

# **“What you Need to Know to Show”**

This is a guide and a guide only prepared by the PFHA Amateur Owner Committee for the Paso Fino Horse Association (PFHA). It is a quick reference to help in the showing of your Paso Fino.

The PFHA rule book and all relevant and applicable sections of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) rule book shall be the governing guides and should be referenced in any unclear text of this guide.

This guide has been designed to emphasize, educate and provide additional information and suggestions to increase the participation, effectiveness, and knowledge of an Amateur Owner showing in Paso Fino classes.

## **Table of Contents**

- 1.) A Judge's Responsibility
- 2.) Specialty Classes
- 3.) General Conflicts of Interest/Rules Governing Showing under Judges
- 4.) Responsibilities of a Steward and Exhibitor's Responsibilities
- 5.) Amateur Owner Qualifications
- 6.) Example of a Horse Show Packing List
- 7.) Checking In at the Show
- 8.) Tack and Tack Stall
- 9.) Grooming
- 10.) Attire
- 11.) Ring Etiquette
- 12.) Summary of Points
- 13.) How Can Your Paso Fino Earn You \$\$
- 14.) Glossary
- 15.) Notes

# **1. A Judge's Responsibility**

A judge's responsibility regardless of divisions being judged is to exhibit the highest standard of integrity and avoid decisions arrived at by influence, bias or ignorance. The judge should observe the fine points of the horses being exhibited and select the best horse for the purpose described by the class requirements. The judge should serve three (3) interests: his/her own conscience, exhibitors and the spectators. It is the primary responsibility of a Judge to contribute to the preservation of the breed standard and to discourage any tampering with the naturalness of the breed. Percentages in each class requirement, the judge is directed to weight his or her overall decision based upon established percentages. For example in the pleasure class, the rule book stipulates the following for the judges to follow. "The class shall be judged 25% on Paso Corto, 25% on Paso Largo, 10% on flat walk, and 40% on manners, conformation, attitude and way of going." In other words, our rule book tells the judges to look for manners, conformation, attitude and way of going as the heaviest determining factors in judging the class. Throughout this booklet, we will give current rule book percentages for your reference. What is gait? Gait, is what sets our breed apart from other gaited horses. Our gait is distinguished by a four beat, lateral gait. The gait should be rhythmically consistent and smooth. The gait may vary with horses, but any execution that reduces smoothness and consistency is penalized. A horse is to be excused for failure to perform the gait as prescribed in a class. Any tendency to mix gaits, the loss of even cadence or lack of smoothness, as evidenced by an up and down or side to side movement of the horse's croup or of the rider, is also penalized. Horses that exhibit behaviors as fighting the bit, flatten their ears or swish their tails are also penalized. The gait should also be performed with light contact on the reins. Horses requiring undue restraint or "holding" in gait or collection shall be penalized. The amount of collection will vary from class to class but in no gait should the horse go "strung-out" behind, squat down in the rear, jut out his nose, lug, or work behind the headgear. Exaggerated leg action (excessive fold, over-reaching, unnaturally high front leg action, etc.) is not desirable. The horse should track straight; some winging or paddling is acceptable. The gaits of the Paso Fino should give the appearance of naturalness and ease combined with a degree of pride and elegance that is characteristic of the breed.

**Pleasure Division Ideal pleasure horse:** Within the pleasure division the rider and his equine partner will be asked to execute the Flat Walk, Paso Corto, and Paso Largo. Collection is mild and the horse should have a relaxed manner of movement in this class. The horse should be a "pleasure" to ride, with minimal restraint and the horse should appear to be enjoying himself. Gait transition should be made in a smooth, relaxed and willing manner and the horse's attitude should be calm and pleasant. Bad manners are to be heavily penalized. A horse that fights the bit, flattens its ears or swishes its tail shall also be penalized. Class procedure and qualifying gaits: The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. Exhibitors should space themselves while executing the flat walk so as to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail. During execution of the Paso Corto and the Paso Largo, exhibitors should maintain a position on the rail except to pass. The sequence of gaits are as follows: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, to demonstrate the marked difference in speed between these two gaits, flat walk, reverse and repeat in the opposite direction. Paso Corto: is 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. Movement should be fluid, willing, relaxed, balanced and free moving. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed. Paso Largo: is also 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 is penalized. Flat-Walk: is an evenly-spaced four-beat, flat-footed, smooth gait executed with mild collection. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed. Each exhibitor shall be asked to demonstrate the back from the line-up. When backing the horse shall maintain proper head position, show evidence of good

mouth, back in a straight line and be readily responsive. Refusal to back disqualifies the horse from placement.

The class shall be judged:

25% on Paso Corto

25% on Paso Largo

10% on flat walk

40% on manners, conformation, attitude and way of going.

At the judge's discretion, riders may be asked to perform individually. Additional performance requests can include: dismounting and remounting, execution of a serpentine at the Paso Corto gait; perform the Paso Corto gait over the sounding board; back on the board; back on the rail. Appointments for the Equine Athlete: The tack and headgear for the horse may be of any variety that would be appropriate and practical for pleasure riding, including a side saddle and leather covered stirrups. A bit is not required. A headriser made of plain leather or otherwise being capable of being shaped or bent by hand pressure is permitted. Metal is not permitted in, under, over or attached to the cavesson nosepiece or headriser, except for necessary buckles. Rider Attire: Attire should be in keeping with the type of tack used. If Western-style tack is used, the rider should wear a Western type shirt, full length trousers, and Western boots together with chaps, shotgun chaps or chinks. A jacket or vest is optional. Note also that chaps or chinks are optional in the pleasure class. If English-style or Plantation-type tack, the rider's attire shall consist of a long sleeved shirt, full-length trousers, tailed jacket or vest, hat and riding boots. Riders that use English tack cannot wear chaps. Sweater vests are not allowed. A tie is optional. Women riders may wear skirts, culottes or gaucho pans that are long enough to cover the knees while seated in a saddle along with knee high boots. What is not allowed: sequins, glitter or other similar reflective adornment, jeans, baseball-style hats and no part of the official Paso Fino costume, except riding boots.

**Performance Division Ideal Performance Horse:** Within the Performance Division the rider and his equine partner will be asked to execute the Collected Walk, Collected Paso Corto, and Collected Paso Largo. The horse should combine style and spirit along with obedience and good manners. The horse should move out willingly, and stand quietly when requested. The judges will be looking for animation, brilliance, form, smoothness and rhythmic consistency of the four-beat cadence or gait performed with moderate collection. Class procedure and qualifying gaits: The exhibitors will enter the ring to right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. Exhibitors should space themselves while executing the collected walk so as to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail. During execution of the collected Paso Corto and the collected Paso Largo, exhibitors should maintain a position on the rail except to pass. The sequence of gaits are as follows: collected Paso Corto, collected Paso Largo, to demonstrate the marked difference in speed between these two gaits, collected walk, reverse and repeat in the opposite direction. Collected Paso Corto: is an evenly spaced four-beat lateral gait with moderate forward speed and extension. The gait is smooth, supple, cadenced, animated and brilliant, with the horse well-collected, fully balanced, and exhibiting symmetry in flexion and extension. The horse should demonstrate pride, style, elegance and enthusiasm, along with good manners and ready response. Collected Paso Largo: is evenly-spaced four-beat lateral gait. This gait is smooth, balanced, collected, bold and animated, with rapid forward motion. Extension and flexion must be harmonious with no tendency to become "light" on the front or "strung out" behind. The horse should appear eager and willing to move out, and a definite change of speed from the Paso Corto to the Paso Largo must be observed. A willingness to reduce speed on command must also be demonstrated. Transitions between gaits should be performed evenly and smoothly. An even, four-beat cadence must be maintained, together with style, presence, boldness, and brilliance. Loss of form, cadence, or smoothness due to excessive speed shall be penalized. Collected Flat-Walk: is an evenly-spaced four-beat, cadenced, straight, brisk, animated and rhythmic. This gait is to be executed with collection, style and brilliance. The class shall be judged as follows:

30% on collected Paso Corto

30% on collected Paso Largo

- 10% on the collected walk
- 20% on appearance, conformation and way of going
- 10% on manners.

