



SECTION J

NATURAL MANE AND TAIL DIVISION.

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J. NATURAL MANE AND TAIL DIVISION

1. Brief 'Type' Standard and Common Faults

Natural Mane and Tail Division

The Three-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail horse should be refined and elegant. This horse should have great expression and the athletic aptitude to perform its gaits with animated collection and precision. Coarser horses or horses that require speed to achieve motion are not suitable for this division. Weediness is not to be confused with refinement in assessing the Three-Gaited type.

The Five-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail horse should be refined and elegant with its energy directed to correct form at speed. These horses should also have great expression and the athletic aptitude to perform their gaits with animated collection and precision. Speed is of great importance, but style and form should never be sacrificed.

The Fine Harness Natural Mane and Tail horse should be beautiful, refined and elegant and possess the right conformation through the neck and throatlatch to enable the horse to wear an over-check. This horse should have great expression and a rhythmical, airy movement. Weediness is not to be confused with refinement in assessing the Fine Harness type.

Horses are judged on:

- Performance
- Presence
- Quality
- Conformation

2. Tack Requirements and Rules

Appliances – Training appliances such as chains, stretchers and draw reins are prohibited. Martingales are not allowed. Bridles such as a hackamore or inappropriate bits are prohibited. Leg bandages are not allowed unless application has been made to the show committee because of wet conditions.

Boots – Quarter or bell boots are **not** used in the Natural Mane and Tail Three-Gaited division. Quarter or bell boots **are** used in the Natural Mane and Tail Five-Gaited and Fine Harness divisions. 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.

Bits – Fine Harness – A stainless steel, halfspoon cheek, jointed mouth driving snaffle is required as well as an overcheck bit.

General Rules and Showing Rules – Refer to section C for the general rules and showing rules that apply to all horses.

Harness – A light harness with overcheck rein is required. A harness must be complete with blinkers, martingale, traces and low tail crupper. Traces should not be wound around shafts. Handholds are optional on reins for gentlemen but **required** for ladies and children.

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, Rules, all Divisions

The turn-out for the Natural Mane and Tail Three-Gaited division is basically the same as for the Five-Gaited division and Fine Harness division. The only exceptions are those of the boots and in the case of the harness division, the buggy and driving bits.

Cleanliness and neatness are the foremost requirements regarding the turn-out of a horse. Ears and whiskers trimmed and oiled. Fetlocks trimmed, socks scrubbed, hooves scrubbed and oiled or blacked.

Inspection – Natural Mane and Tail Horses may be presented to the Measuring Steward for inspection of tails before the Natural Mane and Tail class to avoid **random testing after a class**.

Mane - Natural Mane and Tail horses in the Three-Gaited, Five-Gaited and Fine Harness divisions are shown with a full natural mane. The forelock and poll may be trimmed.

Tail – Tails in all the Natural Mane and Tail divisions must be natural, never having been cut or set in any way. Tails must be clean, long, healthy and picked.

Top Tails – Three-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail - Top tails may be used when a Three-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail horse is entered in a Park Horse class or into the Park Horse Grand Championship.

Top Tails – Top tails may be used on a Natural Mane and Tail horse when they are cross entered into any other performance class besides the Natural Mane and Tail classes or when they have entered the Grand Championship Stake class after qualifying in the Natural Mane and Tail division.

Random Tests, Tail - Any horse entered in this division must have a completely natural tail that has never been cut or set in any way. Random tests may be conducted in this division. Horses may be selected by the Show Committee, Judge and/or Ringmaster (At Regional Shows the Committee consists of Sub Union Management) for inspection of any indication of a previously cut tail. Horses selected for examination will be informed in the line-up and it will be the responsibility of the exhibitor and/or accountable person to present the horse to the Steward immediately after the class before returning to the barn. In the case of more than one horse to be examined after the class the exhibitor and/or accountable person must stay with the horse and see that a cooling blanket is available for the horse, if necessary, until such time as the horse can be examined. If it is impossible for the exhibitor and/or accountable person to stay with the horse, then he/she must obtain the permission of the designated Steward to appoint a caretaker to attend the horse.

