



Green Horse

Discipline Rules



1. Overview

1.1 Division Levels

The Green Horse discipline consists of two divisions:

- **Green Horse – 1-Year Adopted**
- **Green Horse – 2-Year Adopted**

“Adopted year” refers to the number of full years since the horse’s official adoption or sale date as recognized by the governing agency.



1.2 Purpose

The Green Horse discipline exists to showcase the development of a young or recently gentled mustang progressing toward becoming a reliable, confident riding partner. Emphasis is placed on foundational correctness, steadiness, and thoughtful training progression appropriate to each division level.

A horse that is compliant but appears mentally disconnected will not be rewarded over a horse that demonstrates attentiveness, curiosity, and active partnership.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Competitor Eligibility & Age

Competitors must be a minimum of **15 years of age** at the time of competition. There is no maximum age limit.

2.2 Horse Eligibility & Age

Horses must meet division-specific adopted or sale year requirements.

1-Year Adopted Division

Original adoption or sale date must fall between **October 1, 2025 - July 15, 2026**
(extended)

2-Year Adopted Division

Original adoption or sale date must fall between **October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025**

For either division, horses must be at least **4 years of age** at the time of competition with no maximum age. Age of the horse will follow standard industry convention, with age incrementing on January 1.

Refer to general rules for full eligibility and welfare requirements.

3. Classes Offered

3.1 Required Classes

Each Green Horse division will consist of three scored classes:

- **Horsemanship** - focused on the rider's ability
- **Ridden Pattern** - focused on the horse's ability
- **Trail** - focused on the partnership with obstacles

All three classes will count equally toward overall division standings.

4. Equipment

4.1 General Standards

Horses may be exhibited in English or Western equipment. Competitors must wear attire appropriate to the style of riding presented. Decorative elements or adornments will not influence scoring.

Equipment must reflect humane training progression appropriate to the horse's level of development. The judge or steward may prohibit the use of any equipment deemed inhumane, excessively severe, or providing an unfair advantage.

4.2 Permitted Bits and Headgear

Snaffle bits, bosals, and curb bits are permitted. Horses shown in a snaffle bit or bosal may be ridden with two hands. Horses shown in a curb or shank-type bit must be ridden with one hand on the reins. Use of two hands on a curb bit will result in penalties as defined in Section 7.

All bits must:

- Have a smooth mouthpiece
- Be at least 5/16 inch in diameter at the mouthpiece
- Not be twisted, wire, chain, or non-smooth in construction

Curb bits must also:

- Not exceed 8.5 inches in shank length
- Use curb straps or chains that are flat or smooth and lie flat against the jaw

Bosals must:

- Be constructed of rawhide, leather, or rope with a flexible core
- Contain no metal

It is the competitor's responsibility to seek written clarification from event management regarding any questionable equipment prior to competition.

4.3 Prohibited Equipment

The following equipment is prohibited and will result in elimination from the class in which it is used:

- Snaffle bits smaller than 5/16 inch in diameter
- Twisted, wire, or non-smooth mouthpieces
- Stud chains
- Bosals containing metal
- Any bit or equipment determined by the judge or steward to be excessively severe

Wearing guns (real or toy), or discharging any firearm or blank, anywhere on the show grounds is prohibited and will result in automatic disqualification.

See also General Rules Section 9.2 regarding official authority over equipment.

4.4 Training Aids

Whips, crops, or similar training aids are permitted where appropriate to the discipline. Horses shown with visible reliance on training aids will be judged accordingly.

Excessive use of any training aid, including striking the horse, will result in a penalty as defined in Section 7. Continued excessive use may lead to the judge excusing the competitor from the arena, resulting in elimination from the class.

5. Class Procedures

5.1 Horsemanship Class

The Horsemanship class will consist of rail work followed by an individual pattern. Rail work will be conducted at the walk, trot/jog, and lope/canter in both directions. The individual pattern will test accuracy, preparation, and effectiveness of the rider.

