



# E.M.H.A. RULE BOOK

2024



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## E.M.H.A. Approved Show Bill

All E.M.H.A. Shows are "Open Shows" – **Birth Certificates REQUIRED** for riders 15 yrs & younger  
Classes are \$8.00 for members/\$9.00 for non-members~ Sweepstakes are \$12.00

### Saturday -Speed Classes Start at 10 am

1. Pole Bending – 7 & Under
  2. Pole Bending – 8-13
  3. Pole Bending – 14-19
  4. Pole Bending – 20 & Over
  5. Barrel Bending – 7 & Under
  6. Barrel Bending – 8-13
  7. Barrel Bending – 14-19
  8. Barrel Bending – 20 & Over
  9. Random Pattern Sweepstakes - \$\$\$
  10. Cloverleaf – 7 & Under
  11. Cloverleaf – 8-13
  12. Cloverleaf – 14-19
  13. Cloverleaf – 20& Over
  14. Cloverleaf Sweepstakes - \$\$\$
  15. Indiana Flags – 7 & Under
  16. Indiana Flags – 8-13
  17. Indiana Flags – 14-19
  18. Indiana Flags – 20 & Over
  19. Down & Back – 7 & Under
  20. Down & Back – 8-13
  21. Down & Back – 14-19
  22. Down & Back – 20 & Over
  23. Speed & Action – 7 & Under
  24. Speed & Action – 8-13
  25. Speed & Action – 14-19
  26. Speed & Action – 20 & Over
  27. Keyhole – 7 & Under
  28. Keyhole – 8-13
  29. Keyhole – 14-19
  30. Keyhole – 20 & Over
- \*= Class 3, 14 & 15 may not ride in any other classes
  - \*\*= Walk Trot Classes – No other classes to be entered.  
W/T is for riders and/or equines not able to canter.
  - \*\*\*= Must ride in classes 48 & 49 to enter class 50
  - Office fee will apply for each equine/rider combination
  - A current Negative Coggins **IS REQUIRED** for each equine. Failure to show a current Coggins, will require immediately removal of equine from premises.
  - Speed Classes payback 1<sup>st</sup> = \$8.00 and 2<sup>nd</sup> = \$6.00. Must be a minimum of 6 riders. No trophies, ribbons only. 13 & Under classes do not receive paybacks, a ribbon will be awarded
  - Sweepstakes offers 50% payback to winner only. Must be a minimum of 4 riders
  - Walk/Trot Riders 18 & Under must wear a helmet at **ALL TIMES** while mounted
  - W/T/C Riders 18 & Under must wear a helmet practicing but may remove helmet 5 minutes prior to entering Pleasure class
  - Speed Riders 18 & under **MUST** wear helmet at all times while mounted
  - **Birth Certificates REQUIRED** for all riders 15 yrs. & younger

### Sunday – Pleasure Classes start at 8 am

1. Western Halter Mares – Open
  2. Western Halter Geldings/Stallions – Open
  3. Color Breed Halter - Open
  4. Pee Wee Showmanship (Class 14/15 Participants Only)\*
  5. Fitting & Showing – Walk Trot 10 & Under\*\*
  6. Fitting & Showing – Walk Trot 11-17\*\*
  7. Fitting & Showing – Walk Trot 18 & Over\*\*
  8. Showmanship – Sweepstakes - \$\$\$
  9. Fitting & Showing – 13 & Under
  10. Fitting & Showing – 14-19
  11. Fitting & Showing – 20 & Over
  12. English Halter Mares – Open
  13. English Halter Geldings/Stallions – Open
  14. Lead Line – Any Seat – 7 & Under\*
  15. Walk Only – 12 & Under\*
- 10 Minute Tack Change**
16. Lunge Line – Equine 2 yrs. old & Under
  17. Walk Trot English Equitation – 10 & Under\*\*
  18. Walk Trot English Equitation – 11-17\*\*
  19. Walk Trot English Equitation – 18 & Over\*\*
  20. English Equitation – 13 & Under
  21. English Equitation – 14-19
  22. English Equitation – 20 & Over
  23. English Equitation Sweepstakes - \$\$\$ (Pattern)
  24. Walk Trot English Pleasure – 10 & Under\*\*
  25. Walk Trot English Pleasure – 11-17\*\*
  26. Walk Trot English Pleasure – 18 & Over\*\*
  27. English Pleasure 13 & Under
  28. English Pleasure 14-19
  29. English Pleasure 20 & Over
  30. English Pleasure JR Equine 5 & Under
  31. English Pleasure SR Equine 6 & Over
- 30 Minute Lunch Break**
32. Walk Trot Open Sweepstakes – Any Seat - \$\$\$
  33. Walk Trot Western Horsemanship – 10 & Under\*\*
  34. Walk Trot Western Horsemanship – 11-17\*\*
  35. Walk Trot Western Horsemanship – 18 & Over\*\*
  36. Western Horsemanship – 13 & Under
  37. Western Horsemanship – 14-19
  38. Western Horsemanship 20 & Over
  39. Western Horsemanship Sweepstakes - \$\$\$ (Pattern)
  40. Walk Trot Western Pleasure 10 & Under\*\*
  41. Walk Trot Western Pleasure 11-17\*\*
  42. Walk Trot Western Pleasure 18 & Over\*\*
  43. Western Pleasure 13 & Under
  44. Western Pleasure 14-19
  45. Western Pleasure 20 & Over
  46. Western Pleasure JR Equine 5 & Under
  47. Western Pleasure SR Equine 6 & Over
  48. Ranch Rail Pleasure – Open
  49. Ranch Disciplined Rail – Open
  50. Ranch Halter – Open\*\*\*



## Judges Criteria

1. No Judge shall judge more than one E.M.H.A show per year.
2. A Judge shall not attend an E.M.H.A show within two weeks prior to an accepted judging date.
3. A Judge shall not appear on the grounds more than 15 minutes before the start of the show.
4. A Judge shall not converse with owners, trainers, or exhibitors, nor discuss any equines entered in the show before judging.
5. A Judge may not judge an equine owned or exhibited by any member of his/her immediate family (son, daughter, mother, father, sister, brother or spouse).
6. A Judge may not judge any equine that he/she has owned, trained or managed in any capacity within the previous three months.
7. Any person involved with the management of the show cannot act as a judge of that show.
8. A Judge shall exhibit professionalism in attire and conduct.
9. All complaints regarding judges should be forwarded to the President or Vice President for review and possible action by the E.M.H.A Board.
10. It is the responsibility of the show committee to make the judge aware of all judging criteria.
11. A Judge shall not consume alcoholic beverages during a show he/she is judging.
12. A Judge shall know all E.M.H.A rules and shall have a copy of the rule book in his/her possession.
13. The Judge must position him/herself properly to fairly evaluate each event.
14. The Judge must remain in the arena for the duration of each Pleasure class, Speed & Action and Keyhole. A Judge may opt to oversee Pole Bending, Barrel Bending, Cloverleaf/Sweepstakes and Down & Back from the safety of the Green Barn.
15. All Judges must hold a valid judge's card.

