be made, the rider needs to notify the Show office three (3) classes **PRIOR** to the start of the class. **No** changes can be made once a class has begun. Classes will close three (3) classes prior. **The office must be notified of a scratched class three (3) classes prior; otherwise there will be no refund for the scratched class.**

All riders will enter the arena in a counter clockwise direction (except to create safe spacing between horses in large classes) at a walk, unless otherwise stated by the judge.

Novice Classes

To be classified as a novice, the rider cannot have won three first places in that particular discipline. Once a rider places first, three (3) times in a particular discipline (English or Western), they are not eligible to ride in the Novice Rider Class the remainder of the season, or the following seasons. Once a horse places first three times in a particular discipline (English or Western), they are not eligible to show in the Novice Horse Class the remainder of the season, or the following seasons. Novice Horse Classes are based on the HORSE'S ability and Novice Rider Classes are based on the RIDER'S ability. This class is not to be used as a warm up or training class. Novice classes do not count toward year-end points.

Showmanship

The handler of the horse is judged on his/her ability to present the horse. The horse is merely a prop used to show the ability of the handler. However, the condition of the horse, grooming and cleanliness of the tack will be taken into consideration. The class is judged on the correctness of the pattern. Showmanship classes can be shown in English OR Western attire.

English Pleasure

The horse will be judged on performance, manners, conformation, quality and substance. This is a rail class.

All gaits, transitions and the ability of the rider to achieve balance and control will be considered in placing this class.

Riders can expect to show in both directions at the walk, posting trot, sitting trot, extended trot, canter and extended canter, halt and back. All horses should be able to stand quietly.

English Equitation (Rail Class)

The English Equitation is judged on the performance of the rider. Riders will be judged on seat, hands, performance of horse, appointments of horse and rider, and suitability of horse to rider. This is a rail class. All riders can expect to perform a walk, posting trot, sitting trot, extended trot, canter, extended canter, halt and back.

The seat should not be exaggerated. The Class should proceed around the ring at each gait and on command, reverse and repeated.

English Equitation with Pattern

The performance required in this class is designed to reflect a combination of control and skills required for good English equitation and performance.

The rider should present a workmanship-like appearance of being with the horse and in light control at all times. An impression of lightness and suppleness should be conveyed.

Each rider will perform individually. He/she will be judged upon skills shown in executing the required pattern. The rider can expect: walk, sitting trot, posting trot, canter, simple lead changes, halt and back.

Western Pleasure

The horse will be judged on performance, manners, conformation, quality and substance. Horses are to be shown at a walk, jog and lope (except for the Walk/Jog Class) on a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads. Horses may be asked to back. Horses are required to stand quietly.

A good pleasure horse has a stride of reasonable length in keeping with this conformation. He has enough cushions to his pastern to give the rider a pleasant, smoother ride. He carries his/her head in a natural position, not high, over-flexed at the poll. Poll should not be lower than the withers at any gate. The horse should be relaxed but alert and ready to respond to the rider's commands without excessive cueing. When asked to extend the jog, the horse moves out with the same smooth way of going.

Western Equitation (Rail Class)

The Western Equitation is judged on the performance of the rider. Horses will be worked both directions of the arena at a walk, jog and lope with light contact with the horse's mouth. All riders can expect to perform a walk, jog, lope, back and halt.

Western Pleasure and Western Riding (Pattern Classes)

The performance required in this class is designed to reflect a combination of control and skills required for good Western equitation and performance.

The rider should present a workmanship-like appearance of being one with the horse and in light contact at all times. An impression of lightness and suppleness should be conveyed.

Each rider will perform individually. He/she will be judged upon skills shown in executing the required pattern. The rider can expect: walk, jog, lope, simple lead changes, halt and back.

Trail

Trail class will be held outside of the arena using a separate judge. Classes will open at 12:00 noon and remain open until 3:00 p.m. It is each contestant's responsibility to complete the trail course when it is open. No contestants will be called to the course. The judge will be given a separate Trail Score Sheet for each participant to be used for judging the class. The judge will keep these until all riders have completed the course, at which time the judge will return all score sheets to the show office. An announcement will be made as to the trail standings. The trail class will be used as a tie breaker for Daily High Point.

Each rider will perform individually. Each horse/rider team will be allowed to do the trail only once. The trail class is a test of the rider's ability to maneuver a horse through obstacles that might be encountered on a trail. The trail pattern will be posted at the trail course.

