

ARTICLE V

General Rules

The rules specified in this article apply to horse show classes under the jurisdiction of ISSO.

Section 5.1 - Definition - The following definitions shall apply to the categorization of horses/ponies for all horse show divisions recognized by ISSO.

- (a) Open - Horse or pony may be of any age, size or sex with no restrictions on number of ribbons won previously.
- (b) Limit - Horse or pony may not have won six first place ribbons in the particular performance division in which they are shown (side-saddle and astride ribbons both count). Ribbons won after start of show do not count.
- (c) Novice - Horse or pony may not have won three first place ribbons in the particular performance division in which they are shown (side-saddle and astride ribbons both count). Ribbons won after start of show do not count.
- (d) Maiden - Horse or pony may never have won a first place ribbon in the particular performance division in which they are shown. Ribbons won after start of show do not count.
- (e) Local - Horse or pony restricted to some reasonable territorial area as defined in the horse show prize list.

Section 5.2 - Breeds - Horses and ponies of a specific breed, showing in that breed's shows, shall adhere to the rules for that breed.

Section 5.3 - Stallions - Stallions are allowed to be shown in all open and adult classes under ISSO jurisdiction, if the rider is age 18 or over as of December 1st of the previous year. In AHSA shows, showing a stallion must conform to the specifications listed for that breed.

Section 5.4 - Manners - Whenever the term "manners" is applied to a horse or pony in these rules, it shall mean: light contact with the horse's mouth is required; animal shall be obedient, alert, responsive and move freely. This is required at all gaits. Animal must stand quietly, must behave in a safe and sensible fashion and must be an obviously suitable ladies mount.



ARTICLE VI
Rules Pertinent to Hunter Classes

Section 6.1 - Breeds Allowed for Hunter Classes - Any breed or cross-bred horse is permitted in hunter classes. Horses in hunter classes should be suitable to carry a lady in the hunt field.

Section 6.2 - Classes - The following classes are suitable for inclusion at any horse show wishing to offer hunter side-saddle classes. A division should include three or more of the appropriate classes. The classes, class specifications and judging criteria are specified in the following subsections.

LADIES' HUNTER SIDE SADDLE SECTION

LADIES' HUNTER SIDE SADDLE

To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring in formal hunting attire. To be judged on performance with special emphasis on manners, style and way of moving; 25% on appointments, formal hunting attire, and general overall appearance of horse and rider.

LADIES' HUNTER SIDE SADDLE OVER FENCES

To be shown over a course of at least 6 obstacles 3' in height. To be judged on performance and soundness with emphasis on manners.

LADIES' HUNTER SIDE SADDLE OVER FENCES

To be judged on performance, manners, and way of going over at least six fences 3' in height over a changed course.

(Height of fences optional)

Section 6.2(1) - Hunter Classes APPOINTMENTS

(a) Ladies Hunter Under Side-Saddle. May be held with or without appointments; however, the prize list must specify if appointments are required. Proper appointments, are as follows:

1. Hat - Black Hunting Silk Hat at least 4½" high or Bowler.

2. Hatguard - Required with Bowler. Not permissible with veil.

3. Veil - Optional. If worn, must be traditional black with elastic top and bottom to fit securely over hat brim and under chin.

4. Neckwear - Plain white hunting stock neatly tied and fastened with a plain gold safety pin. Pin should be horizontal.

5. Habit - Melton or other cloth of black or dark blue color, unless bona fide member of a recognized hunt whose livery color is different; then hunt livery color with hunt colors is permissible. Lining must match.

6. Breeches - Same color as habit. (Need **not** be of same material.)

7. Collar - Same material and color as coat unless member has been invited to wear the hunt colors, in which cases, the collar should conform to the livery of the hunt and be worn only on coats of the hunt livery color.

8. Vest - Of plain white, buff, or yellow material.

9. Buttons - Must conform to hunt livery. Usual specifications are: Brass or bone on vest. Black bone on black coat. If member has been invited to wear the hunt button, should be engraved with the hunt emblem, otherwise should be plain.

10. Boots - Black, without tops: of plain black calf without tabs. Boot garters, *if worn*, plain black.

11. Spur - Optional. If worn, must be regular hunting spur, without rowels- worn high on the heel.

12. Whip - Light hunting whip with thong required.

13. Gloves - Brown leather gloves.

14. Rain Gloves - White, canary or buff rain gloves. Should be carried on off (right) side under billets and just showing in front of saddle flap. Fingers forward.

15. Jewelry - Except for stock pins, finger rings and small plain stud earrings for pierced ears, jewelry is not permitted.