Special attention shall be afforded to brilliance, form, smoothness, and rhythmic consistency of the gaits.. Class participants will be asked to perform the Paso Corto gait over the sounding board. At the judge's discretion, riders may be asked to perform individually. Additional performance requests can include: serpentine at a collected Paso Corto and/or a figure eight at a collected Paso Corto for a work-off of horses in close competition. Appointments for the Equine Athlete: Tack shall be English type. The attire shall be the official Paso Fino show costume.

**Classic Fino Division Ideal Fino Horse:** Within the Classic Fino Division the rider and his equine partner will be asked to execute only the fully collected Classic Fino gait whenever moving. The gait is smooth, animated, exciting and executed with brilliance and style. The horse must be fully collected and balanced, putting its complete dynamic energy into its carriage and the quickness of its foot fall. Extension is minimal and the horse's forward speed is extremely slow but the footfall is exceedingly rapid. Class procedure and qualifying gaits: The exhibitors will enter the ring to right on the rail at the Classic Fino and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until instructed to reverse or halt. Horses must work both directions, reverse, halt and proceed in gait. Breaking gait on reverses, stops or starts shall be penalized. A figure eight may be requested to demonstrate flexibility, responsiveness, and steadiness of gait. The horse may be asked to proceed down the sounding board to clearly exhibit the rhythmic consistency of the horse's cadence and impact. The performance of the horse on the sounding board shall not be given preference over the horse's work on the rail. Backing on the sounding board may be requested. Classic Fino: is an evenly spaced four-beat lateral gait with moderate forward speed and extension. The gait is smooth, supple, animated and executed with brilliance and style. Extension is minimal and the horse's forward speed is extremely slow but the footfall is exceedingly rapid. The class shall be judged as follows:

- 75% on execution and naturalness of the Classic Fino gait
- 15% on appearance, conformation and way of going
- 10% on manners.

Appointments for the Equine Athlete: Tack shall be English type. The attire shall be the official Paso Fino show costume.

**Bellas Formas Division (Conformation)** Classes within this Division may be separated into one of the following categories:

1. Open Bellas Formas (all ages and all sexes).
2. Yearlings Bellas Formas (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Colts, Geldings and Fillies), and/or Bellas Formas Two-Years Old (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Colts, Geldings, and Fillies), and/or Bellas Formas Three-Years Old (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Colts, Geldings and Fillies) and/or Bellas Formas Four-Years Old and Older (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Mares, Geldings and Stallions).
3. Bellas Formas Four-Years Old and Older (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Mares, Geldings and Stallions) and/or Bellas Formas Three-Years Old and Under (may be open or, if divided, must be divided into Colts, Geldings and Fillies) or further divided as described above.

In a show where Bellas Formas classes are offered by age groups, e.g., three-year old colts, a younger horse must be shown in the class corresponding to its age group and cannot be shown in a mares, geldings or stallions class.

This class shall be judged as follows:

60% on conformation

30% on quality and naturalness of gait

10% on appearance, grooming, and manners.

**Gait:** The choice of gait is optional, either Classic Fino or Paso Corto, with neither given preference over the other. **Appointments:** The horse should be shown in a leather show halter without a bit, nameplate or inscription thereon. The halter may be English or Colombian type leather, flat, rolled or braided (3/8", 1/2" or 5/8") with matching stitched or plain nose piece with optional brow band not to exceed 1" in width. A matching lead line or long lines is required. A riding crop or whip not exceeding 30" in length may be carried. No other devices may be used. Attendants will be attired in the official Paso Fino show costume. **Conformation:** **Head:** The head should be refined and in good proportion to the body of the horse, neither extremely small nor large with the preferred profile being straight. Eyes are large and well-spaced, very expressive and alert, and should not show excessive white around the edges. Ears are comparatively short, set close and curved inward at the tips. The lips should be firm and the nostrils large and dilatable. Jaws are defined but not extreme. The impression should be of a well shaped, alert, and intelligent face. **Neck:** The neck is gracefully arched, medium in length and set on at an angle to allow high carriage, breaking at the poll. The throat latch should be refined and well defined. **Forehand:** Shoulders are sloping into the withers with great depth through the heart. Chest is moderate in width. **Withers** are defined but not pronounced and slope smoothly into the back. **Midsection:** The midsection is moderate in length with a well-sprung rib cage. The top line should be proportionately shorter than the underline. The back should be strong and muscled. The midsection should join the forehand and the hindquarters so as to give the horse a pleasing, proportioned appearance. **Hindquarters:** The croup is slightly sloping with rounded hips, broad loins, and strong hocks. The tail is carried gracefully when the horse is in motion. **Legs:** The legs are straight with refined bones and strong, well defined tendons and broad, long forearms with shorter cannons. The thigh and gaskin are strong and muscled but not exaggerated. Standing slightly under in the rear is acceptable. Pasterns are sloping and medium in length. Bones are straight, sound, and flat, and joints are strong and well defined. Hooves are well rounded, proportionate in size and do not show excessive heel. **Mane, Tail and Forelock:** Mane, tail and forelock are as long, full, and luxurious as nature can provide. No artificial additions or alterations are allowed. A bridle path not exceeding 4" is acceptable. **Size:** Paso Fino horses are 13 to 15.2 hands with 13.3 to 14.2 being the most typical size with weight ranging from 700 to 1100 pounds. Full size may not be attained until the fifth year. **Color:** Every equine color can be found, with or without white markings. **Disposition:** the Paso Fino is an extremely willing horse that truly seems to enjoy human companionship and strives to please. It is spirited and responsive under tack while sensible and gentle at hand. **Procedure:** Entries of any age may be shown with a halter and single or double lead line. If two lines are used, they shall be long and shall be one on either side of the halter. If two lines are used, the horse may be handled by one attendant holding both lines or by two (2) attendants one holding each line. No attendants other than those actually holding the lines are allowed. Lines may end in a smooth link chain which may be crossed over the nose and/or under the jaw at a minimum width of 3/8". The horse must demonstrate the Classic Fino or Paso Corto gait whenever moving. In the lineup, the horse must stand square, not stretched, and remain quiet without undue restraint. Horses shall enter the ring one at a time in the order that show management designates. The horses shall proceed to the right and circle the arena in a counterclockwise direction on the rail. Quality of gait, smoothness, symmetry of action, harmony of cadence, and naturalness, that

is, consistency, absence of undue restraint, will be judged during rail work. After completing one circle, or when instructed by the ringmaster, the horse will line up in the center of the ring for conformation inspection. The Judge shall penalize a horse if the handler uses his or her hands on the horse's leg, below the knee, to position the hoof in the line-up. Additional workoffs may be required at the judge's discretion including the use of the sounding board to exhibit the horse's cadence of gait. During work-offs, the horses must remain on the rail except to pass.

