

Show Organizers – this is just a friendly reminder that that these rules are being followed during your competition:

OUR MISSION

The Saskatchewan Horse Federation delivers value to its members through initiatives in sport, industry and recreation activities; while upholding standards of equine welfare.

A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE ON EQUINE WELFARE

The Saskatchewan Horse Federation is the voice and leader in an evolving and sustainable horse industry.

We believe it is the right and the responsibility of the Saskatchewan Horse Federation to set provincial standards for competition that are consistent with federal regulations and that bear the welfare of the horse as a primary concern. **Ethics, fair play, and good sportsmanship form the foundation for all activities that pertain to horse events under the jurisdiction of the SHF.**

The Saskatchewan Horse Federation (SHF), acting as the accepted Provincial Association for provincial horse groups, supports adherence to humane treatment of horses in all activities under its jurisdiction.

The standards by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted practices, would determine to be neither cruel nor abusive nor inhumane.

The Saskatchewan Horse Federation will:

- ✓ Uphold the welfare of horses, regardless of value, as a primary consideration in all activities.
- ✓ Require that horses be treated with kindness, respect, receive good care, and not be subjected to mistreatment.
- ✓ Ensure owners, trainers, exhibitors and their agents use responsible care in the handling, treatment, and transportation of horses that are under their care.
- ✓ Provide the availability for routine inspection and consultation with health care professionals and industry officials to achieve high practices of nutrition, health, comfort, sanitation, transportation, and safety as provincial standards.
- ✓ Support and promote scientific studies on equine health and welfare.
- ✓ Offer education in training and horsemanship practices.
- ✓ Require owners, trainers, handlers, and exhibitors to know and follow sanctioned rules and regulations and to work within industry standards for equine activities and businesses.
- ✓ Review, revise, and develop competition rules and regulations that protect the welfare of horses.

RULES OF COMPETITION

1. SHF Helmet Policy: All youth under the age of 18 as of January 1 of the current year will be required to wear an approved ASTM/SEI helmet when participating in any event sanctioned by the Saskatchewan Horse Federation. This is for safety and insurance purposes.

- Exemption allowed: Upon request, a competition may be granted an exemption to this rule if it is sanctioned under an approved set of Breed, International or National Rules and regulations. **HOWEVER, Heritage and Prairie Cup approved classes running within the same competition must follow the SHF Helmet Policy whereby all juniors will wear properly fitted and fastened approved headgear at all times while riding or driving at the event location. It is understood that juniors not meeting this requirement will not be allowed to compete in the Heritage or Prairie Cup classes at these competitions.**

2. In Showmanship an exhibitor may be in either Western or English attire. Junior participants must wear a helmet.

3. Mannerly stallions may be shown by SENIOR EXHIBITORS ONLY.

4. No whips are allowed in English Pleasure or Hack classes.

5. Age categories for Junior Riders shall be as the age they were as of Jan. 1: Junior "C": 11 years and under; Junior "B": 12 years to 14 years; Junior "A": 15 years to 17 years; Senior: 18 years and over.

6. A Junior Horse, five years and under, may be ridden with a snaffle bit or bosal with two hands on the reins in all classes.

7. English Tack:

In all English classes a snaffle, pelham, kimberwick, and /or full bridle with plain leather cavesson nose bands and brow bands must be used. Colored cavesson and brow bands may only be used in English Pleasure classes. An English saddle in black or brown with a proper English saddle pad should be used.

Optional Equipment:

- a) Spurs
- b) Gloves
- c) Braiding of mane and tail
- d) Standing or running martingales (ONLY in over fences Hunter classes)
- e) Boots in Hunter classes at Judge's discretion only

8. English Attire:

In all English classes competitors and judges should bear in mind that entries are being judged on ability rather than personal attire. However, riders should wear hunt coats of traditional hunt style and conservative color, breeches of traditional shades, and high English boots of black or brown. A black, navy or brown approved helmet with a permanently affixed harness is compulsory. A tie, choker, or stock is required. Hair must be neat and contained as in a net or braid. For English pleasure and equitation, saddle seat attire is allowed.

9. Western Tack:

In all western classes, horses will be shown in a western stock saddle. Australian stock saddles are not permitted.