16. Hair - With hair net, preferably in bun. Must be neat and unobtrusive, and must not touch collar.

TACK APPOINTMENTS:

1. Sandwich Case - Must be combined sandwich case and flask. Sandwich case must contain a sandwich, wrapped and flask must contain sherry or tea.

2. Bridle - Must be either double or pelham. All leather must be flat. A cavesson noseband must be used. Rubber reins are not permissible.

3. Breastplate - Optional, but preferred.

4. Martingales - Not permitted, except in classes over fences.

5. Saddles - Must be plain English type. May have suede seat and pommel. Lining may be leather or linen. Numnahs and saddle cloths not permitted.

6. Girths - Three fold leather Fitzwilliam. No elastic permitted. Cannot be shaped. Balance girth necessary.

7. Irons - Should be regular side-saddle iron with oval eye, or safety stirrup. Should be large, workmanlike, and polished, without pads.

Judges should give particular consideration to quality, condition and cleanliness of tack.

ARTICLE VII
Rules Pertinent to Saddle Seat Classes

The rules in this article shall be followed by all ISSO recognized horse shows for applicable saddle seat classes.

Section 7.1 - Breeds Allowed for Side-Saddle Saddle Seat Classes - All registered and grade saddle type horses shall be permitted in side-saddle saddle seat classes. By "saddle type horse" it is meant horses such as American Saddlebred, Morgan, Arabian, Hackney, Tennessee Walking Horses, and similar breeds. *Horses of hunter type conformation are specifically excluded.* Must be shown with long (except 3 Gaited), natural unbraided manes and tails. No artificial training devices allowed except for those authorized by breed specifications. The use of ginger is not permitted.

Section 7.2 - Classes - The following classes are suitable for inclusion at any horse show wishing to offer side-saddle saddle seat classes. The class specifications will depend upon the specific show, as shows sponsored by a particular breed organization will want to tailor the class makeup to suit their particular breed. Classes should be judged 85% on manners, performance, quality and conformation and in that order, with special emphasis being on manners. Appropriate side-saddle attire will count for the remaining 15%. All classes will be judged at a walk, trot or intermediate gait, and canter (or other appropriate gaits for particular breeds), both ways of the ring. The reinback command is optional.

- (a) **Pleasure** - Horses/ponies shall be asked to walk, trot, canter, halt and back. Special emphasis will be placed on the horse as a true pleasure to ride with easy ground-covering gaits. At all times the exhibit will maintain a high standard of elegance. Traveling crooked or sideways will be penalized. Horses/ponies must stand quietly.
- (b) **Park** - Horses/ponies shall be asked to walk, park trot, or intermediate gait, canter, halt and back. A natural animated motion is desired. Horses/ponies should stand quietly.
- (c) **Equitation** - Rider should have a workmanlike appearance, seat and hands light and supple, conveying the impression of complete control should any emergency arise. Hands should be held according to head carriage of the particular horse, neither too far apart nor too close together. The eyes and chin should be up. The rider's spine should be directly over the spine of the horse. Her shoulders and hips square to the front and level, heel down, calf of left leg in contact with horse and slightly behind girth. stirrup iron should be on ball of foot. The right calf lies flat against the saddle, either perpendicular to the ground or slightly angled back. The right leg must not ride up the horse's shoulder, but should otherwise be held naturally. The rider's weight should be carried on her right thigh, not on her "derriere." At the walk, trot, and canter, the upper body should be vertical. (See Diagrams for Equitation)
- (d) Particular breed classes, such as Five Gaited, American Saddlebred, Racking Horse, etc. may also be used.

Section 7.2(1) - Judging Classes - The following definitions apply to judging criteria:

- (a) **Manners** - refers to the behavior of the horse to its rider and other horses in the ring. A sour disposition, gnashing of teeth, swishing of tail poor transitions and disobedience are all poor manners.
- (b) **Quality** - refers to the look of fineness or breediness as opposed to a coarse or common look. Horses should be refined and elegant looking. Quality will be judged according to each individual breed's specifications.
- (c) **Conformation** - Not to exceed 15% unless particular breed group specifies higher percentage.
- (d) **Presence** - refers to the style, brilliance and overall impression given by the horse.
- (e) **Suitability** - Horse and rider should be suited to one another in size, temperament and ability.

Section 7.3 - Appointments - The following subsections delineate the proper tack and dress requirements for side-saddle saddle seat classes.