This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and attitude. Horses will be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching the obstacles. Three attempts will be permitted at each obstacle. After the third attempt, the judge will request the rider move to the next obstacle. Failure to complete an obstacle shall NOT be a disqualification but is to be penalized

GAITS

The following terminology shall apply in all Western Classes whenever a specific gait is called for:

- A. The walk is a natural, flat-footed, four beat gait appropriate to the breed. The horse must move straight and true at the walk. The walk must be alert, with a stride of reasonable length in keeping with the size of the horse.
- B. The jog is a smooth, ground-covering two-beat diagonal gait. The horse works from one pair of diagonals to the other pair. The jog should be square, balanced and with a straight, forward movement of the feet. Horses walking with their back feet and trotting in the front are not

considered performing the required gait. When asked to extend the jog, it moves out with the same smooth way of going.

- C. The lope is an easy, rhythmical three-beat gait. Horses moving to the left should lope on the left lead. Horses moving to the right should lope on the right lead. Horses traveling at a four-beat gait are not considered to be performing at a proper lope. The horse should lope with a natural stride and appear relaxed and smooth. It should be ridden at a speed that is a natural way of going.
- D. The head should be carried at an angle that is natural and suitable to the horse's conformation at all gaits. The horse's poll may NOT be lower than the horse's withers in any gait.

The following terminology shall apply in all **English Classes** whenever a specific gait is called for:

- A. Walk is a natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait, appropriate to the breed. The horse must move straight and true at the walk. The walk must be alert, with a stride of reasonable length in keeping with the size of the horse. Loss of forward rhythmic movement shall be penalized.
- B. Trot is a two-beat gait, comprising long, low, ground-covering, cadenced and balanced strides. Smoothness is more essential than speed. Short, quick strides and/or extreme speed shall be penalized. When asked to extend the trot, there should be a definite lengthening of the stride.
- C. Canter is a three-beat gait; smooth, free moving, relaxed and straight on both leads. The stride should be long, low and ground covering. Over-collected four-beat canter is to be penalized.
- D. Hand Gallop should be a definite lengthening of the stride with a noticeable difference in speed. The horse must be under control at all times and be able to halt in a smooth, balanced manner.
- E. The horse's poll may NOT be lower than the horse's withers in any gait.

DAILY AWARDS and YEAR-END CHAMPION AND RESERVE

Daily awards will be given for 1st through 6th place, and points assigned on a scale of 6 to 1 (6 points for 1st place, 5 points for 2nd place and so on). Not all classes qualify for high point. The show bill will indicate the classes that qualify. The daily points will accumulate towards the year-end high point, which then translates to year-end awards.

Year-End Awards will be given to paid members in good standing based on the accumulative total of points (per horse/rider) received throughout the show season. There will be a Year-End High Point (Champion) and a Reserve High Point for the different age groups for the Pleasure Shows.

It is also required that each member working towards the Year-End Awards, participate in at least half of the scheduled shows. If there are 5 shows during the season the participant must attend and participate in at least 3 shows. For each discipline there are three classes that qualify for year-end high point. The participant must show in all three classes of that discipline. Fun shows do not count toward Year-End high point.

Year-end points are calculated on a horse/rider combination for each discipline (English, and Western). Exceptions made in the case of a horse's death, illness or chronic lameness. A veterinarian's certificate must be reviewed by the Show Committee within 10 days of the show. A rider may ride more than one horse, but each horse/rider combination will receive separate points.

To be eligible for the year-end awards, each participant must work a minimum of eight (8) hours of approved volunteer time for each discipline. In other words, English requires 8 hours of volunteer time, and Western requires 8 hours of volunteer time. **Each participant must attend at least two (2) monthly meetings.** Volunteer hours must be scheduled and recorded by a member of one of the PTR Committees. To acquire these hours for a Show award you can: work a sanctioned show, participate in a Spook Proof Clinic or be in a parade that PTR sanctions as a walker or rider. Other 'approved' activities will be announced throughout the season and they will all be described in the newsletter. If an entire Pleasure Show is worked (arriving at 8:00 a.m.), the volunteer will receive his/her 8 hours. It is strongly encouraged that each member work his/her own hours, however it is acceptable to designate another person to work your hours for you. The designee's hours must still be scheduled and recorded by a member of one of the PTR Committees. The day the hours are performed and for whom the hours are being worked will be recorded and maintained by the Show Committee. The participant receiving the donated hours must be named **BEFORE** the hours are worked.

Half of the volunteer hours (4 hours for each discipline) and one of the required meetings MUST be completed before August 1st. If you are working toward high point in both English and Western, you must have 8 volunteer hours completed by August 1st. Exceptions will be considered on an individual basis due to extraordinary circumstances. In this case, you must contact the show committee chair before August 1st. The time period to meet all the qualifications for Year-End is from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012. Meetings attended and hours worked **AFTER** September 30th, apply to the following year.

In the event that a participant earned enough points to receive an award but **did not** accumulate enough volunteer hours and/or **did not** attend two monthly meetings, the next qualified participant will move up, providing he/she has worked the required volunteer hours and attended two monthly meeting.

NOTE: All Pleasure Show judges receive a copy of these rules before judging a Parker Trail Riders Show.