
EQUESTRIANS WITH DISABILITIES COMPETITION FOR INDEPENDENT & SUPPORTED EXHIBITORS

229. Equestrians with Disabilities. This competition is open to people with physical or cognitive disabilities that love competing. EWD classes may be held at NSBA approved shows, US Para- Equestrian events or can be stand-alone events. In order to participate in EWD events, a diagnosis form and acceptable adaptive equipment must be completed.

GENERAL RULES

230. To provide show management with the option to include equestrians with disabilities competition, NSBA has adopted these rules. In doing so, NSBA does not assume responsibility for safety of participants. Since it is show management, which conducts these events and controls both the physical facility and all aspects of the events, responsibility for participant's safety remains solely with show management.

231. Each participant or their parent or guardian by allowing participation, assumes all risk of personal injury or property damage occurring as a result of the participation and does hereby release and discharge the NSBA and show management, their respective officers, directors, representatives and employees from any and all liability, whenever or however arising, from such participation, except for the negligent act or omission, if any, of an indemnities. Further, as parent or legal guardian, they agree to indemnity and hold harmless NSBA and show management from such liability to the minor.

232. Attendance at a NSBA-approved event, in whatever capacity, shall constitute authorization for NSBA, its agents, designees, or assigns to photograph, video tape, televise, post to the web or record by other means (hereinafter referred to as "photographic material") any person or animal on the premises of a NSBA approved event, and shall further constitute authorization for the use of such person's name, voice and biography, or the name, pedigree and performance record of any animal on the premises (hereinafter referred to as "related information") in conjunction with any photographic material.

233. Show management applies for NSBA-approval of these events on a voluntary basis and assumption of responsibility for safety by show management is required by NSBA as an express condition for NSBA to grant approval for these events.

234. To obtain tentative NSBA-approval, application must be submitted a minimum of 90 days prior to the event on forms either provided by or acceptable to NSBA,

stating the date and location of the desired events along with the show approval fee.

235. EWD classes may be held at NSBA-approved shows, US Para-Equestrian events or can be stand-alone events.

236. An exhibitor may show more than one horse in individually worked classes as outlined in the rulebook however, but horses cannot be shown by more than one exhibitor in the same EWD class.

237. DIAGNOSIS

In order to participate an exhibitor must have a medically diagnosed condition that causes a permanent impairment that can be measured objectively. Examples of conditions, diseases or disorders that may lead to permanent impairment are: paresis, amputation (partial to full joint), ankylosis, upper motor neuron lesions, vision impairment, and intellectual disability. Eligible conditions include: amputation, arthrogryposis, Asperger syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, Batten disease, cerebrovascular accident (stroke), cerebellar ataxia, cerebral palsy, Coffin-Lowry syndrome, cystic fibrosis, Down syndrome, dwarfism, fragile X syndrome, Friedreich's ataxia, Guillain-Barre syndrome, hearing impairment, Hunter syndrome, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, mental retardation, microcephaly, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, Rett syndrome, spina bifida, spinal cord injury, Tourette syndrome, traumatic brain injury, trisomy disorders and visual impairment. Additional diagnosis will be considered upon request.

a) Diagnosis Form and Acceptable Adaptive Equipment Form

In order to participate in EWD events, a licensed medical physician must sign a NSBA diagnosis form. Also a NSBA acceptable adaptive equipment form and riding ability form completed and signed by a certified instructor or coach of Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.), Special Olympics, US Para-Equestrian, Certified Horsemanship Association or IRD or a certified therapeutic riding instructor who is also a member in good standing of NSBA, indicating the riding ability and adaptive equipment that is required. A valid NSBA membership number or NSBA membership application must be submitted to NSBA. Upon receipt of the forms the EWD membership card will be noted with EWD endorsement.

~~**238.** Exhibitor Age. Participants must be eight years of age and over to compete.~~

239. Horse and exhibitor eligibility requirements must be met.

- a) Neither the exhibitor or their immediate family is required to own the horse. However the exhibitor(s) must be NSBA members in order to compete.
- b) Stallions are not eligible to be shown in any EWD activities.
- c) The welfare of the horse is outlined in the rulebook, however, horses with a slight disability or lameness may be used at the discretion of the judge.
- d) Any breed of horse may be shown at the same event, providing it be registered with one of the alliance breed associations.

240. GENERAL RULES FOR TACK AND EQUIPMENT

English and western equipment and attire will follow rules as set forth in the rulebook with the exception of EWD acceptable adaptation equipment.