At the line-up in all classes, Judges will carefully inspect the horses for artificial devices, training scars, raw or bleeding sores, soundness, marked lameness and welts from whips or spurs. The choice of gait is optional, either Classic Fino or Paso Corto, and one form of the gait shall not be given preference over the other. Both conformation and gait shall be judged in this class. The Breed Standard, described in Constitution, ARTICLE II., Section 2., of the ideal Paso Fino shall be used as the standard for judging. Transmissible faults, such as buck-kneed, calf-kneed, base wide, base narrow, cow hocks, sickle hocks, toe-in, toe-out, offset knees, standing under, camped out in front, too straight behind, etc., shall be counted heavily against breeding stock. A horse with a swayback or fallen crest will be heavily penalized. A horse must be serviceably sound to be considered for placement. Any horse that fails to demonstrate the Paso Fino gait, so that the Judge can evaluate and ascribe gait percentages, shall be disqualified from placement. This class shall be judged as follows:

60% on conformation

30% on quality and naturalness of gait

10% on appearance, grooming and manners.

**Schooling Classes** - Horse must be 30 Months. Notwithstanding the fact that a horse may be considered a three-year old under the rule in the PFHA rule book, Section VIII., C., no horse may be ridden in a saddle class, whether a schooling class or regular class, until it is at least 30-months old, based on the actual date of foaling. Schooling classes may be offered in the Fino, Performance and Pleasure Divisions, including the Amateur Owner classes, as follows: there may be Open Schooling classes for horses three- or four-years old, and alternatively, there may be two schooling age sections within a division for horses that are three-years old and horses that are four-years old. The horse's age for purposes of determining the appropriate class shall be determined under the rule at Section VIII., C. Horse's Age. Once a horse has been shown in a regular Paso Pleasure, Paso Performance or Classic Fino class at a show that offers schooling-horse classes, it can never be shown again in a Schooling class in that division.

## **2. Paso Versatility, Paso Western Pleasure, Paso Trail, Paso Costume, Paso Fino Country Pleasure, Paso Pleasure Driving, and Amateur Adult Equitation**

These classes are open to all horses regardless of age or sex unless otherwise prohibited in these rules. The qualifying gaits for the **Paso Versatility** class are Flat Walk, Paso Corto, Paso Largo and Canter. The Flat Walk, Paso Corto and Paso Largo will be the same as in the Paso Pleasure classes. The Canter is a true three-beat gait, cadenced, straight on both leads, smooth and unhurried with no tendency to increase speed or to mix gaits. This gait is executed with collection. The horse's movements are light and airy with no more elevation than the lope. The horse should exhibit style and presence, along with good manners and steadiness. In this class, the horse will be asked to demonstrate balance, flexibility, coordination, and manners while performing the various gaits, tests and maneuvers. Manners and willingness are very important. The back must be controlled and smooth. Failure to properly execute the

Paso Corto and Paso Largo, demonstrating an evenly spaced, four-beat lateral gait, will automatically eliminate the horse and it will not be asked to do the individual work out to execute a figure eight maneuver at a Paso Corto and taking the jump from a canter. Failure to take the correct lead in the canter shall be penalized. The figure eight is to be performed at the Paso Corto and should be smooth, consistent in gait, and supple. A jump that is a minimum of eighteen (18) inches and a maximum of two (2) feet will be taken from the canter. The class shall be judged as follows:

20% on the Paso Corto

20% on the Paso Largo

10% on the Flat Walk

10% on the Canter

40% on the back, jump, manners and figure eight.

Exhibitors shall enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. The sequence of gaits shall be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, Flat Walk, Canter, Flat Walk, reverse and repeat. While executing the walk, riders shall space themselves to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail. In the remaining gaits, exhibitors shall remain on the rail except to pass. Riders shall be asked, individually, to back, execute a figure eight maneuver at a Paso Corto, and take a jump from the canter. Forward-seat saddles are allowed only when the class requires a jump.

For **Paso Western Pleasure** classes, the qualifying gaits are Flat Walk, Paso Corto and Lope. The Flat Walk, Paso Corto and Paso Largo will be the same as in the Paso Pleasure classes. The Lope, is a true, three-beat gait that is slow, cadenced, smooth and straight on both leads. Movements are less elevated than in the canter and the horse's head is carried somewhat lower. The horse should be balanced and going with mild collection. Movements are free, relaxed and easy, and the horse should not show a tendency to increase speed or mix gaits. In this class, the horse should move as in the image of a working cow horse while still retaining the air of pride and grace that is typical of the Paso Fino horse. In all gaits, the horse must be smooth and responsive and both horse and rider should appear comfortable and relaxed. The horse must work on a very light rein, but some contact should be maintained. Gait transitions should be taken on the first stride and the horse should maintain this speed and cadence without restraint by the rider. Failure to take the correct lead in the lope shall be penalized. This class shall be judged as follows:

35% on the Paso Corto

30% on the Lope

10% on the flat walk

25% on manners, attitude, and way of going.

The exhibitor will enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner.

Horses under the age of five years may use a snaffle or bosal and may be ridden with two hands. Horses five and over must use a curb bit. Only one hand may be used on the reins when using a curb bit and hands must not be changed. If hands are changed or if two hands are used with a curb bit, the exhibitor shall be penalized. If the

left hand is used with reins, the bight must drape to the left side of the withers. The only exception to this is if long reins or a romal are used. In that case, one hand may be used to carry the excess rein, but the hands must be at least twelve (12) inches apart. All horses being considered for an award are required to back in a straight line for placement. Refusal to back disqualifies the horse from placement.

The sequence of the gaits shall be Paso Corto, flat walk, lope, flat walk, reverse and repeat. Riders should space themselves while executing the flat walk to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail. In the Paso Corto and lope, entries shall remain on the rail except to pass. The Judge may require each rider to dismount and remount in the line-up from the left side. The rider's style of dismount and mount is not to be emphasized; rather, emphasis is placed on the horse's willingness to stand quietly. The Judge also may require any of the following tests to any or all entries:

- a. Demonstrate a straight back for up to 15-feet.
- b. Lope and stop, either on the rail or down the center.
- c. Perform the figure eight at the lope on the correct lead demonstrating a simple change of lead. One or two figure eights may be required. In a simple change of lead, the horse is brought back to the halt and restarted into the lope on the opposite lead from the halt or flat walk.
- d. Perform the Paso Corto over the sounding board.