Section 7.3(1) - Dress - The particular class will dictate whether formal or informal habit is required. Check the current breed fashions for shirt, tie, vest and hat for formal and informal wear. ***A general rule is to wear what you would wear in an astride class from the waist up and add an apron of either matching or contrasting color for informal wear and matching apron for formal wear.*** Ruffled collars or cuffs, or scarves attached to the hat are not permitted.

(a) General turn-out requirements

- (1) **Hair** - should be secured in a workmanlike manner.

- (2) Whip - optional (see breed specifications for length and type). (Hunt crops with a lash are not permitted in saddle seat classes, nor are hunt appointments to be used).
- (3) Spur - optional:
INFORMAL WEAR - informal wear is suggested for pleasure classes or classes held before 6 pm at most shows.
- (1) Jacket or coat - conservative or small pin stripe or solid color (e.g. black, blue, grey, beige, brown, green [tweed or white jackets in season]). Coat may be of one, two or three button style with two vents. A slight cut-away at the waist is desirable to allow coat to lay nicely across right thigh. The jacket length should be to thumbs' length when standing. An astride saddle coat is also acceptable though not preferred.
- (2) Apron - proper side-saddle apron to match or contrast with jacket. Apron length must cover the right foot and may be longer than acceptable hunter length *but must not cover left foot*. The lining must be as close as possible to apron color.
- (3) Vest - optional, of matching or contrasting color.
- (4) Shirt & collar (see breed specifications for colors and styles acceptable).
- (5) Tie - men's four-in-hand.
- (6) Gloves - Brown or black leather.
- (7) Hat - derby or soft hat. Color to match or contrast with outfit. Brim must be worn horizontally to the ground.
- (8) Veil - optional.
- (9) Flower - optional, to be worn on left lapel and must be small and inconspicuous; no larger than 3" in diameter.

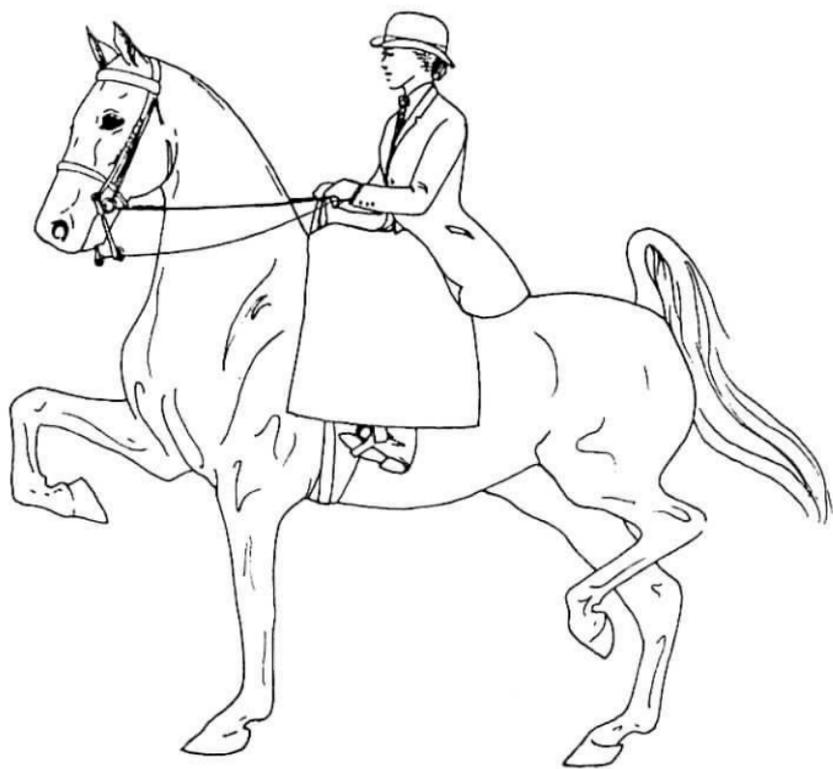
- (10) Breeches - to match color of apron. Kentucky jodphurs, although not preferred, are considered acceptable but must match the color of the apron.
 - (11) Boots - hunter style of either black or brown. Kentucky jodphur boots of black or brown, if Kentucky jods are worn.
 - (12) Jewelry - none permitted except finger rings and small stud earrings.
- (b) **Formal wear** - formal wear is suggested for park classes or formal classes after 6 pm.
- (1) Jacket - dark blue or black tuxedo type jacket is preferred.
 - (2) Apron - color and material to match coat.
 - (3) Shirt - as would be worn astride.
 - (4) Tie - black bow tie; should not touch lapels.
 - (5) Gloves - of brown or black leather to match habit.
 - (6) Vest - optional, of matching or contrasting color.
 - (7) Hat - after 6 pm a top hat is preferred, but dark derby is acceptable. Brim to be worn horizontally to ground, not tipped back.
 - (8) Veil - optional (only worn with top hat). No hat guards permitted.
 - (9) Flower - optional, see informal wear.
 - (10) Breeches/Jods - to match coat and apron.
 - (11) Boots - black or brown hunter style high & boots or jod boots.
 - (12) Jewelry - none permitted except finger rings and small stud earrings.

