

PFAUKI Rule book

We are going to be adopting the PFHA rulebook , but with a few amendments.

We will divide the classes into age groups: under 60 months, 60 months and older. Where there are insufficient numbers (under 3 entrants) in a class the classes will be amalgamated, but judged separately as it was felt there is too much disparity between a 3 year old and a six year old horse.

There will be the introduction of a new class – the ‘Novice rider’ class. This will have a time limit of 2 years after which the rider will become ‘Amateur rider’ and unable to compete in the Novice classes. It has no bearing on age or experience of the horse and is designed to encourage the rider new to the show scene.

There will be a meeting after a drafting of the rulebook for the Board members to discuss and formally accept it.

Violations.

General Definition of violating Association rules:

1. Acting, inciting or permitting any other person to act in a manner contrary to the rules of the Association, or in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike or intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interest of the Association.
2. Committing any act or making a remark during a show considered offensive or made with intent to influence or cast aspersions on the judging.
3. Physical assault upon a person or cruelty to a horse.
4. Failure to obey a penalty imposed by the Association.

B. General Penalties. Every member and every non-member **(1)** who violates in any manner the Constitution or rules of the Association, **(2)** whose practices in the breeding of Paso Fino horses or in supplying information for the Association’s records are not in compliance with these rules, **(3)** whose conduct has endangered the good order, welfare or credit of the Association, or **(4)** who is convicted for cruelty to animals, upon submission of certified evidence of such conviction from any court, may by action of the Association Hearing Committee, be censured, suspended or, in the case of a member, expelled from membership in the Association and denied all privileges of the Association in accordance with the current PFAUKI rules.

C. Penalties for Unpaid Amounts.

1. Any member may be suspended and denied privileges of the Association, and any non-member may be denied the privileges of the Association by the Chairman of the Association, for the failure to pay when due any obligation owing the Association.

VIII. Fraudulent Practices.

Practices deemed fraudulent by the Association and other restrictions are described below.

A. Misrepresentation Concerning Registered Status. No person shall represent any animal owned or managed by him/her to be registered unless the same is registered in the Registry of the Association.

B. No Complaint About Judge’s Placement. No complaint may be filed as the result of a Judge’s decision relating to the numerical placement of a certain horse in the particular show

at which said Judge is officiating, unless such protest clearly alleges that the Judge's decision was in violation of the rules.

IX. Disciplinary Procedures.

A. Potential Penalties for Violations. Any member may be disciplined, placed on probation, suspended, fined, censured or expelled from the Association, and any member or non-member may be denied any and all privileges of the Association, or any Certificate of Registration issued to such person may be cancelled whenever it shall have been established by satisfactory evidence that such member or non-member has violated any rule or written policy of the Association.

B. Complaint. Any person who believes that any other person has violated any rule or written policy of the Association may file a complaint to that effect with the Chairman of the Association. In order for a complaint, other than one which can be verified by credible testing to be considered for investigation, it must be in writing, signed and dated. The individual(s) making the complaint must be prepared for full disclosure of the complaint to the party(ies) concerned in the complaint and must be prepared to appear at a hearing if it is deemed necessary. The Chairman shall investigate any complaint and determine if sufficient cause exists to convene a hearing before the Hearing Committee. For this purpose, sufficient cause exists if the investigation shows a significant likelihood that a violation of a rule or written policy occurred.

C. Notice of Hearing. When it is determined that there is sufficient cause for a hearing, the Association Hearing Committee shall give to all the parties charged with any alleged violation at least 30-days written notice of the date, time and place of said hearing. A copy of the complaint shall be included with the notice mailed to each person named as an alleged violator therein. The parties aforesaid shall have the right to appear at such hearing and produce witnesses and other relevant evidence on their behalf. The Hearing Committee shall have the right to hear and examine witnesses and other relevant evidence relating to the complaint for the purpose of making a complete determination of the issues.

1. Call for Hearing. The Chairman shall have the authority to schedule a disciplinary hearing when he/she determines there is sufficient cause for a hearing. Additionally, a disciplinary hearing shall be held if it is requested by two (2) members of the Board.

2. Quorum. Fifty-one percent (51%) of the members of the Association Hearing Committee shall constitute a quorum for purposes of a disciplinary hearing.

3. Testimony Via Telephone. Testimony may be taken at a hearing via telephone. Any person desiring to present testimony via telephone should notify all involved persons in writing, at least five(5) days prior to the scheduled hearing. This notice should contain the name, address and telephone number of each person who will testify via telephone. This provision is not intended to limit or preclude other appropriate procedures for offering testimony or evidence at hearings.

4. Testimony by Notarized Statement. *Testimony may be given at a hearing by notarised statement. Any person desiring to present testimony in this manner shall notify the Executive Director and provide the written notarized testimony at least 14 days prior to the hearing.*

6. Failure of Charged Person to Appear. In the event the person or persons alleged to have violated a rule or written policy of the Association fails to appear at the scheduled hearing or fails to file a notarised statement of the evidence regarding the alleged violation, a copy of the hearing notice and the date of mailing thereof shall be entered in the record of

the proceedings, and the Hearing Committee shall then have the right to conduct said hearing and make a final determination of the issues.

7. Decision of Hearing Committee. The Association Hearing Committee will decide if a violation of these rules occurred. In regard to any violation of these rules, as a part of its disciplinary action, the Hearing Committee may revoke participation privileges in all Association approved events for determined or indefinite period and/or assess a fine. The decision and disciplinary action of the Hearing Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.

8. Notice of Decision. The Association Hearing Committee shall document its decision and forward a copy of its decision to the respective parties involved in said hearing within 15 days after the conclusion of the particular hearing.

D. Denial of Participation in Association Events. On or after such time as a person has been denied participation privileges in Association approved events, but his/her membership privileges are not affected, the following restrictions shall apply:

1. That person shall not be eligible to participate in any Association approved event.
2. That person shall not be eligible to hold approved Judges Credentials or any other Association accreditation.
3. Horses which are recorded in the name of such person or spouse, or owned in whole or in part by such person, are not eligible to participate in any Association approved event.
4. During the period of denial of Association privileges, failure to comply with these restrictions and any other express conditions or restrictions of said disciplinary actions may constitute grounds for further disciplinary action.

E. Probation. Probation means that a person's conduct and actions with respect to all Paso Fino Horse Association activities are subject to strict review during the period of probation. A person who violates an Association rule or written policy while on probation is subject to more severe disciplinary action than might otherwise be the case.

F. Effect of Suspension or Denial of Privileges. On or after such time as any person has been suspended or denied further Association privileges, the following restrictions shall apply:

1. Person May Not Participate in Events.

2. Restrictions on Registration and Transfers. That person or spouse or minor child shall not register any horse with the Association or transfer registered horses into his or her name or that of his or her spouse, child or business in which the person is an owner. However, the signatures of the suspended person and that person's spouse will be honoured on transfer reports for the purpose of allowing such disciplined person or spouse to transfer horses recorded in his or her ownership at the time of notice of disciplinary action. In addition, written leases filed with the Association prior to date of notice of suspension, covering horses owned by the suspended member shall be valid and the signature of the lessee shall be accepted during the original term of such lease, but not during the renewal period of such lease.

3. No Registration If Breeding Date During Period of Suspension. No horse shall be registered which is sired by a stallion, or out of a mare, owned or leased by such person or spouse or business where the breeding date is shown to be on or subsequent to the date of notice of disciplinary action,, *until fees, penalties, or fines are paid in full to the Association.*

4. Horses May Not Participate in Events. No horse which is registered in the name of such person or spouse is eligible to participate in any event approved or recognized by the Association.

5. No Recognition of Signatures. The Association shall not accept the signature of such person, nor such person's spouse, nor that of such person's children under the age of eighteen (18) on any breeder's certificate or stallion reports evidencing breeding taking place on or after the date of notice of suspension.

6. Restrictions.

a. No person on suspension or that person's spouse may advertise in any Publication of the PFAUKI or on the website during the period of his suspension, nor may that person's name, or that of his/her spouse appear in any advertisements during the period of suspension.

b. If publication deadlines or other factors make it impractical to stop that is in violation of Rule 6., a., above, this will be terminated as soon as possible.

