**ACADEMY DIVISION None USEF Rated**

The Academy division is designed to introduce new riders and potential owners to the joys of showing horses. Participants should be enrolled in a professional riding instruction program. While attempts are made to make Academy classes affordable by offering simpler awards, these classes should be judged with the same importance as any regularly judged show class.

**RULES FOR THE ACADEMY DIVISION GENERAL**

1. Horses are NOT judged. Horses in the Academy classes MUST be lesson horses used regularly in a professionally operated lesson program. These horses must display the characteristics of such.

2. All Academy classes are to be judged on the ability of the RIDER to control and show their horses to the best advantage.

3. Academy Equitation classes are judged on BASIC equitation skills with correct diagonals and leads.

4. Academy Showmanship classes should be judged on the rider’s horsemanship abilities. The horse is NOT supposed to be judged. It should be judged on the rider’s ability to control and show their horse. Promptness in finding the correct diagonals and canter leads are important as well as the rider’s command of the horse; for example: speed, placement in the ring and collection.

5. Headers are allowed in the 9 & 10 and 8 & Under Walk/Trot classes only after the judges’ cards have been turned in. No towels, whips or aids of any kind are allowed.

***6. All 10 & Under Walk/Trot classes will enter the arena at a walk only.***

***7. All classes will exit the arena before starting the next class.***

8. Disputes shall be submitted in writing to Show Management, whose decisions are final.

 **RIDERS:**

1. No full riding suits allowed (no hats, derbies, or jackets). Neat Jodhpurs with dress shirt and Jodhpur boots are required. Vest and tie are optional. Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear (ASTM/SEI) and/or a protective safety vest specifically designed for use in equestrian sport in any division or without penalty from the judge. Helmets required for exhibitors age 17 and under.

2. Riders must be participating in a professionally operated program and show on lesson horses.

3. A rider may own his/her horse as long as the horse is REGULARLY used in a lesson program.

4. A rider who has shown in a regular division or in a full suit is prohibited from further participation in the Academy division with the exception of Show Rider Practice.

5. Once a rider has shown in Walk/Trot/Canter classes, a return to Walk/Trot classes is prohibited. You cannot show in Walk/Trot/Canter and Walk/Trot at the same show. Riders showing in Walk only may not show in Walk/Trot.

6. Academy riders may not show in any other division at the same show with the exception of driving classes.

**HORSES:**

1. Horses must be flat/keg shod. Corrective shoeing will be allowed without excessive pads. Soundness is not to be considered.

2. Horses may be shown in snaffle bridles with martingales. Pelham and curb type bits (martingales discouraged) are allowed at the discretion of the instructor. Please use caution when bitting horses for beginners. Flat cutback English type saddles are to be used, unless the calls for alternative tack, such as Western or Hunt.

3. Academy horses may be cross-entered into show divisions at the same show. Show horses (horses not used in a professional lesson program and shown regularly in show performance or equitation classes) may not be crossentered into the Academy Division.