## Ring Steward Criteria

1. The ring steward is responsible for the activity in the ring. He/she should act as a mediator between the judge and the exhibitor.
2. It is necessary that only competent ring stewards be utilized, one who can keep the classes progressing and knows the E.M.H.A rulebook.
3. The ring steward must keep in mind that he/she has been selected to assist the judge and not to advise the judge.
4. The ring steward shall carefully refrain from discussing or appearing to discuss the equines or exhibitors with the judge.
5. The ring steward must wear appropriate English or Western attire.
6. The judge must know the E.M.H.A rulebook and must possess thorough knowledge of equines. It is the responsibility of the ring steward to see that the judge follows E.M.H.A rules.



## Association Rules

1. There shall be a minimum of three (3) board meetings held by the board.
2. The E.M.H.A Contesting and Pleasure delegates will be elected by the E.M.H.A general membership at the Awards Banquet.
3. The executive board consists of all elected positions and will be elected rather than appointed.
4. All officers of E.M.H.A must be paid members of E.M.H.A. If a Non-Member would like to run for a position, they may, however they shall sign up and pay the required dues of membership BEFORE running.
5. All rule book suggestions/rule changes must be submitted before the final horse show. Changes/suggestions will be compiled and printed. If possible, they will be posted on the E.M.H.A Facebook Page and e-mailed to current members. Changes will be voted on at the Awards Banquet/Annual Meeting and will become effective immediately. A suggestion/rule change box will be at all the E.M.H.A shows.
6. The E.M.H.A show season will not begin before the first day of May and will end Labor Day weekend.
7. All Pleasure shows begin at 8:00 am. Gymkhana Classes will not begin before 10:00 am.
8. All E.M.H.A approved shows must be held in a permanent ring.
9. Each show will provide an appropriate new or used award or ribbons for 6 places in all pleasure classes. Contesting class participants will be awarded a ribbon for 6 places and paybacks for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> for age groups 14-19 and 20 and over. Used awards must be in new condition and with the proper classes and/or dates on the plates. E.M.H.A's name must be on all awards, including trophies and ribbons.
10. Speakers must be a minimum of 12 feet high or 12 feet back from the arena
11. Active E.M.H.A members and non-members currently showing may not judge an E.M.H.A show.
12. Only paid members will collect E.M.H.A points. The membership fee is \$35.00 per individual and \$55.00 per family. Point accumulation begins upon time and date of payment of membership fee and is not retroactive.
13. Membership fees and entry fees for approved shows paid with a worthless check will result in suspension from E.M.H.A until restitution is made, including a \$25 NSF fee.
14. Family membership will include all unmarried immediate family members under the age of 22, living in the same household. Individuals 18 years and older will be required to provide proof of residency with a driver's license or state issued ID.
15. Memberships for members 15 years old & under must be accompanied by a **copy** of their birth certificate.
16. Age of rider will be determined as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current show year.
17. Points will be awarded in all classes as follows:
  - a. Classes with less than 6 participants will receive points per placing, based on the number of riders in the class. Example: 1 rider – 1st is 1 point, 2 riders – 1st place is 2 points, 2nd place is 1 point, 3 riders – 1st place is 3 points, 2nd place is 2 points and 3rd place is 1 point, etc. until you have reached 6 participants. Honorable Mentions will be awarded a half point (.5) when given by the judge.(2023)
  - b. Once the class has 6 or more participants, the placings will be as follows:
 

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place...6 Points</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Place...3 Points</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place...5 Points</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Place...2 Points</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place...4 Points</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Place...1 Point</b>
18. Points will be awarded on the same equine and rider combination. In the event of a death or lameness of their equine, a member in good standing may continue accumulating points with a new equine. However, a certified veterinary certificate is required. There shall be 1 (one) switch over only. Once you have shown the required certificate and switched equines you may NOT switch equines again. No other substitutions will be allowed and proof of the member's equine's death must be presented to the board.



## Association Rules

19. Points will be awarded on qualified first-time rides only. If all riders disqualify, the event will not be rerun.
20. A member must show in a class in at least 5 of the 8 shows to qualify for year-end awards.
21. No show will be held on July 4<sup>th</sup> or the Sunday closest to July 4<sup>th</sup>. When the 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a Wednesday, only one Sunday, either the one before or the one after, can be used for show date. Show committees can choose Labor Day weekend or Memorial Day Weekend for an E.M.H.A show, but both holidays cannot have a show date scheduled in the same show season.
22. All officials of E.M.H.A must attend 50% of the shows each season. E.M.H.A pleasure and contesting delegates should attend a minimum of 75% of the shows.
23. Ties for year-end awards will be resolved using the following procedure: Ties will be broken in order by the number of shows attended, then by the most first places, second places, thirds, etc., until the tie is broken. If a tie remains through sixth place, both members will be awarded the higher placing, with the next lower placing remaining vacant. Ties will not be broken for 1-13 age divisions.
24. An E.M.H.A show may be cancelled once it has begun if deemed unsafe for all. If inclement weather should occur during a show that would endanger lives, the show may be delayed for an approximate period of no more than one hour. In the event of lightning and/or thunder, the show will be stopped immediately. After approximately one hour, another decision will be made as to when the show will continue or if the show will be cancelled. There will be no refunds. If a cancellation occurs the last show of the season will count as double points for any Member whom signed up at the cancelled show. The unfinished classes will count as double points for any member that was signed up at the cancelled show at the last show of the season. Gymkhana contestants whom signed up will get a re-run at the last show if the first ride is a DQ.
25. A ten-minute (10) tack change will take place before the first English Riding classes. No more than a thirty (30) minute lunch break will follow English classes, before Western Classes.
26. For year-end awards, there will be 16 "overall" awards. Divisions will be for Leadline, Walk Only, Pleasure 13 & Under, 14-19, 20 & Over, Walk Trot 10 & Under and Walk Trot 11-17 and Walk Trot 18 & Over, Halter English, Halter Western, Showmanship and Ranch Riding. Contesting age divisions will be 7 and under, 8-13, 14-19, 20 & Over. The minimum award will be a trophy with additional being awarded if money is available as determined by the awards committee. The "Overall" awards shall consist of the highest accumulative totals for the age groups in Western, English and Gymkhana for the year, one equine and rider combination. The two Overall winners, for Pleasure and Gymkhana shall be awarded a proper trophy celebrating their win.
27. If a rider would like to be eligible for the show's daily high point award, they must sign up. There will be a fee to sign up. You must be signed up on the high point sign-up sheet before you can accumulate points towards that day's high point. This does not affect year end awards.
28. If an indoor arena is available, a.m. classes may be held indoors at the show committee's discretion. Classes will be split at the judge's discretion. An indoor arena may be used for riding classes if it is raining. Classes may be split.
29. Two day holiday shows may be held either Saturday/Sunday or Sunday/Monday at the show committee's discretion.
30. When paying with an open check, once the class number(s) are listed on the check, there will be no refunds for scratches. The class(es) must be paid for.
31. In the event an E.M.H.A show is cancelled by the executive board for animal health issues, or any other reason deemed necessary by the executive board, every effort will be made to notify the members. This may include signs posted at the show location. No points will be awarded for this show.
32. All checks issued by E.M.H.A to the members and judges must be cashed within 60 days or the check is void.