Section 7.3(2) - Tack

- (a) Bridle - a full or double bridle of fine show type is required, except where breed specifications differ. (Non-leather browbands and caveseons are permitted according to the fashion of the individual breed.)

- (b) Saddle - a park type side-saddle with a narrow off-side flap is preferred but any English side-saddle is acceptable. A plain leather and/or suede seat and pommels with leaping head is requested. *No western or Victorian side-saddles are allowed.*
- (c) Girth - optional style according to breed specifications, with a three-fold Fitzwilliam recommended.
- (d) Balance Strap - optional, must be leather if used.
- (e) No hunting appointments, including sandwich cases, are permitted.
- (f) Breastplates are optional. (See breed specifications.)
- (g) Martingales or tie-downs are not permitted.

Section 7.3(3) - *Equitation for Saddle Seat.* Basic riding position is shown in this rule book on pages 39-44. (Hands may be held higher; this is determined by the horse's head carriage.) The left heel may be either level or down. According to judges' request, riders may sit or post the trot. If the rider decides to post she must continue posting throughout the class and in both directions. Posting on the proper diagonal will be expected and judged. The rider's back must be centered and straight during all gaits. The judge has the option to ask for individual tests.



JAN FLOYD

ENGLISH PLEASURE CLASSES

Breeds Allowed For Open English Pleasure Classes -

Any breed or cross-bred horse or pony is permitted, of either hunter or saddle seat type.

Classes - The following classes are suitable for inclusion in any horse show wishing to offer classes open to all types of English horses.

- (a) Ladies Side-Saddle Pleasure - Horses/ponies asked to walk, trot, and canter both ways of arena, halt and back. Animals should stand quietly and back readily.
- (b) Bridle Path Hack - Horses/ponies asked to walk, trot, and canter both ways of arena. Hand gallop is optional. May be asked to dismount and mount (may have an attendant), halt and back. Horses to stand quietly.
- (c) Cross Country Pleasure - Same as above, may be asked to walk over an obstacle, such as a log on the ground, etc.
- (d) Road Hack - Horses/ponies asked to walk, collected trot, working trot, road trot, canter and hand gallop. Horses may be asked to halt from a gallop and walk off on a loose rein.

Appointments - If appointments are called for, they shall be the same as described in Hunter and Saddle Seat sections, depending on the type of horse ridden. Hunt and Saddle Seat appointments *shall not be mixed by the same rider.*

Guidelines for Dressage Competitions Side-Saddle

Dressage classes may be added to any show. Side-saddle riders are welcome in any dressage show and show management may designate classes for side-saddle riders only. The show should provide a rectangular area of minimum size (20 meters by 40 or 60 meters) with appropriate letters.

Dressage classes include all current American Horse Show Association official dressage tests - Training Level Test 1 through Grand Prix. For copies of tests see your local dressage association or write to the AHSA, 598 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

Classes

- (a) A dressage class may be offered where all entrants ride the same test, regardless of their experience.
- (b) A dressage class may be offered where entrants ride the test of their choice, awards being made on a percentage basis.
- (c) Additional dressage classes that can be offered:
 - (1) Suitable to Become a Dressage Horse. All horses are judged in the ring together. Requirements are walk, trot, and canter, both ways of arena. To be judged on the horse's potential to become a dressage mount.
 - (2) Dressage Equitation. All riders are judged in the ring together. Position is the same as for English equitation (see equitation section) except the stirrup may be slightly longer. Emphasis is on the rider's ability to correctly use the aids as required in tests of the training and 1st levels. Judge may ask for individual execution of movements other than walk, trot and canter which are found in the training and 1st level tests. Specific attention will be paid to transitions.

- (3) Kur Ride. A five minute program ridden and composed by the rider incorporating movements required at a particular level. Music optional.
- (4) Pas de Deux. A five to eight minute program ridden and composed by a pair of riders incorporating movements required at a particular level. To be judged on similarity as a pair and ability to perform together the required movements as well as composition. Music optional.
- (5) Combined Test. A dressage and jumping test. The complexity of the tests may vary. Scoring is on a penalty point system with the winner receiving the least number of penalties.

