

## **General Rules for European Tennessee Walking Horse Shows**

This rulebook has been established by the TWHBEA Taskforce Europe (TF)\*. It is set up to promote the breed and to protect the health of horse and rider and is following the European animal protection rules.

It applies to all TWHBEA events, shows and competitions in Europe, and may be used for any other TWH event, show or competition. Changes have to be improved by the majority of the Task Force members.

The TWHBEA European Taskforce (TF) has been established to cooperate with the TWHBEA directors to promote the breed and organize shows and/or events. The Taskforce is solely voluntary and led by the European TWHBEA Directors. The TWHBEA European Taskforce can be contacted via their website: <http://www.tfeurope.de/>.

## **[A] General Guidelines**

### **1 Show management and participant**

- 1.1 The Show management is responsible for proper organization and rule enforcement for the time of the event;
- 1.2 The Show management is responsible for proper organization and rule enforcement for the time of the event;
- 1.3 Show management is appointed by TWHBEA directors.
- 1.4 The participation in all shows, clinics and exhibitions takes place on own risk. All horses have to be sufficient insured
- 1.5 The show management or person in charge is not liable in any case, as far as legal enforcement is not concerned;
- 1.6 Only TWHBEA registered horses are allowed to participate, unless stated otherwise;
- 1.7 Participants don't have to be TWHBEA members, unless stated otherwise;
- 1.8 Parents/ guardians are liable for their children.

### **2 Judges**

- 2.1 Up to 3 judges will judge a show;
- 2.2 TWHBEA or NHSC (incl.European) judging license is required. All other judges have to be improved by Task Force.

### **3 Exhibitor**

- 3.1 Adult exhibitors: Persons who have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday at the beginning of show/ competition;
- 3.2 Youth exhibitors: Persons who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday at the beginning of show/ competition;
- 3.3 Youth who have not reached their 8<sup>th</sup> birthday at the beginning of show/ competition may only compete in youth classes;

- 3.4 For a driving class Youth must be 16 years and older (should be same age as FN 16?14?);
- 3.5 Youth are not allowed to ride or present a stallion;
- 3.6 Youth have to wear helmets in all ridden classes;
- 3.7 It is the tradition of Tennessee Walking Horse exhibitors to be correctly attired at shows and exhibitions in which they attend and that attendants are neatly dressed;
- 3.8 In classes with single starts a rider can not show more than two horses;
- 3.9 It is the duty of every participant to make sure, prior to the show, that the used attire and equipment is legal, if not stated in the rulebook.
- 3.10 Misbehavior of a participant against Judge, Show Management, other exhibitors or spectators can lead to limited or unlimited exclusion from show or event;
- 3.11 Unjustified punishment or treatment of a horse on show grounds or events can lead to limited or unlimited exclusion from the show or event.

## **4 Horses**

- 4.1 Participating horses should be sound, well maintained and in neat condition.
- 4.2 A valid equine passport or a valid vaccination passport has to accompany the horse and has to be shown on request; If a horse seems to be not sound, judge and/or show management may ask for a vet check in agreement with exhibitor and/or horse owner. The vet check is not necessarily required for an excuse of the horse. Laws of the local country regarding Animal Protection have to be followed.
- 4.3 Clipping of ears is not prohibited in Germany – but will not be counted positive in a show. Clipping of muzzle hair and hair around the eyes is strictly prohibited according to German law. Owners of horses, which have been clipped in these areas, have to prove that these horses have been imported (within 3 Month) or are boarded in a country (e.g. the Netherlands) where this practice is allowed. If this cannot be proofed, the horse will be disqualified. Judge and Show Management decide;
- 4.4 All horses have to be 3 years and older in all riding and driving classes. The date of birth is decisive;
  - Weanlings are 12 months and under;

- Yearlings are 13 month up to 24 month;
  - 2-year olds are 25 up to 36 months;
- 4.5 Age of the horse is defined as the age at the beginning of show or competition
- 4.6 A particular horse can be ridden with maximum two contestants in a class with single starts.
- 4.7 Unruly behavior of the horse can lead to exclusion of the horse, decision based on Judge and/or Show Management.

## **5 Drugs and medications**

- 5.1 No horse shall be allowed to show if that horse has been administered any forbidden substance by any means. A forbidden substance is any stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer, pain reliever or local anesthetic. Stimulants or depressants are defined as medications that stimulate or depress the circulatory, respiratory or central nervous systems. Also prohibited are any drugs regardless of how harmless or innocuous they might be, which by their very nature mask or screen the presence of the aforementioned prohibited drugs, or prevent or delay testing procedures.
- 5.2 If the horse is on any medication Show Management must be informed prior to the start of the show. Show management can decide to expel the horse from the show or exhibition.

