

**** SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS ****

- 1. Exhibitors are expected to read and abide by the rules set forth below. Any infraction not contained in these rules shall be referred to the AQHA or USEF rulebooks for further clarification. Exhibitors are responsible for knowing the requirements and specifications of the classes/divisions they enter. Exhibitors may be disqualified or penalized by the judge for using prohibited or incorrect tack/attire for the class. A complete list of class specifications and proper attire and equipment are at the end of this prize list and on our website. PLEASE READ THEM!!!**
- 2. Shows will run rain or shine so please bring rain gear just in case. In the case of severe weather (torrential rain, lightning, etc) the show will be delayed but will continue. If the show is under time constraints, similar classes/divisions may be combined to facilitate ending the day at a reasonable hour. In addition, classes not counting toward weekend/year end championships may be cancelled and fees refunded to exhibitor.**
- 3. Children are not allowed to ride bikes/scooters in the immediate horse areas due to the possibility of spooking horses.**
- 4. REQUIRED EQUINE PAPERWORK – Exhibitors must PROVIDE A COPY of current Rabies vaccination and Coggins test by a certified Veterinarian dated within one year of date of show. Out of state equines should have a certificate of veterinary inspection. NO EQUINES MAY COME ONTO THE GROUNDS WITHOUT PROPER HEALTH PAPERWORK. Once equine paperwork has been submitted, you don't have to submit it again.**
- 5. HELMET RULE - ASTM/SEI approved helmets with a secured chin strap are required for ALL RIDERS 18 & under while mounted on the grounds.**
- 6. ENTRY FEES – Regular Classes \$9 ~ Championship Classes \$11 ~ Leadline Classes \$6 ~ Post Entry Fee \$3 per class
Save \$\$\$ - Division Package includes all 7 classes (regular or championship), 1 stall, and office fees for \$80. Post entry \$100**
- 7. CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES – To be eligible for a Championship class, the horse/rider combination must have shown without disqualification in the qualifying class(es) indicated in parentheses... () ...next to the championship class name in the class list. Exhibitor does not need to have placed in the qualifier to show in the championship. A larger ribbon, prize to winner, and extra points will be awarded toward weekend and year end championships.**
- 8. YEAR END AWARDS – Exhibitors are automatically entered into our year-end award program. There are no forms to submit or fees to pay. Awarded to the rider who earns the most points in their division. Exhibitors must attend both shows to qualify. A championship ribbon and choice of prize will be awarded to the champion in each division; ribbons only for reserve through 6th places. Classes to count will be the same as the weekend championship qualifying classes. Exhibitors will be given the opportunity to review recorded points and give notice of any errors at the end of the year before they are made final. Ties will be decided by the highest number of classes entered. If still tied, total showmanship score will be used. Exhibitors must be in good standing as of October 1st to be eligible for awards or awards will be forfeited and remaining placings moved up. Awards will be presented at the year-end banquet held in November in VT.**
- 9. RIDER NUMBERS - If you have your own number you want to use, write it in the show # square on your entry form (or put it in the "Additional Comments" section of the online entry form) and we will try to accommodate you if that number has not already been assigned. Our numbers are distinct in that they are purple in color. Numbers are assigned to each horse and must be visible to judge. DO NOT LOSE THIS NUMBER! WE WILL NOT HAVE EXTRA NUMBERS TO GIVE YOU, SO IF YOU LOSE YOUR NUMBER YOU'LL NEED TO CREATE A NEW ONE YOURSELF. THE HORSE WILL USE THIS NUMBER ALL YEAR AT ANY CVHS SHOW IN ANY LOCATION. Keep your number in an envelope in your tack box for safe keeping between shows.**
- 10. ADDING/SCRATCHING CLASSES – Added classes at the show are charged post-entry rates. There are no refunds for classes the exhibitor chooses to scratch once they've entered. Fill out a yellow Add/Scratch card at booth and give it to the secretary. We don't charge a fee if the exhibitor is switching from one class to another except if switching from a regular class to a championship. If the show scratches a class for any reason, fees will be refunded to the exhibitor.**
- 11. PAYMENT/REFUND TERMS – Pre-Entries require payment and are due by the Tuesday before the show. Cash, checks, PayPal, Venmo, or debit/credit cards accepted. Checks and debit/credit cards provided with pre-entries will be deposited/processed the Thursday before the show. Credit/debit card payments received at the show will be processed on Sunday afternoon. Checks received at the show will be deposited on the Tuesday after the show. NO REFUNDS UNLESS ILLNESS/INJURY WITH NOTE FROM DOCTOR/VET SUBMITTED TO MANAGEMENT WITHIN 7 DAYS AFTER THE SHOW. Returned checks will be charged an initial NSF fee of \$25. An additional fee of \$25 will be added on the 1st of each month thereafter until all outstanding fees are paid.**
- 12. STALLS – LIMITED stabling for horses or tack is available for \$20 per stall per night. **Gold sponsors have priority stall assignments.** After that, stalls are reserved on a **FIRST-COME BASIS**. Exhibitors may request certain stalls but we cannot guarantee availability. Assigned stall chart will be posted on our Facebook page and on the end of the barns. Please check it when you arrive to see where your stalls are as there may have been changes. No changing assigned stalls without the show manager's permission. **GROUPS NEEDING 6 OR MORE STALLS SHOULD FILL OUT THE GROUP STALL RESERVATION FORM. EXHIBITORS MUST STRIP THEIR STALL TO THE DIRT AND RAKE/SWEEP THEIR SURROUNDING AREA BEFORE THEY LEAVE. ABSOLUTELY NO SHAVINGS, HAY, MANURE, OR EQUIPMENT IS TO BE LEFT INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE STALL. IF SHOW MANAGEMENT HAS TO GO BACK AND CLEAN YOUR STALL OR SURROUNDING AREA, YOU WILL BE CHARGED A \$50 FEE!!!** No refunds on stall fees. Per Essex County Fair policy, all equines staying overnight must be stalled.**
- 13. NO SMOKING AROUND THE BARN, BY THE RINGS, OR ON THE BLEACHERS. Would you want someone smoking in your barn?**
- 14. ARRIVAL/REMOVAL OF HORSES - Exhibitors may arrive at the grounds any time after 3 p.m. Saturday and must vacate the grounds by 7 p.m. Sunday evening. Gold sponsors may arrive any time after Noon. Please note that the show manager will not be on the grounds until after 3 p.m.**
- 15. To keep the show running smoothly, when the class in the ring has lined up the next class will enter the ring and walk on the rail. Exhibitors will have 2 minutes to enter the ring once the gate is open. Exhibitors failing to enter the ring once the gate is closed and judging has begun will not**