G. Additional Violations During Suspension. During the period of suspension or denial of Association privileges, failure to comply with these restrictions, and any other express conditions or restrictions of said disciplinary action, may constitute grounds for further disciplinary action.

H. Publication. When a member is disciplined, suspended, expelled or fined, or a non-member is denied membership privileges, publication of the action shall be made as soon as practical on the website. Said publication shall include rule number violated. The Association office shall also notify the management of every Association sanctioned show by letter of the penalizing of any person and of the person thereof.

IV. Naturalness of the Breed.

The Paso Fino horse shall be exhibited in the most natural way possible.

A. Appearance. No artificial appliances, make-up or glitter that changes the appearance of the horse is permitted. Normal grooming preparations are allowed, including the use of black or clear polish on hooves. All horses must be in good condition.

B. Colour of Horse. The colour of a horse or the colour of the horse's eyes will not be a consideration in judging a horse in any PFA UKI class.

C. Shoeing. If a horse is shown unshod, hooves will be neatly trimmed to a short natural length, not to exceed four inches. If a horse is shown shod, the length of the hooves are not to exceed four- and one-half inches, including shoes. All four feet must be shod with flat shoes that do not affect the way a horse travels or how a foot breaks over. All four feet must have the same type of shoe of the same material, weight and thickness, although front and back hooves may be shod in different sizes. Each shoe cannot exceed 10 ounces. Weighted shoes and pads are prohibited. However, toe and/or side clips drawn from the same shoe (an integral part of an otherwise flat saddle plate shoe which does not exceed 10 ounces in weight) that in no way affects how a horse travels or breaks over are allowed.

D. Manes and Tails. Manes, forelocks and tails should retain their full status; a short area, not to exceed four (4) inches in length may be clipped from the mane to accommodate the bridle. Horses under one (1) year of age will not be penalized for having clipped manes or tails.

E. Soreing. Soreing of a horse is prohibited. Any physical evidence, including but not limited to scars or blisters, of training with heavy shoes or artificial devices or soreing shall cause the horse to be excused.

F. Cruelty and Abuse. Any action against a horse, or neglect of a horse, by any persons anywhere on the competition grounds which is deemed cruel and abusive by a Judge,

Steward or show veterinarian may be punished by an official warning, elimination or other sanctions deemed appropriate by the show committee or Association Hearing Committee. Acts that are cruel and abusive include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Excessive use of a whip or spurs on any horse. A whip or spur mark or welt is an inflammation of the skin and subcutaneous tissue resulting in a swelling and in extreme cases in an abrasion or laceration. The signs of inflammation include heat, pain (sensitivity to palpation) and swelling.
2. Use of an electrical device in schooling or the show ring.
3. Excessively tying-down of the horse's tongue or head.
4. Showing a horse with raw or bleeding sores or raw or bleeding abrasions around the muzzle, nose, jaw, chin groove or jaw.

G. Soundness. All horses must be serviceably sound for competition purposes. A horse must not show evidence of lameness, broken wind or complete loss of sight in either eye. Transmissible weakness is a serious fault. Colts and stallions three years of age and older must have both testicles descended, except that a horse with only one testicle can be shown in the colt or stallion class if the other testicle was removed due to accident, illness, injury and if an affidavit signed by the veterinarian is submitted to the Association to become part of the horse's permanent record.

H. Inspection. At the line-up in all classes, Judges will carefully inspect the horses for artificial devices, training scars, raw or bleeding sores, soundness, marked lameness and welts from whips or spurs in accordance with these rules. Any evidence that the hooves have been trimmed too closely, which is a practice recognized as soreing, shall disqualify the entry for the remainder of the show. At all other Association approved shows, the Judge may, at his or her discretion, inspect any horse for evidence of soreing. Any evidence of soreing shall disqualify the horse from the class and from the remainder of the show.

V. Drugs and Medications, Non-Competing Horses Subject to Rules.

A. No Forbidden Substance. A horse may not be shown in any show if it has been administered, in any manner, any forbidden substance. A forbidden substance is any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer or local anaesthetic which might affect the performance of a horse. For this purpose, a stimulant or depressant is defined as any medication that stimulates or depresses the circulatory, respiratory or central nervous system. Also prohibited are any drugs, regardless of how harmless they might be which by their nature, might mask or screen the presence of any forbidden substance or prevent or delay testing procedures.

B. Request for Test for Forbidden Substance. If a horse is suspected to be under the influence of a forbidden substance, any request for a drug test is to be made to the show Steward, who will notify the Judge, who will determine whether such a test is warranted.

C. Penalty for Presence of a Forbidden Substance. The owner or owners of a horse found to have received a forbidden substance may be required to forfeit all prize money and any trophies, ribbons and points won at the show, and, if so required, the same shall be redistributed accordingly. The owner or owners of the horse will be suspended from showing for the remainder of the show year. Points accumulated toward Horse of the Year awards before the show at which the horse was found to have received a forbidden substance may be nullified and redistributed at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

D. Examination Permitted. Horses in competition at an Association sanctioned show, or present at the show grounds, are subject to examination by a licensed veterinarian who must

be appointed by the local show committee. Said appointed licensed veterinarian may perform certain duties, including the administration of a drug to induce urination at the trainer's request, or any other test or procedure in the discretion of said licensed veterinarian, necessary to effectuate the purpose of this rule.

E. Health Papers for Horses Not in Competition. All health papers required of horses competing at Association shows shall also be required of non-competing horses brought to the show grounds or show arena and kept in adjacent barn area. In addition to current or customary requirements for health papers, Show Management may, based on local, state and/or federal health requirements, require such additional health papers as are appropriate to insure the health of other horses present at the show grounds and in the adjacent barn areas. Whether a horse is in competition or not, refusal to submit the horse for examination or refusal to cooperate is a violation of these rules and will subject the person responsible for such refusal to appropriate penalties.

VI. Surgical Procedures and Injections.

A. General Prohibition. Any injection of any foreign substance or drug that could affect the horse's performance or alter its natural conformation or appearance is prohibited. Also prohibited is any surgical procedure that could affect the horse's performance or alter its natural conformation or appearance, except for those surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the horse. Upon discovery that prohibited surgery or injection of a foreign substance or drug has occurred, show management shall immediately disqualify the horse and report the matter to the Association. This rule shall not apply to castration or the cosmetic alteration of the horse's tail. However, the horse's tail may not be altered by the insertion of a foreign object, foreign substance or drug. Under no circumstances may a horse with a "dead tail" be shown at a PFHA sanctioned show.

B. Bar From Future Participation. Such surgical procedures or injection shall, in addition to disqualification by Show Management, be grounds for the Association, by action of its Hearing Committee, to bar the horse from future participation in Association approved events or presence at shows for such period as determined appropriate. Upon request, the owner shall deliver the horse's Certificate of Registration to the Association for such ineligibility to be prominently marked on the face of the Certificate of Registration. Although ownership of the horse may thereafter be transferred to another party, the transfer of ownership will not dissolve or shorten the term of ineligibility. If preliminary examination indicates a violation of this rule and pending final hearing by the Association Hearing Committee, the Chairman may, by giving written notice of his or her action to the owner of record at his current address as shown on Association records, temporarily suspend the horse from further participation in an Association approved event or show and request the return of its Certificate of Registration.

C. Responsibility for Violation. The exhibitor and owner are each responsible for a horse's condition, and they are presumed to know all rules of the Association, including the penalty provisions of these rules. Such individual's voluntary act in entering, exhibiting or causing to be exhibited a horse in an approved show that is found to be in violation of this Section VI makes him eligible for disciplinary action whether or not the owner or trainer had actual knowledge of the surgery or the presence of the foreign substance or drug or directly authorized the surgical procedure or injection. Purchase and subsequent exhibition of a horse that is found to be in violation of this Section VI in an approved show makes the later purchaser and exhibitor also responsible under this rule.

D. Examination of Horse Required. Every owner and exhibitor shall, upon request of Show Management, permit examination of a horse for determination of the presence of prohibited

surgery or foreign drug or substance. Refusal to comply with such request shall: **(1)** constitute grounds for disqualification of the horse from further participation at the show or from further approved events pending hearing of the Association's Hearing Committee, **(2)** bar the horse from participation in future approved events or shows for such period as determined by the Association Hearing Committee and **(3)** constitute grounds for suspension of Association membership of the owner and trainer.

