WPCSA Rule Changes for 2019 Show Year

Rule changes in numerical order

- **Clarify wording on Adult Helmet requirement**
  
  **Article 106 SAFETY EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS**
  
  Adult riders in all classes where jumping is required and when jumping anywhere on the show grounds must wear protective headgear meeting or exceeding ASTM/SEI standards for equestrian use, with the harness securely fastened at all times. (Exception: Trail classes.)

- **Improved wording for fall of pony/cob or rider**
  
  **Article 107 DISQUALIFICATIONS**
  
  7. In performance classes, the fall of pony/cob or rider disqualifies entry. After being eliminated for a fall, the rider may not remount in the ring.

- **Shows that span more than one competition year**
  
  **Article 109.1 Competition Year**
  
  For purposes of these rules, the competition year is defined as starting December 1st and ending November 30th. If a competition has dates in two competition years, the last day of the show will be the deciding factor as to which competition year the points will be tabulated for. See Article 117, Applying for Show Sanctioning.

**APPLYING FOR SHOW SANCTIONING**

**Article 117 GENERAL**

Shows are encouraged to apply in November before the new show year.

SHOW APPLICATIONS TO THE WPCSA OFFICE MUST BE POSTMARKED AT LEAST 90 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE SHOW DATE. In order to be accepted, the application must be complete and all fees paid. Incomplete applications will be assessed a triple fee.

No two Sanctioned shows will be allowed on the same date if they are within a 200 mile radius of each other. However, two sanctioned shows may be planned to run concurrently at one location if separate judges officiate and appropriate fees are paid for each show.

Application must list show date, place, PRELIMINARY class list, with awards and/or prize money distribution, names and addresses of show committee, commissioner, officials and judges. All this information to appear in the program. Application for show dates must be signed by an officer of the show stating, "In applying for the above dates, this show agrees to abide by the rules of the WPCSA." WPCSA sanctioned shows enjoy privileges including a position on the WPCSA Schedule of Show Dates; eligibility of Welsh classes for regional and national high score points as well as Legion of Merit and special trophy awards and the right to use "WPCSA Sanctioned Show" in show publicity and prize list.

If insurance certificates are not received within 30 days of the show, the sanctioning will be removed. The WPCSA needs to be named as an additionally insured. The minimum amount of $1,000,000 coverage is required.

If a competition has dates in two competition years, the last day of the show will be the deciding factor as to which competition year the points will be tabulated for. Further, shows that have this situation will be required to print on the cover of their prize lists that the points will count toward the next show season, and the manager will be expected to verify in writing at the time of sanctioning that they are aware of the situation.
• Clarification for tack in breeding divisions

Article 110.5 Tack Animals may be shown in leather halter, traditional white show halter or bridle and stallions may be shown in traditional stallion tack which includes roller, crupper and side reins. Whips must be no longer than 47.2” (120 cm) including the lash which must be conservative in color.

• New Walk-Trot Division for 12 – 17 year olds

Article 111.9 Point Classes
DIVISION CLASSES

...  
WPCSA Walk-Trot 11 & Under  
Article 115.5  WPCSA Walk-Trot Poles 11 & Under  
(No champion)  
WPCSA Walk-Trot 12 - 17  
Article 115.5  WPCSA Walk-Trot Poles 12 - 17  
(No champion)

Article 115.5 *WPCSA WALK-TROT*
There are two separate divisions for Walk-Trot: Riders 11 & Under and Riders 12 – 17. Divisions may not be combined. Classes open to riders 11 & under  
Riders to be mounted on ponies/cobs/Half-Welsh/Part Bred mares and geldings. English or Western attire is acceptable. Riders ineligible for other ridden classes except costume, leading rein or child’s first pony. No championships for this division. Year-end high score awards will be given for both age divisions.

Article 115.5.1 Walk-Trot Class Specifications

WPCSA WALK  
Judged on equitation and suitability of mount. To walk both ways of the ring.

WPCSA WALK-TROT  
Judged on equitation and suitability of mount. To walk and trot or jog both ways of the ring. Possible tests to include: walk, trot or jog, turn, halt and rein back at spots marked.

WPCSA WALK-TROT POLES  
This class is designed to be a beginning hunter class for the very young younger riders. Judged on equitation and suitability of mount. To be ridden once around a course of four poles on the ground entirely at a walk or entirely at a trot or jog. Poles are to be placed at a minimum of four feet off the rail, two on each side of the ring, simulating a hunter course. The poles should be placed far enough away from the entrance gate to provide an adequate sized area to do an opening and closing circle.
Revised Tests for English and Western Pleasure

Article 112.2 WORKING CLASS TESTS FOR ENGLISH AND WESTERN PLEASURE

Up to three of the following tests may be chosen for use in any of the "Working" Pleasure classes. Judges may use their discretion. Test(s) may be performed individually with management approval.