## Association Rules

33. At the Awards Committee's discretion, awards and/or an E.M.H.A gift card will be offered as a year-end award.
34. E.M.H.A has the right to sell 50/50 raffle tickets at any E.M.H.A sanctioned show.
35. Year end point tabulation – if more than 10 shows (# of judges) are booked, 85% of approved shows/judge will count towards yearend awards. The point secretary will use any NS or lower point classes to eliminate. The membership show(s) cannot be dropped. If 10 or less shows are booked (# of judges) then all shows will be counted for yearend standings.
36. There shall be an office fee collected at each show upon registering for classes. Office fee is per equine/rider. Any persons registering more than 1 equine, will pay office fee per equine. Office fee shall be \$5.00 when registering online and \$10.00 when registering in person.
37. All regular classes are \$8.00 for members, all regular classes are \$9.00 for non-members. Sweepstakes classes are \$12.00. Sweepstakes receive 50% payback to the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner only. Points will not count in any sweepstakes class. Speed pay back pays 1<sup>st</sup> place \$8.00 and 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$6.00 for age groups 14-19 and 20 & over. 7 & under and 8-13 DO NOT receive paybacks, but they will receive a ribbon. Ribbons for all classes 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> place shall be awarded.
38. Qualifying EWD rider class eligibility will be reviewed and voted on by the board members, on an individual basis.



## General Rules for All Disciplines/Riders/Equines

1. The judge's decision will be final, provided all E.M.H.A rules have been followed.
2. All questions asked of the judge by an exhibitor must be in the presence of the ring steward or other show official.
3. If an equine falls and the rider must remount, the equine and rider will be disqualified from the class.
4. Equines must be serviceably sound, sound of wind and can be completely blind. Blemishes that cause lameness are not allowed.
5. A lame equine may not place in any judged event and will not be allowed to run in contest events.
6. At no time may spurs be used forward of the cinch. Excessive spurring and/or drawing blood on equine is not permissible. Spurring is only allowed while the rider's feet are in the stirrups. Any of the above will result in disqualification of equine and rider.
7. Exhibitors under 18 years of age will not be permitted to show stallions.
8. Announcers are not to appear to be prejudging classes by careless remarks that might be construed as influencing the judge.
9. Disqualification from a class results in forfeiture of entry fee.
10. Points may be earned on more than one equine in any event.
11. Entry fees for all regular classes will be \$8.00 for members, and \$9.00 for non-members. Sweepstakes will be \$12.00.
12. The show committee may excuse any person from the show grounds for inhumane treatment of an equine. Entry fees will be forfeited.
13. Any person making himself/herself a nuisance by constant complaints or harassment of officials or judges may be denied entry to a class(es) by the show committee.
14. Any person using foul language, appearing to be under the influence of alcohol, narcotics or other drug to the degree that he/she endangers him/herself or another person or property, or by boisterous and offensive conduct will be banned from further classes in that show. A second offense will result in termination of that individuals E.M.H.A membership.
15. Sweepstake classes offer 50% payback to the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner only. No other ribbons or trophies are awarded for the class.
16. The judge and show committee may excuse from the arena, any equine whose actions are deemed unsafe to either the contestant or others. The judge and show committee may refuse entry to a contestant whose equine is considered dangerous to the welfare of anyone.