VII. Tack and Attire.

A. Metal on Nosepiece. A curb chain or curb strap is permitted, but shall not be cruelly tight. Except for Schooling classes in the Classic Fino, Paso Performance and Paso Pleasure divisions, metal is not permitted in, under, over or attached to the cavesson nosepiece except for necessary buckles.

B. No Metal on Browbands. No metal decoration is allowed on browbands.

C. Schooling Headgear. In **(1)** Schooling classes, **(2)** three- and four year-old horses in Amateur classes that are not Schooling classes or **(3)** three- and four-year old horses in Youth classes, except Equitation and Horsemanship classes, headgear can be any training headgear not considered cruel or inhumane by the Judge or show committee. In a Schooling class in the Classic Fino, Paso Performance and Paso Pleasure divisions, metal may be used if covered in a nosepiece or under the chin, but it must not be considered cruel or inhumane by the Judge or show committee and be sufficiently covered to ensure comfort to the animal.

D. English Tack.

1. Saddle. In all classes where English tack is designated, saddles may be of any English-type except that forward seat jumping saddles are prohibited unless a jump is required in the class. If a saddle pad is used, it will be conservative in color and conform to the shape of the saddle. Stirrups for classes requiring English tack must conform in overall shape to commonly regarded English tack.

2. Bridle. Except as provided in the next sentence, bridles must be leather, but not rawhide except in Schooling classes where rawhide is permitted, Colombian- or English-type headstalls, flat, rolled or braided. Goatskin bridles with white or cream-colored reins matching the bridles may be used. Cheek pieces may be 3/8- to 5/8- inch with a matching, plain or stitched, cavesson and matching browband. The browband and cavesson nosepiece may not exceed one inch in width. Dropped nosebands, tie-downs and martingales are prohibited. Headstalls may have a throatlatch with a pisador. The pisador may be rawhide. Throatlatches may tie rather than buckle.

3. Reins. Reins may be leather, flat, rolled or braided. Nylon or other natural or man-made fiber reins may be used (hereafter referred to as "nylon"). In all classes, nylon reins may be used, but they must be the same color as the headstall. Combination leather/nylon buckle-back reins may be used. Snaps that attach the reins to the bit or bosal may be used in all classes.

4. Other. An English breast strap or breastplate not exceeding one inch may be used. No silver, vinyl or reflective vinyl is allowed on headgear, breast straps or breastplates.

E. Western Tack. In all classes where Western tack is designated, entries shall be shown with stock saddle, but silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. The headstall shall be of the Western-type customarily used with a stock saddle. Horses under the age of five years may also use a snaffle or bosal. A horses five and over must use a curb bit. Cavessons and nosebands are prohibited. Breastplates are permitted. See specific class descriptions and appointments concerning tack.

F. Bits. Bits are required in all classes except Schooling classes or other classes as specified. Bits may be of any humane approved type, as per *The Guide to Paso Fino Tack*. However, shanks cannot exceed six inches, upper shank of bit from mouthpiece to where bit attaches to bridle cannot exceed three inches. All bits with shanks must have a curb strap or curb chain attached and used for leverage. The length of a shank shall be measured in a straight line from the mouthpiece to the end of the shank (see illustration following.)

Official Paso Fino Show Costume. In classes requiring the official Paso Fino show costume, the attire shall be a long sleeved bolero-type jacket and full length riding pant or jumpsuit which covers the boots (see Glossary). The bolero jacket and pant or jumpsuit must be conservative in colour and trim. The exhibitor must wear a long sleeve shirt or long sleeve blouse. A matching or contrasting cummerbund is optional. Sequins, glitter or other similar reflective adornment is not allowed on any part of the Paso Fino show costume. Male riders shall wear an unadorned tie. The exhibitor must wear a Spanish-type felt, leather or suede hat with a round, flat crown with a flat or slightly rolled brim with a matching or contrasting hatband. The whole effect of the exhibitor's costume is to be one of good taste.

2. Western Attire. In classes requiring Western dress, the rider shall wear a Western-type hat, long sleeve Western-type shirt, full-length trouser and Western boot together with chaps, shotgun chaps or chinks. A jacket or vest is optional.

3. Safety Headgear. A safety helmet that carries the message that it meets the British Standard may be worn instead of, or under, a hat that is required in a class. In classes that may require a jump, such as Trail and Versatility, such Safety headgear is required. All riders 18 years of age and under, including Walk-Corto Leadline riders, are required to wear Safety headgear at all times while on horseback at any Association authorized function.

VIII. General Rules.

A. Show Year. The Association show year runs from January 1 through December 31st.

B. Horse's Age. For separation into classes by age in years at horse shows, a horse's age is determined by the age it would be if its next birthday were the first day of January of the show-year in question. Therefore, any horse will be considered to be one year older on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling and the same for each subsequent year. For example, a horse born in 1996 would be a yearling during the September 1996 to August 1997 show year, a two-year old during the September 1997 to August 1998 show year, etc. However, when a horse's age requirement is stated in months, as for saddle or driving classes, a horse is considered to be 24- or 30- to 60-months old as counted from its actual foaling date.

D. Ring Conduct. The ring conduct of any exhibitor shall not be such as to affect adversely the exhibition of any other exhibitor's horse in the ring. Horses should be spirited, display refinement and beauty, but must be obedient. Anyone not controlling his mount shall be excused from the ring. In all mounted classes, the riders shall space their mounts in such a manner so as to avoid bunching up and shall maintain such relative positions during such class demonstrations.

E. Calling Class Placement. After a class has been pinned and the Judge's card turned in, any non-placing horses shall be excused from the ring. Non-winners of ribbons in any class should remain in the ring until excused. The placement of the class shall be called starting with honorable mention, seventh-place, and proceeding sixth-place through first-place. The first-place horse shall have the option of making a victory ride once around the ring.

F. Jumps. In all classes calling for jumps, the jumps must include two vertical poles, appropriate jump cups, a horizontal bar for the jump and a bar for a ground line. All material should be white or some other colour that is in contrast to the ring. Jump rails must sit firmly in jump cups and cannot be on the cup edges. Ground lines must be on the approach side of the jump and no farther than two (2) feet away from the horizontal jump crossbar. The jump

will be a minimum of 18 inches and a maximum of two feet. Hay bales cannot be used as jumps. All jumps in the warm up area also must conform to the above guidelines.

G. Withdrawing from Competition. No exhibitor may withdraw a horse from a sanctioned competition after it has commenced, or remove the horse from the competition grounds, without permission of the competition secretary. An exhibitor who has entered the ring may request permission of the Judge to exit the ring before judging is completed. If an exhibitor voluntarily removes a horse from the ring without the permission of the Judge, except in deference to safety, the Show Committee will disqualify the exhibitor and all of his or her entries from all future classes at that competition and all prizes and entry fees for the entire competition will be forfeited.

IX. Schooling Classes.

A. Horse must be 30 Months. Notwithstanding the fact that a horse may be considered a three-year old under the rule in Section VIII., C., above, no horse may be ridden in a saddle class, whether a schooling class or regular class, until it is at least 30-months old, based on the actual date of foaling.

B. Schooling Class Sections. Schooling classes may be offered in the Fino, Performance and Pleasure Divisions, including the Amateur Owner classes, as follows. There may be Open Schooling classes for horses three- or four-years old. Alternatively, there may be two schooling age sections within a division for: (1) horses that are three-years old and (2) horses that are four-years old. The horse's age for purposes of determining the appropriate class shall be determined under the rule at Section VIII., C. Horse's Age, above.

X. Gait, Smoothness and Style. In all classes, special attention shall be afforded to the rhythmic consistency and smoothness of the Paso Fino gait. While style of execution may vary with horses, any style of execution that reduces smoothness and consistency shall be penalized. In addition, a horse shall be excused for failure to perform any gait prescribed in a class. Any tendency to mix gaits, the loss of even cadence or lack of smoothness, as evidenced by an up-and-down or side-to-side movement of the horse's croup or of the rider shall be penalized. Horses that fight the bit, flatten their ears or swish their tails shall be penalized.