- a) **Helmet:** Exhibitors must wear a properly fitted and fastened with harness, ASTM approved protective helmet. A western hat may be affixed over the helmet in western events. Equipment should conform to the riding ability of the competitor and be suitable for the horse.
- b) **Halter:** All horses when ridden must wear a halter in a manner that does not interfere with reining of the horse. A halter must be on the horse either over or under the bridle for use by the handler if needed. All exhibitors should be able to hold reins.
- c) **Bits or Bosal:** A snaffle bit, curb bit or bosal/hackamore may be used no matter the age of the horse.
- d) Except for snaffle or hackamore entries, only one hand may be used on the reins and the hand may not be changed, (See rule #132). However, use of two hands will not be cause for disqualification but will be scored according to severity.
- e) Exhibitors are allowed to hold the saddle with either hand without penalty.
- f) Outside assistance will be penalized at the judge's discretion.
- g) EWD Acceptable adaptive equipment includes but not limited to:
 - 1) **SADDLE**
 - a) Raised pommel
 - b) Raised cantle
 - c) Hard hand holds
 - d) Soft hand holds
 - e) Seat saver
 - f) Knee rolls/blocks
 - g) Thigh rolls/blocks
 - h) Padded saddle flaps
 - 2) **STIRRUPS**
 - a) Rubber bands around foot and stirrup
 - b) Enclosed stirrups
 - c) Strap from stirrup leather to girth/cinch
 - d) Strap from stirrup to girth/cinch
 - e) No stirrups
 - f) One stirrup

3) BRIDLE/REINS

- a) Looped rein/s
- b) Connecting bar reins
- c) Bridging rein
- d) Ladder reins
- e) Rein guides (rein through ring on saddle)
- f) Elastic insert in reins
- g) Side pulls

4) WHIPS

- a) One or two whips
- b) Strap attaching whip to hand

5) RIDING ATTIRE

- a) No boots if using safety stirrups (Peacock, S-shaped irons or Devonshire stirrups)
- b) Modified riding boots
- c) Gaiters
- d) Half chaps
- e) Off set spurs
- f) Safety vest

6) POSTURE, POSTURAL SUPPORTS & ORTHOSES

- a) L or R Arm sling
- b) Neck collar
- c) Ankle foot orthoses
- d) Prosthesis
- e) Wrist brace
- f) Back support
- g) Trunk support
- h) Gait belt

7) OTHER AIDS

- a) Commander using sign language
- b) Enlarged arena letters
- c) Audio Communications (for hearing impaired)
- d) Voice
- e) Bareback Pads
- f) Surcingle
- g) Other equipment will be considered upon request

241. HANDLER - Required for all independent exhibitor classes: one handler per entry to facilitate the safety of the exhibitor. The handler must be 16 years of age or older. The handler must have a lead line without a chain in their hand in case of safety issues.

- a) Handlers shall stand quietly in a designated area, not obscuring the judge's line of vision, unless their assistance is required and requested by the judge or ring steward in the event of a safety issue. The handler may either take a position behind, beside or in front their respective exhibitor's horse or quietly walk forward and snap onto the horse's halter after the exhibitor's pattern is completed or the class has come in to line up.
- b) A blind or deaf exhibitor may have an assistant who communicates via verbal or sign language or cue cards to the competitor so they may hear the judge's

directives or pattern instructions. This assistant will be outside the ring and their position known to the judge and ring steward.

- c) Leaders and sidewalkers: The supported exhibitor must have a leader with a loose lead without a chain, attached to the halter in a manner that does not interfere with reining of the horse. The supported exhibitor may need the assistance of one or two side walkers. Once the class has started, unauthorized assistance from horse leaders, spotters and side walkers will result in penalties. Side walkers may not give verbal commands or extra physical prompting, except in case of emergency.
- d) Handlers, leaders, side walkers, or extra spotters other than the required horse handler are not considered tack or equipment.

242. ARENA SET UP - Markers must be used and may be numbered or lettered. People shall not be used as markers.

243. PATTERNS - All patterns must be posted one hour before the class. One of the suggested EWD pattern(s) may be used, however a judge in concert with the show management may utilize a different pattern using the acceptable maneuvers.

244. Classes may be split at the discretion of show management. If go rounds are necessary, in the interest of successful implementation of the approved show, the number of go-rounds to be held and the number of horses to be shown at each go round should be based on safety and/or physical constraints of show premises when applied fairly and uniformly by a procedure in which all qualified entries are included in a random draw. When necessary to split large classes by running more than one go-round, finalists must rework the specified class requirements EXCEPT any scored class.

