

Showmanship Guidelines

All horses enter the arena with a score of 70. With each maneuver, the judge with use of a scribe, will assign a score as well as deduct any penalties that may occur. A running total of maneuver scores and penalties will be kept. Each obstacle will be scored as follows: +3 to -3, Half increments may be used. At the end of the pattern, the judge will give an overall form and effectiveness score, from 0 to +5.

+3 EXCELLENT: The horse and handler perform the maneuver in complete cadence and harmony with each other while demonstrating the highest degree of difficulty and precision. The horse's coat is clean, in good flesh and excellent condition. The handler is extremely proficient in their performance, clean and dressed appropriately for the style they represent. The horse and handler's performance throughout the maneuver are *VISUALLY IMPRESSIVE*.

+2 VERY GOOD: The horse and handler perform the maneuver in cadence and harmony with each other while demonstrating an increased degree of difficulty. The horse's coat is clean, in good flesh and in very good condition. The handler is very proficient in their performance and presentation, clean and dressed appropriately for the style they represent. The horse and handler's performance throughout the maneuver are *VISUALLY ATTRACTIVE*.

+1 GOOD: The horse and handler perform the maneuver in correct form with some degree of style. The horse's coat is clean in good flesh and in good condition. The handler is proficient in their performance, clean and dressed appropriately for the style they represent. This horse and handler display some quality, but lack the degree of difficulty performed by the very good or excellent pairs. The horse and handler's performance throughout the maneuver are *VISUALLY PLEASING*.

0 AVERAGE: For the most part, horse and handler perform the required maneuvers in correct form, with minimal style with little to no degree of difficulty exhibited. The horse and handler's performance are good but displays by slight errors in form. The horse and handler's performance throughout the maneuver leave a visually *NEUTRAL IMPRESSION*.

-1 POOR: The horse and handler fail in some way to negotiate the maneuver in correct form and style. There is a noticeable void in some of the qualities of the maneuvers performed and minor penalties may have incurred. Cadence and quality may have been compromised. Overall turnout of horse/handler is below average.

-2 VERY POOR: The horse and handler noticeably fail to negotiate an element of the pattern in correct form with no style. Several minor penalties and/or a major penalty may have occurred. Safety may have been compromised. The horse and handler exhibit a noticeable lack of cadence and quality. The overall turnout of horse and/or handler turnout is not clean or in good condition.

-3 EXTREMELY POOR: The horse and handler negotiate the maneuver in unacceptable form with no style. The maneuver performed is careless. Multiple minor or major penalties have been incurred. Severe penalties have incurred. There is an extreme lack of cadence between the horse and handler. The turnout of the horse and handler are extremely poor but lack the elimination factor.

If at the end of the class there are ties on your score card, first use the F & E score. If ties still remain, use the total number of penalties to break ties. It is recommended that you use a ladder to help place class as it progresses.