In all qualifying gaits, light contact on the reins is required. Horses requiring undue restraint or "holding" in gait or collection shall be penalized. While the degree of collection required varies from class to class, in no gait should the horse go "strung-out" behind, squat down in the rear, jut out his nose, lug or work behind the headgear. Exaggerated leg action (excessive fold, over-reaching, unnaturally high front leg action, etc.) is not desirable. The ideal Paso Fino horse should track straight; however, some slight winging or paddling is acceptable and should be penalized only if it is severe or a result of conformation faults. In all classes and all gaits, the Paso Fino horse should give the appearance of naturalness and ease combined with a degree of pride and elegance that is characteristic of the Paso Fino breed.

XI. Exhibitors General Code of Conduct.

Owners, handlers and trainers shall, at all times, treat members of the Paso Fino Horse Association and guests with the kindness, respect and affection which our long history deserves. At no time in the training, handling or in the showing of the Paso Fino horse will the horse be subject to mistreatment. Exhibitors should not accuse the Judge of favoritism and should support the Judge and the judging system. If an exhibitor believes that he or she has a legitimate complaint concerning the actions of any show official, he or she should follow the procedures outlined in Chapter One to pursue and resolve the complaint. An exhibitor may not use any type of electronic, mechanical or similar communication or mechanical device in the show ring while being judged, except for an exhibitor who is hearing impaired and who normally uses a sound enhancing device to achieve normal hearing.

XII. Amateur and Amateur Owner.

A. Definition of an Amateur. A person is an Amateur for all competitions conducted under Association rules if he or she has not engaged in any activities that would make him or her professional, regardless of age. (See Section XII. E. Definition of a Professional, below.)

Spouses of professionals who assist in training or showing are not considered Amateurs. 54

E. Definition of a Professional. A person becomes a Professional for horse shows purposes, regardless of age, if the person engages in *any* of the following activities:

1. Accepts payment for riding, driving, showing in halter, training, schooling or conduction clinics or seminars.
2. Accepts payment for giving instructions in equitation or horse training. Persons acting as counsellors at summer camp that are not hired in the exclusive capacity of a riding instructor are excluded.
3. Accepts payment for employment in another capacity, e.g., secretary, bookkeeper, and rides, drives, shows in halter, trains or schools horses, or gives instructions when his employer owns, boards or trains said horses.
4. Accepts payment for the use of his name, photograph or a form of personal association as a horseman in connection with any advertisement or article to be sold.
5. Accepts prize money in equitation.
6. Rides, drives or shows in halter at horse shows, any horse for which he/she or a member of his/her immediate family accepts payment for boarding or training.
7. Gives instruction to any person or rides, drives or shows in halter at horse shows, any horse for which activity another person in his immediate family or corporation which a member of his family controls will receive payment.

F. Activities Not Affecting Amateur Status. The following activities shall not affect the Amateur status of a person who is otherwise qualified:

1. Accepts payment for the writing of books or articles pertaining to horses.
2. Accepts payment for judging or stewarding.
3. Accepts reimbursement for expenses without profit. Expense statement is to be accompanied by receipts.
4. Accepts a small token of appreciation, other than money, for riding, driving or showing in halter. For this purpose, payment of horse board, prize money, partial support or objects of more than \$300 in value are considered payment, not small tokens of appreciation.
5. The occupation of veterinarian or farrier, or ownership of a tack shop or breeding or boarding stable, in itself, does not affect the Amateur status of a person who is otherwise qualified.

G. Change of Status. A Professional continues to be such until he or she has received Amateur rating by a vote of the Board of Directors. Any person who has been a Professional and who desires to be reclassified as an Amateur on the grounds that he or she no longer

Paso Equitation. The Paso Equitation seat enhances the particular and special style, grace, rhythm and oneness of horse and rider. The class is to be judged 100% on equitation. Results as shown by the performance of the horse are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them. Horses shown in this class will perform the required Paso Fino gaits.

a. Basic Position. The rider shall convey the impression of effective and complete control at all times, showing both the horses and the rider to the rider's best advantage. A complete picture of the whole is of major importance.

b. Arm and Hand Position. The arm should hang naturally with the elbows not extending outward beyond a perpendicular line even with the rider's shoulders. The reins shall be held in one of the following manners:

(1) The reins should be held by one rein in each hand entering at the bottom below the little finger and extending upward with the bight (excess) of the rein hanging on the off (right) side of the horse.

(2) The rein must pass directly from the bit, between the little and third fingers, with the thumb being placed on top. It is important that the third finger holds the edges of the rein in the joints nearest the palm and that the fingers are closed securely, but without tension. Right (excess) of the rein should be on the off (right) side. The rider's hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle, and should show sympathy, adaptability and control. The height the rider's hands are held above the horse's withers as determined by the head carriage of the individual horse. However, extremely high or low hand positions are improper. The rider's hands should not pass over or behind the pommel of saddle. The rider shall make every effort to achieve as straight of a line as possible from the elbow through the forearm, hand and rein to the bit. Hands and wrists should be flexible and not held extremely separated.

c. Head Position. The rider's head should be held erect with the chin up. The rider's eyes should look straight forward.

d. Back Position. The rider's back should be straight, but not stiff. The rider's shoulders should be square.

e. Feet and Leg Position. The rider's leg should hang naturally with a slight bend at the knee. The rider's lower leg should be under the rider's body and not flared outward. Flaring of the lower leg shall be penalized. The rider's feet should be parallel with the horse's body with the heels slightly lowered (approximately one inch). The ball of the rider's foot should rest directly over the stirrup iron with even pressure on the entire iron with heel, hip and point of shoulder in line. The rider's foot position should be natural, neither extremely in nor out.

f. Position in Motion. The rider's position in motion should be natural, coordinated and graceful. The rider should remain almost motionless at all gaits. From the side, a straight line should be able to be drawn perpendicular to the ground through the rider's head, shoulder and ankle. The rider's toe should never be more forward than his knee, thereby keeping his center of balance directly above his feet and ankles. The rider's upper arms should fall naturally from the shoulders toward the hip bones and should be flexible, never clutched to the body, extend forward or spread way from the body. The rider should appear to have a natural flow downward into the saddle and show no side-to-side movement of upper body. At all gaits, the rider should remain in the center of the saddle and not slip back on the cantle.

g. Tests. The rider may be required to perform the following tests:

(1) Ride without stirrups at a Paso Corto, maintaining the proper position. The stirrups may be crossed over the pommel of the saddle if so desired.

(2) Back his or her horse smoothly and under control. The horse's mouth should remain closed and horse should not throw his or her head.

(3) Dismount and mount. To dismount, the rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration. To remount, the rider shall check the curb chain and girth and adjust them if necessary. The rider shall gather the reins in his or her left hand with gentle pressure. The rider shall stand diagonally facing the front of the horse. The rider shall place his or her left hand in front of the horse's withers without holding the mane, turn the stirrup toward the rider with his or her right hand and place his or her left foot in the stirrup. The rider shall place his or her right hand either on the far side of the saddle at the waist or on the front arch (pommel), and spring lightly up, straightening both knees. The rider shall ease into the saddle and place his or her right foot in the stirrup without looking down.

(4) Perform a figure eight at the Paso Corto. (See Figure Eight Diagram, below, for pattern.) The rider shall always turn and face the Judge unless otherwise instructed. The Judge may tell exhibitors whether he or she prefers large or small diameter circles.

(5) Move the horse from Paso Largo to walk on a quiet rein;

(6) Answer questions on parts of the horse and tack.

(See this Chapter Three, preceding II., English Tack and Body Parts of the Paso Fino, below.) Judge must refer to these illustrations in asking questions.

Figure Eight Diagram

h. Procedures. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the

right at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a anti-clockwise manner until asked to reverse or change gait. Entries will space themselves, maintain the same relative position and avoid bunching up. Entries will be penalized for bunching up or for not working on the rail.

The sequence of the gait will be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, walk, reverse and repeat. The reverse will be executed toward the center of the ring. A halt will be called at least once during the Paso Corto. Entries will execute the above class requirements and, in addition, Judges are encouraged to call for at least two of the tests provided at Subsection g., above, of the top contestants. Each of the tests is to be performed individually.

