



**Union County Saddle Club, Inc.**



**CONSTITUTION  
&  
BY LAWS  
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RULES  
&  
REGULATIONS**

**UPDATED/AMENDED/APPROVED - SEPTEMBER 14, 2009**

**UNION COUNTY SADDLE CLUB, INC.**

# **CONSTITUTION**

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# UNION COUNTY SADDLE CLUB, INC.

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## CONSTITUTION

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### PREAMBLE

This Constitution is written in order to promote the horse industry and horse recreation in the mountain area, to insure adherence to the regulations set forth in this document, to preserve the rights of individual members and is created exclusively for non-profit purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or any other corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue law.

### ARTICLE I - NAME

This organization shall be known as the **Union County Saddle Club, Inc.**, hereafter referred to in this document as the **Club**.

### ARTICLE II - ORIGIN

This **Club** was organized in 1986 in Blairsville, Georgia, by a group of interested people with encouragement from the Blairsville Kiwanis Club. The **Club** agreed to help the Kiwanis Club by holding up to two (2) horse shows per year.

### ARTICLE III - PURPOSE

The purpose of this **Club** shall be to promote the horse industry and horse recreation through participation in horse shows, trail rides, horse clinics and other related activities as the **Club** sees fit.

### ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

The membership of this **Club** shall be composed of persons who have paid their dues within two months of the end of the **Club** membership year. The **Club** membership year runs concurrent with the calendar year.

#### **SECTION 1.**

Any person can offer him/herself as a candidate for membership in this **Club** upon payment of dues in the amount of \$10.00 for an individual membership or \$15.00 for a family membership (including members of the immediate family/household.)

**SECTION 2.**

Any member may terminate his/her membership in this **Club** by submitting a written notice to the **Club** Secretary. There will be no refund of membership dues upon termination.

**SECTION 3.**

A member may be terminated in accordance with the standing By Laws (refer to Article I., Section 3. of the By Laws).

**SECTION 4.**

All officers, board members and any other **Club** position shall be elected in the following manner:

- a. Nominations shall be allowed from the floor and must be seconded;
- b. All voting shall be done by secret ballot;
- c. Only paid-up members in good standing shall have the right to vote.

**SECTION 5.**

All matters described in this Constitution necessitating a vote will require at least a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the **Club** members present at the meeting.

**ARTICLE V – CLUB OFFICERS**

The officers of this **Club** shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Show Chairperson, Concession Chairperson, Publicity-Historian Chairperson. All **Club** officers and chairpersons shall be elected by the membership, shall be members of the **Club** in good standing and shall have paid their dues by March 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year in which they hold office.

**SECTION 1. – ELECTIONS:**

Elections will be held each November and the new officers and chairpersons will assume their duties in January of the following year. Installation of officers will be held at the December meeting.

**SECTION 2. – PRESIDENT:**

It shall be the duty of the President to moderate regular and specially called meetings, to participate in and attend Board meetings with full voting rights and to attend Show Committee meetings. The President shall be elected annually and can only succeed him/herself one term.

**SECTION 3. – VICE PRESIDENT:**

The Vice President shall fill-in for the President in his/her absence, replace the President if he/she cannot fulfill his/her duties, shall be responsible for planning the program at the regular meetings and shall be ex-officio member of the Fund Raising and Trail Committees. The Vice President shall be elected annually.

**SECTION 4. – SECRETARY:**

The Secretary shall attend, or be represented at, all regular business meetings, shall be responsible for minutes and records, shall preserve all papers (to be kept for one year and then disposed of as necessary) and valuable records and shall maintain a list of membership with correct mailing addresses and other pertinent information. The Secretary shall be elected annually.

**SECTION 5. – TREASURER:**

The Treasurer shall receive, keep in a bank and disburse by check(s), upon proper authority, all money or things of value that are given to the **Club**, keep an itemized account of all receipt and disbursements, render a regular account to the **Club** (to be preserved by the Secretary) and make an annual return to the Georgia State Sales & Use Tax Division. The books, records and accounts kept by the Treasurer shall be considered the property of the **Club**. The Treasurer, upon invitation and at least quarterly, shall meet with the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall count and collect the money from the horse shows and other **Club** sponsored events the night of the horse show/event. The Treasurer shall be elected annually.

**SECTION 6. – SHOW CHAIRPERSON:**

The Show Chairperson shall be responsible for calling show meetings, shall oversee all activities related to the planning and the execution of the horse shows and shall have the final say concerning classes and/or rules at the show. The Show Chairperson shall be elected annually.

**SECTION 7. – CONCESSION CHAIRPERSON:**

The Concession Chairperson shall be responsible for overseeing, purchasing, preparing and selling refreshments at the horse shows and other **Club** sponsored events and shall be responsible for turning the monies and receipts for purchases over to the Treasurer immediately after the horse show or event. He/she shall be responsible for making sure that there is adult supervision in the concession stand at all times during horse shows and events. He/she shall make a report at the next **Club** meeting. The Concession Chairperson shall be elected annually.