## General Pleasure Rules

1. One judge must judge all pleasure events. When two judges are contracted for one show, 2 sets of placings and points will be given. Entry fees will be doubled for these shows.
2. Judging will begin when entering the ring unless otherwise specified by the judge.
3. In all pleasure classes, all exhibitors will show their equines in both directions of the arena at a walk, trot, canter/breed equivalent gait. All equines must back before being dismissed from the ring. The entire ring must be used for all pleasure classes, except for lead-line and walk only. There shall be NO patterns for Equitation and Horsemanship classes, due to time. However, there may be a run off pattern for top 6 riders in all Equitation and Horsemanship classes.
4. When asking for a false lead, the judge must allow equines to start at least 15 feet from the rail
5. If an equine leaves the ring without permission from the ring steward after a class is declared complete, he/she will be disqualified from the class.
6. Equines 5 years and under ridden in snaffle bits and bosals, with the use of two hands on the reins by the rider, will be given equal consideration by the judge with bitted equines.
7. At an E.M.H.A approved show, an equine entered in judged events may be entered in the same type of class, by a different rider at the same show.-Example: all children and one parent of a family arrive at the show with one equine. They may ride that equine in any class they wish, 1-13 horsemanship, Rider Jane Doe, age 8 years; 14-19 Horsemanship, Rider Kathy Doe, age 14 years; 20+ Horsemanship, rider Mrs. Doe.
8. An equine may be shown in both English and Western halter. Points may be earned in both classes. Points will be counted towards Year End Awards per equine/rider combination.
9. Western attire, including hat and boots (no riding in tennis shoes) will be required for all judge events. Tie or brooch will be optional.
10. Formal English attire is required in all English classes as defined as under "English Halter".
11. Chaps, and spurs for pleasure, horsemanship-classes will be optional to the rider.
12. All equines 6 years and older must be bitted. Equines 5 years and under have the option of riding with a snaffle bit or bosal in any western class (including horsemanship). When a rider elects to use a bosal or snaffle bit, two hands on the reins are required.
13. Tie downs and martingale are prohibited in pleasure and horsemanship classes.
14. A flat chain chinstrap may be used in pleasure and horsemanship classes. It shall be checked periodically to ensure that it remains flat.
15. All straps, chains and bosals must be loose enough to insert 3 fingers between the equines jaw and the equipment.
16. Showmanship classes will be run from the gate. Patterns are posted for all of the classes. Exhibitors (one at a time) enter the ring, complete the pattern and then exit the ring. There is no line up. An equine may not be shared within the same class by different exhibitors.
17. English Equitation and English Pleasure will follow English Halter to avoid tack changes.
18. Walk-Trot Class will be for any equine or rider unable to Canter.
19. Helmets must be worn at all times by any Walk Trot/Pee Wee Rider 18 & under. Helmets must be worn during warm up times by all exhibitors 18 & under. 18 & Under W/T/C exhibitors will be allowed to remove helmets 5 minutes prior to entering a Pleasure class, except a Walk Trot/Pee Wee Rider 18 & Under.
20. Sweepstakes will require a minimum of four (4) entries for each class; if there are not four (4) entries the class will be cancelled and refunds will be issued. The pleasure sweepstakes classes are now patterns.



## Halter

### **Western Halter – Mares Open - Western Halter – Geldings & Stallions Open**

In all western halter classes, western attire will be required, excluding tie or brooch. Western tack is required, with no bats allowed. Equine's age are determined as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

### **English Halter – Mares Open - English Halter – Geldings & Stallions Open**

The exhibitor in English halter must wear a jacket or suit style coat, dress pants, or riding breeches, or jodhpurs, hunt seat or paddock boots, and a derby or soft hat or protective head gear. Men are to wear a tie and ladies are to wear a choker or tie. This class is not a breed class. It is a traditional conformation class. Equines must be exhibited in proper tack. An English halter or bridle must be used. Chains are prohibited through the mouth. Whips are optional.

## Color Breed Halter

Color Horse = Pintos, Paints, Palominos, Appaloosas, Buckskins, Duns, Grullas, Cremellos

To be judged on the ideal color representation of the animal. Conformation is not considered. Exhibitors should be clothed in attire suitable for the chosen discipline they have outfitted their equine.

**Pintos:** Ideal markings are defined as 50-50 distribution of white and color overall. It is not necessary for the markings to duplicate themselves on each side of the Pinto. **Paints:** **Overo:** White should not cross over the back between the withers and the tail. May be predominately white or dark. Head markings are distinctive. Tail should be one color. Markings are generally irregular. **Tobiano:** Usually more white than color. Generally all contrasting markings are regular and distinct, appearing as oval or round patterns. Generally has contrasting color covering one or both flanks. May have spots of varying size at the base of tail. Usually has dark pigmentation around the ears, which may expand to cover the forehead and/or eyes. **Palominos:** Ideal body coat color is that of a US Gold Coin. Skin must be dark colored, except on face as continuation of white facial markings. Mane and tail must be a minimum of 75% white. **Appaloosas:** Preference will be given to those exemplifying the distinct attributes of the Appaloosa. Those include coat pattern, mottled skin, striped hooves and white sclera. **Buckskins:** Ideal coloring is that of tanned deer hide with black points. Shades may vary from yellow to dark gold. Points can be dark brown or black (Mane, Tail, Legs) **Dun:** Duller in shade than Buckskins, duns should have dark points, including dorsal and shoulder stripes, leg barring in dark brown, black or red (red dun) **Grullas:** Body color can be dove, slate, blue or mouse with sepia to black points (including dun factor points). **Cremello:** Cream coats with pink skin and blue or glass eyes. Manes and tails should be white, lower legs may be slightly darker shade compared to body.

## Lunge Line

Open to equines 2 years of age and younger. The exhibitor will enter the arena and await the signal from the judge. When the signal is given, the exhibitor will be allowed 90 seconds to present their animal. The animals are judged 80% on movement and 20% on manners. The judge, at his/her discretion may penalize the animal for excessive bucking, running off or displaying attitudes uncomplimentary to pleasure equines such as ear pinning or tail wringing. The equine should walk a minimum of two horse lengths, jog/trot a minimum of ¼ circle and lope/canter a minimum of ¼ circle on the correct lead, in both directions. The exhibitor may begin the work in the direction of their choice.

**Equipment:** Animals are to be shown in a halter. The lunge line attached to the halter may not exceed 30 feet, must not contain chain, and must hang free from the halter without touching any part of the equine. It is permissible to use a lunge whip



## Fitting & Showing

**Fitting & Showing** – In judging fitting and showing classes, judges should emphasize the exhibitor's ability to handle and show the equine and to recognize breed customs.

### **Tack**

- Neat, clean and well-fitted tack is required.
- Tack should complement, not detract from the equine.
- Equines shown in Western fitting and showing classes are to be shown in a halter. Both leather and nylon show halters are permissible.
- Equines shown in English fitting and showing classes may be shown in either a halter or a bridle. Show halters must have a throat latch. Equines shown in double rein bridle should have the snaffle rein laid over the withers and be handled with the curb rein. If the exhibitor wishes, the snaffle rein, bit and cheek pieces may be removed from the full bridle and the horse handled only with the curb rein.
- The use of a chain end lead shank with the chain under the equine's jaw or over the equine's nose is permitted for safety reasons.