## **6 Shoeing and hoof protection**

- 6.1 Allowed are regular factory made shoes with no extra weight which are not thicker than 10 mm and not wider than 24 mm;
- 6.2 Hoof bands are prohibited;
- 6.3 Regular plastic shoes are allowed;
- 6.4 Horse boots are not allowed;
- 6.5 No hoof/leg protection is allowed unless stated otherwise in class rules.
- 6.6 If a horse has to wear orthopedic hoof protection for medical reasons, Show Management must be informed prior to the start of the show.

## **[B] General Requirements for English Classes**

### **7 Attire**

- 7.1 Hats and helmets are optional unless stated otherwise (jumping). Youth must wear a helmet;
- 7.2 Regular dressage or show suit, blouse/shirt, jodhpurs or show pants (not jeans);
- 7.3 Ties or bowties or rosette are required;
- 7.4 Jodhpur boots or boots with a similar styling (not Western);
- 7.5 Gloves are optional.

### **8 Tack and Equipment**

- 8.1 Dressage, tölt, flat or versatility saddle. Jumping saddle only allowed in jumping classes;
- 8.2 English bridle with single nose band and single reins;
- 8.3 Braided ribbons in mane and forelock are required;
- 8.4 Any type of Snaffle bit, Walking Horse bit, Curb bit, Pelham, Kimberwick and Wonderbit; (no combination bits)
- 8.5 Maximum length of shanks is 20 cm (8 inch);
- 8.6 Chain, wire or twisted mouthpiece is not allowed;
- 8.7 Mouthpiece should be at least 10 mm thick in diameter;
- 8.8 All bits, except ordinary ring snaffles, have to be ridden with an English curb chain. Curb chain must lay flat and loose across the chin groove;
- 8.9 In jumping class a running martingale is allowed only when ordinary ring snaffle is used;
- 8.10 Whips and English spurs are allowed.

### **9 Riding Requirements**

- 9.1 English classes must be ridden with both hands on reins;

## **[C] General Requirements for Western Classes**

### **10 Attire**

- 10.1 Western hat or helmet is mandatory; youth must wear a helmet;
- 10.2 Western suit, long sleeve blouse / shirt (vest or jacket optional);
- 10.3 Gentlemen must wear bowtie, bolo tie or bandana. Optional for ladies, including rosettes;
- 10.4 Show jeans, chaps are optional;
- 10.5 Western boots;
- 10.6 Gloves are optional.

### **11 Tack and Equipment**

- 11.1 Saddle with horn and fender;
- 11.2 Western bridle with split reins or a romal, no noseband;
- 11.3 Any type of Snaffle bit, Walking Horse bit, Curb bit, Wonderbit and Bosal is allowed;
- 11.4 Hackamore, side pull or combination bit is permitted in speed classes;
- 11.5 Maximum length of shanks is 20 cm (8 inch);
- 11.6 Chain, wire or twisted mouthpiece is not allowed;
- 11.7 Mouthpiece should be at least 10 mm thick in diameter.
- 11.8 All bits, except ordinary ring snaffles, have to be ridden with a curb chain. Curb chain must lay flat and loose across the chin groove. On ordinary ring snaffles a loose chinstrap of leather or nylon is permitted. Reins should be attached above chin strap;
- 11.9 Tie downs (also martingales) are not allowed;
- 11.10 Western spurs are allowed, no whips;
- 11.11 No braided ribbons allowed.

## 12 Riding requirements

- 12.1 Horses four years and under wearing an ordinary ring snaffle or bosal may be ridden with two hands on the reins;
- 12.2 All horses five years and over have to be ridden with one hand on reins in all pleasure gait classes, otherwise exhibitor will not be tied. ;
- 12.3 Reins cannot be changed during performance.
- 12.4 When using split reins, a hand around the reins or index finger between reins is permitted, but the free hand is not allowed to touch the reins, horse or saddle.
- 12.5 When using the Romal, a hand should be around the reins, but a finger between the reins is not permitted. The free hand can be used to carry the end of the romal, but may not be used to influence the horse.

## **[D] General Requirements for Halter classes**

### **13 Attire**

- 13.1 Outfit of the handler has to match the style of the horses' outfit (i.e. English or Western).