When a class reaches fifteen (15) or more exhibitors, management reserves the right to divide the class into sections. Sections will complete rail work separately, but all exhibitors will perform the same posted pattern regardless of section. Class placings will be determined by score, not by section.

Rail work is intended to evaluate consistency of rider effectiveness and quality of each gait, responsiveness to transitions, rider organization and communication in a group setting, and emotional steadiness of the horse.

Rail work supports the overall score; the individual pattern will carry primary influence.

In the Horsemanship class, primary emphasis is placed on the rider's effectiveness in guiding and developing the horse. Judges will evaluate:

- Preparation and timing of aids
- Clarity and consistency of communication
- Appropriate application and release of pressure
- Ability to maintain rhythm and direction through effective guidance
- Organization and accuracy of pattern execution
- Rider balance and body control sufficient to support the horse

The horse's quality of movement will be considered as a reflection of the rider's effectiveness, not as an independent performance evaluation.

5.2 Ridden Pattern Class

Each exhibitor will perform an individual pattern. Rail work is not required. Patterns will evaluate maneuver execution, flow, and progression relative to division level.

Division Progression

1-Year Adopted

Patterns will emphasize clarity, forward motion, and foundational control. Maneuvers may include transitions, circles, turns, backing, side pass, and stops from trot.

2-Year Adopted

Patterns may require increased precision and adjustability, including walk-lope/canter transitions, 360-degree turns or pivots, stride length adjustments, simple lead changes, stops from lope/canter, and introductory rollback elements.

Flying lead changes are not required.

5.3 Trail Class

Each exhibitor will complete an individually scored obstacle course. Obstacles will test practical rideability, confidence, and technical accuracy.

Division Progression

1-Year Adopted

Obstacles will prioritize confidence-building elements and forward willingness. High technical difficulty and heavy drag elements will not be required.

2-Year Adopted

Obstacles may require increased precision, adjustability within obstacles, light drag elements, and more advanced backing or directional control.

6. Scoring

6.1 General Scoring Format

Each class is scored on a maneuver-by-maneuver basis. Each maneuver is assigned an individual score using the following scale:

Score	Description
10	Excellent
9	Very Good
8	Good
7	Above Average
6	Satisfactory
5	Average
4	Below Average
3	Poor
2	Very Poor
1	Extremely Poor
0	Not Performed or Demonstrated

Half-point increments (0.5) are permitted at the judge's discretion.

The final score for each class is the sum of all maneuver scores, plus a Connection mark as described in 6.2. Maneuvers are weighted equally unless otherwise specified on the posted pattern or course.

Scores reflect quality of execution, harmony, progression, and overall effectiveness relative to the division level.

6.2 Connection Score

At the conclusion of each class, the judge will award a single collective mark for Connection. Connection evaluates the overall relaxation, confidence, and partnership between horse and rider as demonstrated throughout the class. The Connection mark is

scored on the same 0-10 scale, half-point increments permitted, and is added to the maneuver total to determine the competitor's final class score.

7. Penalty Infractions

7.1 Application of Penalties

Most execution faults — including breaks of gait, refusals, loss of straightness, wrong leads, and hesitations — are addressed through the maneuver score and do not carry a separate penalty.

7.2 Objective Penalties

The following infractions cannot be captured by a maneuver score and are handled as follows:

Infraction	Point Deduction from Class Score
Two hands on a curb bit	-2 each time
Equipment failure - if permitted to continue	-2
Dismounting during a ridden class	-3 each time
Excessive use of aid - if permitted to continue	-5
Off pattern - Judge may stop & allow to correct	0 for affected maneuver
Fall of horse or rider	Elimination from class
Illegal or prohibited equipment	Elimination from class
Excused from arena by Judge	Elimination from class
Abuse or inhumane handling	Disqualification from competition

Excusal from a class by the judge is final. Elimination from a class results in no score and no placing for that class. All are subject to further review under the General Rules enforcement system.