(1) Judges must select only from test numbers 2, 5 and/or 6 for Sub-Junior riders. Junior riders may be asked to perform any of the tests.

(2) For the safety of the other entries, Judges are required to excuse any rider who is unable to control his or her mount.

i. Appointments. The tack shall be English-type. Schooling tack is not acceptable. The attire shall be the official Paso Fino show costume. (See Chapter Two, Section VII., I., 1. Official Paso Fino Show Costume.)

4. Paso Performance Junior. Qualifying gaits, procedures and appointments, except for Safety headgear, if applicable, are the same as described under the Paso Performance Division. (See Chapter Two, Section VII., I., 3. Safety Headgear.)

5. Paso Pleasure Junior. Qualifying gaits, procedures and appointments, except for safety headgear, if applicable, are the same as described under the Paso Pleasure Division. (See Chapter Two, Section VII., I., 3. Safety Headgear.)

Body parts of the Paso Fino Horse

II. Bellas Formas Division (Conformation).

A. Qualifying Gait. The choice of gait is optional, either Classic Fino or Paso Corto, and one form of the gait shall not be given preference over the other.

Both conformation and gait shall be judged in this class. The Breed Standard, described in Constitution, ARTICLE II., Section 2., of the ideal Paso Fino shall be used as the standard for judging. Transmissible faults, such as buck-kneed, calf-kneed, base wide, base narrow, cow hocks, sickle hocks, toe-in, toe-out, offset knees, standing under, camped out in front, too straight behind, etc., shall be counted heavily against breeding stock. A horse with a swayback or fallen crest will be heavily penalized. A horse must be serviceably sound to be considered for placement. Any horse that fails to demonstrate the Paso Fino gait, so that the Judge can evaluate and ascribe gait percentages, shall be disqualified from placement. This class shall be judged 60% on conformation, 30% on quality and naturalness of gait and 10% on appearance, grooming and manners.

B. Procedures. Entries of any age may be shown with a halter and single or double leadline. If two lines are used, they shall be long and shall be one on either side of the halter; if two lines are used, the horse may be handled by one attendant holding both lines or by two attendants, one holding each line. If one line is used, only one attendant is allowed. No attendants other than those actually holding the lines are allowed. Lines may end in a smooth link chain which may be crossed over the nose and/or under the jaw at a minimum width of 3/8". The horse must demonstrate the Classic Fino or the Paso Corto gait whenever moving. In the line up, the horse must stand square, not stretched and remain quiet without undue restraint. Horses shall enter the ring one at a time and in the order that Show Management designates. The horses shall proceed to the right and circle the arena in a anti-clockwise direction on the rail. Quality of gait, which is smoothness, symmetry of action, harmony of cadence and naturalness that is consistent and absent of undue restraint will be judged during rail work. After completing one circle, or when instructed by the ringmaster, the horse will line up in the center of the ring for conformation inspection. The Judge shall penalize a horse if the handler uses his or her hands on the horse's leg, below the knee, to position the hoof in the line-up. Additional work-offs may be required at the Judge's discretion, including the use of the sounding board to exhibit the horse's cadence of gait. During work-offs, the horses must remain on the rail except to pass.

C. Appointments. A horse will be shown in a leather show halter without a bit, nameplate or inscription thereon. The halter will be English- or Colombian-type leather, flat, rolled or braided (3/8-, 1/2- or 5/8-inch) with a matching stitched or plain nosepiece with optional brow band not to exceed one inch in width. A matching leadline, or long lines, as described in Section B. Procedures, above, is required. A riding crop or whip not exceeding 30 inches in length may be carried. No other devices may be used. Attendants will be attired in the official Paso Fino show costume. (See Chapter Two, Section VII., I., 1. Official Paso Fino Show Costume.)

III. Classic Fino Division.

A. Qualifying Gait.

1. Classic Fino. An evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait. This gait is smooth, animated, exciting and executed with brilliance and style. The horse must be fully collected and balanced, putting its complete dynamic energy into its carriage and the quickness of its footfall. Flexion and extension should be harmonious in all four legs, and the horse must present a picture of symmetry and fluidness of motion. The horse must perform this highly collected form of the gait naturally and willingly, and any indication that the horse is being excessively restrained or held in gait shall be penalized. A horse that fights the bit, flattens its ears or swishes its tail shall be penalized. Extension is absolutely minimal. The horse's forward speed is extremely slow, whereas the footfall is exceedingly rapid. Any tendency to mix gaits, the loss of even cadence, or lack of smoothness as evidenced by an up-and-down or side-to-side movement of the horse's croup, or of the rider, shall be penalized. In this class, horses shall demonstrate only the fully collected Classic Fino gait whenever moving. This class shall be judged 75% on execution and naturalness of the Classic Fino gait, 15% on appearance, conformation and way of going and 10% on manners.

B. Procedures. Exhibitors shall enter the ring to the right on the rail and circle the arena in an anti-clockwise manner until instructed to reverse or halt. Horses must work both directions, reverse, halt and proceed in gait. Breaking gait on reverses, stops or starts shall be penalized. A figure eight may be requested to demonstrate flexibility, responsiveness and steadiness of gait, but diminishing circles are not allowed. Only inanimate objects may be used as "posts" for the figure eight as long as they do not present a danger to horse or rider. A solid, continuous surface allowing no more than one-half inch of space between the boards, ground level, hard surface sounding board 48-feet or longer should be used in this class to clearly exhibit the rhythmic consistency of the horse's cadence and impact. The performance of the horse on the sounding board shall not be given preference over the horse's work on the rail. During competition, while being judged, exhibitors are not allowed to turn on the sounding board. Backing of the horses may be requested. *Judges may call for horses to work on the parallel at the Classic Fino as an optional test. Judges may call for horses to work in circles at the classic Fino as an optional test. Judges may call for horses to perform a serpentine at the Classic Fino as an optional test.*

C. Appointments. The tack shall be English-type. The attire shall be the official Paso Fino show costume. (See Chapter Two, Section VII., I., 1. Official Paso Fino Show Costume.)

D. Classes within this Division.

1. Classic Fino Schooling. Schooling classes may be offered. These classes are to be conducted in exactly the same manner as the Classic Fino classes except that they will be limited to schooling horses. Tack and attire shall be the same as in Classic Fino with the exception of the headgear, which may be schooling headgear. (See Chapter Two, Section VII., C. Schooling Headgear.) Schooling classes, if offered, may be separated as follows: **a.** May be open.

b. May be divided into Open Schooling Three-Year Olds and Open Schooling Four-Year Olds.

c. May be divided into Three-Year-Old Schooling Fillies, Three-Year-Old Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings also may be separated), Four-Year-Old Schooling

Fillies and Four- Year-Old Schooling Colts and Geldings (or Colts and Geldings also may be separated).

2. Classic Fino. These classes may be separated as follows:

a. May be Open (includes all ages and all sexes).

b. May be divided into Open Schooling Three-Year Olds and Open Schooling Four-Year Olds and Classic Fino Open (horses five-years old and older, any sex).

c. Schooling classes may be divided as provided in this Section III., D., 1., c., above, and Classic Fino divided into Mares, Geldings and Stallions.

IV. Paso Performance Division.

A. Qualifying Gaits.

1. Collected Walk. An evenly spaced, four-beat gait, cadenced, straight, brisk, animated and rhythmic. This gait is executed with collection, style and brilliance.

2. Collected Paso Corto. An evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait with moderate forward speed and extension. This gait is smooth, supple, cadenced, animated and brilliant, with the horse well collected, fully balanced and exhibiting symmetry in flexion and extension. The horse should demonstrate pride, style, elegance and enthusiasm, along with good manners and ready response.

3. Collected Paso Largo. An evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait. This gait is smooth, balanced, collected, bold and animated, with rapid forward motion. Extension and flexion must be harmonious with no tendency to become "light" on the front or "strung out" behind. The horse should appear eager and willing to move out, and a definite change of speed from the Paso Corto to the Paso Largo must be observed, yet a willingness to reduce speed on command must be demonstrated. All transitions between gaits should be performed evenly and smoothly. An even, four-beat cadence must be maintained, together with style, presence, boldness and brilliance. Loss of form, cadence or smoothness due to excessive speed shall be penalized.

