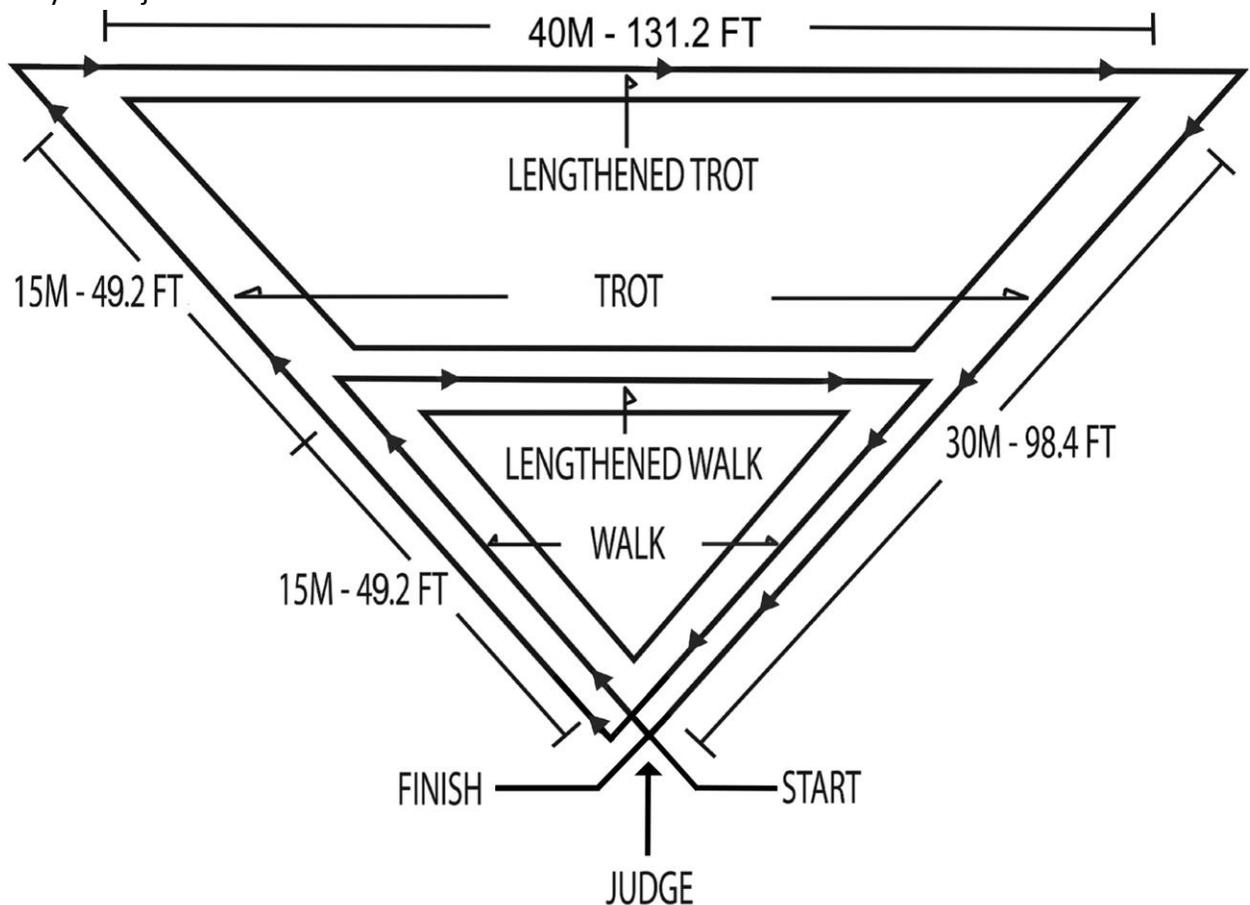


Sport Horse In-Hand Class

1. Conformation is to be evaluated in terms of potential trainability, potential performance and predisposition to soundness. Form to function is to be emphasized. Blemishes are not to count unless resulting from conformation faults. Gaits are to be evaluated in terms of purity, quality and correctness. Correct gaits which contribute to ease in training and the horse remaining sound and useable are most important. Purity and quality are judged mainly in profile. Correctness is judged mainly while the horse is coming to and going from the judge's position. Colts and stallions two years and over must have both testicles descended.
2. Entries in each class will approach the judging area one at a time, walk to the apex of the triangle. Conformation judging may take place before or after performance on the triangle, so wait for the judge's instructions. Wait for the judge's request to proceed on the triangle. The handler will lead the horse on the perimeter of the triangle at the walk and trot, returning to the apex and wait for further instructions. At the completion of the judging, the handler will lead the horse away from the judging area. The triangle may be adjusted to fit local conditions.



3. Triangle: Corners should be well defined. A marker will be used at the apex and at each corner to define placement of the turn for the exhibitor. Use of plants or flowers is allowed.
4. The horse is to be shown in an "open position," for conformation judging. The traditional way of showing open position would be with the right front leg slightly back and the right hind leg slightly forward; but as long as all four legs of the horse are visible to the judge when standing on either side of the horse, this would be acceptable. The horse's head and neck should be allowed to show in a natural and comfortable carriage, and the handler should stand away from the horse with a loose lead line.
5. A whip may be used to guide the horse.
6. Causes for mandatory elimination from the arena or designated judging area for In-Hand classes are:
 - a. Removal of eyelashes,
 - b. Changing the natural color of the mane and/or tail (AR106.8b)
 - c. Applying a product to a horse's hoof to hide or conceal a conformation defect. Only clear or transparent products may be used on the hooves of horses while being shown in Breeding and/or In-Hand classes.
7. An entry must be penalized for:
 - a. Excessive amounts of oil, grease or other similar substances.
 - b. Balding the area around the eyes or proximal to the muzzle and nostrils.
 - c. Excessive use of the whip or actions that may disturb other entries shall be severely penalized.

Judging:

1. The judge shall use the AHA approved individual score sheet.
2. Decimals may be used in scoring.
3. Tied scores shall be broken first by referring to the totals of the movement, then conformation, then over-all balance and finally manners score. If still tied, the tie may be broken at the judge's discretion, by the use of decimals, or the horses may be examined again (movement only).
4. When judging the horse's movement the best stride shown at both walk and trot should be judged according to the Specifications on the score sheet.

Tack:

1. Bridles are mandatory on horses six years and older. A bridle shall be a dressage-type snaffle bridle or hunter-type snaffle bridle. Snaffle may be with or without cheeks, keepers allowed. Use of a noseband is optional but if used, it must be a cavesson, flash, figure 8, mexican, dropped, or crescent style noseband. A split or single lead made of either leather or chain (or a combination of both) may be used,

attached through both sides of the bit, with/or instead of reins. Horses aged two to five years may be shown in a bridle (as listed above), or a plain leather stable halter. Horses under age two years must be shown in a plain leather stable halter.

Attire:

1. Conservative casual attire is recommended for the handler. This would include casual pants and shirt. Also acceptable would be Dressage or Hunter attire including breeches, boots, shirt with tie, stock tie or choker collar. Jackets, hats, vests, and gloves are optional.
2. The handler may carry only one whip, maximum length of six feet, including lash and without attachments (i.e. plastic bags, ribbons, etc.).