**SECTION 8. – PUBLICITY-HISTORIAN CHAIRPERSON:**

The Publicity-Historian Chairperson shall be responsible for publicity concerning the **Club** horse shows and for coordinating publicity for all other **Club** sponsored activities. He/she shall also be responsible for keeping a history of the **Club** both in writing and in pictures. The Publicity-Historian Chairperson shall be elected annually.

## **ARTICLE VI – BOARD of DIRECTORS**

### **SECTION 1.**

The Board of Directors shall consist of four (4) elected adults plus the **Club** President. The number of Directors may be changed by at least a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the **Club** members present at any regular business meeting.

### **SECTION 2.**

One half of the Board members shall be elected each year for a two-year term. The other half of the board members shall be elected the following year for a two-year term. The Board shall elect the chairperson annually.

### **SECTION 3.**

The **Club** President shall not be eligible as chairperson of the Board but shall automatically serve as vice-chairperson of the Board.

### **SECTION 4.**

A quorum shall consist of one half of the elected Board members plus either the chairperson or the vice chairperson.

### **SECTION 5.**

Board meetings shall be held at least once per quarter. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson or vice chairperson. Board meetings shall be open to attendance by any **Club** members in good standing.

## **ARTICLE VII – EVENT of DISSOLUTION**

In the event of dissolution of the **Club**, the residual assets of the organization will be turned over to the Children's Trust Fund, which is exempt as an organization described in Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding sections of any prior or future Internal Revenue Code, or to the Federal, State or local government for exclusive public purpose.

## **ARTICLE VIII – ADOPTIONS and AMENDMENTS to this CONSTITUTION**

### **SECTION 1.**

This Constitution shall be adopted and be in immediate effect when at least two-thirds (2/3) of the **Club** members present at the meeting, vote in favor of this Constitution. Notification of a vote on this Constitution will be given to **Club** members by announcement in the regular **Club** meeting prior to the meeting that the vote is taken.

## **SECTION 2.**

This Constitution may be amended, altered or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the **Club** members present at any regular business meeting of the **Club** – provided that such amendment, alteration or repeal has been given to the Secretary in writing and that the proposed change shall have been presented to the **Club** at least one regular meeting prior to the meeting that the vote is taken.

Constitution Adopted – NOVEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>, 1986

Constitution Amended – JANUARY 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002 (see Article I, Item 5 of the Rules & Regulations – added restrictions regarding the handling of stallions.)

Constitution Amended – SEPTEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002 (see Article IV, Section 1. of the Constitution – dues were changed from \$5.00 & \$10.00 to \$10.00 & \$15.00.)

General Update of Constitution & By Laws – FEBRUARY 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 (added new Rules & Regulations section)

Changed ARTICLE II, SECTION 2. - YEARLY POINTS, Paragraph e., of Rules & Regulations to show points to be 5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 with no points for participation [was 6, 5, 4, 3, & 2, with 1 point. for participation] (approved at September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Business meeting).

Changed ARTICLE II, SECTION 3. – YEAR-END AWARDS, Paragraph c. of Rules & Regulations to read: “Awards will be given for the following: Halter, 3 Divisions of Western, Racking and Divisions of timed speed events.” (approved at September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Business meeting)

**UNION COUNTY SADDLE CLUB, INC.**

**BY LAWS**

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**UNION COUNTY SADDLE CLUB, INC.**

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**BY LAWS**  
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**ARTICLE I – MEMBERS**

**SECTION 1.**

Payment of dues gives a new member the right to vote after sixty (60) days.

**SECTION 2.**

Dues paid by October 31<sup>st</sup> shall apply to that calendar year. Any dues paid after that date shall be applied to the following year.

**SECTION 3.**

Any member, who violates the Constitution, By Laws, Rules & Regulations and/or the trust of the **Club**, may be terminated in the following manner:

- a. The issue of the violation shall be brought before the Executive Committee (the four Board of Directors, the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Show Chairperson) at a specially set meeting;
- b. The member shall have the right to defend him/herself;
- c. A membership may be terminated by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee.

**SECTION 4.**

Dated membership cards shall be issued to each paid member.

**SECTION 5.**

In the event of the death of a **Club** member, or of a member of their immediate family, the **Club** is authorized to spend \$50.00 for flowers.

**SECTION 6.**

In the event of the absence of the Treasurer, any officer shall be allowed to sign checks and only one signature will be required on each check transaction.

**ARTICLE II – MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1.**

A regular business meeting shall be held the third Thursday of every month except for November and December. The dates and times for the November and December meetings shall be set at least two months in advance. All meetings are open to any/all **Club** members in good standing.