JUDGING EQUESTRIANS WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORTED EXHIBITOR

245. Classes shall follow these guidelines, reversing only at the walk and omitting all extended gaits. Horses should be backed in the line-up, not on the rail. Horses should be worked for the amount of time necessary to evaluate each gait in each direction, taking into account the stress on the exhibitor and/or leader-sidewalkers. The judge could choose to have the horse(s) walk briefly before resuming the jog/trot and completing the judging. The horses in the EWD supported classes are judged doing their jobs in spite of the challenges that may be presented due to the type of support or adaptive equipment that is required. Neither the amount of support and type of EWD acceptable adaptive equipment nor the unique char-

acteristics of a specific exhibitor's disability should enter into the judging criteria.

EQUESTRIANS WITH DISABILITIES SHOWMANSHIP AT HALTER EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE

246. Class can be shown English or western attire but must be one way or the other. There will be no mixing of attire or equipment on a horse/exhibitor. It is recommended to use a plain leather halter and plain lead for English attire. A plain leather halter or sterling silver mounted leather halter with leather lead is recommended for western attire. The use of a chain is permitted but discouraged. No bridles and/or bits and/or lip chains may be used.

CLASS FORMAT

247. All exhibitors may enter the ring and then work individually or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When exhibitors are worked individually from the gate, a working order is required.

INDIVIDUAL WORKOUT

248. The judge may select an appropriate EWD pattern. In the event that the judge in concert with the show management develops a pattern instead of using existing EWD pattern(s) the following are unacceptable maneuvers: back in a curved line, pull turns. No exhibitor will be disqualified except for safety reasons at the judge's discretion. Exhibitors going off pattern will be penalized and placed at the bottom of the class.

SCORING

249. Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to 100, in ½ point increments.

WALK/TROT HUNT SEAT EQUITATION ON THE FLAT – Independent or Supported

CLASS FORMAT

250. All exhibitors must enter the ring and then work individually, or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When exhibitors are worked individually from the gate, a working order is required. Exhibitors should be instructed to either leave the arena, fall into line, or fall into place on the rail after their individual work. The whole class, or just the finalists, must work at the appropriate gaits at least one direction of the arena.

INDIVIDUAL WORKOUT

251. The judge must select an appropriate EWD pattern.

SCORING

252. Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to 100, in ½ point increments.

**WALK/TROT/CANTER HUNT SEAT EQUI-
TATION ON THE FLAT – Independent**

CLASS FORMAT

253. All exhibitors must enter the ring and then work individually, or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When exhibitors are worked individually from the gate, a working order is required. Exhibitors should be instructed to either leave the arena, fall into line, or fall into place on the rail after their individual work. The whole class, or just the finalists, must work at the appropriate gaits at least one direction of the arena.

INDIVIDUAL WORKOUT

254. The judge may select an appropriate EWD pattern. In the event that the judge in concert with the show management develops a walk/trot/canter hunt seat equitation pattern instead of using existing EWD pattern(s). Unacceptable maneuvers: mount or dismount or drop or pick-up irons without stopping, address reins, hand gallop, or counter-canter.

SCORING

255. Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to 100, in ½ point increments.

**WALK/TROT HUNTER UNDER SADDLE –
Independent or Supported**

CLASS FORMAT

256. Exhibitors will compete on the rail at a walk and trot both ways of the ring, line up. No extended gaits. Exhibitors will back in the line up not the rail.

**WALK/TROT/CANTER HUNTER UNDER
SADDLE – Independent**

CLASS FORMAT

257. Exhibitors will compete on the rail at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring, line up. No extended gaits. Exhibitors will back in the line up not the rail.

**WALK/JOG WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP
– Independent or Supported**

CLASS FORMAT

258. All exhibitors must enter the ring and then work individually, or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When exhibitors are worked individually from the gate, a working order is required. Exhibitors should be instructed to either leave the arena, fall into line, or fall into place on the rail after their individual work. The whole class, or just the finalists, must work at the appropriate gaits at least

one direction of the arena.

INDIVIDUAL WORKOUT

259. The judge must select an appropriate EWD pattern.

SCORING

260. Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to 100, in ½ point increments.

**WALK/JOG/LOPE WESTERN HORSE-
MANSHIP – Independent**

CLASS FORMAT

261. All exhibitors must enter the ring and then work individually, or each exhibitor may be worked from the gate individually. When exhibitors are worked individually from the gate, a working order is required. Exhibitors should be instructed to either leave the arena, fall into line, or fall into place on the rail after their individual work. The whole class, or just the finalists, must work at the appropriate gaits at least one direction of the arena.

INDIVIDUAL WORKOUT

262. The judge may select an appropriate EWD pattern. In the event that the judge in concert with the show management develops a walk/jog/lope western horsemanship pattern instead of using existing EWD pattern(s). Unacceptable maneuvers: mount or dismount or ride without stirrups, back in a curved line, spins, rollbacks on the haunches and/or on the forehead;

SCORING

263. Exhibitors are to be scored from 0 to 100, in ½ point increments.

**WALK/JOG WESTERN PLEASURE –
Independent or Supported**

CLASS FORMAT

264. Exhibitor will compete on the rail at a walk and jog both ways of the ring, line up. No extended gaits. Exhibitors will back in the line up not the rail.