The **Paso Trail** class qualifying gaits are Flat Walk, Paso Corto, Paso Largo and Canter or Lope. Each horse shall be asked to negotiate through obstacles. Obstacles are to be negotiated individually, by exhibitor, with only one horse in the arena at a time. This class shall be judged 100% on the obstacle course; there is no rail work. The course will specify how a horse is to negotiate or travel between obstacles that seem appropriate. This includes the distance from the beginning of an obstacle to the beginning of the next obstacle. Any horse not properly performing the gait required should be penalized in the same manner as not completing the obstacle. Failure to follow the prescribed obstacles, or course of travel through obstacles, will result in automatic elimination. A drawn course will be provided by Show Management, reviewed for compliance with required procedures and approved by the Judge(s) and Steward(s). The course will show the line of travel through obstacles and the gait required to perform obstacles. Changes or revisions will not be permitted after posting. The course will specify how a horse is to negotiate or travel between obstacles that seem appropriate. It is not required to use all of the qualifying gaits. Tests that may be required include negotiating a gate, carrying an object from one part of the arena to another, riding through water, over logs or simulated brush, riding down into, up and out of a ditch without lunging or jumping, crossing a bridge, backing through obstacles, side passing, mounting and dismounting from either side and performing over any reasonable conditions along the trail. Any coat or jacket to be put on by the rider must be open in front and not be an item which must be put on over the head. The canter or lope is not to be called for in the class procedure. However, if a jump is called for in the class, the rider has the option of cantering, loping or using any other gait that is listed as a qualifying gait to negotiate the jump. Unnatural obstacles, such as fire extinguisher, perforated plywood in water boxes or exotic animals should be avoided.

The course is to include a minimum of six obstacles and a maximum of eight obstacles. Horses are to be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching the obstacles. Judges are encouraged to advance on to the next obstacle any horse taking excessive time at an obstacle. Entry will be evaluated on willingness, responsiveness, correctness and general attitude while negotiating through the obstacle course. Obstacles occurring in a natural trail environment only are to be used to break a tie.

The purpose of the **Paso Costume** class is to create interest in the Paso Fino breed by establishing and demonstrating its Latin American or Spanish origin by means of the various costumes for the rider employed in the respective countries of origin, for the diversion and enjoyment of the public. In this class, horses will be required to demonstrate their favorite Paso Fino gait and stand in a line-up on display. They shall be judged 80% on attractiveness of costuming and appropriateness of same to the horses and the completeness of the costuming idea, 10% on the brilliance of gait and on the carriage of the horse and 10% on manners of the horse. Points in this class shall be assigned to the rider. Riders entering the Costume class must be members in good standing of the Association. Entries must submit a brief statement of approximately 100 words, or a maximum

of two minutes, on the cultural significance of their costume. This will be read as each entrant, one-by-one, enters the ring in his or her favorite Paso Fino gait. Every exhibitor must circle the ring once, in a counterclockwise manner, and line up head to tail in the center of the ring. An attendant/handler is allowed. Such attendant/handler must be appropriately attired and in keeping with the costume of the rider. The rider's attire will not be offensive or detract from the main purpose of the Class.

The **Paso Fino Country Pleasure** class' qualifying gaits are Flat Walk, Paso Corto and Paso Largo. The Paso Country Pleasure horse should be a calm, mild mannered and safe-using pleasure horse maintaining balance, ease and freedom of movement. It must demonstrate flawless manners. It must be absolutely agreeable to the commands and directions of the rider. It is imperative that the horse give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride with emphasis on the flat walk and smooth transitions. At all times, it must work on a very light rein without resistance and, although it should be athletic, it may be energetic and should combine style and spirit. At all times, it must demonstrate a quiet, calm and extremely tractable attitude. It must stand quietly and back readily when requested. Horses indicating aggressiveness, over-collection or excessive animation shall be severely penalized. This class is open to Amateurs and to horses that have not been in professional training for 30 days before the show. Cross entering in any other class is permitted. This class shall be judged as follows:

- 20% on the flat walk
- 20% on the Paso Corto
- 20% on the Paso Largo
- 10% on the back
- 10% on appearance and way of going
- 20% on manners.

Special attention shall be afforded to form, smoothness, rhythmic constancy of the gaits and tractable attitude. Exhibitors shall enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. Sequence of gaits will be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, flat walk, reverse, repeat and then line up. When the Judge requests, the rider will back the horse out of the line-up, dismount from the left side, walk around to the front of the horse checking the headgear and/or bridle appointments, remount from the right side and return to the line-up. A rider's style of dismount and mount is not to be emphasized; rather, emphasis is placed on the horse's willingness to back in a calm and controlled manner and to stand quietly. While executing all gaits, entries should space themselves from other exhibitors to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail except to pass. Bits are not required in the Paso Country Pleasure class. Exhibitors should remember that even though this is a Paso Country Pleasure class, it is a horse show class and not just a ride for pleasure.

The **Paso Pleasure Driving** classes are open to Paso Fino horses thirty-six-months old or older, as determined by the actual date of foaling. In this class, the horses should combine style and spirit along with obedience and good manners. They should move out willingly and stand quietly when requested. The horses will be required to perform at the Flat Walk, Paso Corto and Paso Largo. The gait should be smooth in each speed, evidenced by a lack of an up-and-down movement of the horse's croup. This class shall be judged as follows:

- 30% on the Paso Corto
- 30% on the Paso Largo
- 10% on the walk
- 15% on appearance
- 15% on manners.

To avoid accidents, carts must reverse by turning to the center of the ring and angling to the opposite side. In the walk, the horse shall be smooth, alert and graceful. In the Paso Corto, the horse shall move at a moderate rate of speed and the carriage of the horse should be proud, with only mild extension and the gait should be smooth and steady without hopping or breaking of rhythm. In the Paso Largo, the horse shall move more rapidly and evidence a readily detectable, marked difference in speed from the Paso Corto. Excessive speed, however, that might tend to create a safety hazard may, at the discretion of the Judge, be penalized. The footfall must remain a four-beat lateral gait and pacing and/or trotting will be penalized. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until the Judge requires a reverse or change of gait. Sequence of the gaits shall be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, walk, reverse and repeat. All horses being considered for an award are required to back in a straight line. The horse is to be shown in light driving harness

and bridle (blinkers, overcheck and overcheck-bit are optional) and hitched to a two- or four-wheeled vehicle suitable to the horse. Bits may be of the snaffle-type, either regular, straight bar or jointed, or liverpooles. Liverpooles may be used "in the half cheek" or one hole only below. The check rein should not interfere with the free way of going. The horse's foretop may be braided. Sulkies will not be allowed. Definition of a sulky is a two-wheeled vehicle with no place for the driver's feet except in stirrups. A basket will be allowed for the feet. A standard buggy whip will be allowed in this class. A driving apron may be used. One attendant without a whip is permitted to head each horse during the line-up. Attendants will be neatly attired and a groom's smock is optional. The attendant may uncheck the horse and then must stand back at two paces. Only the driver is permitted in the cart except when a Sub-Junior is showing the entry, in which case an adult must accompany the Sub-Junior driver.

The **Amateur Adult Equitation** class is a new class added to the Specialty classes division. The Paso Equitation seat enhances the particular and special style, grace, rhythm and oneness of horse and rider. The class is to be judge 100% on equitation. Results as shown by the performance of the rider are not to be considered more important than the method used in obtaining them. Horses shown in this class will perform the required Paso gaits.