**SECTION 2.**

The monthly business meetings shall start at 7:00 PM.

**SECTION 3.**

Officers shall meet quarterly or as needed.

**SECTION 4.**

Special meetings may be called by any Officer or by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 5.**

The meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

**ARTICLE III – STANDING COMMITTEES**

The standing committees of the **Club** shall be: Show Committee; Trail Ride Committee; Publicity-History Committee; Fund Raising Committee; Youth Committee and Nominating Committee. All committee members shall be members of the **Club** in good standing and shall have paid their dues by March 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year.

**SECTION 1. – SHOWS:**

The Show Committee shall consist of the Show Chairperson, the **Club** President plus seven annually elected committee members - representing at least the following: Western; Racking; English; Paso Fino; Running and Youth. The Show Chairperson shall call committee meetings as necessary. The committee shall be responsible for planning, overseeing and publicizing the horse shows. All major decisions shall be brought before the **Club** membership for vote. The Show Chairperson shall report to the **Club** at the regular meetings. For general rules and regulations for participation in shows and events, refer to the Rules & Regulations section of this document.

**SECTION 2 – TRAIL RIDES:**

The Trail Ride Committee shall consist of the Trail Ride Committee Chairperson, the Vice President, plus three annually elected committee members. This committee shall be responsible for planning, overseeing and publicizing trail rides and related activities and for designating trail ride officials. The Trail Ride Committee shall elect a chairperson annually. The Vice President shall not be eligible for chairmanship but shall serve as the vice chairperson. The Trail Ride Committee Chairperson shall call the meetings of the Trail Ride Committee and he/she shall report to the **Club** at the regular business meetings. For general rules and regulations for participation in trail rides, refer to the Rules & Regulations section of this document.

**SECTION 3. – FUND RAISING:**

The Fund Raising Committee shall consist of the Chairperson, the Vice President plus three annually elected committee members. The Vice President shall serve as the vice chairperson. This committee shall be responsible for raising money needed for **Club** expenses and activities. All funds raised by the **Club** shall be used for the benefit of **Club** activities. The Chairperson shall report to the **Club** at regular meetings.

**SECTION 4. – PUBLICITY-HISTORY:**

The Publicity-History Committee shall consist of the Chairperson plus three annually elected members. This committee shall be responsible for publicizing **Club** activities (excluding Show and Trail Ride publicity). The Chairperson shall report to the **Club** at the regular **Club** business meetings.

**SECTION 5. – NOMINATING:**

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members appointed by the Board of Directors every August. The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for nominating qualified members for the elected positions prior to the general election at the November meeting. The floor will be open for nominations prior to the election. The Nominating Committee shall also serve as the Election Committee. They shall be responsible for preparing the ballot and for counting the votes the night of the election.

**SECTION 6. – YOUTH:**

The Youth Committee shall consist of two annually elected members, 17 years of age or younger, plus an adult advisor. The Youth Committee shall be responsible for coordinating activities of youth within the **Club** activities. The adult advisor shall be responsible for advising and approving all Youth Committee activities and for reporting to the **Club** at the regular **Club** business meetings.

**ARTICLE IV – ELECTIONS**

**SECTION 1.**

A member shall not hold more than one elected position in a calendar year.

**SECTION 2.**

- a. Each elected position shall be voted on separately.
- b. Elections shall held be in the following order: Board of Directors, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Show Chairperson, Concession Chairperson, Publicity-Historian Chairperson and the Youth and Show Committee members.
- c. The Show Committee shall represent, as fairly as possible, the following divisions: Western, Racking, English, Paso Fino, Running and Youth.

**SECTION 3.**

Absentee ballots may be used, shall be on the official ballot and shall be voted on in the presence of a member of the Election Committee. The absentee ballot shall be placed in two envelopes, with the outer envelope being sealed and signed by the absentee voting member. The absentee ballot shall be cast no more than one week prior to the election.

**SECTION 4.**

There shall be a membership list/role at the election meeting with the absentee ballots marked off of the role.

**SECTION 5.**

Vacancies or unfilled terms of elected board members, officers, chaired positions and committee members shall be filled by special election(s).

**ARTICLE V – ADOPTIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE BY LAWS**

**SECTION 1.**

These By Laws and all future amendments shall be adopted and be in immediate effect when at least a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the **Club** members present at the meeting vote in favor of these By-Laws and amendments.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these By Laws, this **Club** shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by (a.) a club exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c.)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding sections of any prior or future Internal Revenue Code, or the Federal, State or local government for exclusive purpose, or (b.) a **Club** contribution which is deductible under Section 501(c.)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding sections of any prior or future Internal Revenue Code, or to the Federal, State or local government for exclusive public purpose.