A western bridle with a western curb bit shall be used on senior horses. On Senior Horses the reins may only be held in one hand. The reins may be split or of the romal type. The index finger is only allowed between split reins but not with romal reins. When using a romal rein the braided extension is allowed to be carried in the free hand with 16 inches spacing between the free hand and the reining hand.

Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit.

Chain chin straps are permissible, but must be at least one-half inch in width, and must lie flat against the jaw of the horse.

Optional Equipment:

- a) Rope or Riata attached to the saddle.
- b) Hobbles attached to the saddle.
- c) Breast Collars
- d) Protective boots or leg wraps and bandages are allowed in reining, speed events and horsemanship.
- e) Martingales, nosebands, and tie downs are allowed ONLY in speed events.

11. Exhibitors may ride more than one horse in classes requiring only individual work, regardless of age, up to a maximum of three entries. However, a horse can only be entered once in each class or event at a show. If there is elimination, each horse must be ridden in the actual class by the same rider who rode it in the elimination.

12. In any class or event requiring equipment, such as a Trail Class, Pole Bending etc., competitor MUST NOT use the show's equipment for practicing before the class or event begins, on penalty of disqualification.

13. The management of any contest shall determine whether or not elimination is necessary, the number of go-rounds to be held, and the number of horses to be shown at each performance.

14. The final placing of each horse is to be determined by totaling its scores in the finals plus elimination and / or go-rounds.

15. In all classes, any rider and/or horse which falls during the performance is automatically disqualified. A rider has fallen when s/he has to vault or mount in the ring. A horse has fallen when both the shoulder and haunch touch the ground.

16. In all performance classes that are judged on the rail, horses are to reverse to the inside (away from the rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or jog at the discretion of the judge, but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope.

17. Competition rings, arenas, and warm up areas should be fenced and must have a safe gate or door that will open and shut. All Speed events must be run in an enclosed arena. Show committees are responsible for ensuring safe footing for all classes. Failure to comply with the above may result in loss of insurance coverage.

18. Obvious sideline coaching or obvious ringside assistance while rider is being judged may result in the disqualification of the exhibitor.

19. Discipline - Exhibitors are warned that any act of discourtesy or disobedience to the officials on the part of the owner, groom, rider, driver, or member of the family participating in the show, will disqualify the horse and exhibitor. The management of the show has the right to remove a groom, horse, rider or driver from the show without being liable for compensation or damages.

GUIDELINES FOR SHOW COMMITTEES

The SHF Heritage Circuit is a provincial circuit. Each circuit show is a member of one of the nine Saskatchewan Sport Districts (see list on page 12), and awards are presented annually for each of the districts.

- Prize lists should indicate that the competition is licensed with the SHF and designated as a Heritage Circuit approved event (or dual sanctioned).
- Prize lists are to include information regarding competition licensing and nominations provided by the SHF
- Classes approved for points should be designated on all advertised prize lists.
- At least one member of the show committee **MUST** be a current SHF Individual Member for liability insurance reasons. Shows failing to comply will not be recognized as a Heritage Circuit Show.
- Each show will receive a Heritage first place ribbon for each Heritage class held at their show.
- Each show will receive a Show License Certificate that must be displayed at the horse show office.
- Results forms are supplied to the show committee secretary along with the Heritage ribbons, and are to be completed for each Heritage class. They must list the placings of all horses from first through fifth place, whether a Heritage nominated horse or not. Accuracy in reporting results ensures provincial championships are calculated correctly.
- Heritage Shows are encouraged to promote nomination of the rider/horse to the Heritage Circuit so they will be eligible for year-end awards.
- It is recommended all shows encourage competitors to become an SHF Individual Member to ensure each entry is protected by their own insurance coverage.
- Show committees are encouraged to solicit and submit nominations for a Heritage Circuit nominated junior competitor who exemplifies good sportsmanship at their event. The name of this person should be sent to the SHF office, along with show results.