be allowed to show in the class. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to know what class is in the ring, even if the PA system fails. **No refunds on missed classes.**

16. **TACK HOLDS** - must be requested at least 2 classes prior to the class you need held. Exhibitors will have a maximum of four minutes to complete. Fill out the orange tack hold request card at the booth and give it to the announcer. Changes are to be made next to the ring, not at your stall or trailer on the other side of the grounds. Once judging is complete, exhibitor may exit the ring and start the tack change.
17. **SPLITTING/COMBINING CLASSES** - if any class has too many entries whereas its unsafe to run all entries together, the class will be split at show management's discretion and each section will receive its own set of points. In addition, show management also reserves the right to combine similar classes with low entries if the combination results in 8 entries or less, or run the two classes together and pin them separately.
18. **FALL OF HORSE OR RIDER** after the gate is closed and judging has begun will constitute disqualification in any riding class. At the judge's discretion, exhibitors may remount and finish the class without a placing but are strongly encouraged to leave the ring and seek medical attention. Emergency personnel will be on the grounds during show times.
19. **DOGS are welcome on the grounds but MUST BE LEASHED OR TIED AT ALL TIMES PER OUR INSURANCE POLICY!!** Rabies tags may be checked. Please keep dogs away from riding rings to avoid spooking horses. CVHS and ECF accept no responsibility for injuries sustained by any animal on the show grounds.
20. **MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO:** Add to or vary the list of invited officials; decline or refuse any entry without being held liable; eliminate from further competition any exhibitor or equine should the best interest of the show be served; not delay classes due to conflicts; not to allow substitutions of animals or classes; change the order of classes before or during the show; **combine, divide, or cancel classes.** Any questions or disputes not provided for in the foregoing rules shall be referred to show management whose decision shall be final.
21. The judge's decision is final. No person shall approach the judge without the permission of show management.
22. No entry will be permitted in the ring unless they have signed an entry form, proper paperwork has been received, and fees for that class have been paid, or a signed open check or credit/debit card number left with the show Secretary. Exhibitors will be disqualified if numbers are not clearly visible either on the exhibitor's back or on both sides of the saddle. **Parent/guardian must sign if exhibitor is 18 and under.**

DEFINITION OF DIVISIONS

All ages are as of January 1, 2023. Equines must be at least three years old to be shown in under saddle classes.

Youth Walk/Trot – 18 & Under. Walk and trot/jog only. All seats. No stallions. May not cross enter other classes/divisions that require a canter/lope. May be divided into 13 & Under and 14-18 pending entries.

Adult Walk/Trot – 19 & Over. Walk and trot/jog only. All seats. Stallions allowed. May not cross enter other classes/divisions that require a canter/lope.