**SECTION 2.**

These By Laws may be amended, altered or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the **Club** members present at any regular business meeting of the **Club** - provided that such amendment, alteration or repeal has been given to the Secretary in writing and that the proposed change shall have been presented to the **Club** at least one regular meeting prior to the time the vote is taken.

**UNION COUNTY SADDLE CLUB, INC.**

# **RULES & REGULATIONS**

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## UNION COUNTY SADDLE CLUB, INC.

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# RULES & REGULATIONS

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### PREAMBLE

These Rules & Regulations have been written in order to provide a series of common sense guidelines describing our behavior at all **Club** related/sponsored events. These write-ups have been patterned after our **Club**'s past and current operation plus many words that have been taken from the National Racking Horse Association Rule Book, the Paso Fino Horse Association Rule Book, the Quarter Horse Rule Book, the National Barrel Horse Association and the American Paint Horse Association Trail Class Rules.

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### ARTICLE I – GENERAL

1. This **Club** shall render the best service possible to all participants, especially to our young participants.
2. There shall be no alcoholic beverages on the arena grounds or during any/all **Club** sponsored event(s).
3. There shall be no firearms carried (unless specifically licensed by the State of Georgia) at any **Club** show or other **Club** sponsored event.
4. The **Club** shall not be responsible for any accidents on the arena grounds or during **Club** sponsored events – including injury by animals, vehicles or other. Neither shall the **Club** be responsible for loss or theft during **Club** sponsored events.
5. No one under the age of 18 will be allowed to handle or show a stallion in any judged event and they may not handle a stallion on the grounds outside the arena. However, they may show a stallion in a timed event within the arena.

## ARTICLE II - SHOWS

### **SECTION 1. – GENERAL:**

- a. There will be a Prayer and an American Flag Ceremony to open each show.
- b. Any complaints at any show will be heard the day of the show by the President or the Show Chairperson – and – any pending complaint will be given in writing to the President. These pending complaints will be brought before the Board of Directors for discussion and disposition.
- c. The decision of the Judge at any show is final.
- d. A Judge may not judge any horse in which he/she has money, interest, or partnership - or that he/she has trained, boarded or sold within the past (90) days.
- e. A Judge may not judge any rider or horse that he/she has had any relationship with, either through boarding, pasturing, or farried for during the past (90) days.
- f. A Judge may not judge any horse with whom he/she shares a barn or boarding relationship (stud services are exempt).
- g. A Judge may not engage in conversation with exhibitors while the show is in progress.
- h. The Ringmaster shall be an adult who will assist the Judge and control all phases of the show within in the ring.
- i. The Ringmaster may not officiate in any division of a show in which a member of his/her family or any of his/her clients is an exhibiter.
- j. To call or postpone a show due to inclement weather, the Show Committee will meet to determine whether or not the grounds are safe to use.
- k. All shows will start promptly at the set/advertised time.
- l. All non-**Club** members must pay \$2.00 extra for each class in which they enter.
- m. Entry money may/will be refunded to any contestant(s), upon request - before the class enters the ring.
- n. Once a class has been announced as being “closed”, there will be no more entries taken in that particular class.
- o. A pony must be 52 inches or less to show in a pony class.
- p. The rider/handler’s name and the horse’s name will be announced for the winners in each class.
- q. Three or more entries are required to constitute an “added” class. Five or more entries are required for a paying class.
- r. The Show Chairperson may add, combine or delete classes.
- s. Four-wheelers, three-wheelers and loud motorcycles and vehicles shall not be allowed on the grounds during a show.
- t. All dogs must be on a leash at all times during a show.
- u. **Club** members should be alert at all times for the safety of the crowd and possible interference with exhibitors around the immediate ring area (i.e. those leaning on or sitting directly on the arena fence or any barriers or attachments immediately thereto).
- v. If a horse and rider separate during a class, they are disqualified.

- w. A horse and rider/handler must have participated in at least one other class (other than halter and lead line) to enter Championship classes.
- x. Exhibitors must be 17 or under to participate in juvenile classes.
- y. A rider may not be lead in any class except for a lead line class.
- z. All horses shall have a current (within one year) negative coggins test/certificate at time of class sign-up.
- Aa. The Show Chairperson, or his/her designee, shall be responsible for verifying up-to-date, negative coggins certificates.
- Ab. Rules concerning the requirement of a negative coggins, no alcohol allowed and age requirement for handling stallions will be prominently displayed on all show sheets and at the sign-up area.
- Ac. Paid-up **Club** members and show participants shall not have to pay an admission fee to any regular **Club** sponsored shows
- Ad. There shall be a separate designated area for warming-up Racking horses.
- Ae. All money collected at shows shall be turned-in to the Treasurer the day/night of the show.
- Af. The Show Chairperson shall have the authority to appoint members to various responsibilities at shows, as he/she deems necessary.