If the Steward sees the marks that indicate the horse's tail has been previously cut a second Steward will be asked to examine the horse. If the second Steward confirms that there are marks indicating the horse's tail has been previously cut the case will be referred to the disciplinary committee and a penalty of R3000.00 will be charged to be paid within two weeks by the accountable person, the rosette and/or trophy will be returned immediately and any cash or 'product prizes' forfeited.

Ribbons – Natural Mane and Tail horses must be ribboned. **All Horses with full manes must be shown with ribbons in their manes. Ribbons in the forelock or attached to the bridle are optional.**

Switches – Switches are allowed.

Shoes – There is no hoof length restriction (other than the normal 15cm max length, excl shoe), and horses may be shod in a suitable manner for the particular horse being shown.

Riding-Crop – Carrying a Riding-Crop in any of the three divisions is optional.

Driving-Whips are optional in the Fine Harness division. Maximum length of a Driving Whip that will be allowed will be 217 cm. The lash part of the Driving-Whip may not be longer than 17cm. To be kept in holder or in hand. Lash and Long-Line Whips are not allowed.

4. Dress Requirement for Riders all Divisions

Dress – Refer to Dress Requirements in sections E, F and G. Dress requirements will be the same for the Natural Mane and Tail division as in the open divisions.

5. Classes and Rules all Divisions

Classes – The classes available for Natural Mane and Tail horses are:

- Three-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail
- Three-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail four years & under
- Five-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail
- Five-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail four years & under
- Fine Harness Natural Mane and Tail
- Fine Harness Natural Mane and Tail four years & under
- Three-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail Rider 18 years and under
- Five-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail Rider 18 years and under
- Fine Harness Natural Mane and Tail Driver 12 to 18 years

Cross Entries – Natural Mane and Tail - Fine Harness:

- **May cross-enter in Fine Harness performance classes.**
- **May not cross-enter in the Pleasure Horse Division.**
- **May not cross-enter in Single Harness classes.**
- **They may enter the Fine Harness Grand Championship class at Regional Shows and at the S.A. National Championships.**
- **At the S.A. Nationals they must qualify for the Grand Championship class in the Fine Harness Natural Mane and Tail class.**

Cross Entries – Natural Mane and Tail – Five-Gaited:

- **May cross-enter in Five-Gaited performance classes.**
- **May not cross-enter in the Pleasure Horse Division.**
- **May not cross-enter in any Three-Gaited classes.**
- **They may enter the Five-Gaited Grand Championship class at Regional Shows and the S.A. National Championship Show.**
- **At the S.A. National Championships they must qualify in the Five-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail class.**

Cross Entries – Natural Mane and Tail–Three Gaited:

- May cross-enter in Park Horse classes.
- May not cross-enter in Three-Gaited performance classes.
- May not cross-enter in the Pleasure Horse Division.
- May not cross-enter in the Five-Gaited Division.
- They may enter the Park Horse Grand Championship class.
- At Regional Shows they may enter the Three-Gaited Grand Championship class if there is no Park Horse Grand Championship class.
- If exhibited by a child, they may enter the Children's Three-Gaited Grand Championship at Regional Shows.
- At the S.A. National Championships they must qualify for the Grand Championship in the Three-Gaited Natural Mane and Tail class.
- They may cross-enter in the Fine Harness Division OR Single Harness Division but not both.

Riders – All riders may participate in the Natural Mane and Tail division, including professional trainers and children 11 years of age and over > **with the exception of the Fine Harness Natural Mane and Tail class where drivers must be 12 years old.**

6. Class Routine all Divisions

Class Routines – Refer to class routines in sections F, G, and H.

7. Basic Gaits and Common Faults

Basic Gaits and Common Faults – Refer to sections F, G, and H.

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