Novice Rider – Any age rider in their first or second year showing. All seats. Stallions may be shown by adults only. May not cross enter any classes/divisions requiring a canter/lope. Walk, trot/jog, and limited canter/lope at judge's discretion.

The Walk/Trot divisions are based on RIDER'S level of ability, NOT the horse's. If you are a WT/C level exhibitor and are showing an equine that is only at a W/T level, you must enter the Green Horse/Pony division.

Green Horse/Pony – any age horse in first or second year showing. All seats. Walk, trot/jog, and optional unjudged canter/lope one or both ways of the ring. Show management strongly cautions younger exhibitors showing inexperienced horses. Stallions may be shown by adults only. Any age horse may use a snaffle bit. May not cross enter any classes that require a canter/lope. **Based on the horse's level of ability, not the rider's.**

Youth – 18 & Under. Walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope. All seats. No stallions. May be divided into 13 & Under and 14-18 pending entries.

Adult – 19 & over, walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope. All seats. Stallions allowed.

Leadline – 10 & under, walk and limited trot/jog. All seats. Two hands allowed. No stallions or equine showing in the Green Horse division. Excessive help by attendant will be penalized. May not cross enter into any other classes. **ASTM/SEI HELMETS REQUIRED**

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY HORSE SHOWS RULEBOOK & CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

Any questions not addressed in the rules below shall be referred to the AQHA or USEF rulebooks for further clarification.

HELMET REQUIREMENTS

All exhibitors 18 years and under must wear properly fitting ASTM/SEI approved headgear with a chin strap while riding anywhere on the grounds. Harness must be secure and properly fitted. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place. Adults are encouraged to comply with this rule. Exhibitors may wear ASTM/SEI protective headgear and/or protective vests in any classes without penalty from the judge.

STALLION RULE

Stallions may only be shown by adults 19 & over. Any unruly stallion will be asked to leave the ring. Exhibitors showing stallions are asked to keep appropriate space from other exhibitors.

Model Appointments – Exhibitors shall wear neat, clean, professional, and appropriate attire for the show ring reflecting the seat they are presenting. **No tank tops, shorts, sneakers, baseball hats, etc. No attire with farm/stable logos on them.**

Model Tack – Western-style entries may be shown in a suitable leather or nylon halter and lead in good condition and fit to the horse. Hunter-style entries may be shown in a suitable leather or nylon halter or english leather bridle. Saddleseat-type entries shall be shown in a traditional English shank bit bridle. Whips/bats allowed for english entries only

Western Seat Appointments – Western style pants (slacks, trousers, jeans, etc) in good, clean condition; long sleeved shirt with a collar (pins, bolos, necklaces optional), western hat, and western style boots with a 1" heel. Gloves and chaps are optional. Hair must be neat and contained and not obstruct the judge's view of your number. **Exhibitors 18 and under are required to wear an ASTM-SEI approved helmet in all under saddle classes and while riding on the grounds at all times.** Adult exhibitors may wear traditional western hat or approved helmet.

Western Seat Tack – In all western classes, a traditional western saddle made of leather or suitable synthetic fabric allowed. Stirrups shall not be tied to one another or to the saddle. Bridle may be of standard plain or silver headstall, split ear, browband, shaped ear, etc. Nosebands, martingales, and tie-downs prohibited. Western style curb or leveraged bits (broken or solid) with a port no higher than 3 ½" and a curb strap at least ½" wide of leather, nylon, or flat chain are required in all classes. Slip and gag bits and snaffles with fixed rein attachments providing leverage are prohibited. Riders are to use only one hand when using a leveraged bit. Junior horses 5 years and under may use a traditional O-ring, D-ring, or eggbutt snaffle with a ring between 2" and 4", bosal, or hackamore and may use two hands. **EXCEPTION: Green Horse/Pony division entries may use a snaffle bit with two hands on any age horse.**

WESTERN PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are prohibited in western pleasure, trail, halter, and showmanship. Wire curb straps, regardless of how padded or covered, or curb strap with tacks/rivets. Any curb strap narrower than one-half inch. Chain, wire, or metal tie-down or bonnets are prohibited, regardless of how padded or wrapped. Saw tooth bits; hock hobbles; tack collars; tack curb straps or tack hackamores; whips used for showmanship, war bridles or like devices; riding in a curb bit without a curb strap; wire or solid metal curb straps no matter how padded; wire cavesson; wire or cable tie-downs; bumper bits; metal bosals (no matter wrapped or padded); chambons; headstalls made of metal (no matter how wrapped or padded); twisted rawhide, or rope may not be used on a horse's head (3/8 inch rope may be used with a slip/gag

bit or a bonnet); running martingales used with curb bits used without rein stops; draw reins attached between or around the front legs. Tie downs may not have a built-in cavesson or noseband. Fenders may not be connected by string or other material.