#### **SECTION 2. -YEARLY POINTS:**

- a. Points will be awarded to the rider only for Running and Western Pleasure events.
- b. The first horse ridden into the arena will be the ride given points for that particular class.
- c. Points will be counted on horse and rider combination for Racking classes.
- d. Points will only be counted for UCSC members - from the date dues are paid.
- e. \* Points will be awarded as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> place = 5 points; 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 4 points; 3<sup>rd</sup> place = 3 points; 4<sup>th</sup> place = 2 points; 5<sup>th</sup> place = 1 point.
- f. Championship classes will not be counted as point classes.
- g. All judged shows (unless announced otherwise) will count for points.

#### **SECTION 3. – YEAR-END AWARDS:**

- a. An exhibitor must show in at least 50% of shows to qualify for a year-end award.
- b. No duplicate awards will be given. In case of a tie, the person with the most first place finishes will win.
- c. \* Awards will be given for the following: Halter, 3 Divisions of Western, Racking and 3 Divisions of Timed speed events..

\* Changed point numbers, removed participation points and modified year-end classes (approved at the September 14<sup>th</sup> Business meeting).

## ARTICLE III – CLASS GUIDELINES

### **SECTION 1. – HALTER, LEAD LINE and OPEN SHOWMANSHIP:**

Halter, Lead line and Open Showmanship entries are to be judged individually, Standing, at a Walk and at a Trot/Rack on the line and must be serviceably sound. Horses must stand squarely on all four feet with front legs perpendicular to the ground.

### **SECTION 2. – TRAIL:**

- A. Western Attire and Tack** shall be used.
- B. Scoring System:** Scoring will be on the basis of 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added to or subtracted from 70. Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus 1 ½ to minus 1 ½ with minus 1 ½ being extremely poor, minus 1 being very poor, 0 being correct, plus ½ being good, plus 1 being very good and plus 1 ½ being excellent. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independent of penalty points. Credit will be given to those horses negotiating the obstacle cleanly, smoothly and alertly with style in prompt response to the rider's cues.
- C. Disqualification** (zero total score for the course):
  - 1. Use of more than one finger between reins.
  - 2. Use of two hands (except in Snaffle Bit or Hackamore classes) or changing hands on reins (except to work an obstacle).
  - 3. Use of romal reins.
  - 4. Performing the obstacles other than in specified order.
  - 5. No attempt to perform an obstacle.
  - 6. Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern.
  - 7. Excessively or repeatedly touching the horse on the neck to lower the head.
  - 8. Fall to the ground by the horse or rider.
  - 9. Failure to enter, exit or work obstacle from correct side or direction, including overturns of more than ¼ turn.
  - 10. Failure to follow the correct line of travel within or between obstacles.
  - 11. Failure to work an obstacle in any other than how it's described by the course.
  - 12. Riding outside designated boundary marker of the course.
  - 13. Third refusal.
  - 14. Failure to demonstrate correct lead or gait (if designated).
- D. Penalties:** Penalties should be assessed per occurrence as follows:
  - 1. **One half (1/2) Point:**
    - a. Each tick of log, pole, cone or obstacle.
  - 2. **One (1) Point:**
    - a. Each hit of or stepping on a log, pole, cone or obstacle.
    - b. Break of gait at walk or jog for two strides or less.
    - c. Both front or hind feet in a single-strided slot or space.

- d. Skipping over or failing to step into required space.
  - e. Split pole in lope-over.
  - f. Failure to meet the correct strides on trot-over or lope-over log obstacles.
3. **Three (3) Points:**
- a. Break of gait at walk or job for more than two (2) strides.
  - b. Out of lead or break of gait at lope (except when correcting an incorrect lead.
  - c. Knocking down an elevated pole, cone barrel, plant obstacle or severely disturbing an obstacle.
  - d. Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off or out of an obstacle with one foot.
4. **Five (5) Points:**
- a. Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course.
  - b. First refusal, balk or attempting to evade an obstacle by shying or balking more than two (2) strides.
  - c. Letting go of gate or dropping rope gate.
  - d. Use of either hand to instill fear OR praise.
  - e. Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off or out of an obstacle with more than one foot.
  - f. Blatant disobedience (kicking-out, bucking rearing or striking, etc.).
  - g. Second refusal, balk or attempting to evade an obstacle by shying or backing more than two (2) strides away.
- E. Course Requirements:**
- 1. **Use care in setting up course** – Care must be exercised to avoid the setting up of any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or rider. Obstacles not combined shall be a minimum of nine (9) feet apart.
  - 2. **Change of Procedure** - Where the local conditions and equipment will not permit the establishment of obstacles as specified and that they may require changing of procedures of hand on the reins, then all competitors must be advised that such changing of procedure or of hands is permitted.
- F. Exhibitor Requirements:**
- 1. Exhibitor must use only one hand on the reins and may not be changed except as noted in **SECTION 2. C. 2.** (above) or as follows:
    - a. Putting on or removing slicker.
    - b. Carrying an object from one part of the arena to another.
    - c. Dismounting.
- G. Obstacle Requirements:** - These are too numerous to list here – see show sheet.