### **14 Tack and Equipment**

- 14.1 Horses may be shown in Western or English bridle/halter;
- 14.2 Braids in manes and/or foretops are optional for English presentation style
- 14.3 Whips in English classes are optional but may not exceed 120 cm (4 feet).

### **15 Halter Requirements**

- 15.1 Horses three years and over have to be shown in a bridle with bit;
- 15.2 Horses under three years can be shown in a bridle with bit or an English show halter / western show halter.
- 15.3 Stallions 2 years and older have to be shown in a bridle with bit.



## **[E] General Requirements for Driving Classes**

### **16 Attire**

- 16.1 Saddle Suit, show dress or day coat and jodhs for ladies and gentlemen;
- 16.2 Men must wear a hat;
- 16.3 Passengers need to wear matching clothes;
- 16.4 Gloves are mandatory;

### **17 Tack and Equipment**

- 17.1 Any serviceable two wheel cart or four wheel buggy;
- 17.2 Leather or plastic harness;
- 17.3 Blinkers allowed.

### **18 Driving Requirements**

- 18.1 Carriage and drivers cloth should match and be appropriate;
- 18.2 Passengers have to stay passive while driving;
- 18.3 Whips with lash are mandatory and have to be held in hand while driving.

## [F] Qualifying Gaits

### 19 Flat Walk

- 19.1 The Flat Walk is a four beat, bold, ground covering gait that must be even in form, style and speed.
- 19.2 Each foot must both leave and strike the ground independently and be accompanied by a vertical head nod in cadence to the feet. The nod comes from the shoulder and involves the whole head and neck.
- 19.3 The footfall is left hind, left front, right hind, right front.
- 19.4 The horse should appear to pull with his front legs and drive from his rear legs.
- 19.5 The rear legs should track straight and move close to the ground with minimal hock action, smoothly and effortlessly.
- 19.6 The action of the back foot stepping over the front track is known as an overstride and is to be preferred over simple tracking.
- 19.7 The head motion, along with overstride, are important factors of the walking horses gait.

### 20 Running Walk

- 20.1 The Running Walk is a smooth gliding gait with the same footfall and rhythm as the Flat Walk but is executed with an increase in speed and stride.
- 20.2 For a short sequence of time both front feet can be of the ground.
- 20.3 The gait is natural to the breed and must not appear to be artificial in execution.
- 20.4 The running walk is executed freely, with looseness in motion.
- 20.5 The horse must pull with its front feet and drive well up under itself with his hindquarters.
- 20.6 The horse should continue to nod while performing the Running Walk, even though it will nod more quickly and shallowly.
- 20.7 Its execution should appear to be a pleasure for both horse and rider.

## 21 Canter

- 21.1 The canter should be slow, smooth and straight on both leads.
- 21.2 The horse must canter on the correct lead for the direction of the ring.
- 21.3 On the right lead the horse should start the gait in this order: left hind, right hind and left fore together, right fore (three beat).
- 21.4 On the left lead the horse should start the gait in this order: right hind, left hind and right fore together, left fore (three beat).
- 21.5 The horse moves freely with an easy rise and fall motion (rocking chair canter).
- 21.6 The horse must remain comfortably in hand while demonstrating this gait.

## [G] Class Routines

### 22 In Hand Routine

- 22.1 Halter entries shall enter the ring at a Walk and proceed counterclockwise;
- 22.2 In order of the Judge the halter entries shall be worked both ways of the ring and may be asked to extend the gait;
- 22.3 Lined-up horse shall stand square or parked but not overly camped out; with all four hooves even on the ground.
- 22.4 Ears shall be pointed forward and the attitude of the horse should be attentive to its handler, while interested in its surroundings. The expression of the horse must be sound and alert;
- 22.5 Handler has to face judge all the time;
- 22.6 Horses are to be judged on overall performance, presentation and conformation. Mares and foals are judged 50% on foal and 50% on mare. The foals alone class will be presented as the mares with foals, in this case it's only the foal who will be judged.

### 23 Under Saddle Routine

- 23.1 Enter the ring counterclockwise in a Walk and proceed to Flat Walk after the gait is closed.
- 23.2 The Judge shall call for the performance of the gaits in the following manner: Flat Walk, Running Walk, Flat Walk and Reverse or Flat Walk, Running Walk, Flat Walk, Canter, Flat Walk and Reverse with repeated routine.
- 23.3 Judge may ask for additional Running Walk.
- 23.4 For the line up a square or slightly parked position is required.
- 23.5 All Pleasure Horses are asked individually to back clear of the line-up a minimum of four steps. No indication of resistance or irritation as jerking, sawing, gaped mouth or switching tail shall be noticeable. Pause, return and park.
- 23.6 In a Western Gait Class the Judge may call for a halt on the rail. Horses must stand quietly.