In this class, the horse should combine style and spirit along with obedience and good manners. The horse should move out willingly, and stand quietly when requested.

This class shall be judged 30% on the collected Paso Corto; 30% on the collected Paso Largo; 10% on the collected walk, 20% on appearance, conformation and way of going and 10% on manners. Special attention shall be afforded to brilliance, form, smoothness and rhythmic consistency of the gaits.

B. Procedures. Exhibitors shall enter the ring to the right on the rail at a collected Paso Corto and circle the arena in a anti-clockwise manner. The sequence of gaits shall be collected Paso Corto, collected Paso Largo to show the marked difference in speed, collected Walk, reverse and repeat. While executing the collected walk, entries should space themselves to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail. In the collected Paso Corto and collected Paso Largo, entries shall maintain a position on the rail except to pass. A solid, continuous surface, allowing no more than a one-half inch of space between the boards, ground level, hard surface sounding board 48-feet or longer may be used. However, the Judges may require horses to perform only the Paso Corto gait over the sounding board. Judges may call for a serpentine at a collected Paso Corto and/or a figure eight at a collected Paso Corto as requirements for a work off of horses in close competition. At a very minimum, a serpentine should consist of half circles with 180-degree turns.

Serpentine Illustration

C. Appointments. The tack shall be English type. The attire shall be the official Paso Fino show costume. (See Chapter Two, Section VII., I., 1. Official Paso Fino Show Costume.)

D. Classes within this Division.

1. Paso Performance Schooling. Schooling Classes may be offered. These classes are to be conducted in exactly the same manner as the Paso Performance classes except that they will be limited to schooling horses. Tack and attire shall be the same as in Paso Performance with the exception of the headgear, which may be schooling headgear. (See

Chapter Two, Section VII., C. Schooling Headgear.) Schooling classes, if offered, may be separated as follows:

2. Paso Performance. These classes may be separated as follows:

- a. May be Open (includes all ages and sexes).
- b. May be divided into Open Schooling Three-Year Olds and Open Schooling Four-Year Olds and Paso Performance Open (horses five-years old and older, any sex).
- c. Schooling classes may be divided as provided in this Section IV., 1., c., above, and Paso Performance divided into Mares, Geldings and Stallions.
- d. Amateur Owner Classes also may be offered.

V. Paso Pleasure Division

A. Qualifying Gaits.

1. Flat Walk. A true, evenly spaced, four-beat, flat-footed and smooth gait executed with mild collection. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.

2. Paso Corto. A smooth, steady, unbroken, evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait, rhythmic, executed with moderate extension and mild collection. Forward speed is ground covering, but unhurried. Movements should be fluid, willing, relaxed, balanced and free moving. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.

3. Paso Largo. A smooth, evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait, fluid and rapid, showing no tendency to labor or become "strung out." Collection is mild. Both extension and rapidness of cadence are increased over the Paso Corto and a definite change of speed must be observed. The evenly spaced, four-beat cadence must be maintained at all times and loss of cadence, form or smoothness due to excessive speed shall be penalized, but extension and speed in gait shall be rewarded.

This class is to demonstrate the more relaxed manner of movement of the Paso Fino horse. Collection is mild. For this reason, manners and obedience of the horse are particularly important, and any indication of bad manners shall be heavily penalized. The horse should be controlled with minimal restraint and the rider should appear to be enjoying himself. Gait transitions should be made in a smooth, relaxed and willing manner, and the horse's attitude should be calm, pleasant and cooperative. A horse that fights the bit, flattens its ears or swishes its tail shall be penalized. The horse will be required to flat Walk, Paso Corto, Paso Largo, line up and back. The back should be straight, calm and controlled, and refusal to back disqualifies the horse from placement. Riders may not ride without stirrups.

This class shall be judged 20% on the Paso Corto, 20% on the Paso Largo, 20% on the flat walk, 5% on the back and 35% on manners, conformation, attitude and way of going.

B. Procedures. Exhibitors shall enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a anti-clockwise manner. The riders shall space themselves while executing the flat walk so as to avoid bunching up and shall maintain their relative positions on the rail. In the Paso Corto and the Paso Largo, entries shall maintain a position on the rail except to pass. The sequence of gaits shall be Paso Corto, Paso Largo to demonstrate the marked difference in speed, flat walk, reverse and repeat.

Each rider shall be asked to demonstrate the back from the lineup. In the back, the horse shall maintain proper head position, show evidence of a good mouth, back in a straight line and be readily responsive.

At the Judge's discretion, riders may be asked to perform individually. The required test should show the submissive manners, willingness and quiet temperament. Some of the request may be as follows:

1. Dismount and remount from the left side, either in the line-up or along the rail, except in Youth classes. Rider's style of dismount and mount is not to be emphasized; rather, emphasis is placed on the horse's willingness to stand quietly.
2. Perform a serpentine at the Paso Corto gait.
3. Perform the Paso Corto gait over the sounding board.

4. Back on the board.

5. Back on the rail.

Any combination of the above may be used for a work-off.

C. Appointments. The tack and headgear for the horse must be English or Western as described in Section VII. Tack and Attire, D. and E. including, without limitation, a sidesaddle or a plantation saddle with leather covered stirrups. A bit is not required. A head riser made of plain leather or otherwise capable of being shaped or bent by hand pressure is permitted. In any case, metal is not permitted in, under, over or attached to the cavesson nosepiece or head riser except for necessary buckles.

Attire shall be in keeping with the type of tack used. Where Western style tack is used, riders shall dress as specified under requirements for Western attire, described in Chapter Two, Section VII, I., 2. Western Attire, with the exception that chaps or chinks are optional in this class. Where English- or Plantation-type tack is used, the rider's attire shall consist of a long-sleeved shirt, full-length trouser, tailored jacket or vest, hat and riding boots. Riders that use English tack cannot wear chaps. Sweater vests are not allowed. A tie is optional. Women riders may wear a skirt, culottes or gaucho pant that are long enough to cover the knees while seated in a saddle along with knee-high boots. Sequins, glitter or other similar reflective adornment is not allowed on any part of the Pleasure attire. Jeans and baseball-style hats are prohibited. No part of the official Paso Fino costume shall be allowed except for riding boots, jumpsuit or pants. (See Chapter Two, Section VII.I.1. Official Paso Fino Show Costume)

Exhibitors should remember that even though this is a Pleasure class, it is a horse show class and not just a ride for pleasure.

D. Classes within this Division.

1. Paso Pleasure Schooling. Schooling classes may be offered. These classes are to be conducted in exactly the same manner as the Paso Pleasure classes except that they will be limited to schooling horses. Tack and attire shall be the same as in Paso Pleasure. Where Western-style tack is used, riders are allowed to use two hands when using schooling type headgear. (See Chapter Two, Section VII.C. Schooling Headgear.)

In addition to a standard curb bit, Colombian and Western hackamores, mecates, side pulls and snaffle bits may be used. Schooling classes, if offered, may be separated as follows:

a. May be Open.

b. May be divided into Open Schooling Three-Year Olds and Open Schooling Four-Year Olds.

2. Paso Pleasure. These classes may be separated as follows:

a. May be Open (includes all ages and all sexes).

b. May be divided into Open Schooling Three-Year Olds and Open Schooling Four-Year Olds and Paso Pleasure Open (horses five-years old and older, any sex).

c. Schooling classes may be divided as provided in this Section V., 1., c., above, and Paso Pleasure divided into Mares, Geldings and Stallions.

d. Amateur Owners classes may also be offered. They may be Open or, if divided, they must be divided into Mares, Geldings and Stallions.

VI. Specialty Classes.

These classes are open to all horses regardless of age or sex unless otherwise prohibited in these rules.