### **SECTION 3. – WESTERN PLEASURE:**

#### **A. Qualifying Gaits:**

- 1. Walk:** The walk is a natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait. The horse must move straight and true at the walk. The walk must be alert, with a stride of reasonable length in keeping with the size of the horse.
- 2. Jog Trot:** The jog trot is a smooth, ground covering, two-beat diagonal gait. The horse works from one pair of diagonals to the other pair. The jog trot should be square, balanced with a straightforward movement of the feet. Horses walking with their back feet and trotting on the front are not considered performing the required gait. When asked to extend the jog, he/she moves out with the same smooth way of going.
- 3. Lope:** Lope with forward motion: an easy, rhythmical, clean three-beat gait. Horses moving to the right should lope on the right lead. The horse should lope straight with a natural stride and appear relaxed and smooth. The horse should be ridden at a speed that is a natural way of going. Loping with the haunches in (toward the center of the arena) must be penalized.

#### **B. Western Attire and Tack** shall be used.

#### **C. Classes:** A show may have up to four approved Western Pleasure classes. If four classes are to be offered, they shall be the following:

- 1. Senior Western Pleasure,** six year-old and older. All horses must be shown with a bit.
- 2. Junior Western Pleasure,** five year-old and younger. Horses may be shown with either a snaffle bit, bit or hackamore at the discretion of the exhibitor.
- 3. Three Year-Old Western Pleasure:**  
Horses shown in this class will not be eligible for any other open Western Pleasure class at the same show or contest. Horses may be shown with either a snaffle bit, bit or hackamore at the discretion of the exhibitor.
- 4. Two Year Old Western Pleasure:**  
Horses shown in this class will not be eligible for any other open Western Pleasure class at the same show or contest. Three-piece mouthpieces may not be used.
  - \* If three classes are to be offered, they shall be: Senior Western Pleasure, Junior Western Pleasure and Two Year-Old Western Pleasure.
  - \* If two classes are to be offered, they shall be: Senior Western Pleasure and Junior Western Pleasure.
  - \* If only one class is to be offered, it shall be Western Pleasure – All Ages. Horses six years old and older must be shown with bit. Horses five years old and younger may be shown in snaffle bit, bit or hackamore.

#### **D. General Class Data:**

The Western Pleasure horse should be a pleasure to ride. It should exhibit a free flowing stride with natural lift and self-carriage, along with smooth gaits and transitions. Emphasis shall be placed on good movers, manners and a willing attitude, as reflected in the horse's ears, mouth, tail and way of going. Any attempt to alter these attributes shall be severely penalized.

**E. Class Judging Guidelines:**

This class will be judged on the performance, manners, condition and conformation of the horses. All horses will be judged at the walk, jog, lope and back as well as on all transitions.

**F. Ring Procedure:**

- 1. Walk, Jog and Lope** – Horses are to be shown at a walk, jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. It is mandatory that a moderate extension of the jog be asked for in at least one direction during the Western Pleasure class(s). Horses must work both ways of the ring at all required gaits to demonstrate their ability with the different leads. A horse will not be penalized for passing. The Judge shall have the right to ask for additional work from any horse. The Judge may, at his/her discretion, back only the finalists.
- 2. Reversing** – Horses are to be reversed to the inside, away from the rail. Horses may be required to reverse at a walk or a jog or may be required to go from any gait to any other gait at the discretion of the Judge. Forward motion must be maintained. No contestant will be asked to reverse at a lope.
- 3. Head Set** – The head should be carried at an angle that is natural and suitable to the horse's conformation at all gaits. Ideally, a horse should carry its head no lower than level and its nose should be in front of vertical.

**SECTION 4. – SADDLEBRED:**

Extreme fineness and grace, obvious at first glance. Graceful lines obtained through long elegant neck, trim body with good flesh and muscling. Loin and back strong, but somewhat longer than other breeds. Hips should be well muscled with a flat croup and tail set. Horse should move smartly with a high elastic step, should be well collected and animated, should drive off the hocks and exhibit animated hock action.

**SECTION 5. – WALKING-BRED RACKING HORSE:**

Should have an intelligent and well-shaped head, slightly pointed ears, alert eyes and a tapered muzzle. The neck should be strong, yet graceful. The shoulders should be muscular and well sloping. The back and loin should be short, with good coupling. The chest should be wide but with good proportioning. The body should be deep in girth and well ribbed. The croup generally sloping. The hips should be well muscled extended to the hocks. Legs should be flat and cordy around a heavy bone. In motion, the horse should exhibit no hock action. Motion will not be trappy, stride should be purposeful and smooth. At no times should the horse exhibit a trot or nod its head in the show ring. Horse must rack square at all times.