Attire

- (a) Same as for hunter classes with the following exceptions:
 - (1) Gloves may be black to match boots, or white.
 - (2) Rain gloves and sandwich cases are never carried.
 - (3) A spur is required in all FEI level and formal wear classes. (Optional in all other classes.)
- (b) Top hat is worn only when riding third level or above. A top hat is always worn if a shadbelly coat is worn in a formal class. Formal coats with tails (i.e. shadbelly) are only to be worn at the FEI level.
- (c) A whip may be carried in all classes by a lady riding aside, including FEI classes. The whip is to be a dressage whip and may not be over 48" including lash and handle.

Tack

- (a) Bridle - plain snaffle bridle with regular cavesson, dropped noseband, flash noseband or crossed noseband, all made of leather. A double bridle may be used at fourth level and above. Twisted wire, roller bits, pelhams, and kimberwicks are prohibited.

- (b) Saddle - English hunting side-saddle.
- (c) Boots, martingales, bandages or other paraphenalia are not permitted.

Equitation - Basic side-saddle position is maintained as outlined in the equitation section. The stirrup may be adjusted a bit longer if desired, but this is not necessary, and should be avoided if the horse tends to be unruly as the safety grip potential would be lost with a long stirrup leather. The trot **MUST BE POSTED** where the test so specifies. The seat, whip, and balance strap are used to direct bending and lateral movements away from the off side.

NOTE: For further reference: "Dressage In A Side-Saddle" by Robin Elaine Miller, available from the International Side-Saddle Organization. (609-261-1777)

PERIOD COSTUME GUIDELINES

1. Costumes of a historical or theatrical nature must only be worn in classes called "Costume Classes" with the exception of (2).

2. Costumes are currently allowed (as well as Western and English attire) in Arabian side-saddle (pleasure) classes. These classes are "judged 85% on manners, performance, quality and conformation; 15% on appropriate side-saddle dress. Class is not to be judged as a costume class."

3. Riders desiring to wear period costumes in such classes as the Arabian Ladies' Side-Saddle Class should take care to research the authenticity of the entire costume, and be prepared to document its authenticity if asked to do so. The International Side-Saddle Organization retains a Period Costume Consultant to help its members with such projects. Write ISSO National Headquarters, RD 2, Box 2055, Mt. Holly, New Jersey 08060.



Figure 1: An example of an "overdone" costume!

Figure 2: A riding habit of cloth, with velvet collar and striped silk waistcoat. Muslin cravat, felt bonnet and kid slippers. 1795-1799. From Wilcox's **The Mode in Costume**. A historically correct costume.



JUNIOR RIDERS

A junior rider (under age 18) is allowed to ride side-saddle in any class unless the rules for that specific show prohibit it.

ISSO's policy is to encourage our junior riders in every way possible. ISSO sponsors age group awards for junior riders, as well as a Junior Championship, given each year at the Banquet of Champions.

In hunt seat equitation classes and hunter classes, both on the flat and over fences, a junior rider **must** wear a hard hat with attached safety harness.

In hunter appointment classes, a junior rider must wear a hard hat with safety harness attached, and **shall not be penalized** for wearing same. The hard hat is the correct appointment attire for a junior rider.

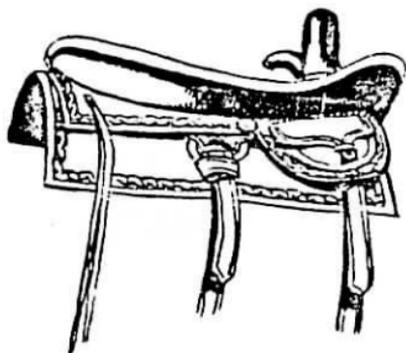
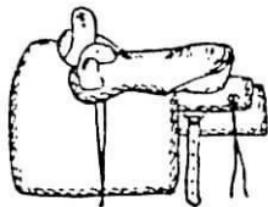
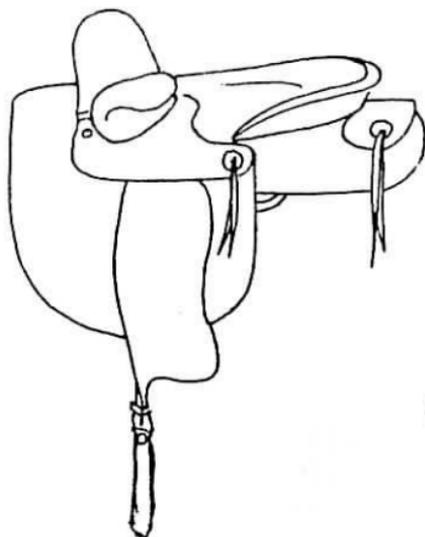


ARTICLE VIII

WESTERN SIDE-SADDLE

A Western side-saddle must be used in any Western class.