### **Showing the Equine**

- When the class is called the exhibitor must be ready to enter the ring in a brisk, alert manner.
- Exhibitors should adhere to any instructions from the ring steward or judge.
- Showmanship must be practiced from the time the exhibitor enters the ring until they exit the ring.
- Exhibitors and equines should demonstrate the ability to work calmly and quietly in the class.
- The exhibitor should lead from the left side of the equine, holding the lead shank in the right hand about 8 to 12 inches from the halter. Smaller exhibitors may need a longer hold. Emphasis should be placed on light control of the equine with minimal pressure on the lead shank to allow the equine to hold its head naturally. A loose, flopping lead strap is objectionable.
- The equine should move readily and freely at a walk or trot (or second gait for gaited equines) with very little urging by the exhibitor. Those breeds which do not trot at halter, should be shown according to breed standards. The exhibitor should stay in position by the near side of the equine's neck, preferably halfway between the equine's head and shoulder. A well-trained equine will move rapidly at a gait and speed to equal the speed at which the exhibitor is moving.
- The equine should set up quickly and squarely on all four feet (or according to breed standards).
- The exhibitor can pass between the judge and the equine as the judge moves around the animal, but the exhibitor should avoid blocking the judge's view longer than the moment required to step between the equine and the judge. The exhibitor should step quickly and quietly.
- The equine should be trained to pose using the lead strap. Touching the equine into position is prohibited. The equine should move backward and forward freely, executing a full step or just a slight shifting of weight.
- Patterns should be executed as posted.
- Showmanship classes will be run from the gate. Patterns are posted for all of the classes. Exhibitors (one at a time) enter the ring, complete the pattern and then exit the ring. There is no line up.



## English Equitation/Sweepstakes

### English Equitation/Sweepstake –

**Points: Performance: 40%    Seat & Hands: 40%    Appointments: 10%    Suitability: 10%**

Riders will be judged on hands, seat, equine handling skill and ability, appointments of the equine and rider and suitability or equine and rider. Open to all stallions, mares and geldings suitable for English riding. However, children 17 and under will **not** be permitted to ride stallions. Equine must be serviceably sound and in good condition.

Equine is to be shown outfitted in appropriate English tack. Martingale or similar tie-towns are prohibited. Saddle seat attire consists of a derby or soft hat, tie or choker, shirt, riding breeches or jodhpurs, Jodhpur boots, and jacket. Spurs, gloves and whip are optional.

Light contact with the equine's mouth is required. The judge must, if asking for a false lead, allow the equine to start at least 15 feet from the rail. Any or all riders may be required to execute any appropriate individual test. The order to reverse may be executed either towards or away from the rail.

In all horsemanship and equitation classes, all exhibitors will show their equine in both directions of the arena at a walk, trot and canter or breed equivalent gait unless a pattern is posted by the judge. All equines must back before being dismissed from the ring.

All sweepstakes classes are now patterns

## English Pleasure/ JR & SR Classes

### English Pleasure-

**Points: Performance: 70%    Conformation: 20%    Appointments: 10%**

The equine will be judged on performance and apparent ability to give a good pleasure ride with emphasis on manner and gait. Open to all stallions, geldings and mares suitable for English riding. However children 17 and under will **not** be permitted to ride stallions. Equines must be serviceably sound and in good condition. Equine's trot should be square, collected and balanced. The canter smooth and straight on both leads.

Equines are to be shown in English tack. Saddle shall be of English type with leather or web girth. Bridle shall be English bit (Pelham or snaffle), single curb, and full bridle. Double or single reins may be used with a flat conventional chain only. No martingales or tie-downs are permitted. English attire must be worn. The use of spurs and a whip are optional.

All riders are to show their equines both ways of the arena at a walk, trot, or canter or breed equivalent gait, and back their equines before the judge may dismiss any equine from the arena. The judge must, if asking for a false lead, allow the equine to start 15 feet from the rail. The judge may ask for added performance suitable to a pleasure equine. The order to reverse may be executed either towards or away from the rail.



## Western Horsemanship/Sweepstakes

### Western Horsemanship/Sweepstakes–

**Points: Performance: 40%    Seat & Hands: 40%    Appointments: 10%    Suitability: 10%**

Riders will be judged on hands, seat, equine handling skill and ability, appointments of the equine and rider, suitability of equine and rider. Western attire, including hat, shirt and boots will be required. Tie or brooch is optional. The use of spurs is optional. The saddle must be western. Tie downs, martingales and tight nose bands are prohibited.

Classes are open to all equines, mares, geldings and stallions. Children 17 and under are **not** permitted to ride stallions. Equines 6 years and older must be bitted, only one hand may be used on the reins. Junior equines (5 years and under) may be ridden with snaffle bit or bosal and riders of junior equines with a snaffle bit or bosal must use two hands on the reins.

Offering of money prizes is prohibited, since rule's governing international sports state a competitor accepting money prizes thereby becomes a professional. In horsemanship, the rider is a competitor and wins the award.

The judge must, if asking for false lead, allow the equine to start at least 15 feet from the rail. The rider should be able to perform any maneuver requested by the judge to better enable him/her to assess the rider's ability.

In all horsemanship/equitation classes all exhibitors will show their equine both directions of the arena at a walk, trot and canter or breed equivalent gait and back their equines before the judge may dismiss any equine from the arena.

All sweepstakes classes are now patterns

## Western Pleasure Jr & SR Classes

### Western Pleasure Pleasure–

**Points: Conformation: 15%    Appointments: 15%    Suitability: 10%    Performance: 60%**

It is to be remembered that a pleasure equine is alert and willing and gives an easy going pleasure ride. Classes are open to all equines, mares, geldings and stallions normally used for pleasure. Children 17 years and under are **not** permitted to ride stallions. Equines must be serviceably sound and in good condition. Equines should be shown with a reasonably loose rein, without undue restraint. Equines will be shown at a walk, jog and lope both ways of the arena to demonstrate their ability with different leads, and back their equines easily and stand quietly before the judge may dismiss any exhibitors from the arena. The judge must, if asking for a false lead, allow the equine to start at least 15 feet from the rail. The judge may ask for added performance suitable to a pleasure equine.

All Equines must be bitted. The term curb bit means to a bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit. One hand will be used on the reins, and the hand is not to be changed. The hand is to be around the reins, index finger only between split reins is permitted. The free hand shall be used to support the rider by being placed on any part of the saddle or equine. An exception is made for junior equines. They can be shown with an acceptable bosal/snaffle bit. Western attire, including hat, shirt and boots will be required. Tie or brooch is optional. Chaps, rope, spurs, and other suitable stock equipment are optional. Tie downs, martingales and nose bands are prohibited.

When an equine is shown with a hackamore/bosal or snaffle bit, the rider must have both hands on both reins. Split reins must be crossed and bridged. Rider's hand should be carried near the pommel and not further than 4" (10.16 cm) out on either side of the saddle with very limited movement.