## **SECTION 6. – PASO FINO PLEASURE DIVISION:**

### **A. Qualifying Gaits:**

- 1. Flat Walk:** A true, evenly spaced, four-beat, flat-footed and smooth gait executed with mild collection. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.
- 2. Paso Corto:** A smooth, steady, unbroken, evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait, rhythmic, executed with moderate extension and mild collection. Forward speed is ground covering, but unhurried. Movements should be fluid, willing, relaxed, balanced and free moving. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.
- 3. Paso Largo:** A smooth, evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait, fluid and rapid, showing no tendency to labor or become "strung out." Collection is mild. Both extension and rapidness of cadence are increased over the Paso Corto and a definite change of speed must be observed. The evenly spaced, four-beat cadence must be maintained at all times and loss of cadence, form or smoothness due to excessive speed shall be penalized, but extension and speed in gait shall be rewarded.

### **B. General Class Data:**

- 1.** This class/division is intended to demonstrate the more relaxed manner of movement of the Paso Fino horse. Collection is mild. For this reason, manners and obedience of the horse are particularly important and any indication of bad manners shall be heavily penalized. The horse should be controlled with minimal restraint and the rider should appear to be enjoying him/herself. Gait transitions should be made in a smooth, relaxed and willing manner and the horse's attitude should be calm, pleasant and cooperative. A horse that fights the bit, flattens it's ears or swishes it's tail shall be penalized.
- 2.** The horses will be required to Flat Walk, Paso Corto, Paso Largo, Line up and Back. The Back should be straight, calm and controlled and refusal to back disqualifies the horse from placement. Riders must ride with stirrups. This class shall be judged 20% on the Paso Corto, 20% on the Paso Largo, 20% on the Flat Walk, 5% on the Back and 35% on manners, conformation, attitude and way of going.

### **C. Procedures:**

- 1.** Exhibitors shall enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. The riders shall space themselves while executing the Flat Walk so as to avoid bunching up and shall maintain their relative positions on the rail. In the Paso Largo, entries shall maintain a position on the rail except to pass.
- 2.** The sequence of gaits shall be Paso Corto, Paso Largo (to demonstrate the marked difference in speed), Flat Walk, Reverse and repeat.
- 3.** Each rider shall be asked to demonstrate the Back from the line-up. In the Back, the horse shall maintain proper head position, show evidence of a good mouth, back in a straight line and shall be readily responsive.

## SECTION 7. – RACKING HORSES:

### A. Definitions:

1. The **Rack** is a fast, evenly timed, four beat lateral gait in which each foot meets the ground separately at equal intervals. Three ways in which a horse tends to deviate from the desired rhythm are: first, he/she may break into a cantor or gallop; second, he/she may tend to trot and third, he/she may tend to pace. The Judge(s) should be alert in watching for these undesirable traits. Any of these deviations will be classified as a break against the horse.
2. The **Walk** is a straight way of going that is slow, consistent and under control.
3. The **Slow Rack** is simply racking at a relatively slow speed.
4. The **Rack-on** is a fast speed rack, which has a noticeable increase in speed over the horse's slow rack. However, form is never to be sacrificed for speed.
  - a. The Judge shall penalize loss of form due to excessive speed.
  - b. The Judge shall penalize for excessively lapping the arena after the Judge calls for a walk.
5. **General Workout:** A general workout is when the horse first enters the ring to perform their required gaits, both ways of the ring.
6. **Special Workout:** A special workout will be any performance of gaits deemed necessary by the Judge after the general workout is complete. This requirement will be left entirely to the discretion of the Judge. A Judge will call for the performance from the horses both ways of the ring.

### B. General Rules for Showing:

1. Shoeing – Open – U.S.D.A. rules apply.
2. Protective boots – Bell rubber-type leather quarter and hinged bell boots may be used – U.S.D.A. rules apply.
3. Set tails – Open – humane tails, tail braces and switches optional.
4. Use of acids and drugs – The use of any chemical, acid or tranquillizer to produce unnatural action will not be tolerated. Proof of violation of the rule will result in suspension of the exhibitor from any UCSC sponsored show.
5. Equipment – Full bridle and the use of crops or spurs is optional.
6. Horses shown in any Pleasure class may not show in any other Pleasure class at the same show. (\* refer to noted sections that follow)

C. **Gaits:** The gaits to be called for will be a Walk, Slow Rack and Rack-on in all classes except Style, Speed and Pleasure.