Examples of Western side-saddles:



Resembles astride Western saddle; cantle styles vary. Tooling common. Most are all leather.

WESTERN SIDE-SADDLE: A Western side-saddle shall be styled for comfort and security, suitable for Western pleasure, show and/or ranch work.

WESTERN STOCK SIDE-SADDLE shall be a heavy duty saddle built on a reinforced bar tree and double rigged, suitable for ranch and stock work. It may be of all leather, or leather and suede. A leaping pommel is required as it replaces the purpose of the swelled fork on an astride saddle. The saddle may have round or square skirts, either tooled or plain, and should have a contemporary "western" appearance. The saddle will have dees, carriers or latigos to secure reata, hobbles, slicker, etc., when required. Skirts may be lined with sheepswool, felt or leather. A regular western stirrup shall be used. No hooded stirrups or tapaderos.

WESTERN PLEASURE SADDLE shall be built on a Western bar tree, but need not have the heavy duty construction and appearance of the stock side-saddle. It shall be suitable for Western pleasure use. The shape of skirts, flaps and degree of tooling/decoration may vary. Double or single rigging is acceptable. This saddle may be all leather or leather with suede or fabric. Underside may be of leather, sheepskin, felt, or have fabric panels. Stirrup to be same as stock saddle.

Section 8.1 - Classes - The following classes are suitable for inclusion at any horse show wishing to offer side-saddle western or stock classes.

- (a) **Pleasure** - Horses/ponies to walk, jog, and lope both ways of arena on a reasonably loose rein. To be judged 50% on horse's gaits, manners, and way of going; 30% for quality and substance and, for breed classes, conformation; 20% on rider ability, appointments and neatness.
- (b) **Command** - Horses/ponies may be asked for any gait and any transition at the judge's discretion. To be judged by process of elimination.
- (c) **Trail** - Horses/ponies to be shown over and through obstacles at a walk, jog, and lope on a reasonably loose rein, without undue resistance. To be judged on performance and way of going, with emphasis on manners.

In Western classed requiring mounting no assistance is permitted.

It is suggested that in classes where you have to mount from the off-side, a spare stirrup and leather be attached. **This should be removed immediately after the class.**

- (d) **Equitation** - To be judged 100% on performance of the rider.
- (e) **Optional Classes:**
 - Gymkhana
 - Working stock horse
 - Reining

WESTERN ATTIRE

Western attire should be based on contemporary Western wear suitable and practical for show and ranch work.

Coat: Optional. If worn, of contemporary Western styling; conservative in style, color and fabric.

Apron: **Side-saddle riders must wear an apron of either the closed or buttoned type, or with waist band cut the same as a pair of chaps and double thickness, if showing in classes where chaps are required.** The Western apron replaced chaps as protection for the legs. Plain or Western decorated styling, in suiting fabric, leather, suede or other suitable fabric. Must cover the right leg and foot entirely, and hang level. Should be 2" - 4" above the left ankle. May have chap waist band in the back. Should be of matching or harmonizing color with the rest of attire. Culottes or divided skirts are not permitted.

Pants: Western pants, either matching or of complimentary color to the apron, should be worn. If breeches or other pants are worn, they should be completely covered by the apron.

Vest: Optional; if worn, should be of contemporary Western styling in matching or harmonizing color to apron.

Shirt: Western styling with long sleeves; matching or harmonizing with the rest of apparel.

Neckwear: A necktie, kerchief or bolo tie is required.

Hat: Western hat of appropriate size for rider. Decorative hat band if desired. Hanging scarves, feathers and veils are not permitted.

Boots: Western boots with suitable riding heel.

Jewelry: Small silver earrings, concho barrette, hat pin, cufflinks and apron trim only. No boutonniere permitted.

Accessories: Single small ladies' spur of Western styling is optional. Western saddle pad or blanket required. Western breast-plate optional. No tie downs, whips or quirts permitted except in contest classes.

Tack: Saddle - Side-saddle of Western stock or Western pleasure type preferred. Other side-saddles of Western stock or Other side-saddles of Western type are acceptable, EXCEPT in classes where "Stock Seat Saddle" is specified. In this case, a Western Stock side-saddle is required. No English side-saddles or side-rail side-saddles are permitted.