1. **Basic Position.** The rider shall convey the impression of effective and complete control at all times, showing both the horses and the rider to the rider's best advantage. A complete picture of the whole is of major importance.
2. **Arm and Hand Position.** The arm should hang naturally with the elbows not extending outward beyond a perpendicular line even with the rider's shoulders. The reins shall be held in one of the following manners:
  - a. The reins should be held one (1) rein in each hand entering at the bottom below the rein hanging on the off (right) side of the horse.
3. The rein must pass directly from the bit, between the little and third fingers, the thumb being placed on top. It is important that the third finger holds the edges of the rein in the joints nearest the palm and that the fingers are closed securely but without tension. Bight (excess) of the rein should be on the off (right) side. The rider's hands should be held in an easy position, neither perpendicular nor horizontal to the saddle and should show sympathy, adaptability and control. The height the rider's hands are held above the horse's withers is determined by the head carriage of the individual horse. However, extremely high or low hand positions are improper. The rider's hands should not pass over or behind the pommel of the saddle. The rider shall make every effort to achieve as straight a line as possible from the elbow through the forearm, hand and rein to the bit. Hands and wrists should be flexible and not held extremely separated.
4. **Head Position.** The rider's head should be held erect with the chin up. The rider's eyes should look straight forward.
5. **Back position.** The rider's back should be straight, but not stiff. The rider's shoulders should be square.
6. **Feet and Leg Position.** The rider's leg should hang naturally with a slight bend at the knee. The rider's lower leg should be under the rider's body and not flared outward. Flaring of lower leg shall be penalized. The rider's feet should be parallel with the horse's body with the heels slightly lowered (approximately 1 inch.) The ball of the rider's foot should rest directly over the stirrup iron with even pressure on the entire iron with heel, hip and point of should in line. The rider's foot position should be natural (neither extremely in nor out.)
7. **Position in Motion.** The rider's position in motion should be natural, co-coordinated and graceful. The rider should remain almost motionless at all gaits. From the side, a straight line should be able to be drawn perpendicular to the ground through the rider's head, shoulder, hip and ankle. The rider's toe should never be more forward than his knee, thereby, keeping his center of balance directly above his feet and ankles. The rider's upper arms should fall naturally from the shoulders, toward the hip bones and should be flexible never clutched to the body, extending forward, or spread away from the body. The rider should appear to have a natural flow downward into the saddle and show no side to side movement of upper body. At all gaits the rider should remain in the center of the saddle and not slip back on the cantle.
8. **Tests.** The rider may be required to perform the following tests:

- a. Ride without stirrups at a Paso Corto, maintaining the proper position. The stirrups may be crossed over the pommel of the saddle if so desired.
  - b. Back his or her horse smoothly and under control. The horse's mouth should remain closed and the horse should not throw his or her head.
9. Dismount and mount. To dismount, the rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration. To remount, the rider shall check the curb chain and girth and adjust them, if necessary. The rider shall gather the reins in his or her left hand with gentle pressure. The rider shall stand diagonally facing the front of the horse. The rider shall place his or her left hand in front of the horse's withers without holding the mane, turn the stirrup toward the rider with his or her right hand and place his or her left foot in the stirrup. The rider shall place his or her right hand either on the far side of the saddle at the waist or on the front arch (pommel), and spring lightly up, straightening both knees. The rider shall ease into the saddle and place his or her right foot in stirrup without looking down.
  - a. Perform a figure eight at Paso Corto. The rider shall always turn and face the Judge unless otherwise instructed. The Judge may tell exhibitors whether he or she prefers large or small diameter circles.
  - b. Move his or her horse from Paso Largo to a walk on a quiet rein.
  - c. Answer questions on parts of the horse and tack.
10. Procedures. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until asked to reverse or change gait. Entries will space themselves, maintain the same relative position and avoid bunching up. Entries will be penalized for bunching up or for not working on the rail. The sequence of the gait will be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, walk, reverse, and repeat. The reverse will be executed toward the center of the ring. A halt will be called at least once during the Paso Corto. Entries will execute the above class requirements and, in addition, Judges are encouraged to call for at least two (2) of the tests provided at subsection (g), above, of the top contestants. Each of the tests is to be performed individually. Judges must select only from test numbers 2, 5, and/or 6. Riders may be asked to perform any of the tests. For the safety of the other entries, Judges are required to excuse any rider who is unable to control his or her mount.

### **3. General Conflicts of Interest /Rules Governing Showing under Judges**

A Judge may not compete in any class at a show where he or she officiates. None of the following may compete as exhibitor, rider, driver, handler, owner or lessee in any PFHA class or show at which such person has the following relationship to the Judge or other listed persons:

1. Any member of the Judge's family (See Glossary: Family) and any of the Judge's clients, unless the relationship was terminated 30 days before the competition.
2. The Judge's trainer and any of the Judges' trainer's clients, unless the relationship was terminated 30 days before the competition. The payment of stud fees and stud/broodmare board is excluded for this purpose.
3. Clients of a member of the Judge's family may not compete as exhibitor, rider, driver, handler, owner or lessee unless the relationship is terminated 30 days before the competition.

A horse may not be shown before a Judge if that horse was sold, purchased or trained by the Judge or by his or her employer or employee within a period of 30 days before the competition. An exhibitor may not show before a Judge if the Judge, with respect to the exhibitor, received or contracted to receive any payment in connection with the sale of a horse, the purchase or lease (to or from) of a horse or otherwise for the account of the exhibitor within a period of 30 days before the competition unless the sale or purchase was made at public auction. An exhibitor may not show before a Judge if the Judge boarded, exhibited (handles on lines or rides) or trained for horse show purposes any horse under the exhibitor's ownership or lease within a period of 30 days before the competition. The payment of stud fees and stud/broodmare board is excluded for this purpose. An exhibitor may not show before a Judge if the Judge paid the exhibitor for the board or training of any horse for horse show purposes within a period of 30 days before the competition. The payment of stud fees and stud/broodmare board is excluded for this purpose. An exhibitor may not show before a Judge from whom he or she leased a horse unless the lease is terminated at least 30 days before the competition. No rider may compete in an Equitation class before a Judge with whom he or his parent, guardian or instructor has any financial transaction in connection with the sale, lease, board or training of a horse within 30 days of a competition unless the sale or purchase was made at public auction. No rider may compete in an Equitation class before a Judge by whom he or she has been instructed, coached or tutored with or without pay within 30 days of the day of the competition. For this purpose, the conducting of clinics or assistance in group activities, unless individual instruction is given, will not be considered as instruction, coaching or tutoring. No one shall approach a Judge with regard to a decision unless he or she first obtains permission from the Steward, who shall arrange an appointment with the Judge at a proper time and place. An exhibitor may inspect the Judge's cards only with the Judge's permission.

When two or more Judges are in the ring and are judging separate classes, for example, at a show where two or more shows are being held simultaneously, all the restrictions of this section shall apply with respect to all Judges.

If a horse is presented to a Judge by an exhibitor whom the Judge believes is ineligible to compete under these rules, the Judge may either:

1. Advise the ringmaster that he or she believes the entry is ineligible and request that the entry be excused.
2. Proceed to judge the entry and file a complaint under the rules alleging violation of the rules by the exhibitor.

If a Judge has any doubt as to the eligibility of any entry, he or she should judge the entry and file a complaint alleging possible violation of the rules, but if the Judge fails to file a report and the entry proves to have been ineligible, the Judge may be subject to disciplinary action. A Judge may not be an owner of an interest in a horse, including, but not limited to, syndicate or partnership shares, a lessee or lessor, an exhibitor, rider, driver, halter handler, steward or manager at any show at which he or she is officiating including classes that do not count for PFHA points.