A. Paso Versatility Class.

1. Qualifying Gaits.

a. **Flat Walk.** An evenly spaced, four-beat gait.

b. **Paso Corto.** An evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait with moderate forward speed and extension. This gait is smooth, supple and cadenced with the horse mildly collected,

balanced and exhibiting symmetry in flexion and extension. The horse should demonstrate pride, style, elegance and enthusiasm, along with good manners and ready response.

c. Paso Largo. An evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait. This gait is smooth and balanced with rapid forward motion. Extension and flexion must be harmonious with no tendency to become "light" on the front or "strung out" behind. The horse should appear eager and willing to move out and a definite change of speed from the Paso Corto to the Paso Largo must be observed, yet a willingness to reduce speed on command must be demonstrated. All transitions between gaits should be performed evenly and smoothly. An even, four-beat cadence must be maintained, together with style. Loss of form, cadence or smoothness due to excessive speed shall be penalized.

d. Canter. A true, three-beat gait, cadenced, straight on both leads, smooth and unhurried with no tendency to increase speed or to mix gaits. This gait is executed with collection. The horse's movements are light and airy with natural elevation. The horse should exhibit style and presence, along with good manners and steadiness.

In this class, the horse will be asked to demonstrate balance, flexibility, coordination and manners while performing the various gaits, tests and manoeuvres. Manners and willingness are very important. The back must be controlled and smooth. Failure to properly execute the Paso Corto and Paso Largo, demonstrating an evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait, will automatically eliminate the horse and it will not be asked to do the individual work out to execute a figure eight manoeuvre at a Paso Corto and taking the jump from a canter. Failure to take the correct lead in the canter shall be penalized. The figure eight is to be performed at the Paso Corto and should be smooth, consistent in gait and supple. A jump that is a minimum of eighteen (18) inches and a maximum of two (2) feet will be taken from the canter. *One refusal to jump will cause a lowering of the horses standing within the competition. Two refusals to take the jump will automatically disqualify the entry from the competition.*

The class shall be judged 20% on the Paso Corto, 20% on the Paso Largo, 10% on the Flat Walk, 10% on the Canter and 40% on the back, jump, manners and figure eight.

2. Procedures. Exhibitors shall enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in an anti-clockwise manner. The sequence of gaits shall be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, Flat Walk, Canter, Flat Walk, reverse and repeat. While executing the walk, riders shall space themselves to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail. In the remaining gaits, exhibitors shall remain on the rail except to pass. Riders shall be asked, individually, to back, execute a figure eight manoeuvre at a Paso Corto and take a jump from the canter.

3. Appointments. The tack and headgear are to be English type, with a bridle and cavesson. Forward-seat saddles also are allowed. Attire is to be English-type as described in the Section V. Paso Pleasure Division, C. Appointments, above. Safety headgear is required. (See Chapter Two, Section VII., I., 3. Safety Headgear.)

B. Paso Western Pleasure.

1. Qualifying Gaits.

a. Flat Walk. A true, evenly spaced, four-beat, flat-footed and smooth gait executed with mild collection. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.

b. Paso Corto. A smooth, steady, unbroken, evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait, rhythmic and executed with moderate extension and mild collection. Forward speed is ground covering, but unhurried. Movements should be fluid, willing, relaxed, balanced and free moving. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.

c. Lope. A true, three-beat gait that is slow, cadenced, smooth and straight on both leads. Movements are less elevated than in the canter and the horse's head is carried somewhat lower. The horse should be balanced and going with mild collection. Movements are free, relaxed and easy, and the horse should not show a tendency to increase speed or mix gaits. In this class, the horse should move as in the image of a working cow horse while still retaining the air of pride and grace that is typical of the Paso Fino horse. In all gaits, the

horse must be smooth and responsive and both horse and rider should appear comfortable and relaxed. The horse must work on a very light rein, but some contact should be maintained. Gait transitions should be taken on the first stride and the horse should maintain his speed and cadence without restraint by the rider. Failure to take the correct lead in the lope shall be penalized.

This class shall be judged 35% on the Paso Corto, 30% on the Lope, 10% on the flat walk and 25% on manners, attitude and way of going.

2. Procedures. The exhibitor will enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a anti-clockwise manner. Horses under the age of five years may use a snaffle or bosal and may be ridden with two hands. Horses five and over must use a curb bit. Only one hand may be used on the reins when using a curb bit, and hands must not be changed. If hands are changed or if two hands are used with a curb bit, the exhibitor shall be penalized. If the left hand is used with reins, the bight must drape to the left side of the withers. The only exception to this is if long reins or a romal are used. In that case, one hand may be used to carry the excess rein, but the hands must be at least twelve (12) inches apart. All horses being considered for an award are required to back in a straight line for placement. Refusal to back disqualifies the horse from placement.

The sequence of the gaits shall be Paso Corto, flat walk, lope, flat walk, reverse and repeat. Riders should space themselves while executing the flat walk to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail. In the Paso Corto and lope, entries shall remain on the rail except to pass.

The Judge may require each rider to dismount and remount in the line-up from the left side. The rider's style of dismount and mount is not to be emphasized; rather, emphasis is placed on the horse's willingness to stand quietly. The Judge also may require any of the following tests to any or all entries:

- a. Demonstrate a straight back for up to 15-feet.
- b. Lope and stop, either on the rail or down the centre.
- c. Perform the figure eight at the lope on the correct lead demonstrating a simple change of lead. One or two figure eights may be required. In a simple change of lead, the horse is brought back to the halt and restarted into the lope on the opposite lead from the halt or flat walk.
- d. Perform the Paso Corto over the sounding board.

3. Appointments. The tack and attire are to be Western-style. Horses under the age of five may use a snaffle or bosal. Horses five years- old and older must use a cub bit. See the Guide to Paso Fino Tack for the description of legal bits. Australian stock saddles are prohibited but western saddles made in Australia (with horn) are allowed. (See Chapter Two, Section VII., E. Western Tack.)

C. Paso Trail.

1. Qualifying Gaits.

a. Flat Walk. A true, evenly spaced, four-beat, flat-footed and smooth gait executed with mild collection. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.

b. Paso Corto. A smooth, steady, unbroken, evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait, rhythmic and executed with moderate extension and mild collection. Forward speed is ground covering, but unhurried. Movements should be fluid, willing, relaxed, balanced and free moving. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.

c. Paso Largo. A smooth, evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait that is fluid and rapid, showing no tendency to labour or become "strung out." Collection is mild. Both extension and rapidness of cadence are increased over the Paso Corto and a definite change of speed must be observed. The evenly spaced, four-beat cadence must be maintained at all times and loss of cadence, form or smoothness due to excessive speed shall be penalized.

d. Canter or Lope. A true, three-beat gait, cadenced, straight on both leads, smooth and unhurried and with no tendency to increase speed or mix gaits.

2. Procedures. Each horse shall be asked to negotiate through obstacles. Obstacles are to be negotiated individually, by exhibitor, with only one horse in the arena at a time. This class

shall be judged 100% on the obstacle course; there is no rail work. The course will specify how a horse is to negotiate or travel between obstacles that seem appropriate. This includes the distance from the beginning of an obstacle to the beginning of the next obstacle. Any horse not properly performing the gait required should be penalized in the same manner as not completing the obstacle. Failure to follow the prescribed obstacles, or course of travel through obstacles, will result in automatic elimination. A drawn course will be provided by Show Management, reviewed for compliance with required procedures and approved by the Judge(s) and Steward(s). The course will show the line of travel through obstacles and the gait required to perform obstacles. Changes or revisions will not be permitted after posting. The course will specify how a horse is to negotiate or travel between obstacles that seem appropriate. It is not required to use all of the qualifying gaits.

Tests that may be required include negotiating a gate, carrying an object from one part of the arena to another, riding through water, over logs or simulated brush, riding down into, up and out of a ditch without lunging or jumping, crossing a bridge, backing through obstacles, side passing, mounting and dismounting from either side and performing over any reasonable conditions along the trail. Any coat or jacket to be put on by the rider must be open in front and not be an item which must be put on over the head. The canter or lope is not to be called for in the class procedure. However, if a jump is called for in the class, the rider has the option of cantering, loping or using any other gait that is listed as a qualifying gait to negotiate the jump. Unnatural obstacles, such as fire extinguisher, perforated plywood in water boxes or exotic animals should be avoided. The course is to include a minimum of six obstacles and a maximum of eight obstacles. (See USEF Western Division, WS129, as it may be amended from time to time, for dimensions of trail obstacles.)