## Ranch Classes

### **Ranch Halter**

The exhibitor in Ranch Halter should be dressed in working, western attire. Equines may be shown in a simple leather halter or good rope halter. Judging shall be based on conformational structural correctness, balance and functional ability of the equine to perform ranch related work.

### **Ranch Riding & Ranch Disciplined Rail**

The purpose of the Ranch Riding horse should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded, and horses shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements, and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.

Only one hand may be used on the reins, except for junior horses shown with an acceptable snaffle bit or hackamore/bosal. Hands must not be changed. Hands to be around reins. One finger between reins permitted when using split reins only. While horse is in motion, hands shall be clear of the horse and saddle except that it is permissible to hold the saddle horn with either hand. Posting at the extended trot is acceptable.

Basic working, western attire is required for riders. Chaps/Chinks are optional. This class measures a equine's ability to be a pleasure to ride while being used to perform ranch tasks. The equine should execute maneuvers at a forward, ground-covering pace with light rein contact. No tail extensions, braided/banded manes or hoof black is permitted. Breast collars and rear cinches are encouraged.

## Lead-Line

### **Lead-Line – NOT to ride in any other class**

#### **Points: Performance of rider 100%**

Riders will be judged on hands, seat, horse handling skill and ability. Western or English attire will be required. For western attire, tie or brooch is optional. Chaps are optional. Contestants will walk their equines. They will reverse directions, line up and back their equines before being dismissed from the arena. Rider's feet must be in the stirrups upon entering the arena. Rider may not enter the arena until complying with this rule. Buddy stirrups are acceptable.

#### **Lead-line handler must be 14 years or older**

## Walk-Trot/Pee Wee

### **NOT to ride in any other Pleasure/Horsemanship Class**

Western Horsemanship and English Equitation rules will apply with the following exceptions: All riders are to show their equines both ways of the arena at a walk, line up and back their equines before the judge may dismiss any exhibitor from the arena.

**Pee Wee Walk** – Rules will apply from Equitation/Horsemanship judging criteria. Performed at a Walk Only. A Pee Wee Walk Rider may **NOT** enter any other riding class.



## General Contesting Rules

1. All contesting classes will be awarded a ribbon for 1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> place and paybacks for 1<sup>st</sup> place shall be \$8.00 and 2<sup>nd</sup> place shall be \$6.00 for 14-19 and 20 & over. 7 & under and 8-13 shall not receive paybacks, but shall receive a trophy or ribbon instead of a payback.
2. A judge must be present for all contesting classes.
3. One judge must judge all contesting events. When two judges are contracted, 2 sets of placings and points will be given. Entry fees will be doubled for these shows. When a show is double judged, a rider will make his/her first run. If that run is clean, the time will count for both judges. If the rider has a DQ on his/her first run, they will be allowed to run at the end of that age group for a time for the second judge.
4. Once the judge signals a good ride the rider has the option of dismounting in the ring.
5. All paybacks are awarded to the equine.
6. An equine may be entered in each class once at each show.
7. Exhibition rides/runs will be same entry fee as the class, but without a placing or time given. Rules for that class must be followed.
8. The breaking of riders own tack or equipment shall not entitle a contestant to a rerun.
9. Bats and Over-and-under must be of a manufactured type. Bats and Over-and-Under must be used behind the cinch in a proper manner.
10. The use of a curb chain is permitted. The contestant has his/her choice of equipment providing it is humane and in agreement with the rules governing each contest. Tie downs of chain or bare metal device over the eyes, nose or poll are prohibited.
11. For contesting events, proper attire will be western clothing including boots (no riding in tennis shoes) excluding hat and tie. A button down or snap down shirt or sleeveless with a collar is required. Anyone wishing to purchase an E.M.H.A shirt may have option to wear the shirt during Gymkhana classes. Proper English attire will be allowed in Gymkhana.
12. The barrels used in Cloverleaf and Down & Back will be 55 gallon plastic drums.
13. More than one contesting class may be set up at a time if enough space is available in the ring. A rider will not be disqualified if their current pattern, interferes with secondary pattern set up in the ring.
14. The order of contesting classes will be Pole Bending, Barrel Bending, Cloverleaf, Indiana Flags, Down & Back, Speed & Action, and Keyhole.
15. The starting line for all contesting events must be at least twenty-five feet from the fence. The distance of barrels from the fence may be altered due to ring conditions.
16. Timing begins at the starting line and ends at return to starting line
17. After being signaled to start by the judge, the contestant has one minute to pass the starting line. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. It is the responsibility of the contestant to be ready to enter the arena when his/her name or number is called.
18. Contestants may **not** run their equines in or out of the arena gates.
19. The contestant may have one person only to help the equine/rider to/through the gate. Rider may also choose to mount the equine inside the arena (60 seconds time limit). Any unruly equine will be asked to not enter the class and will be disqualified.
20. In contesting events, two hands may be used on the reins at any time.
21. Contestants may touch the barrels in Cloverleaf and Down & Back.
22. A contestant causing his/her equine to bleed in any way, will be disqualified.
23. If any barrel or keg is moved by a contestant more than ½ it's width, in any event, the contestant is disqualified
24. If a contestant tips over a barrel or keg used as part of the course or as markers, he/she will be disqualified. However, a contestant will not disqualify if he/she tips over a barrel or keg before his/her time starts. Everyone will be able to finish the pattern as long as they are not walking the pattern to finish.
25. A tie for first place must be resolved by a run-off. If a tie remains after the run-off, it will be resolved by a flip of a coin or other means agreeable to both parties. Ties for other placings will be resolved by means agreeable to both parties.
26. A rider running two equines may wear both back numbers at the same time, as long as both are visible.
27. All riders in the 7 & under, 8-13 and 14-18 classes must wear a helmet at **ALL TIMES**.



## General Contesting Rules

28. Age groups for gymkhana shall be 7 & under, 8-13, 14-19, and 20 & Over. If any equine/rider combo, in any age group has shown or will show in pleasure classes as Walk Trot, that rider may **ONLY** walk or trot in contesting class. No cantering is allowed.
29. The arena must be kept in good running condition. Show hosts shall rake or drag arena after no more than 10 runs. For example: if the class is Cloverleaf, around the barrels must be raked or drug after each 10<sup>th</sup> equine runs. The entire arena does not need to be drug. Only specific areas of footing that may be unsafe for the next run.
30. Once the rider and equine cross the timer that becomes the official time.
31. Your cloverleaf time can be rolled over as your Cloverleaf Sweepstakes time. In an event that a rider DQ's in the regular cloverleaf class, it will count as a double DQ (**NO** additional run)
32. Riders in the 7 & under classes can have a spotter in the ring for the duration of their pattern. This spotter **CANNOT** touch the equine, the rider or any piece of the equine's tack once they have entered the entry gate. If, at any time, the spotter comes in contact with the equine, rider or equine's tack, the rider will be disqualified.
33. All riders must enter the ring with their feet in their stirrups.
34. Rubber banding (or Rodeo Bands) on the rider's feet, or the use of any device designed to hold the rider in the saddle is strictly prohibited.