1. Halt on rail
2. Halt on rail and back 4 steps
3. Canter/lope on correct lead from trot/jog
4. Canter/lope on correct lead from halt
5. Perform figure eight (8) at the trot/jog. If riding English, the entrant will switch diagonals at the center of the figure.
6. Perform figure eight (8) at the canter/lope demonstrating a simple change of lead at the center of the 8. (This is a change whereby the animal is brought back into a walk or trot/jog and restarted into a canter/lope on the opposite lead.)
7. Free walk on a long rein
8. Extended walk (lengthening of stride)
9. Extended trot/jog (This is a clear, but not excessive lengthening of stride while remaining well balanced. Light contact to be maintained. Excessive speed will be penalized.)
10. Side passes are an optional test for Western pleasure.

Adult classes may be asked to counter canter/lope, hand gallop or do turns on the forehand or haunches at the discretion of the show committee and/or judge.

Judges are encouraged to vary the classes, such as changing the order of gaits, within a pleasure division with some examples listed below:

- Reverse the direction of the first way of going in the class. Enter the ring in the opposite direction (to the left, clockwise) or enter to the right, counter-clockwise, and reverse during the first walk.
- Alter the sequence of gaits called for. Examples include but are not limited to: walk, canter/lope, walk, trot/jog, walk or walk, canter/lope, trot/jog, walk.
- Reverse on the diagonal.

Revised English Pleasure Rules

Article 112.3 *WPCSA WELSH ENGLISH PLEASURE*

Article 112.3.1 General Regulation snaffles, pelhams, or full bridles all with plain cavesson nosebands are required. Flash nosebands, drop nosebands and martingales are not permitted. A judge may penalize for non-conventional types of bits or nosebands. Acceptable styles of English riding include dressage, saddle seat, hunt seat and side saddle. Attire to correspond to type of saddle used. If a crop, bat or whip is carried it should be appropriate to both the discipline and the size of the animal. Whips must be no longer than 47.2” (120 cm) including the sash.

Ponies and cobs should be presented according to the discipline exhibited. Animals to wear unset, ungingered tail. Hunter braiding optional. To be shown with a natural foot and unweighted shoes. Pads may be used but additional weight of any kind is prohibited.

Animals must exhibit manners, obedience, and suitability as a pleasure mount. Transitions from one gait to another should be smooth, reasonably prompt, and effortless. Entries should not exhibit extreme motion, speed, laziness or resistance of any type. Animals must stand quietly and back readily.

Movement should be appropriate to the breed standard. See articles 101.1, 101.2 and 101.3.
Article 112.3.2 English Pleasure Gaits
Gaits should be appropriate to the style of discipline exhibited.
Walk: True four beat, flat-footed, ground covering, even and determined.
Trot: A two-beat gait that is square, straight, open and reaching. Trot should be balanced, showing suspension and elasticity.
Canter: Smooth, balanced and straight on both leads. Three beat gait with a period of suspension after each stride. Good motion, consistent, steady.

Article 112.3.3 Judging English Pleasure
The animal must give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride and display a pleasurable attitude. To this end, all gaits must be performed with willingness and obvious ease, balance, rhythm and smoothness. The faults include but are not limited to:

**Bad Performance**
Bad performance includes wrong leads, changing leads unnecessarily, break of gait, resistance, rough or abrupt transitions, gaits inconsistent, too slow and lethargic or too fast, not performing with smoothness and confidence, heavy on the rider’s hands, lack of response to the rider’s aids, hesitant or not straight when backing, refusing to back, incomplete equipment or attire.

**Bad Manners/Attitude**
Bad manners includes wringing tail, sour or pinned ears, rigid, open or gapping mouth, tossing head, balki ng, bolting, rearing, kicking, bucking, cutting to the center of arena and not responding to the rider. Bad attitude includes swishing tail, agitation, avoiding contact with the bit, chewing, tongue lolling and rigid mouth.

**Elimination**
Lameness, fall of pony or rider, bleeding mouth, no helmet, prohibited equipment or any bad manners/performance that is deemed a risk to the animal, rider or others in the ring.

When judging Conformation Pleasure classes, judges are encouraged to line entries up head to tail to judge conformation. Judges may also ask exhibitors to individually back their animals.

