



EVENT CATEGORY GUIDELINES

Update 01/08/2024

BEGINNER RIDER (Sometimes also programmed as IMPROVER RIDER)

- ❖ Beginner classes are programmed for newcomers to the industry.
- ❖ This category is based on the rider's experience, regardless of the horse's education.
- ❖ Beginner classes combine youth and adult participants unless otherwise stated on the program.
- ❖ Beginners can compete on Geldings and Mares only.
- ❖ Beginner classes are Walk / Jog or Walk / Trot Classes only.
- ❖ Events normally offered are Hunter Under Saddle, Trail, Western Pleasure, Ranch Riding and Ranch on The Rail.
- ❖ Additional events may be included on a program, such as Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Horsemanship and Reining.
- ❖ It is encouraged that all ADULT participants wear approved safety helmets.
- ❖ Youth (under the age of 18) MUST wear approved safety helmets.
- ❖ Beginners may ride two handed in a snaffle bit OR shank bit irrespective of the horses' age.
- ❖ If riding two handed, reins must be bridged.
- ❖ WAPHA Members are eligible for selected annual high point awards – see WAPHA High Point Handbook for more information.
- ❖ A person who has previously competed, but had an extended break from showing, and believes they are suitable OR would benefit from entering Beginner classes must apply to WAPHA for consideration to enter this category.
- ❖ If a person believes they are not ready to progress, they may appeal to WAPHA for consideration to remain in this category.

OPEN WALK / JOG AND WALK / TROT

- ❖ Programmed for all levels of riders.
- ❖ Programmed for any horse, irrespective of the horse's education.
- ❖ Programmed as a training event opportunity.
- ❖ Classes combine youth and adult participants unless otherwise stated on the program.
- ❖ Classes are Walk / Jog or Walk / Trot Classes only.
- ❖ Events normally offered are Hunter Under Saddle, Trail, Western Pleasure and Ranch Riding.
- ❖ Additional events may be included on a program, such as Hunt Seat Equitation and Western Horsemanship.
- ❖ Riders may ride two handed in a snaffle bit OR shank bit irrespective of horses' age.
- ❖ If riding two handed, reins must be bridged.

- ❖ Saddles and equipment should be in good working order.

ANY HANDED ENCOURAGEMENT

- ❖ Programmed for all levels of riders.
- ❖ Programmed for any horse, irrespective of the horse's education.
- ❖ Programmed as a training event opportunity.
- ❖ Classes combine youth and adult participants unless otherwise stated on the program.
- ❖ Events normally offered are Hunter Under Saddle, Hunt Seat Equitation, Trail, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship, Reining and Ranch Riding.
- ❖ Classes are Walk / Jog / Lope or Walk / Trot / Canter
- ❖ Entrants may ride two handed in a snaffle bit OR shank bit irrespective of the horses' age.
- ❖ If riding two handed, reins must be bridged.
- ❖ Saddles and equipment should be in good working order.

GREEN HORSE

- ❖ A green horse is defined as a horse that has very limited exposure in ridden competition.
- ❖ Programmed as a training event opportunity.
- ❖ Green horse classes are Walk / Jog AND Walk / Trot Classes only.
- ❖ Based on the horse's competition experience, regardless of the Rider's education.
- ❖ Green Horse classes are available to Geldings, Mares and Stallions.
- ❖ Entrants must conform to Junior and Senior Horse biting rules. Two handed snaffle bit or hackamore on junior horses and one handed on senior horses in a shank bit.
- ❖ Events normally offered are Hunter Under Saddle, Trail, Western Pleasure and Ranch Riding.
- ❖ A green horse is eligible to compete in these events for one (1) show season only.
- ❖ If competitors believe they are not ready to progress, they may appeal to WAPHA for consideration to remain in this category.