D. **Style Racking:** The gait to be called for in this class will be the Walk and Style Rack. Since the speed of the Style Rack will be left to the exhibitor's discretion, the Judge will use caution to judge on style only and not the speed of the horse.

E. **Speed Racking:** The gaits to be called for in this class will be the Walk, Slow Rack and Rack-on. Since the class is judged on speed, the Judge will judge during the Walk and Rack-on gaits (the Slow Rack is added in order to give all contestants a brief period to either warm their horses up in a Rack or position themselves better for the Rack-on gait).

- F. Show Horse Pleasure:** No boots or tail braces allowed in show ring. Shoeing is open. A light switch will be allowed. Horses should be ridden with relatively loose reins and should give the impression of going at ease with a minimum of control by the exhibitor. Gaits will be Walk and Pleasure Rack. Horses will be asked to Back in the line-up. Full bridle is optional (\* Section B.6. above).
- G. Flat Shod Racking:** To be shown with any weight shoe without pads. Humane or braced tails are optional. No boots allowed.
- H. Country Pleasure:** No boots, tail braces or false hair allowed. Horses will be flat shod and ridden with relatively loose single reins and should give the impression of going at ease with a minimum of control by the exhibitor. Gaits will be Walk and Pleasure Rack. Horses will be asked to come to a stop while working on the rail and will walk to the line-up. Horses will be asked to Back in the line-up. Tack and dress will be open (\* Section B.6. above).
- I. Trail Pleasure:** No boots, tail braces or false hair allowed. Horses will be flat shod with manufactured keg shoes only. Horses will be ridden with relatively loose single rein, should give the impression of going at complete ease with very minimum control by the exhibitor. Horses will be asked to Walk and Pleasure Rack, asked to come to a stop on the rail, walk to the line-up and Back effortlessly in the line-up. Gait will have a low front end lift that is valued for comfort and ease. Tack and dress will be western with breast collar optional (\* Section B.6. above).
- J. Natural Pleasure Racking:** Flat shod, open bridle, light switch optional, no boots, no braced tails, no backing – Walk, Pleasure Rack and Back in the line-up (\* Section B.6. above).

## **SECTION 8. SPEED EVENTS:**

- A. Pole Bending:** This event involves 6 plastic poles that are placed 21 feet apart and the timer-line is 21 feet from the first pole. Poles are 6 feet high and the base shall be no more than 14 inches in diameter.
  1. This event is contested by riding through the timer-line, past each pole on alternating sides of the poles, rounding the last pole and repeating in the opposite direction and back through the timer-line.
  2. If a pole is knocked over, a 5 second penalty will be assessed (for each).
  3. A rider may go to the right or left of the first pole.
- B. Texas Barrel Racing:** This event involves 3 barrels in a straight line that are placed 60 feet apart and the timer-line is 60 feet from the first barrel.
  1. This event is contested by riding through the timer-line, past all 3 barrels, rounding the last barrel, passing the other barrels on alternating sides, rounding the first barrel, passing the other barrels on alternating sides, rounding the last barrel and back through the timer-line.
  2. If a barrel is knocked over, a 5 second penalty will be assessed (for each).
  3. A rider may go to the right or left of the first barrel.

- C. Cloverleaf Barrel Racings:** This event involves 3 barrels placed in a cloverleaf pattern with the first 2 barrels placed in line with the light poles 90 feet apart (with a minimum of 28 feet between them and the side fences); the third barrel shall be placed at a point 105 feet from each of the first two barrels (with a minimum of 30 feet between the 3rd barrel and the back fence).
1. This event is contested by riding through the time-line, moving to the right rounding the first barrel on the horse's right side, moving across the arena rounding the second barrel on the horse's left side, then to the far end of the arena rounding the third barrel on the horse's left side and then back through the time-line.
  2. If a barrel is knocked over, a 5 second penalty will be assessed (for each).
  3. Riders may go to the left barrel first but they must round it to the horse's left side rounding the first barrel on the horse's left side, moving across the arena, rounding the second barrel on the horse's right side, then to the far end of the arena rounding the third barrel on the horse's right side and then back through the time-line.

#### **ARTICLE IV – TRAIL RIDES**

1. The Trail Ride Committee and their assistants will be in complete charge of the trail ride at all times.
2. All accidents will be reported to a trail ride official.
3. Horseback riders or wagons will be encouraged not to ride ahead of the lead scout or behind the rear scout unless in a group with a designated trail ride official.
4. Anyone leaving the trail ride shall notify a trail ride official before they leave.
5. All animals shall be secured after dark except those being used on watch or by trail ride committee members.
6. All animals will be the sole responsibility of their owners.
7. Cruelty or abuse of animals will not be permitted.
8. All campfires are to be attended at all times.
9. There will be no littering of trails or camp with bottles, cans, etc.
10. Everyone is responsible for cleaning his or her campsite during and after the ride.