

CHAPTER EP ENGLISH PLEASURE DIVISION

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EP101 Eligibility

Horses may be of any breed or combination of breeds. Junior exhibitor classes are open to horses and ponies. Horses must be serviceably sound, in good condition and of English Pleasure type. Animals with complete loss of sight in one eye may be found serviceably sound at the judge's discretion. Stallions are not permitted in Junior Exhibitor classes.

EP102 Appointments

1. Protective headgear is not required in any class in the English Pleasure Division unless stated otherwise within these rules. Use of protective headgear cannot be penalized.
2. The use of artificial appliances or devices such as chains, shackles, rubber bands, blinkers (except when driving) or blindfolds is prohibited on the grounds before or during a competition. Any animal with prohibited equipment must be disqualified from further competition and forfeit all entry fees and winnings. Tails must not be gingered or put in any device (e.g. tailset, bustle, braced, tied, etc.) which alters their carriage while on the grounds. The fact that a horse's tail has previously been set does not exclude participation. Tongue ties and inconspicuously applied hair in the tail and/or mane are permitted.
3. ENGLISH PLEASURE SADDLE SEAT CLASSES: A full bridle, pelham or curb, English-type saddle (No forward seat or dressage seat saddles allowed). Horses must be shown with a full mane and tail without braids or ornamentation of any kind. For rider, informal saddle seat attire with coat and hat or protective headgear. In all classes, gloves, crop, and spurs are optional. Gaudy colors should be avoided. Prohibited: A single snaffle, hackamore, martingale, or tie-down.
4. ENGLISH PLEASURE HUNTER SEAT CLASSES: Forward, balance seat or side saddle, snaffle bridle, pelham with two reins, kimberwicke bits or a full bridle (curb and snaffle). If a full bridle is used, it must be of hunter style and excessive length of curb shank shall be penalized. Breast plates are permissible, but martingales are prohibited. Horses may be shown with or without braided manes and/or tails. For rider, traditional hunter-style jacket, breeches or hunter jodhpurs, dark hunting cap, derby, or protective headgear and appropriate boots. Tall dress or tall field boots are preferred as traditional. Paddock or jodhpur boots with matching half chaps are permitted although not considered as traditional. A stock, choker or four in hand with any color shirt is correct. In all classes gloves, hunter crop or bat, and spurs are optional. Junior riders must wear fastened protective headgear (See GR801.4) when mounted. Shadbellies are prohibited.
5. ENGLISH PLEASURE DRIVING: Entries to be shown to a two-wheeled show pleasure vehicle or a two-wheeled traditional carriage driving vehicle with driver only. Harness with blinkers and driving bit(s), including sidechecks and overchecks, are permitted in all English Pleasure Driving classes and should be appropriate to the horse and vehicle according to tradition and safety. Running martingales are only permitted with snaffle bits. If a traditional carriage driving vehicle is used, breeching, shaft stops or thimbles must be used if the vehicle has no brakes. Entries must be shown with a full mane and tail without braids of any kind. Driver to dress conservatively (not period attire).

BOD 01/25/25 Effective 04/01/25

EP103 Gait Requirements

1. UNDER SADDLE CLASSES.
 - a. Saddle Seat Classes: To be shown at a flat walk, trot, extended trot, and canter both ways of the ring. Horses must stand quietly and back readily in the line-up. Horses may or may not stretch in the line-up.
 - b. Hunter Seat Classes: To be shown at a flat walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. Entries may be asked to hand gallop one or more directions of the ring at the discretion of the judge. For safety reasons the judge may limit the number of horses to hand gallop at one time. Horses must stand quietly and back readily in the line-up. Horses must not stretch in the line-up.

2. **DRIVING CLASSES:** To be shown at a flat walk, trot, and extended trot both ways of the ring. Horses may or may not stretch in the line-up. One attendant without whip is permitted to head each entry during the line up in driving classes. It is imperative that the horse stand quietly and back readily in the line-up and the attendant must not touch the horse except for safety purposes.

EP104 Judging

1. English Pleasure Saddle Seat classes to be judged by a Federation licensed judge who holds a current license in any breed that includes a saddle seat or English Pleasure section.
2. English Pleasure Hunter Seat classes to be judged by a Federation licensed judge who holds a current Hunter license or a current license in any breed that includes a Hunter or Hunter Pleasure section.
3. English Pleasure Driving classes to be judged by a Federation licensed judge who holds a current license in any breed that includes a Pleasure Driving section.
4. Manners and suitability as a pleasure mount are paramount. Transitions from one gait to another should be smooth and effortless. Horses must be obedient with prompt transitions. Special emphasis is placed on a true, flat walk with special consideration being given to those entries that represent a true recreational type, general riding mount. Entries should not exhibit extreme motion, speed, or resistance of any type. Horses must stand quietly and back readily in the line-up. To be penalized: Pulling, head tossing, laboring action, extreme motion or speed, going sideways, tail switching, and interference from attendant during the line up in driving classes.

EP105 Classes Offered and Specifications

Open Classes are open to professionals, amateurs, and junior exhibitors. Classes may be restricted (e.g. Amateurs, Jr. Exhibitors, Novice Rider, etc.) only if specifically stated in the prize list. A competition may offer up to three classes in each subsection of the Saddle Seat, Hunter Seat and Driving sections (e.g. three Amateur English Pleasure Hunter seat classes, three English Pleasure Saddle seat Geldings classes, etc.) however, only one class within each subsection and the championship within each subsection will count for HOTY awards for any one competition. The prize list must clearly state which classes count for Horse of the Year points.

1. **ENGLISH PLEASURE SADDLE SEAT and CHAMPIONSHIP** (Open, Amateur, Jr. Exhibitor, Maiden, Novice, Limit, Geldings, Mares, Ladies, Gentlemen). Judged on manners, performance, presence, quality and conformation.
2. **ENGLISH PLEASURE HUNTER SEAT and CHAMPIONSHIP** (Open, Amateur, Jr. Exhibitor, Maiden, Novice, Limit, Geldings, Mares, Ladies, Gentlemen). Judged on manners, performance, presence, quality and conformation.
3. **ENGLISH PLEASURE DRIVING and CHAMPIONSHIP** (Open, Amateur, Jr. Exhibitor, Maiden, Novice, Limit, Geldings, Mares, Ladies, Gentlemen). Judged on manners, performance, presence, quality and conformation.
4. **ENGLISH PLEASURE UNDER SADDLE and CHAMPIONSHIP** (Open to both Saddle Seat and Hunter Seat Entries). Any English Pleasure class that allows entries to compete in either Saddle Seat or Hunter Seat attire and equipment must be run as an unrated, recognized class or opportunity class. Competition management must list the class specifications in the prize list and a licensed judge is not required.
5. **ENGLISH PLEASURE HORSEMANSHIP and CHAMPIONSHIP** (Saddle Seat, Hunter Seat, Driving). To be shown at the appropriate gaits listed in EP103.1 and EP103.2. To be judged on the rider's awareness of the horse's performance. Offering of prize money in horsemanship classes for junior exhibitors and amateurs is forbidden. In Horsemanship classes, the rider is the competitor and wins the award. Exception: Breed and Hunter Horsemanship classes may offer classes in which scholarship funds are awarded. However, these funds must be disbursed directly to the institution upon proof of enrollment by the awarded recipient. Horsemanship classes will be held as unrated, recognized classes. Horsemanship classes are to be judged in accordance with EP104.