Animals are to be pleasurable and obedient with smooth transitions. Extreme speed or laziness is to be penalized. Penalties may also be assessed for the following:
- resistance shown by not responding to a required gait and not backing in the lineup
- excessive chewing, tongue lolling, sour ears, wringing tail, rearing, balki ng
- breaking gait or changing leads unnecessarily
- incomplete equipment or attire

Article 112.3.24 English Pleasure Class Specifications
WPCS A CONFORMATION ENGLISH PLEASURE
To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring on light contact. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged 75% on performance, manners, movement and style; 25% on breed type and conformation. Up to three tests may be asked for. (See Article 112.2)

WPCS A WORKING ENGLISH PLEASURE
To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring on light contact. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged 100% on performance. Up to three tests may be asked for. (See Article 112.2)

WPCS A CONFORMATION ENGLISH PLEASURE STAKE
To be shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring on light contact. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged 75% on performance, manners, movement and style; 25% on breed type and conformation. Up to three tests may be asked for. (See Article 112.2)
• Do away with age restriction on snaffle bits and hackamores in Western Pleasure
  *** This is for a one year trial for the 2019 show year, please give feedback ***

Article 112.4.4 Bits/Bridles
Entries may use any standard Western bit. A standard Western bit is defined as having a Shank with a maximum length overall of 8-1/2 inches. The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar 3/8” to 3/4” varying from the straight bar to a full spade. Jointed mouthpieces are permitted.
Entries may use a standard snaffle bit only if animals are five years old and under. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center jointed single, rounded, unwrapped smooth mouthpiece of 3/8” to 3/4” in diameter metal as measured from ring to 1” in from the ring with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The rings may be from 2” to 4” outside diameter of either the loose type, eggbutt, dee or center mounted without cheeks. If a curb strap or chain is used, it must be attached below the reins. Also, it must lie flat, be at least ½” in width and have no other wire, rawhide, or other substance used with it. Hackamores are permitted in any class on animals five years old and under. A hackamore consists of a bosal round in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible non-metallic core. Attached reins may be of hair, rope or leather. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with a hackamore i.e., steel, metal or chains. (Exception: smooth plastic electrical tape is acceptable.)
A leather chin strap or curb chain is mandatory on any bit with a Shank. They must lie flat and be at least ½” in width. Rolled leather chin straps or twisted curb chains are strictly prohibited. No wire, rawhide, metal or other substance may be used in conjunction with or as part of the leather chin strap or curb chain. Rounded, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited. When hackamores or snaffle bits are used, rider is to use both hands. Both hands must be visible to the judge.

Article 112.4.6 Prohibited Bits/Equipment:
Roping bits with both reins connected to a single rein at center of cross bar
Snaffle bits on any pony aged six or older
Hackamores on any pony aged six or older
Slip bits
Gag bits
Rigid donut mouthpiece bits
Flat polo mouthpiece bits
Hackamore bits
Bosals on any pony aged six or older
Cavesson type nosebands (Exception: Permitted in leadline (Article 115.4) and Leading Rein (Article 115.1))
Martingales
Tie downs
Bandages or boots of any type
Whips or crops of any kind

• Allow Western cavesson type nosebands in Leadline and Leading Rein

Article 112.4.6 Prohibited Bits/Equipment:
...Cavesson type nosebands (Exception: Permitted in leadline (Article 115.4) and Leading Rein (Article 115.1)) ...

• Clarifications to Western Pleasure

Article 112.4.7 Western Pleasure Class Specifications
WPCSA CONFORMATION WESTERN PLEASURE
To be shown at a walk, jog and lope both ways of the ring without martingale on a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on performance, with emphasis
on manners 65%; breed type, conformation and movement 25%; appointments 10%. Up to three tests may be asked for. (See Article 112.2)

WPCSA WESTERN PLEASURE WORKING
To be shown at a walk, jog and lope both ways of the ring without martingale on a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged 100% on performance. Up to three tests may be asked for in the working class. (See Article 112.2.)

WPCSA CONFORMATION WESTERN PLEASURE STAKE
To be shown at a walk, jog and lope both ways of the ring without martingale on a reasonably loose rein without undue restraint. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on performance, with emphasis on manners 65%; breed type, conformation and movement 25%; appointments 10%. Up to three tests may be asked for. (See Article 112.2)

- Add wording about length of whips in hunter rules
  Article 112.5.4 Tack Regulation snaffles, pelhams and full bridles, all with cavesson nose bands are recommended. A judge must penalize for non-conventional types of bits or nosebands. Whips must be no longer than 30” (75 cm) including the lash.

