



SECTION F

FIVE-GAITED DIVISION.

- 1. Brief `Type' Standard and Common Faults**
- 2. Tack Requirements and Rules**
- 3. Turn-Out of Horse, Including Shoes**
- 4. D. Dress Requirements of Riders**
- 5. Classes, Age, Size, Gender and Status Divisions**
- 6. Class Routine**
- 7. Basic Gaits and Common Faults**

1. Brief `Type' Standard and Common Faults

A horse must be 3 years old to show in the Five Gaited division

A Saddle Horse selected for the Five-Gaited division must be refined and elegant with its energy directed to correct form at speed. This horse should have great expression and the athletic aptitude to perform its' gaits with a flowing purposeful bold action driving forward from the hock. While speed is of great importance, style and form should never be sacrificed.

Horses are judged on:

- Performance
- Presence
- Quality
- Conformation

In Ladies', Amateur and Children's classes primary emphasis is placed on manners.

2. Tack Requirements and Rules

Appliances – Training appliances such as chains, stretchers and draw reins are prohibited in the collecting ring and show arena. Martingales are not allowed. Inappropriate bridles such as a hackamore are prohibited. Leg bandages are not allowed unless application has been made to the show committee because of wet conditions. Refer to Section C, page 2, General Showing rules.

Boots – Quarter or bell boots are used in the Five-Gaited division. Brushing boots and knee boots are prohibited. Taped hooves are prohibited.

Bridles – A double reined bridle is required. A **full bridle** consists of a curb bit and a small snaffle known as a bridoon. A combination bit with a broken mouthpiece or solid mouthpiece with single shanks where double reins are attached is acceptable. The bridle and bits must suit each horse. Coloured brow-bands and nose-bands or plain leather nose-bands are allowed.

Saddles –

An English type saddle with a cutback head is required. Western saddles, side saddles or Australian Stock saddles are prohibited. The use of Saddlecloths or numnahs are optional with the understanding that it will be well concealed when used.

3. Turn-Out of Horse, Including Shoes

Cleanliness and neatness are the foremost requirements regarding the turn-out of a horse.

Mane - Five-Gaited horses are shown with a full mane and tail; the mane is trimmed at the poll.

Hooves – For all classes that do not have a specific hoof length, the maximum length must not be longer than 15cm. This includes the pads, but excludes the shoe.

Ribbons – Horses will be shown with ribbons in their manes. Ribbons in the forelock or attached to the bridle are optional.

Shoes – Horses may be shod with pads and/or wedges according to their needs.

Shoeing of hind hooves will be optional, BOTH hind hooves must be shod or BOTH must be unshod. Loss of a hind shoe will be subject to the same rules as the loss of any shoe during a class.

Tails – Tails should be clean, long, healthy, picked and tied. Crooked tails do not make a good impression and every effort should be made to correct them. Unsightly, sore tails will result in disqualification. Inconspicuous tail braces and switches are allowed.

4. Dress Requirements of Riders

Attire - Informal

Informal riding wear is correct for both day and night.

Boots – Solid coloured leather or patent leather Jodhpur boots of a low heeled variety are worn.

Gloves – Gloves may be worn.

Hat – A tasteful hat is worn, either a bowler (derby), snap-brim, (felt or straw) or the homburg variety.

Spurs – **Spurs are optional. All exhibitors, including ladies and children 11 years and over may use spurs. Spurs in equitation must be blunt and unrowelled. The obvious use of spurs is a severe discrimination and the abusive use of spurs will be a disqualification.**

Suits – A Kentucky riding suit of matching jacket and flared Jodhpur pants with a waistcoat. The waistcoat may be either matching or of a tasteful contrast. The suit must be of a conservative colour with any pattern being of small design giving the appearance of a solid colour (herringbone, pin stripe, conservative plaid). A shirt with a collar and tie is used. As an alternative, exhibitors may wear coloured coats with dark jodhpurs.

Riding-Crop – Riding-Crop are optional.

5. Classes, Age, Size, Gender and Status Divisions

Classes are divided according to age, size, gender and status. Emphasis is placed on certain aspects or criteria in different divisions.

Age – A horse must be 3 years old to show in the Five Gaited division. Horses are divided according to age. Children are divided according to age. Only children over the age of 11 years are eligible for the Five-Gaited division.

Gender – Gender division is made according to the gender of horses and riders. Classes for stallions, mares and geldings divide the horses. The Ladies and Gentlemen’s divisions provide additional classes. The children’s divisions are not divided by gender.

Height – The size of horses also create additional classes. There is a class for horses measuring 15.2 hands (157.48 cm) and under.

(See General Showing Rules page 16)

6. Status – Status divisions are made between Novice (beginner) and experienced horses. Amateur riders or horses trained by Amateurs.