A Judge shall not adjudicate in any show in which a member of the Judge's family, clients (current within the last 30 days), trainer, trainer's family or trainer's clients are competing. The Judge shall not adjudicate in any class in which clients of a member of the Judge's family are competing. A Judge shall not, during the period of a show at which he or she is judging, be the houseguest of a person who is exhibiting before that Judge at such show, or whose family is exhibiting at such show, without the express request or consent of the Show Committee of such show. Judges should make every effort to isolate themselves from exhibitors and handlers and aid Show Management and the Steward by complying with the Association rules in this regard. Judges should report to the Steward or Show Management any improper approaches by exhibitors. A Judge shall not discuss with an exhibitor the purchase, sale or lease of any horse during a show at which the Judge is officiating.

## **4. Responsibilities of a Steward at the Show**

The Steward is the representative of the Association and should point out in a diplomatic manner any instance where Association rules are not followed. The Steward shall not dictate to the Judges or Show Management, but should immediately report to the appropriate officials any violations of the rules that might invalidate a class. The Steward should be available to Judges, exhibitors, and Show Management at all times to clarify the application of Association rules and investigate any situation where rules are not upheld. A Steward shall clearly understand that they have no authority with the management or the judging of a show. The decision of each Steward constitutes solely that Steward's individual interpretation and not a verdict by the Association. A Steward shall protect the interests of exhibitors, Judges and Show Management. A Steward shall report to the Show Committee:

1. Any misrepresentation or substitution of an entry without waiting for a complaint, and
2. Any exhibitor or trainer who has failed to file a statement with the Steward after the administration of drugs. The Steward also shall report to the Judge or Show Committee, as appropriate, any offense or violation of the rules and file a complaint against the violator if the violation is not properly handled by the Show Committee. A Steward shall ascertain that the Judge is Certified and in good standing. A Certified Steward will facilitate a conference with the Judge as requested by an exhibitor or other person. The Steward will make himself/herself available and remain in the presence of the Judge and other person when such person requests a conference with the Judge either during or after the show. A Steward shall have the responsibility and duty to enforce the General Class and Show Rules at any show at which he or she is stewarding. The rules are to be enforced by any of the following means:

1. Requiring the violation to be corrected.
2. Prohibiting the horse and exhibitor from participating in the class.
3. Other appropriate action. If a violation comes to the attention of the Steward after a horse and exhibitor have entered the ring for a class, the Steward shall call the violation to the attention of the Judge for the Judge to exercise enforcement responsibility. It is the purpose and intent of this rule to permit and further competition. Therefore, correction of violation should be permitted where practical and where correction may be done without undue delay of the show and without being unfair to other competitors.

## **Exhibitor's Code of Conduct and Responsibilities**

All participants are responsible for knowledge of and compliance with Paso Fino Horse Association rules and relevant rules of the United States Equestrian Federation. Owners, handlers and trainers shall, at all times, treat members of the Paso Fino Horse Association and guests with the kindness, respect and affection which our long history deserves. At no time in the training, handling or in the showing of the Paso Fino horse will the horse be subject to mistreatment. Exhibitors should not accuse the Judge of favoritism and should support the Judge and the judging system. If an exhibitor believes that he or she has a legitimate complaint concerning the actions of any show official, he or she should follow the procedures outlined in Chapter One of the PFHA rule book to pursue and resolve the complaint. An exhibitor may not use any type of electronic, mechanical or similar communication or mechanical device in the show ring while being judged, except for an exhibitor who is hearing impaired and who normally uses a sound enhancing device to achieve normal hearing.

No exhibitor may withdraw a horse from a sanctioned competition after it has commenced, or remove the horse from the competition grounds, without permission of the competition secretary. An exhibitor who has entered the ring may request permission of the Judge to exit the ring before judging is completed. If an exhibitor voluntarily removes a horse from the ring without the permission of the Judge, except in deference to safety, the Show Committee will disqualify the exhibitor and all of his or her entries from all future classes at that competition and all prizes and entry fees for the entire competition will be forfeited.

## **5. Amateur Owner Qualifications**

A person is an Amateur for all competitions conducted under Association rules if he or she has not engaged in any activities that would make him or her professional, regardless of age. Spouses of professionals who assist in training or showing are not considered Amateurs. Each exhibitor in an Amateur Owner Class must be an Amateur by the above definition, certified as an Amateur by the Association and be the owner of the horse being ridden or a member of the owner's family. (See Glossary: Family.) In the case of a corporate owner, the stockholders of the corporation shall be considered the owners for purposes of this definition. A horse that is the subject of a lease to an Amateur is not considered owned by that Amateur for purposes of this definition. The purchaser of a horse under an installment method of payment shall be considered the owner of the horse for purposes of this definition if the purchaser, either before or at the time of the competition in question, files an affidavit on a form provided by the Association for this purpose that describes certain relevant information about the purchase. Senior Amateur Owner status provides a separate track for recognition and awards for Association members, age sixty-two years and older. The member must have attained at least age sixty-two at the beginning of the show year to qualify as a Senior Amateur Owner. All other criteria for Amateur Owner status provided in the Constitution and these Rules apply. In order to facilitate recognition of Senior Amateur Owner status, a Senior Amateur Owner must provide his or her date of birth. Amateur certification may be applied for on the Membership Application form or Amateur Owner Application form obtainable from the Association. A person's Amateur Certification will continue for so long as the person does not engage in activities that would cause him to fail to qualify as an Amateur, as defined above. A member who previously received Amateur Certification, but who later engages in activities that cause him to fail to qualify as an Amateur, shall notify the Association in writing of any changes of status as soon as practical after engaging in those activities. Amateur Certification will be issued only on receipt of a properly signed application, and it is revocable at any time with just cause. If a person holds a non-revoked Amateur card and does not have it in his immediate possession, the Show Secretary must have the person sign a new Amateur Owner Application stating he/she meets all the requirements necessary to be considered an Amateur. This application will be submitted to the Association. If such person violates or does not comply with the above definition of an Amateur and the pertinent rules, but signs the Amateur Owner Application, he or she shall be deemed guilty of a violation. In the event a person is found to be a professional as a result of a complaint made in connection with his or her status for a show, all awards won by such person in Amateur classes at such show and any subsequent shows shall be forfeited and returned to the show, and the person shall be subject to disciplinary action. The holding of an Amateur card does not preclude the question of Amateur status being raised. A person becomes a Professional for horse shows purposes, regardless of age, if the person engages in any of the following activities: 1. Accepts payment for riding, driving, showing in halter, training, schooling or conduction of clinics or seminars. 2. Accepts payment for giving instructions in equitation or horse training. Persons acting as counselors at summer camp that are not hired in the exclusive capacity of a riding instructor are excluded. 3. Accepts payment for employment in another capacity, e.g., secretary, bookkeeper, and rides, drives, shows in halter, trains or schools horses, or gives instructions when his employer owns, boards or trains said horses. 4. Accepts payment for the use of his name, photograph or a form of personal association as a horseman in connection with any advertisement or article to be sold. 5. Accepts prize money in equitation. 6. Rides, drives or shows in halter at horse shows, any horse for which he/she or a member of his/her immediate family accepts payment for boarding or training. 7. Gives instruction to any person or rides, drives or shows in halter at horse shows, any horse for which activity another person in his immediate family or corporation which a member of his family controls will receive payment. The following activities shall not affect the Amateur status of a person who is otherwise qualified: 1. Accepts payment for the writing of books or articles pertaining to horses. 2. Accepts payment for judging or stewarding. 3. Accepts reimbursement for expenses without profit. Expense statement is to be accompanied by receipts. 4. Accepts a small token of appreciation, other than money, for riding, driving or showing in halter. For this purpose, payment of horse board, prize money, partial support or objects of more than \$300 in value are considered payment, not small tokens of appreciation. 5. The occupation of veterinarian or farrier, or ownership of a tack shop or breeding or boarding stable, in itself, does not affect the Amateur status of a person who is otherwise qualified. A Professional continues to be such until he or she has received Amateur rating by a vote of the Board of Directors. Any person who has been a Professional and who desires to be reclassified as an Amateur on the grounds that he or she no longer engages in the activities that made him a professional must reapply for Amateur status by notifying the Association in writing. The Association shall promptly acknowledge receipt of the application in writing. The applicant must then wait a period of time (the "waiting period") equal to the period of time starting from the first day of his Professional activities and lasting until the day his re-application for Amateur status is acknowledged by the Association; provided, however, the waiting period shall not be less than one year and not more than three years. After the waiting period has expired, the person may submit to the Board of Directors an Amateur application supported by at least two notarized letters from Association members outlining the applicant's activities for said time period and testify the applicant has not engaged in any activities that would make him a Professional, as outlined above during the waiting