- Modifications to faults over fences in Hunter rules
  Article 112.5.8 Faults in Over Fences
  1) The following faults are scored according to the judge’s opinion and depending on severity or division, may be considered minor or major faults.
   a. Rubbing the jump
   b. Swapping leads in a line or in front of a jump
   d. Late or incomplete lead changes
   e. Freshness
   f. Spooking
   g. Pinning ears or ringing tail
   h. Jumping out of form
   i. Jumping off the center line of jump
   j. Poor presentation of animal or rider
   k. Bucking and/or playing
   l. Adding a stride in a line with a related distance
   i. Eliminating a stride in a line with a related distance
   m. Striking off on a wrong lead on the courtesy circle (May be corrected with either a simple or flying change of lead)

  2) The following are considered major faults and must be penalized.
   a. Knockdown
   b. Refusals
   c. Refusal or stopping while on course
   d. Dangerous jumping
   e. Addressing a jump – coming to a stop in front of a jump in order to show the jump to the horse
   f. Completely missing a lead change
   g. Adding or eliminating a stride in an in and out
   h. Breaking stride or trotting while on course (Exceptions – Where posted on course diagram i.e. trot jumps, steep banks, etc and also as outlined above in Article 112.5.8.1

- Updates for suggested scoring procedure for judging hunters
  Article 112.5.10 Suggested Scoring Procedure
  A scoring card may have numbered boxes that allows the judge to mark how the animal performs over each fence. A system of symbols that describes an animal’s performance is helpful and each judge will probably develop his/her own. Some examples are:
After marking the description of a pony/cob’s performance at each fence, between fences, and other comments, the judge then may give the total round a numerical grade. Examples are:

- Nicely executed with Very good pace and jumping style, consistent throughout 80+
- Fairly good mover, uneven pace
- Sufficient to fairly good. A few minor mistakes 70-79
- Bad mover, not straight or in center of fence
- Fairly bad. Poor quality, missing lead changes, poor jumping 60-69
- Missing a lead change or switching lead
- Bad performance, bolting, dangerous jump, extreme speed 50-59
- Trotting on course 55
- Rail down 45
- Knockdowns 40-49
- First refusal or extra circle on course 40
- Second refusal or extra circle on course 30
- Refusals 30-39

- Clarifications for Hunter, Short Stirrup, Long Stirrup & Low Hunter

**Article 112.5.13 Welsh Hunter Class Specifications** Shows must offer both over fences classes prior to the under saddle class. Over fences classes must precede the under-saddle class.

**Article 112.6 *WPCSA SHORT STIRRUP HUNTER***

**Article 112.6.1 General** Division is open to riders 12 years and under. Classes are open to all ponies/cobs/Half-Welsh/Part Bred mares and geldings. Riders in this division (including the under-saddle class) may not compete over fences in any other divisions except short stirrup equitation at that show. Courses to be set at 18” with a minimum of 4 fences with 8 jumping efforts required. To be judged 100% on performance. May trot or canter the course. Not required to jog for over-fences classes. Over-fences classes must precede the under-saddle class. In order to show in the under saddle class, animal must have shown in and completed an over fences class.

**Article 112.6.2 Short Stirrup Hunter Class Specifications**

- WPCSA SHORT STIRRUP HUNTER OVER FENCES
- WPCSA SHORT STIRRUP HUNTER STAKE OVER FENCES

Over fences, animals may either trot or canter the course. Not required to jog for over-fences classes.

**WPCSA SHORT STIRRUP UNDER SADDLE**

Animals are shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring.

**Article 112.7 *WPCSA LONG STIRRUP HUNTER***

**Article 112.7.1 For riders age 13 – Adults.** Classes are open to all ponies/cobs/Half-Welsh/Part Bred. If entries warrant, classes may be split into riders age 13 – 17 and adults. RIDERS in this division, including the under-saddle class, may not compete over fences in any other division at that show where the fences exceed 18” with the exception of Low Hunter. There are no restrictions for animals exhibiting in these classes. Courses to be set at 18” with a minimum of 4 fences and 8 jumping efforts required. Over-fence classes to precede the under-saddle class. To be judged 100% on performance. May trot or canter the course. Not required to jog for over-fences classes. In order to show in the under saddle class, animal must have shown in and completed an over fences class.
Article 112.7.2 Long Stirrup Hunter Class Specifications
WPCSA LONG STIRRUP HUNTER OVER FENCES
WPCSA LONG STIRRUP HUNTER STAKE OVER FENCES.
WPCSA LONG STIRRUP HUNTER UNDER SADDLE
Animals are shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring.