Hunter Seat Appointments – Traditional hunt coat of dark or conservative color, light colored (white, khaki, gray, beige) breeches, traditional hunt shirt with stock collar (pin optional), and high English boots or jodhpur boots, and helmet/hunt cap. Gloves and spurs optional. Hair must be neat and contained and not obstruct the judge's view of your number. **Exhibitors 18 and under are required to wear an ASTM-SEI approved helmet in all under saddle classes and while riding on the grounds at all times.** Adult exhibitors may wear a hunt cap.

Hunter Seat Tack – In all English/hunter classes, a traditional English style forward seat, close contact, or dressage saddle is acceptable. Flat saddle seat type saddles are prohibited. Bridles must have a bit – no hunter hackamores, etc. allowed. A traditional snaffle bridle with an O-ring, D-ring, kimberwicke, or eggbutt bit is acceptable. Pelham or full bridles are allowed. Martingales and tie-downs are prohibited. Bits of unconventional type are to be penalized at the judge's discretion.

ENGLISH PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

Bits of any style (pelham, snaffle, kimberwicke) featuring mouthpieces with cathedrals, donuts, prongs, edges or rough, sharp material shall be cause for elimination. Square stock, metal wrapped or polo bits shall be cause for elimination. If a curb bit is used, the curb chain must be at least ½" in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Draw reins. Rowelled spurs. Bit guards. Standing or running martingales except in jumping. **Figure 8 or flash nosebands or Micklem style bridles.** Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are prohibited. The use of slip-on horse boots or related footwear are not considered as protective boots and are permissible to be worn in all classes. Slip on spurs.

Saddle Seat Appointments – A traditional 3-piece saddle suit, derby style/homburg hat, jodhpur boots, and tie required. Spurs, gloves, and crops optional. Hair must be neat and contained and not obstruct the judge's view of your number. **Exhibitors 18 and under are required to wear an ASTM-SEI approved helmet in all under saddle classes and while riding on the grounds at all times.** Adult exhibitors may wear a derby/homburg hat.

Saddle Seat Tack – A traditional flat cutback saddle seat type saddle is required. Entries shall be shown in a full bridle with shank bit and bradoon, or a pelham bit.

CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL

Entries will enter the ring at a walk and line up head to tail along the rail. Entries are not moved. The judge shall inspect each entry from both sides, front and rear. To be judged on conformation, balance, structural correctness, breed and sex characteristics. When the Judge is finalizing their placings, the next class may enter the ring and line up on the opposite rail and be ready.

SHOWMANSHIP

To be judged on showmanship with equine shown in hand, standing and at a walk and trot on the line; also on fitting, evidenced by grooming, condition, neatness and sportsmanship. Pattern required. Judged 60% on exhibitor's showmanship, leading, posing, poise/attitude, and appearance; and 40% on condition, grooming, trim/braid, and tack of horse. Conformation of horse not to count.

EQUITATION

Riders will be judged on seat, hands, position, control of mount, appointments, and suitability of horse to rider both ways of the ring.

In Championship classes, the judge may ask for additional tests.

Walk/Trot – walk and trot/jog only.

Youth & Adult – walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope.

ROAD HACK

To be judged on manners, performance, and suitability both ways of the ring. Excessive speed at the hand gallop shall be penalized. Class may be split at judge's discretion for hand gallop pending entries. Required to halt and stand quietly both ways of the ring. May be asked to back.

Walk/Trot – To be shown at the walk, trot/jog, and extended trot/jog.

Open – To be shown at a walk, trot/jog, extended trot/jog, canter/lope, and hand gallop.

PLEASURE

All Pleasure classes. To be judged on manners, performance, collection, and suitability of seat both ways of the ring.

Walk/Trot – To be shown at a walk and trot/jog only.

Open – To be shown at a walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope.

See "Miscellaneous Classes" below for special pleasure class info/specs.

PERFORMANCE

To be judged 50% on exhibitor's equitation the first way of the ring, and 50% on manners and performance of horse the second way of the ring.

Walk/Trot – To be shown at a walk and trot/jog only.

Youth & Adult – To be shown at a walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope.

MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES

In Hand Disciplined Rail - Open to any equine. Judged on equine's manners and willingness to perform commands. Commands may include, but are not limited to, walk, trot, halt, back, sidestep, 180 turn on haunches/forehand, or any other command the judge deems appropriate. Whips/bats are prohibited.

Golden Oldies Pleasure – Open to any equine 20 years and over regardless of division. To be shown at a walk and trot/jog only. Special prize to oldest horse in class.

Junior Horse Pleasure – Open to equines 5 and under. All seats. Walk, trot/jog, and canter/lope. Western riders may show in a bosal or snaffle bit with two hands. If showing in a leveraged bit, exhibitor must use one hand.