period. The burden of proving Amateur status is on the applicant. The Board of Directors may call for and consider any and all further evidence and facts that it deems pertinent. The decision of the Board of Directors on the application shall be final. Any change of status from Professional to Amateur, or visa versa, shall be published in Paso Fino Horse World. Any person who, under these rules, is a Professional and knowingly and falsely represents himself as an Amateur in order to ride or drive in Amateur classes, and any person who violates any of the provisions of this rule, shall be subject to disciplinary action. An exhibitor who engages a person to ride or drive in an Amateur class and then pays such person above and beyond the extent to which such Amateur is entitled, as provided above, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Association.

## **USEF Amateur Qualifications**

Under USEF rules, anyone who is under 18 years of age is an amateur. Under PFHA rules, there are criteria regarding amateur status that have nothing to do with age. Thus, at an USEF and PFHA sanctioned show, anyone under the age of 18 can ride in an amateur class (as long as they meet the other requirements of the class). However, unless that person has a PFHA amateur card, they will not get PFHA show points for that class. If their horse is recorded with USEF and they meet other USEF requirements, they would get USEF points, however. USEF sets the age of the rider based on the age that person is on December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current show year. PFHA sets the age of the rider based on the age that person is on October 1<sup>st</sup> of the current show year.

## **Show Year**

The Association show year runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>. Each Grand National Championship show will operate under the rules that were in effect during that show's qualifying year. For separation into classes by age in years at horse shows, a horse's age is determined by the age it would be if its next birthday were the first day of January of the show-year in question. Therefore, any horse will be considered to be one year older on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling and the same for each subsequent year. For example, a horse born in 1996 would be a yearling during the September 1996 to August 1997 show year, a two-year old during the September 1997 to August 1998 show year, etc. However, when a horse's age requirement is stated in months, as for saddle or driving classes, a horse is considered to be 24- or 30- to 60-months old as counted from its actual foaling date.

## **6. Example of a Horse Show Packing List**

### **Tack**

Schooling Saddle Pads  
Show Saddle Pads  
Girth  
Saddle  
Breastplate  
Show Bridle  
Show Bit  
Training Bit  
Nylon Halter  
Shipping Halter  
Bella Forma Halters/Leads  
Nylon Lead  
Spare parts for Tack  
Lunge Line  
Lunge Whip

### **Medicine Box**

Bute or Banamine (check USEF rules or veterinarian on restrictions)  
Any medication needed  
Liniment  
Vet Wrap  
Coggins (Original Yellow and copy)  
Interstate Health Certificate (if out of state)

### **For The Feed Room**

Feed for Each horse (estimate per day)  
Supplements  
Dry Erase Board: Feed Amt/Schedule  
Hay  
Regumate (if needed)

### **For The Stall**

2 Clean Water Buckets  
Clips for the Water Buckets  
Grain Bucket  
Muck Bucket or Wheel Barrel  
Bags of Shavings  
Pitchfork  
Garden hose & nozzle  
Extension Cords  
Broom (for aisles)  
Hay Bag  
Bungee Cords  
Trouble light  
Stall signs (For Sale or Emergency Contact information)  
Fans and clips to hang them

### **Tack Cleaning Supplies**

Bucket  
Sponges  
Clean Towels  
Saddle Soap  
Leather Conditioner  
Bit Polish  
Scrub pad (to clean bit, no soapy ones)  
Hook to clean tack on  
Saddle Racks  
Wall rack for Bridles  
Shelf for clothing/hats

### **Grooming Box**

Curry Comb  
Hard Brush  
Soft Brush  
Hoof Polish  
Show Sheen/Finishing Spray  
Hoof Pick  
Towels  
Baby Oil  
Vaseline  
Scissors  
Face Brush  
Sweat Scraper  
Electric Clippers  
Hand Razor  
Sand Paper  
Shampoo  
Mane Conditioner  
Fly Spray

### **Exhibitor's Attire**

Hats  
Extra Clothes and Socks  
Safety pins  
Sewing kit  
Shoe laces  
Tennis shoes  
Rubber boots  
Show Ring Outfits  
Riding Boots  
Mirror  
Lint Brush  
Handiwipes

**Misc.**

Folding Chairs  
Ice Chest  
Healthy snacks  
Human First Aid Kit  
Business Cards  
Sales Flyers

Camera and Film

Video Camera and Blank Tape/DVD  
Alarm  
Coffee maker/coffee/sugar/creamer/filters  
Staple Gun/Staples  
Checkbook (pay show bills and shop)

## **7. Checking In At the Show**

To be eligible for entry and exhibition in a show, a horse must be registered with the Association and must be entered and exhibited under its full registered name and registration number. All participants (owners, agents, lessees, trainers, riders, exhibitors and handlers) must be current members of, and in good standing with the Association.

A cloned horse is not eligible for participation in any PFHA sanctioned show or event. If a horse is registered in the name of a legal entity, such horse must be shown in the name of that entity. A membership in the Association must be in the name of the legal entity with at least one individual specified as agent. Such agent has authority to deal with the Association in regard to showing the horses owned by the entity, but the agent may not exhibit a horse on behalf of that entity unless he/she also is an individual member of the Association. All participants are responsible for knowledge of and compliance with these rules and relevant rules of the USEF. Every owner (in the case of multiple owners, only one signature required as owner), or lessee, if applicable, trainer and exhibitor or his or her agent, if applicable, must complete and sign an official Association entry form. In the event of an exhibitor's failure to do so, the exhibitor's first entrance into the ring as an exhibitor shall be construed as the exhibitor's acceptance of these rules and shall render the exhibitor subject to the rules. All information required under Association rules must be provided on an official Association entry form and must be signed by the responsible parties. Exhibitors are responsible for any errors on entry forms. Each participant is responsible for his or her own errors and those of his or her agents in the preparation of all Association entry forms. Presentation of signed entry forms shall be deemed acceptance of all rules and in the event of failure to sign the entry form, the first entry into the show ring as an exhibitor shall be deemed to be in acceptance of said rules. An individual requiring special show consideration shall submit a request to the Show Secretary who will not appropriate Judges' cards accordingly and inform the Steward of same. These special considerations may include the exemption from dismounting and mounting in Paso Pleasure classes.

