

# PFAUKI Show class description

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## **The Paso Fino Show Divisions**

In show competitions, the Paso Fino horse is judged in various divisions based upon the horse's natural ability.

**Classic Fino division:** The only gait performed is the Classic Fino gait. Gait is fully collected, with very slow forward speed, very rapid footfall and stride is exceedingly short. The Classic Fino gait is an evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait that is smooth, animated, exciting and executed with brilliance and style. Flexion and extension should be harmonious in all four legs. 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.

**Performance division:** The gaits performed are collected Corto, collected Largo, and collected Walk. Performance gaits are executed with brilliant style, and collection. The horse is collected, fully balanced and exhibiting symmetry in flexion and extension. The extension is longer and the footfall not as rapid as shown in the Classic Fino gait. The horse should demonstrate pride, style, elegance and enthusiasm, along with good manners and ready response.

**Pleasure division:** The gaits performed are mildly collected Corto, mildly-collected Largo, and flat-footed Walk. Pleasure gaits are executed with mild collection, moderate extension, style, and willingness. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed. The gaits should be fluid showing no tendency to labour or become "strung out" Manners and obedience of the horse are particularly important. The horse should be controlled with minimal restraint and the rider should appear to be enjoying themselves.

**Bellas Formas division:** The gaits performed are a Corto or Classic Fino gait. The horse is shown in hand by either one or two handlers. Conformation, gait and manners/finish are judged.

**Specialty division:** This division showcases the versatility of the Paso Fino horse. Classes include: Western Pleasure (includes a lope), Versatility (includes a canter and jump), Trail (trail obstacle course), Costume (of Spanish origin), and Pleasure Driving (cart). Country Pleasure gives a relaxed way of going suitable for trail riding.

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## **GAITED CLASSES**

Generally, in all gaited classes special attention shall be afforded to the rhythmic consistency and smoothness (calm croup!) of the gaits required. Elegance, headset, balance, quickness, willingness and harmonious front and rear action should be positively considered for the overall evaluation. Tense horses with stiffly held backs and

pronounced lower neckline muscles (exemption: defined lower neckline due to conformation fault) should have a negative influence on the evaluation.

Judges should ask for reverses and/ or stops in a walk or Corto (or Trocha/Trote in the respective classes) at any time. Stops may also be required from a Largo.

The evaluation is not based on scores but on placement. The best 8 riders will be placed.

All classes will be shortly commented on by the judge after placement. After a class has been pinned, any non-placed horses shall be excused and leave the ring.

At a sufficient number of entries all typical Paso Fino divisions are divided into:

- Schooling Classes = under 60 months divided into year groups of 3 and 4 year olds. However if there is an insufficient number (less than 3) of competitors the schooling classes will be amalgamated. (horses ages are determined from their date of birth not from 1<sup>st</sup> January)
- Adult Classes = Over 60 months

The Fino Strip (sounding board) may be used for all classes, however, the performance of the horse on the rail shall take priority over the Fino Strip performance.

At the judge's discretion additional Work offs can be demanded to support the judge's evaluation.

#### **Classes:**

**1.1 (a) Pleasure Amateur schooling** (only Amateur riders) - Horses shown in Walk, Corto, largo. For horses under 48 months

**1.1 (b) Pleasure Amateur schooling** (only Amateur riders) - Horses shown in Walk, Corto, largo. For horses under 60 months.

**1.2 Pleasure Amateur Adult** class is for horses 60 months and over (amateurs only)

**1.3 (a) Pleasure Open Schooling** (Open to amateurs and professionals) – horses under 48 months

**1.3 (b) Pleasure Open Schooling** (Open to amateurs and professionals) – horses under 60 months

**1.4 Pleasure Open Adult** (Open to amateurs and professionals) – horses 60 months and over.

**1.5 Pleasure Junior Schooling** - Riders under 18 years old. -Horses under 60 months.

**1.6 Pleasure Junior Adult** - Riders under 18 years old. - Horses 60 months and over.

**2.1 (a) Performance Amateur Schooling** (class is for horses under 48 months.) Walk, Corto, Largo performed. (**amateur only**)

**2.1 (b) Performance Amateur Schooling** (class is for horses under 60 months.) Walk, Corto, Largo performed. (amateur only)

**2.2 Performance Amateur Adult** class is for horses 60 months and over. (amateur only)

**2.3 (a) Performance Open Schooling** - Horses under 48 months. Performance class open for amateurs and professionals.

**2.3 (b) Performance Open Schooling** - Horses under 60 months. Performance class open for amateurs and professionals.

**2.4 Performance Open Adult** - Horses 60 months and over. - Performance class open for amateurs and professionals.

**2.5 Performance Junior Schooling** - Riders under 18 years old. -Horses 60 months and under.

**2.6 Performance Junior Adult** -Riders under 18 years old. Horses 60 months and over.

**3 Classic Fino Schooling** - Open to Classic Fino horses and Riders of all ages.

**4. Versatility** – Walk, Corto, Largo, Canter, figure eight, jump.

**5. Three Gaits Class** – Walk, Paso Gait, Canter.

**6.1 Natural Gaiters Schooling Class** – Paso gait must be maintained at all times – riding with tight rein and then loose rein. For horses under 60 months

**6.2 Natural Gaiters Adult Class** – Paso gait must be maintained at all times – riding with tight rein and then loose rein. For horses over 60 months.