## Year End Awards –Pleasure

All year end awards are Equine/Rider Combo

### Halter -Western

### Halter- English

### Showmanship – all age groups combined

#### Age Group Year End Awards:

- Lead Line: Classes 4 and 14
- Pee-Wee: Classes 4 and 15
- W/T 10 & Under: Classes 5, 17, 24, 33 and 40
- W/T 11-17: Classes 6, 18, 25, 34 and 41
- W/T 18 & Over: Classes 7, 19, 26, 35, and 42
- 13 & Under: Classes 9, 20, 27, 36 and 43
- 14-19: Classes 10, 21, 28, 37 and 44
- 20& Over: Classes 11, 22, 29, 38 and 45

#### Overall English Horse:

Includes all English Halter classes, all English EQ classes, and all English Pleasure classes including JR/SR Equine (Sweepstakes excluded)

#### Overall Western Equine:

Includes all Western Halter classes, all Horsemanship classes, and all Western Pleasure classes including JR/SR Equine. (Sweepstakes excluded)

#### Overall Pleasure Award:

Includes all Sunday Classes with the exception of sweepstakes and color halter.

## Year End Awards – Gymkhana

All year end awards are Equine/Rider Combo

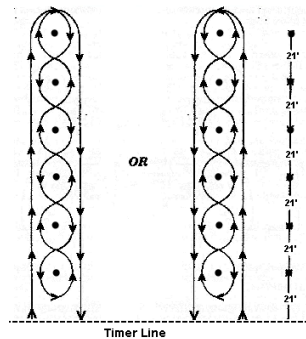
### Age Groups: 7 & under, 8-13, 14-19, and 20 & over

Pole Bending, Barrel Bending, Cloverleaf, Indiana Flags, Down & Back, Speed & Action and Keyhole

#### Overall Gymkhana:

Includes all Gymkhana classes and age groups with the exception of sweepstakes classes.

## Pole Bending



The Pole Bending pattern is run around six poles. The poles are placed in a straight line, 21 feet apart, going away from the starting line. The first pole is to be 21 feet from the starting line. Poles are 6 feet high and set on top of the ground with bases 10 to 14 inches in diameter.

Rider has the option of starting on the left or the right side.

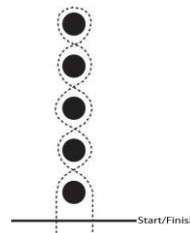
The equine and rider will cross the starting line, move in an approximately straight line to pole 6 (the furthest pole), make a 180-degree turn around pole 6, pass between pole 6 and pole 5, bend through the poles to pole 1, circular pole 1, bend through the poles to pole 6, make a 180-degree turn around pole 6 and cross the starting line but moving along the poles on the opposite side that the rider first approached pole 6.

Riders may touch the poles

Cause for disqualification include:

- Knocking down poles
- Broken Pattern – including lack of forward motion

## Barrel Bending



The Barrel Bending pattern is run around six kegs. The kegs are placed in a straight line, running perpendicular to the starting line and 24 feet apart from center to center. The first keg is set 25 feet from the starting line. The kegs will be plastic 5-gallon containers with approximately 15 pounds of sand in each one.

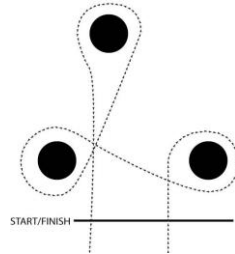
Rider has the option of starting on the left or the right side.

The equine and rider will cross the starting line, start at keg one and bend in and out of all the kegs, down and back. The judge will stand in line with markers at the end of the row of kegs.

Cause for disqualification include:

- Skipping a keg or knocking over a keg
- Jumping a keg with either one or both front or both hind legs
- Broken Pattern- including lack of forward motion

## Cloverleaf



Barrels should be the size of a 55-gallon plastic drum. The size of the pattern should be 105 feet between barrels one and two, 120 feet between barrels two and three, 120 feet between barrels one and three, and 75 feet from the timer to the first barrel.

Rider has the options of starting with the left or right barrel.

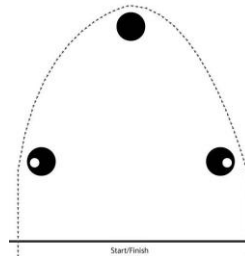
The equine and rider must cross the starting line, circle barrel one clockwise, circle barrel two counterclockwise, circle barrel three counterclockwise, and run between barrels one and two to cross the timing line.

Rider may touch the barrels.

Cause for disqualification include:

- Knocking over a barrel
- Broken Pattern- including lack of forward motion

## Indiana Flags



Three 55 gallon drums should be placed 15 feet from all fences and walls. The distance between barrels one to two to three is 100 feet. If possible, the distance across the base of the triangle should be 75 feet. The bucket should be no more than half filled with sand (approximately 11" of sand) and placed on the barrels as a depository for the flag. The length of the flag sticks should be 12 to 16 inches above the edge of the bucket. Wooden doweling  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter or other round suitable material should be used for the flag. The bucket should be 18 inches high.

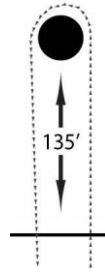
Rider has the option to start to the left or the right.

The equine and rider will pick up the flag at barrel one or three, ride behind barrel two and place the flag in the bucket at barrel three or one.

Cause for disqualification include:

- Failing to pick up the flag on the first pass
- Failing to place the flag in the bucket on the first pass
- Hitting any part of the equines body with the flag or stick
- Dropping the flag
- Knocking over a barrel or knocking the bucket off or over on the barrel
- Broken Pattern – including lack of forward motion
- Dropping the flag into the bucket with the flag end down

## Down & Back



One 55 gallon drum will be set at least 20 feet in from the back fence, depending on ring condition.