Horses are to be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching the obstacles. Judges are encouraged to advance on to the next obstacle any horse taking excessive time at an obstacle. Entry will be evaluated on willingness, responsiveness, correctness and general attitude while negotiating through the obstacle course. Obstacles occurring in a natural trail environment only are to be used to break a tie.

3. Appointments. The tack and type of attire are optional; tack and attire as described for either the Paso Western Pleasure or the Paso Pleasure classes are permitted. Safety headgear is required if a jump is included in the class. (See Chapter Two, Section VII., I., 3. Safety Headgear.) If Western tack and attire are used, the bit requirements are as stated for the Paso Western Pleasure class. (See this Section VII., B. Paso Western Pleasure., 3. Appointments., above.) Only one hand may be used on the reins and the hand may not be changed except to negotiate an obstacle.

D. Paso Costume. The purpose of this class is to create interest in the Paso Fino breed by establishing and demonstrating its Latin American or Spanish origin by means of the various costumes for the rider employed in the respective countries of origin, for the diversion and enjoyment of the public. In this class, horses will be required to demonstrate their favorite Paso Fino gait and stand in a line-up on display. They shall be judged 80% on attractiveness of costuming and appropriateness of same to the horses and the completeness of the costuming idea, 10% on the brilliance of gait and on the carriage of the horse and 10% on manners of the horse. Points in this class shall be assigned to the rider. Riders entering the Costume class must be members in good standing of the Association.

1. Procedures. Entries must submit a brief statement of approximately 100 words, or a maximum of two minutes, on the cultural significance of their costume. This will be read as each entrant, one-by-one, enters the ring in his or her favorite Paso Fino gait. Every exhibitor must circle the ring once, in an anti-clockwise manner, and line up head to tail in the center of the ring. A attendant/handler is allowed. Such attendant/handler must be appropriately attired and in keeping with the costume of the rider. The rider's attire will not be offensive or detract from the main purpose of the Class.

2. Appointments. No specific tack for the horse is required, but all should be in keeping with the costume of the rider. Costume of the rider must be Latin American or Spanish related, but no specific country of origin need be identified.

E. Paso Fino Country Pleasure. (novice class)

1. Qualifying Gaits.

a. Flat Walk. A true, evenly spaced, four beat, flat-footed and smooth gait executed with mild collection. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.

b. Paso Corto. An evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait with the horse going forward with free and moderately extended steps. The steps should be even and the whole movement balanced and unconstrained. A definite change of speed from the flat walk must be observed. While maintaining light contact on the reins, the rider allows the horse to carry its head somewhat in front of the vertical while also allowing a slightly lower head and neck. The horse should demonstrate pride, style and enthusiasm along with good manners and ready response.

c. Paso Largo. An evenly spaced, longer stridden, four-beat lateral gait with considerably more speed than the Corto, but a greater difference will be rewarded. The whole movement should be well balanced and the transition from Corto should be executed with fluidity. A definite change of speed from the Paso Corto must be observed. While maintaining light contact on the reins, without leaning or pulling on the reins, the rider allows the horse to lengthen his frame and to gain ground. Extreme speed, loss of form, cadence or smoothness shall be penalized.

2. Class Description. The Country Pleasure horse should be a calm, mild mannered and safe-using pleasure horse maintaining balance, ease and freedom of movement. It must demonstrate flawless manners. It must be absolutely agreeable to the commands and directions of the rider. It is imperative that the horse give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride with emphasis on the flat walk and smooth transitions. At all times, it must work on a very light rein without resistance and, although it should be athletic, it may be energetic and should combine style and spirit. At all times, it must demonstrate a quiet, calm and extremely tractable attitude. It must stand quietly and back readily when requested. Horses indicating aggressiveness, over-collection or excessive animation shall be severely penalized. This class is open to Amateurs and to horses that have not been in professional training for 30 days before the show. Cross entering in any other class is permitted. This class shall be judged 20% on the flat walk, 20% on the Paso Corto, 20% on the Paso Largo, 10% on the back, 10% on appearance and way of going and 20% on manners. Special attention shall be afforded to form, smoothness, rhythmic constancy of the gaits and tractable attitude.

3. Procedures. Exhibitors shall enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a anti-clockwise manner. Sequence of gaits will be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, flat walk, reverse, repeat and then line up. When the Judge requests, the rider will back the horse out of the line-up, dismount from the left side, walk around to the front of the horse checking the headgear and/or bridle appointments, remount from the right side and return to the line-up. A rider's style of dismount and mount is not to be emphasized; rather, emphasis is placed on the horse's willingness to back in a calm and controlled manner and to stand quietly. While executing all gaits, entries should space themselves from other exhibitors to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail except to pass.

4. Appointments. Tack and attire are to be appropriate for the Paso Pleasure class and neat, clean and in good taste at all times. Bits are not required in the Paso Fino Country Pleasure class. The horse's tack and headgear may be of any variety that would be appropriate and practical for pleasure riding. Attire shall be in keeping with the type of tack used. Where Western-style tack is used, riders shall dress as specified under requirements for Western attire with the exception that chaps or chinks are optional in this class. (See Chapter Two, Section VII., I., 2. Western Attire.) Where English- or Plantation-type tack is used, the rider's attire shall consist of a long-sleeved shirt, full-length trouser, tailored jacket or vest, hat and riding boots.

Riders who use English tack cannot wear chaps. Sweater vests are not allowed. A tie is optional. Women riders may wear a skirt, culottes or gaucho pant that are long enough to

cover the knees while seated in a saddle along with knee-high boots. Jeans and baseball-style hats are prohibited. No part of the official Paso Fino costume shall be allowed except for the riding boot. (See Chapter Two, Section VII., I., 1. Official Paso Fino Show Costume.) Exhibitors should remember that even though this is a Paso Country Pleasure class, it is a horse show class and not just a ride for pleasure.

VII. Championship Classes.

Championship classes for Mares/Fillies, Stallions/Colts and Geldings for each division may be offered.

A. Eligibility. To be eligible for entry into a Championship class, a horse must have been properly entered, shown and judged in one of the qualifying classes. To be considered shown and judged, a horse must perform all required gaits, both ways of the ring in the original class and must remain in the ring until either excused or placed by the Judge. Entries qualified for Championship classes in Amateur classes must compete in the Amateur Championship classes in that Division, if offered. If Amateur Championship classes are not offered, an entry that qualifies for the Championship class in the Amateur class may compete in the regular Championship class in the Division for which they are qualified. However, in the Bellas Formas Division, all Championship classes shall be composed of the entries who placed first and second in their qualifying classes. From these entries, a Champion, Reserve Champion, Third Champion and Fourth Champion shall be chosen. A Fifth Place, also called honourable mention, may be awarded in case of disqualification of any of the top four placing champions.

B. Procedures. Championship classes shall be conducted in the same manner as the qualifying class. Horses will be required to perform in the gait of the qualifying class in both directions of the ring, execute the manoeuvres of the qualifying class and line up, as requested by the Judge. Horses will remain in the ring until excused by the Judge.

C. Classes Offered. Except in an All-Breed show, Championship classes shall be offered in a Division when at least two qualifying classes have been offered at a show. If Bellas Formas classes are divided into Colts/Stallions, Geldings and Fillies/Mares classes, only the following Bellas Formas Championship classes can be offered:

1. Fillies and Mares, All Ages.
2. Geldings, All Ages.
3. Colts and Stallions, All Ages. In shows where there are only Open Bellas Formas classes, there can be only an Open Championship.

D. Junior. Entries in a Youth class do not qualify that exhibitor for a Championship class. They must otherwise qualify to exhibit in a Championship class, in accordance with this Chapter Three, Section I., A., 6. Ineligible for Championship.

POINTS AWARDED

Placement

First **12**

Second **10**

Third **8**

Fourth **6**

Fifth **4**

Sixth **2**

Points awarded in Youth and Championship classes shall be double the points shown above.

High Point Horse of the Championship Show. The horse that accumulates the highest total number of points at the Association's National show shall be awarded the title of High Point Horse of the (year) PFAUKI Championship show along with an appropriate award

attesting to the achievement. There will also be awards for the Junior, Amateur and Professional rider of the year.