**7. Paso Fino Western Pleasure** – Walk, Corto, Lope Reins must be held in one hand only if the horse is fitted with a curb bit. Tack: Western style; any type of bridle/ bit.

**8. Country pleasure/Novice Class** – Walk, Corto, and Largo - the ‘Novice rider’ class. This will have a limit of 40 points or 3 wins, 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. This is open to everyone starting from Jan 2011 (excludes professional riders).

**DRESSAGE CLASSES - DRESSAGE CLASSES ARE INDIVIDUAL TESTS. THE STARTING ORDER GETS DETERMINED BY THE SHOW ORGANIZER; BELATED ENTRIES WILL ALWAYS START FIRST. ALL DRESSAGE TESTS MUST BE MEMORIZED AND KNOWN BY HEART, THEY WILL NO LONGER BE READ OUT BY THE ANNOUNCER.**

**9. Dressage A – Diagrams available on request** (Judges sitting at C)

- A - X Enter at a Paso Corto. Down the center line. Stop at the center. Salute
- X - C Start at a walk
- C - To the right  
Into the next corner a reverse volt
- C - Arrive at the rail at C
- H - Stop, standing quietly for at least 3 secs, start at a Paso Corto along the rail
- F-E-M Serpentine (3 arches)
- H-X-F Change direction across the diagonal at extended speed (Paso Largo)
- F - Reduce speed (Paso Corto)
- E-B Center circle, 1 ½ circles, continue along the rail
- A -X Down the center line
- X - Stop, back 1 horse length, stop, salute

**10. Dressage B – diagrams available on request.**

Judges sitting at C

- A - X Enter at Paso Corto, stop, salute
- X - C Start at Paso Corto
- C - Continue left  
After passing the next corner, perform a figure eight
- H-X-F Change direction across the diagonal, extend speed to Paso Largo
- F - Reduce speed to Paso Corto – continue along the rail
- C - Volt – about 5m in diameter, continue along the rail
- M-X-K Change direction across the diagonal, extend speed to Paso Largo
- K - Reduce speed to Paso Corto – continue along the rail
- B - Volt – about 5m in diameter, continue along the rail
- M - Transition to a walk
- B - Stop in front of the judges – turn on the haunches, start at a Paso Corto along the rail
- M - F At the next long side leg yield to the inside (8 m) and outside again.
- A - X Down the center line, stop, salute

**11. Dressage C – Freestyle – Please ask for a test sheet to lay out plans.**

**General Remarks**

Horses entered in the freestyle cannot be entered in Dressage A.  
The emphasis of this class shall not be afforded on the horse's way of going and style but on the harmony between horse and rider, seat, aids and presentation. The filled in

test form together with the music must be handed in at the show office at least 2 hours prior to the beginning of the class.

**12. Equitation** – Riders under 18 years old. Judging based on riders style.

**13. Four gaits class** – Walk, Corto, Trot and Canter.

**14 Bellas Formas** – Showing in hand - Conformation and Brio; Quality and naturalness of typical gait; grooming and manners:

14.1 Bella Forma: 12-24 mths

14.2 Bella Forma: 24-36 mths

14.3 Bella Forma: 36-72mths

14.4 Bella Forma: 72 + mths

**15. Trail Class in Hand** There is only one horse in the arena at a time. The obstacles must be negotiated in the given order. The exhibitor must lead the horse on a halter or bosal (no bits allowed).

**16. Ridden Trail Class** There is only one horse in the arena at a time. The obstacles must be negotiated in the given order. The exhibitor must ride the horse over/through the obstacles in the order. (**must not have entered class 15**)

17. Endurance Class – **Paso Gait** - **Horse started in this class must execute a smooth evenly-spaced, constant, rhythmic 4-beat lateral gait the entire time. The horse should combine style and presence. Loss of form, cadence or smoothness shall be penalized. This class must be last class on the show day.**

**18 FUN CLASSES – FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE!!!**

The following presentations do not count among the High-Point and Best of Show classes, there are no points awarded. It is at the show organizer's discretion if additional fun and show presentations are offered.

**18.1 Four Beat Class (with bets taken)**

The focus solely lies on the pure, even-cadenced, rhythmic 4-beat lateral Paso Gait over the sounding board (Fino Strip). The horses perform a pure, even-cadenced, rhythmic 4-beat lateral Paso Gait over the sounding board and will be excused at loss or mix of 4-beat lateral Paso gait.

**18.2 Copa de Champan**

A full glass of champagne or wine must be carried over a certain distance. The rider who has spilled the least is the winner.

### **18.3 Snail Race**

The slowest horse at a Paso Corto/ Fino wins. The distance must be determined prior to the race.

### **18.4 Team Riding**

Two riders are joined by crepe paper. The teams have to master various tests such as stops, back, reverse, speed variations etc.

### **18.5 Costume Class**

Horse and rider are disguised. The most originally costumed horse/ rider team is the winner.