Article 112.8 * WPCSA LOW HUNTER*

Classes are open to all ponies/cobs/Half-Welsh/Part Bred. This division is open to juniors and adults. ANIMALS in this division, including the under-saddle class, may not compete over fences in any other division at that show where the fences exceed 18”. There are no restrictions for riders exhibiting in these classes unless they are restricted by other class rules. Long Stirrup riders are eligible if jumping 18” but Short Stirrup riders are not eligible to compete. Courses to have a minimum of 4 fences with 8 jumping efforts. Show management may offer the division either as 18” only or a choice of 18” or 2’. If a choice of 18” or 2’ is given, the jumps must be verticals (no cross rails). No animal may jump both 18” and 2” in this class at the same show. Fence heights are not determined by the height of the animal. Over-fence classes to precede the under-saddle class. To be judged 100% on performance. May trot or canter the course. Not required to jog for over-fences classes. In order to show in the under saddle class, animal must have shown in and completed an over fences class.

Article 112.8.1 Low Hunter class Specifications
WPCSA LOW HUNTER OVER FENCES
WPCSA LOW HUNTER STAKE OVER FENCES
WPCSA LOW HUNTER UNDER SADDLE
Animals are shown at a walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring.

• Fix typo in Pleasure Driving
  Article 113.1.3 Martingales and Check Rein
  Martingales are permitted only if appropriate for a vehicle being used (i.e. standing martingales are only appropriate for a Stanhope Gig or George IV. Phaeton). Side checks are optional in all pleasure driving classes. Overcheck not allowed, except in Fine Harness, Roadster and Formal Driving. Tying down of tongue is prohibited

• Clarify equipment for roadster classes
  Article 113.4.2 Equipment
  Entries may be penalized without proper equipment. A running martingale is mandatory. Roadster harness consists of the following: a square blinkered bridle with snaffle bit, over check rein with separate check bit, cavesson and running martingale. The saddle (backpad) is complete with girth and wrap straps; back strap with buckled or sewn on crupper (latter may be plain or padded). The breast collar may have flat or round traces, and reins of tan leather may be round up to the hand pieces. Flat reins are acceptable. Additional harness parts are: Thimbles - used when no tug stops are on the shafts. Hand-holds are permitted on the reins. Quarter boots, hinged boots or bell boots may be worn. Roadsters shall be shown to a bike.

• Specify direction to enter ring for Child’s First Pony (to match Leading Rein)
  Article 115.2 *WPCSA CHILD’S FIRST PONY* (Performance)
  Section A, B, C, Half-Welsh/Part Bred, mare or gelding, 12.2 hands and under, to be ridden by junior exhibitors at least four, but not more than ten, years of age. To be shown on light contact. Ponies to enter the ring on the right rein (clockwise) and to be shown at a walk and trot (or jog), in both directions. Riders to be suitably dressed in Hunt, Saddle or Western attire including protective headgear. Ponies to be judged on performance, manners and suitability. Conformation, way of going, manners, suitability and
turnout to be emphasized. This is not an equitation class. There are no restrictions on competing in other divisions or classes for the pony or rider. If entries warrant, the class can be divided by ponies 12.0 hands & under and over 12.0 hands to 12.2 hands.

- **Require GPS-friendly address in prize list, and don’t require map**

  **Article 118.2 Compilation and Distribution of Prize List**  
  Via any accountable mail service, or as an email attachment, a draft of the prize list must be received in the WPCSA office at least 60 days prior to the show. Failure to do so will result in a $50 fine, without exception. **PRIZE LISTS MUST BE APPROVED PRIOR TO PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION AND PUBLICATION BY EMAIL OR ON A WEB SITE.** A $50 fine will be levied if show management produces and distributes show prize lists prior to approval/correction. You should receive notice of all changes within five days. If corrections are required, you must return the prize list with corrections within five days. Failing to return the corrected prize list within five days will result in a $50 fine. The approved completed prize list MUST be mailed, emailed or made available on-line to arrive at least two weeks in advance of the CLOSE OF ENTRIES to the judge(s) and the WPCSA office (two copies if mailed). It must contain the following: a) name of show; b) dates of show; c) motels, feed stores, places to eat, d) officials (judges, rules commission, steward or TD) “TBA” not acceptable, e) WPCSA Provisionally Sanctioned Standard, f) WPCSA membership form, g) classes and CLASS SPECS, h) schedule, i) fees, j) refund policy, k) stabling, l) prize monies, m) post entry requirements, n) any rules that are specific to the show – include the WPCSA rules for helmets and hitching ponies o) services available on show grounds, i.e., veterinarian, food, medical and farrier p) **Map GPS-friendly address** and directions to show grounds and q) hold harmless clause on the entry blank along with blanks for WPCSA customer id numbers and children’s birthdates.