Bridle - Of contemporary Western style, with or without silver suitable for classes entered. Bit should be appropriate for breed and class entered. No cavessons permitted.

Appointments: For classes requiring appointments (Trail, etc.) - if split reins are used, no hobbles are necessary. If romal reins are used, hobbles should be attached on the near side, toward the rear of the saddle.

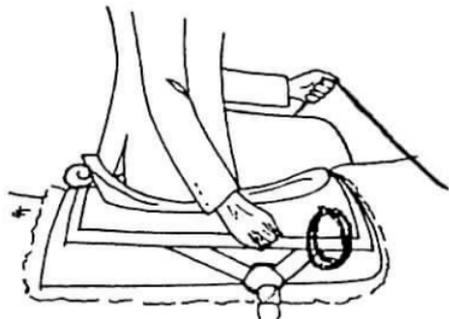
Use of slicker, lariat, etc. - Refer to show prize list or AHSA or Breed requirements.

NOTE: The easiest way to be correctly dressed is simply to wear what well-dressed Western astride riders are wearing in your area, and add the proper apron.

No bandages or boots are allowed on the front legs of the horse. In stock horse classes, only sliding or rundown boots on rear legs are permitted, and shin or bell boots on the front legs.

No braided manes or tails are permitted.

Correct Western hand & arm position using split (or open) reins.



NOTE:

Think of the "bight" of the reins (the loose or free ends) in connection to the hand holding the reins. If the reins are held in the left hand, then the "bight" (or free ends) would fall on the left. The opposite is true if one uses their right hand - the "bight" falls on the right.

Seat and Hands

General - Riders will be judged on seat, hands, performance of horse, appointments of horse and rider and suitability of horse to rider.

Results as shown by the performance of the horse are NOT to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them. A Stock Seat Equitation Medal Class is an equitation class, performing a stock horse routine and largely governed by the rules of the latter. There are certain recognized patterns of showing a stock horse in a ring and these patterns should be adhered to.

Hands - In repose, arms are in a straight line with body, the one holding reins bent at elbow. Only one hand is to be used for reining and hands shall not be changed. Hand to be around reins. When ends of split reins fall on near side, one finger between reins permitted. When using romal or when ends of split reins fall on near side, one finger between reins permitted. When using romal or when ends of split reins are held in hand not used for reining, no finger between reins is allowed. The position of the ahdn not being used for reining is optional, but it should be kept free of the horse and equipment and held in a relaxed manner with the rider's body straight at all times. Rider may hold romal or end of split reins to keep from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins, provided it is held at least 16 inches from the reining hand. Hands to be above horn and as near to it as possible. Bracing against horsn or coiled reata will be penalized. ***Except In Medal Classes, show committee may, according to local conditions, designate wheter a romal or spllt reins are to be used, proved it is so stipulated Int the prize llist.***

The side-saddle rider should be sitting square in the saddle, spine perpendicular to a horse's backbone. Shoulders to be square and back. Head straight and level. (See Fig. 1, Fig. 2, Fig. 3)

The left leg should hang straight down naturally and close to the horse's side. The heel should be down and the stirrup resting on the ball of the foot, exactly as an astride rider. The left knee rests against the saddle.

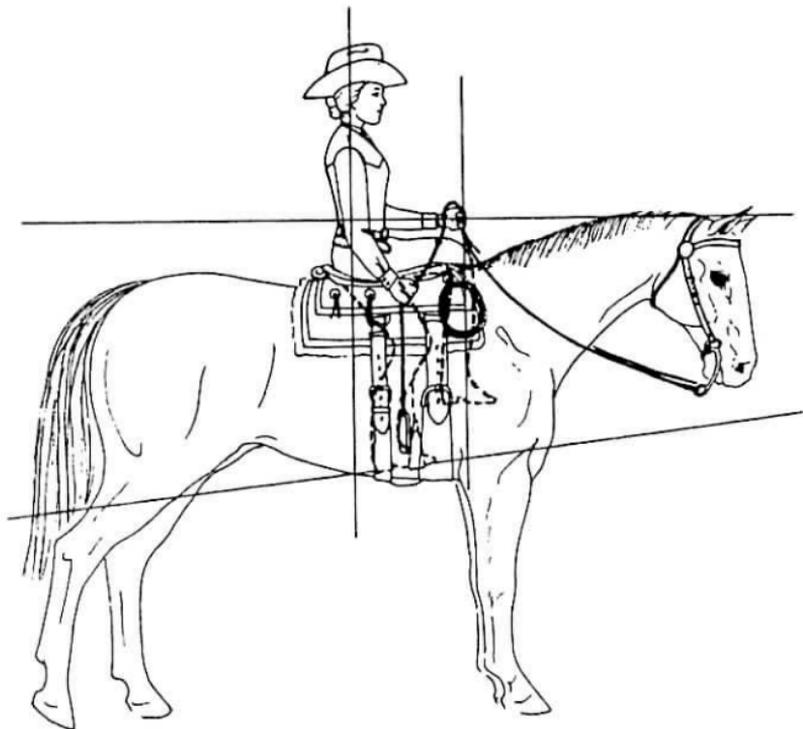
The lower portion of the rein arm should be parallel with the ground and the reining hand over the right knee. The upper rein arm will take about a 30° angle.