**WALK/JOG/LOPE WESTERN PLEASURE
– Independent**

265. Exhibitor will compete on the rail at a walk, jog and lope both ways of the ring, line up. No extended gaits. Exhibitors will back in the line up not the rail.

**EWD WALK/JOG/TROT TRAIL HORSE
CLASS – Independent or Supported**

EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE

266. Class can be shown English or western attire but must be one way or the other. There will be no mixing of attire or equipment on a horse/exhibitor.

CLASS FORMAT

267. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse and while maneuvering a minimum of 5 obstacles for walk/trot/jog trail. Exhibitors are to work individually. There will be no rail work.

- a) The following are unacceptable:
- 1) Carrying an object
 - 2) Water hazard
 - 3) Slicker
 - 4) Mailbox

SCORING

268. Scoring will be on the basis of 0-100, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will be scored from a plus 1 1/2 to a minus 1 1/2, in 1/2 point increments. An obstacle missed, refused or taken out of order will result in a score of zero for that obstacle but will not disqualify entry.

EWD WALK/JOG/TROT/LOPE TRAIL HORSE CLASS – INDEPENDENT

EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE

269. Class can be shown English or western attire but must be one way or the other. There will be no mixing of attire or equipment on a horse/exhibitor.

CLASS FORMAT

270. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse and while maneuvering minimum of 6 obstacles for walk/trot/jog/canter/lope trail. Exhibitors are to work individually. There will be no rail work.

COURSE

271. Safety should be the first consideration in designing and setting up the course. Unacceptable maneuvers: carrying an object, water hazard, slicker, mailbox.

SCORING

272. Scoring will be on the basis of 0-100, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each maneuver will be scored from a plus 1 1/2 to a minus 1 1/2, 1/2 point increments. An obstacle missed, refused or taken out of order will result in a score of zero for that obstacle but will not disqualify entry.

273. This class is to be run with a walk in patterns only.

TITLES & AWARDS

274. **TITLES RESERVED.** The following titles shall be reserved for exclusive use by NSBA: NSBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW, NSBA WORLD CHAMPION HORSE and NSBA RESERVE WORLD CHAMPION HORSE; NSBA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW, NSBA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION HORSE and NSBA RESERVE INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION HORSE; and NSBA NA-

TIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW, NSBA NATIONAL CHAMPION HORSE and NSBA RESERVE NATIONAL CHAMPION HORSE.

275. **CLASS AWARDS.** The following awards will be given to the owner of the winning horse for every class. Awards are provided by the NSBA. However, shipping costs incurred for trophies provided to shows outside of the United States will be the responsibility of said shows. In addition, trophy requests added after the show application has been received may be charged the costs incurred for subsequent shipping.

- a) For classes with \$500-\$999 in guaranteed added money - NSBA plaque.
- b) For Western classes with \$1,000-\$1,999 in guaranteed added money - C.R. Morrison Pewter trophy.
- c) For Hunter classes with \$1,000-\$1,999 in guaranteed added money - NSBA Hunter Under Saddle Pewter trophy.
- d) For Western classes with \$2,000 or more in guaranteed added money - C.R. Morrison Bronze trophy.
- e) For Hunter classes with \$2000 or more in guaranteed added money - NSBA Hunter Under Saddle Bronze trophy.

276. **NATIONAL AWARDS.** The NSBA will present National High Point Awards to the top horses/owners earning the most points in NSBA approved classes, a minimum of 7 points required to receive an award per calendar year. Points earned on the horse will be accumulated in the class shown.

(Points are earned on horse; exception Non Pro, amateur, novice amateur, novice youth and youth classes' points are on horse and exhibitor combination)

- a) Longe Line horses are eligible for NSBA year-end awards. However; final points should include no more than five (5) NSBA approved events during a given year. Points will be calculated from the horse's top five (5) performances.

277. The NSBA will present National High Point Awards to the top riders earning the most points in the following NSBA approved events, per calendar year:

Open Western Pleasure Rider
Intermediate Open Western Pleasure Rider
Limited Open Western Pleasure Rider
\$2500 Open Western Pleasure Rider
Open Trail Rider
Open Western Riding Rider
Non Pro Western Pleasure Rider
Intermediate Non Pro Western Pleasure Rider
Limited Non Pro Western Pleasure Rider
Open Hunter Under Saddle Rider
Limited Open Hunter Under Saddle Rider
Open Hunter Rider (points combined with Working Hunter and Hunter Hack)