- Show committees should ensure that all equipment, show, and warm up areas are in good repair and meet required standards. Show equipment should be inspected and in place prior to the start of the show.
- It is recommended that a full list of equipment be made available to officials prior to the show.
- Show Committees should have basic equipment available such as a tape measure, rake, stopwatch, etc.
- At the discretion of individual show committees, any competitor that is deemed “not in good standing” by that particular competition committee may be denied entry or refused prizes as set by that competition.
- Competition organizers are encouraged to also make their events eligible for other programs and incentives (such as NAERIC Advantage, PAC and TIPS). Contact the SHF office for more details.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

- The competition year for both the Heritage Circuit and Prairie Cup Series will be from November 1st of the previous year to October 31st of the current calendar year.
- The SHF will supply a first place ribbon for each Heritage class in all shows participating in the SHF Heritage Circuit. Ribbons will only be provided for SHF Heritage Circuit classes on the approved class list of the current year.
- **Once a class has begun (the gate shut or the first horse judged), no further entries will be accepted.**
- Show Committees must submit applications and FINAL COPY prize lists at least FOUR WEEKS prior to the show date or a \$25.00 penalty fee may be assessed to the show.
- Forms for class results and ribbons will be sent to each show as the SHF office receives and approves their permit, sanction, and class applications and prize list.
- Shows are able to dual sanction their horse show to offer both Heritage and Prairie Cup classes. This will allow riders to easily make the transition to the higher performance levels.
- The Show Secretary must submit the results of each SHF Heritage Circuit class along with any nominations or membership applications received at the show. Show results and other forms must be returned within 2 weeks of the last day of a competition. A \$50 filing fee, under separate cheque, is to be submitted with all show license requests and will be returned upon remittance within the 2-week period.
- **Dressage division placings AND percentage scores MUST** be submitted to the SHF by show committees on the results forms.
- Competition results must be received by November 30th to be included in the tabulation for awards.
- **Horse/rider pairs nominated for the Heritage Circuit will begin point accumulation only AFTER the horse/rider combination is nominated. Points earned prior to nomination of horse/rider WILL NOT be considered.**
- Persons may nominate their horse at a show on the form provided. To be eligible for awards, a person must be a current Individual Member of the SHF and nominate the horse on which s/he wishes to accumulate points.
- Riders are able to nominate to both Heritage Circuit and Prairie Cup (dual nominate), and will collect points in each respective circuit.
- The show must forward all membership applications and nominations it receives to the SHF promptly, to ensure competitors receive their proper points.

- Dressage Division: **A horse may compete in any two (2), but only two (2) consecutive levels, and a maximum of four (4) tests per day, including the Freestyle.**
- Hunter Division: **A horse may compete in any three (3), but only three (3) consecutive class heights, and a maximum of four (4) over-fence classes per day, including specials, classics, derbies, medals, or equitation over fences.**
- Western Dressage Division: **A horse may compete in any two (2), but only two (2) consecutive levels, and a maximum of four (4) tests per day, including the freestyle.**

ANIMAL WELFARE

The Saskatchewan Horse Federation is dedicated to the humane treatment and welfare of horses. Cruel, abusive, or inhumane treatment of a horse at any SHF Circuit competition by an exhibitor, owner, trainer, or other person must not be tolerated anywhere on the grounds under any circumstances. The SHF supports any decision of officials or show committees that removes a horse from a competition due to obvious lameness or exhaustion.

Cruelty can be defined as intentionally causing pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse. The standard by which such conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and exhibition procedures, would determine to be cruel, excessive, or inhumane.

The organizing show committee must bar such violators from further participation in the competition. It is recommended every horse show publish a statement in its prize list regarding its position on the abuse of horses and its commitment to the humane treatment and welfare of horses, with the penalties to be imposed for confirmed abuse of horses at the show.

In any performance event, the judge shall have the authority to request the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment which, in his/her opinion, would give the horse an unfair advantage or which he believes to be inhumane.

PROTESTS / COMPLAINTS

Any protest must be made in writing. It must be submitted, along with \$25.00 cheque, within **one hour** of the completion of the class in question. A protest must contain a specific statement of an alleged violation of a rule or condition of a class. It must provide the full name (and address, if possible) of the alleged violator.

The show committee (and the judge, if they so choose) will review the protest and determine a ruling based on the rules and regulations under which the show is sanctioned. If the show committee and/or judge is unable to come to a resolution, the matter will be referred to the SHF office and their policies for dispute resolution. **The SHF's decision shall be final.**