The knuckles of the reining hand should be vertical with the ground and the reining hand should always be held directly over the right knee and in no way forward of this knee.

The upper portion of the inactive arm should be vertical with the body and the elbow of this arm should not protrude to the rear of the upper body. When using closed reins, the inactive hand should be closed around the free ends of the reins and the lower portion of this arm held at about a 45° angle in a natural position.

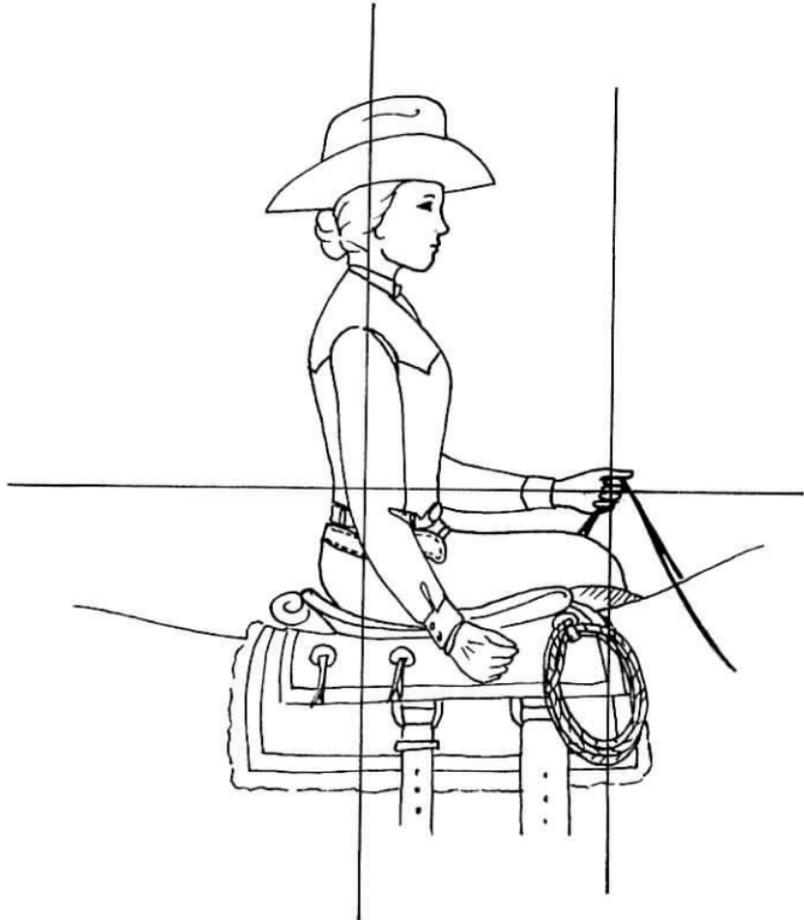
Basic Position - The stirrup should be just short enough to allow heels to be lower than toes. Body always should appear comfortable, relaxed and flexible. Foot should be placed in the stirrup with weight on ball of the foot. Consideration, however, should be given to the width of the stirrup, which vary on Western saddles. If stirrup is wide, the foot may have the appearance of being "home" when, in reality, the weight is being properly carried on the ball of the foot.

Position in Motion - Rider should sit to job and not post. At the lope, he should be close to saddle. All movements of horse should be governed by the use of imperceptible aids, and the shifting of rider's weight is not desirable.



Illustrates proper posture and balance showing hand position on **reins with romal**.

Use both hands on reins; rein can be carried right or left.



Rider posture and balance same as on previous page, **illustrating hand positions when split reins are employed with ends on the near side.**

One hand only on reins,
Note position of right hand - not near bight.
Bight falls on side where rein is held.