Classes available in the Five-Gaited division are:

Age Divisions:

- Three-year-old stallion, mare or gelding.
- Four-year-old stallion, mare or gelding.
- Five-year-old stallion, mare or gelding.
- Limit Class Five-year-olds (under six years) stallions, mare or gelding.
- Natural Mane and Tail Horse four years or under.

Gender Divisions:

- Ladies division (stallions, mares or geldings).
- Gentlemen’s division (stallion, mares, or geldings).
- Geldings (five years and over).
- Mares (five years and older).
- Stallions (five years and older)

Height Divisions:

- 15.2 hands and under, (stallions, mares, or geldings)
- 15.2 hands and under, rider 18 years and under, mares or geldings.

Status Divisions:

- Amateur Grand Championship
- Amateur (stallion, mare or gelding).
- Amateur Horse presented by a lady .
- Amateur Horse presented by a gentleman.
- Amateur Horse presented by a lady or gentleman under 40 years of age.
- Amateur Horse presented by a lady or gentleman 40 years of age & older
- Amateur Grand Championship.
- Natural Mane and Tail Horses, five years and over.
- Novice Horses, (stallions, mares or geldings).
- Open Grand Championship.

Children’s Divisions:

- Child’s Riding Horse (mare or gelding, rider 11 to 14).
- Child’s Riding Horse (mare or gelding, rider 15 to 18).
- Child’s Riding Horse, Grand Championship,(mare or gelding,rider 11 to 18 years.)

Qualification for Championships – Horses qualifying in any of the above classes **except** the Children’s classes are eligible to show in the Five-Gaited Grand Championship Class at the South African National Championships. Exhibitors wishing to show back in the Five-Gaited Grand Championship Class at the National Championship Show after having ‘Bad Luck’ in the qualifying class will be required to remain in the line-up if possible, request the permission of the Ringmaster, seconded by a Judge, to enter the Grand Championship and pay the equivalent of the eighth place prize money. See ‘Bad Luck’ in Section C..

Pleasure Horses – For information regarding Five-Gaited Pleasure horses see section K.

7. Class Routine

Entrance – All divisions enter the arena at a trot moving in a counter clockwise direction or the right hand direction through the gate.

Order of Gaits – Horses enter the arena at a trot then walk, canter, walk, slow-gait, rack, walk, turn around and repeat. Horses will change gaits according to the request of the Judge through the announcer. Some Judges request another gait after the last rack; this is considered acceptable if the circumstances warrant it. All gaits are judged each time they are performed except the walk which is judged the first time each way of the ring.

Line-Up – Horses will come in and line-up, when requested to do so by the Judge through the announcer. The Ringmaster will designate the position of the line-up. When exhibitors are asked to line up at the conclusion of a class, work-out or re-ride they **must** proceed to the line in the same direction as the horses are moving when the announcer calls for the line-up. Any ‘last pass’ that an exhibitor wishes to make at the end of a class must be made in the direction the horses are moving when the line-up is called. Any exhibitor who changes direction **will be disqualified**. This is an important safety measure to prevent collisions as the horses proceed to the line-up. Exhibitors will remain standing until requested to retire and await results. Refer to Section C, Page 10, General Showing rules.

8. Basic Gaits and Common Faults

Walk – The walk in the Five-Gaited division is an animated four beat gait. It is executed with more speed and there must be no tendency to pace or amble. It must not degenerate into a common jog.

Trot – The trot is a two beat gate performed with speed and especially form. It is characterized by the horse’s ability to drive forward off of a well-placed hock with balance and motion. Any loss of form over-reaching, going wide behind, dragging hocks, mixing gaits, and shackled way of going is not acceptable and will be discriminated against.

Canter – A three beat gait, highly collected and rhythmical. Horses must use the correct lead and retain the correct head setting. Incorrect leads, excessive speed, pounding action, loss of balance and hanging in the bridle are not acceptable and will be discriminated against.

Slow-Gait –The slow-gait is a highly collected, showy four beat (with broken cadence) gait. Legs move laterally (although not in unison) and hocks should move even more under the body than in any other circumstances. The slow-gait is characterized by its’ slow speed and the elegant setting of the horse’s neck and head and should not be merely a slow rack. Any loss of form, the tendency to pace, over-reaching, mixing gaits or crabbing is not acceptable and will be discriminated against.

Any horse not performing a true slow-gait will be discriminated against.

If there is a general tendency for riders in a class to ignore a true slow-gait the Judge’s Steward will signal the announcer to request the slow-gait again. Horses failing to slow-gait will be severely discriminated against.

Rack – The rack is a four beat lateral gait (although lateral legs do not move in unison) performed at speed.

Horses propel themselves forward off of a well-placed hock and give the impression of climbing uphill. Form is not sacrificed for speed. Any loss of form, the tendency to pace, over-reaching, mixing of gaits or crabbing is not acceptable **and will result in severe discrimination. Consistent pacing is a disqualification.**

Transitions – Poor or rough transitions from one gait to another will be discriminated against.

Refer to section C, General Rules.

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