

If you are just starting out, or wanting to change to the western discipline here are a few things that may help you. If your question is not answered by the below information, contact a WAPHA committee member for help.

## CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Here is a brief description of the different types of events we held at Western shows:

### WESTERN PLEASURE

This event you ride with all the other competitors in a circle around the judge who will ask you to walk, jog and lope your horse in both directions. You will also be asked to rein back (back up), reverse (change of direction). The horse is being judged and they are evaluated on their quality of movement through the gaits whilst staying calm and quiet when travelling on a loose rein.



### WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP

Is an event where every rider rides individually through a pattern set by the judge on the day. The pattern will generally include various manoeuvres at the walk, jog and lope. The rider is being evaluated in this event with judges focusing on body position & seat and the rider's ability to control the horse and ride the pattern precisely.



### TRAIL

Is an individually ridden class that is also to a set pattern and will consist of working thru different obstacles, working over poles and around cones including rein back and side passes. This is based on the ranch style work out the old style horse had to do, such as opening a gate, going over logs, negotiating a bridge over a creek etc. Working together as a team. This is a points scored pattern.



### HUNTER UNDER SADDLE

This event where all riders ride together in a circle around the judge and again will be asked to walk, TROT & CANTER in both directions. Emphasis is placed on the correct head carriage of the horse (not too low) and also the smoothness of the gaits of each horse. Hunt classes are ridden in English attire



## HUNT SEAT EQUITATION

Is ridden individually following a set pattern by the judge. Again, you will be asked to ride various manoeuvres at walk, TROT & CANTER. Most patterns will contain the changing of gaits (to show smoothness of changes), travelling a figure 8 pattern specifically looking at correct rider rising diagonals, and maybe a rein back. Emphasis is placed on the ability to maintain body position and direct your horse on the precise pattern. Hunt classes are ridden in English attire



## SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER

Is a class that is based solely on the competitor and their ability to control their horse whilst manoeuvring through a set pattern. Each competitor will take their turn to do the pattern and the judge is looking for precision and style throughout the movements which will include jogging out, squaring up for presentation, pivoting, and backing.



**NOTE** - with pattern classes when starting/finishing your pattern at cones, it is your horse's SHOULDER that must be level with the cones, NOT HIS FEET OR YOUR BODY

## HALTER CLASSES

The object of these classes is to show the best conformed animal. Each competitor will do a small walk to the judge and jog past the judge so the judge can evaluate movement of the horse, then all competitors will line up whilst the judge inspects each horse's conformation on an individual basis.



All horses must be shown in a western halter in these classes. Bits and whips are not allowed at any time. For halter classes the chain can be placed under the chin.

Attire is western.