- 23.7 In a Western Gait Class the contestant may also be asked to back clear of the line-up, pause, do a 360° turn, either right or left(at exhibitors discretion), pause, return and park.

## [H] Judging

### 24 English Pleasure Classes

- 24.1 The English Pleasure horse should display brilliance and pleasure qualities while performing the true smooth gaits.
- 24.2 Manners are paramount for a pleasure horse and should be given serious consideration in judging. The horse should be well balanced. It must respond to the riders' signals to perform all gaits and transitions. It must back readily on command.
- 24.3 The horse is to be collected and well set in the bridle, and manageable on a light rein in all three gaits. The head should be tucked at the poll, not beyond the vertical or nosed out.

### 25 Western Pleasure Classes

- 25.1 The Western Horse shall reflect suitability of the horse as a Western working horse. The horse should work quietly, exhibiting an exceptionally smooth, comfortable ride without excessive action or animation, while performing the true gaits. The horse should be well balanced. It must respond to the riders signals to perform all gaits and transitions. It must back and turn readily on command.
- 25.2 The horse should be semi-collected, loose in neck- and headset and ridden with a loose rein in all 3 gaits.
- 25.3 The head set should be natural slightly tucked at the poll, neither excessively nosed out or over flexed.
- 25.4 Neck should be level or above withers and should exhibit the type of head carriage of a TWH used as a western working horse.
- 25.5 Silver equipment shall not count over a good working outfit.

### 26 Gaits

- 26.1 Judging begins immediately upon entry into the ring.
- 26.2 All three gaits have to be consistent in form, style and speed.
- 26.3 There must be an observable difference in speed and stride between a Flat Walk and a Running Walk.

- 26.4 Judging should be influenced by speed, as long as a true form is exhibited.
- 26.5 All deviations from the correct gait will be penalized.
- 26.6 Excessive speed at the canter, cantering in place, cross canter, mechanical or exaggerated rocking chair canter appearance, four-beat canter and cantering on the wrong lead will be penalized as well as pumping and snatching on the reins, pulling the horses head to the rail or kicking in front of the girth as a canter cue.
- 26.7 Failure to exhibit required gait for more than one length of the arena will be penalized.
- 26.8 A horse that has not performed all required gaits shall not be placed over a horse that has performed all gaits.
- 26.9 Horses displaying over-animation (stepping too high) or artificial animation, unevenness, stiff-leggedness, twisting in the hooks or winging out or in will be penalized.
- 26.10 If the horse is out of control at any time it must be eliminated.
- 26.11 Horses displaying lameness must be eliminated.

## **[I] TWHBEA European Championships**

### **27 European Grand Champion**

The title European Grand Champion goes to the rider/horse combination with highest total score in following classes: 2-Gait, 3-Gait, Trail Obstacle, Halter and Water glass class. Exhibitor has to enter, finish and not be disqualified in any of these classes. Second highest score will get Reserve European Grand Champion. Youth entries are excluded from the European Grand Championship.

### **28 Versatility Champion**

The title European Versatility Champion goes to the horse/ rider combination with the highest total scores in classes within the scoring system. The horse/rider combination with the second highest score will get the title Reserve European Versatility Champion. Youth entries are excluded from the Versatility championship.

### **29 Youth Champion**

The title Youth Champion goes to the rider, who is not 18 years at the beginning of the Championship and accumulates the most points in the Championship classes within scoring system. Second highest score will get Reserve Youth Champion. All Youth entries in a class will be tied separately , points for Youth do not count for Versatility or European Grand Championship.

### **30 Scoring System for TWHBEA European Championship:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – 6 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 5 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 4 points
- 4<sup>th</sup> place – 3 points
- 5<sup>th</sup> place – 2 points
- 6<sup>th</sup> place – 1 point

Youth counts separate. In case a youth rider places third, the riders on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place are not youth riders; the youth rider gets 6 points for the Youth Championship.

Scoring System is independent from number of Entries and Ties

No scores for European Grand Champion classes with less than 3 participants



No scores for Halter Mares and Foal, Costume and Open Breed classes.