The equine and rider will cross the starting line, run to the far end of the arena, turn around the 55 gallon drum and return to the starting line.

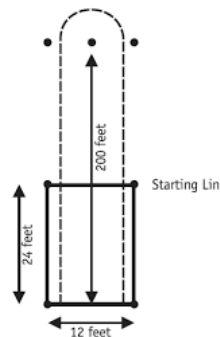
Rider may touch the 55 gallon drum

Rider may turn left or right around the barrel.

Cause for disqualification include:

- Knocking over a barrel
- Broken Pattern – including lack of forward motion
- 

## Speed & Action



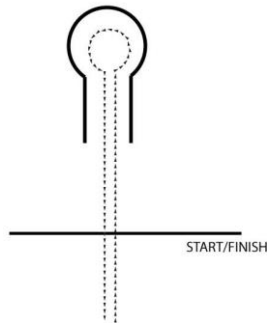
Seven kegs or markers are needed. Using four of the kegs, form a 12 foot by 24 foot box and mark the lines between the kegs on the 24 foot side. One 12 foot side will be on the starting line. The three remaining kegs are placed at 7 foot intervals (from center to center) in a straight line parallel to and 75 feet from the starting line. These three kegs must be at least 25 feet away from any fence.

The equine and rider are to start and end the course completely within the box. Timing begins when the rider leaves the box and stops when the rider re-enters the box. The rider rides through the box to the kegs 75 feet away, circling the center one and returning to the box. The rider must stop forward motion in the square of four kegs.

Cause for disqualification include:

- Knocking over equipment
- Stepping over the line of the box at the end of the pattern
- Not coming to a complete stop
- Turning 90 degrees or more in the box while attempting to come a complete stop
- Broken Pattern – including lack of forward motion

## Keyhole



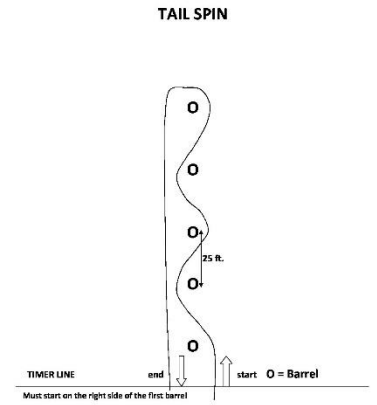
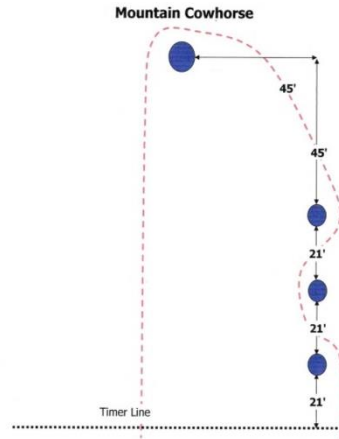
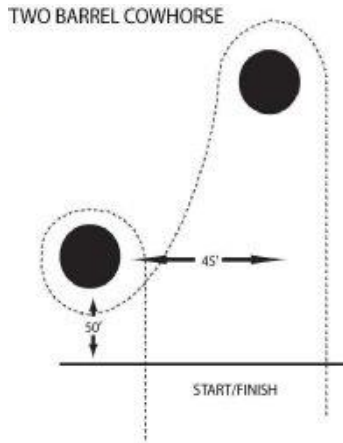
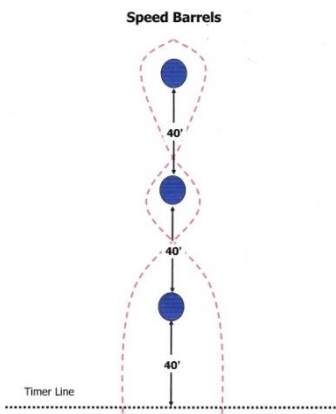
The course will be laid out with a limed keyhole on the ground with the opening of the keyhole facing the starting line. The center of the circle should be 100 feet from the timing line. The keyhole will be in the form of a broken circle, 22 feet in diameter with a throat five feet wide. The angled sides are five feet long.

The equine and rider will cross the timing line, enter the circle of the keyhole, turn around (in either direction) entirely within the circle of the keyhole, and re-cross the timing line.

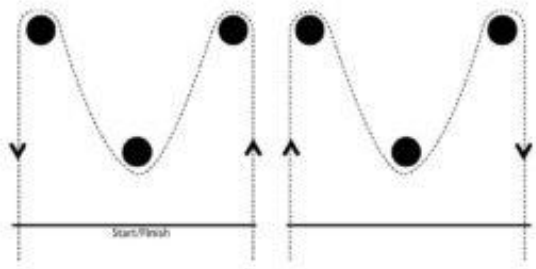
Cause for disqualification include:

- The Equine stepping over the chalk line at any point
- The Equine turning around in the throat of the keyhole, rather than the circle
- Broken Pattern – including lack of forward motion

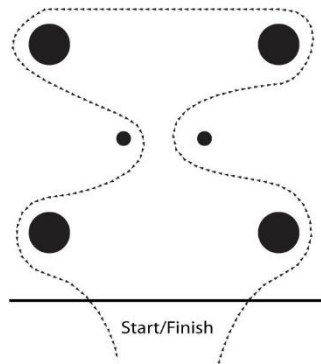
## Random Pattern Sweepstakes



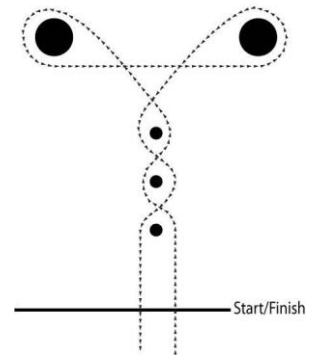
### BLEEDING HEART



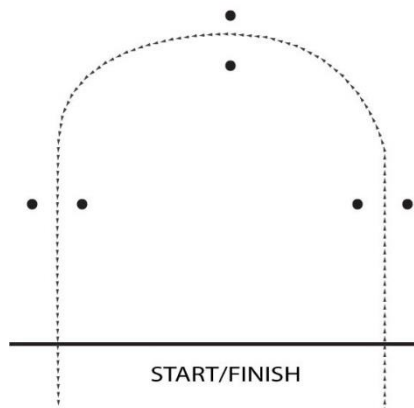
### HOUR GLASS



### BIG T



### STREAKING POLES



### Arena Run