### **What to Have:**

The following credentials must be made available to Show Secretary/Management and the Association Steward, and copies of said credentials must accompany the entry forms:

1. Each participant's Association membership card and USEF card, if applicable.
2. The participant's Association Amateur card, if applicable.
3. A copy of each horse entry's registration papers (back side only if it contains owner's name).
4. All other papers and health documents required by law or by competition management.
5. Copies of applicable Lease Agreements.
6. Affidavit of Sales Contracts.

If any of the information required cannot be made available, the participant must sign a statement giving his name, address, the fact that he or she is not in immediate possession of the proper credentials and the reason the information is not available. These statements will be submitted to the Association office with the results of the competition. If a participant files a fraudulent affidavit; the Association shall levy an appropriate fine.

**Where to Go:** Designated Show Office where the Show Secretary is set up – usually inside the Show Arena.

**How to Do It:** Notice to see if there is a line of waiting to check in with the Show Secretary, if so, wait your turn. If not, proceed to tell the Show Secretary your name or your farm name or your trainer's name. He/She will locate your file. He/She will ask you for any missing information or documentation. If there is none, he/she may or may not ask for an open check for your show fees that you will be incurring over the duration of the show(s). You will receive your back/exhibitor number for each horse entered.

**Completing a PFHA Show Entry Form – See Example of Form on [PFHA Website](#) with an example of a show information page, horse’s registration, class schedule and PFHA/USEF cards attached**

1. Tennessee’s Spring Fling – from show information page
2. Murfreesboro, Tennessee – from show information page
3. April 18, 19 and 20, 2008 – from show information page
4. Concerto de Mardana – from horse’s registration
5. 28, 490 – from horse’s registration
6. N/A – not applicable
7. Gelding – from horse’s registration
8. April 02, 1997 – from horse’s registration
9. Bay – from horse’s registration
10. 70 – from class schedule
11. 4/18 – from class schedule (classes 1 – 100 will be one full show on Friday, April 18)
12. Katherine Yarbrough – from PFHA membership card and USEF membership card
13. 19849 – from PFHA membership card
14. 308411 – from USEF membership card
15. \$25 – from show information page (if pre-entering before the postmarked date of April 12<sup>th</sup> and there is only one judge judging the Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> schedule of classes)
16. 170 – from class schedule
17. 4/20 – from class schedule (classes 163 – 200 will be the other half of one show for Saturday and Sunday)
18. Katherine Yarbrough – from PFHA membership card and USEF membership card
19. 19849 – from PFHA membership card
20. 308411 – from USEF membership card
21. \$50 – from show information page (if pre-entering before the postmarked date of April 12<sup>th</sup> and there are two judges judging the Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> schedule of classes)
22. \$75 – adding 15. and 21. – from show entry form
23. \$12 – this is a required fee if the show is USEF rated, which this show is from the show information page
24. Leave blank if member of USEF. If not a member of USEF and do not wish to acquire the double points that are received if a member which counts towards entry points requirements to show at the National show, then you will need to enter \$25 because the show is sanctioned also by USEF.
25. Leave blank if member of USEF. If not a member of USEF and you do wish to acquire the double points that are received because the show is sanctioned also by USEF, then you would enter the appropriate USEF membership application fee. (a USEF membership application is in the front pocket of this folder also for your reference) You will then be a member and will not have to pay any additional fees at other shows you may attend. The USEF membership also has very good perks, including a \$1 million liability policy.
26. If you are a member of USEF but do not know your member number or do not have your USEF membership card with you, you can pay the appropriate fees after signing a USEF affidavit.
27. Leave blank if member of PFHA. If not a member of PFHA, you must pay the appropriate membership fees because the show is a PFHA show.
28. If you are a member of PFHA but do not know your member number or do not have your PFHA membership card with you, you can pay the appropriate fees after signing a PFHA affidavit.
29. 1 – one horse/stall
30. \$55 – from show information page
31. \$55
32. 1 – one tack room, but you may opt to keep your show tack in your horse trailer and get what you need when you need it

33. \$55 – from show information page (all stalls are \$55 on this show information page, but sometimes the tack stall amount differs and will be reflected on the show information page)
34. \$55 – total from multiplying 32. and 33.
35. If you opt to get a camper hookup on the show grounds for your horse trailer then you would enter the fees here – from the show information page the camper fees are \$25/day.
36. Depending on the number of days you will want to have your camper hookup, multiply that number by the \$25 and enter the amount here.
37. If you wish to sponsor a class either in your personal name or in your farm name, you would enter how many classes you would want to sponsor here. (You can pick the specific classes you want to sponsor and the announcer will announce your name or your farm name for each class that you have sponsored)
38. If you do sponsor a class or classes you would then multiply the number that you specified in 37. by the amount of the sponsorship – from the show information page the class sponsorships are \$25/class.
39. If the show is having an Exhibitor's Party, you would enter the number of tickets that you would like to purchase here. (If you do not wish to go to the party, you are not required to pay)
40. If you entered a number in 39., then you will look on the show information page for the cost of the party/exhibitor and enter the number here. (Some exhibitor parties are free and will be specified on the show information page)
41. Multiply 39. and 40. and enter the number here.
42. If you wish to make a donation to the PFHA Foundation you would enter the amount here.
43. Other – may include shavings. If you wish to enter a number of shavings that you would like to prepay for and have ready for you when you arrive, you could enter a number here and write the word "shavings".
44. If you entered something in 43. such as a number for shavings, then you would multiply that number by the amount shown on the show information page for shavings, which in this case on the show information page is \$5/bag.
45. Enter your total for lines 22. through 45.
46. Katherine Yarbrough – person responsible for the show fees of the horse listed on the show entry form
47. Katherine Yarbrough – here owner may not be the same as the rider (ex. Mother owns horse, but daughter is the rider)
48. 4431 Dyke Bennett Road – address of the owner
49. Franklin – the owner's city of residence
50. TN – the owner's state of residence
51. 37064 – the owner's zip code of residence
52. 615-591-4491 – the owner's phone number
53. [klyarbrough@bellsouth.net](mailto:klyarbrough@bellsouth.net) – the owner's e-mail address (if you have an e-mail address, please be sure to enter it here, it is a good way to get a confirmation of your entry form being processed stamped with date and time)
54. 19849 – owner's PFHA membership number – from PFHA membership card
55. 308411 – owner's USEF membership number – from USEF membership card
56. If you would like to be stalled with your trainer's other clients, you could say here, "Stall with trainer's name"
57. 2, on this show entry form there is one stall and one tack stall
58. Katherine Yarbrough – recorded owner of horse per horse's registration
59. 1, on this show entry only one horse
60. On-site – if staying on-site in a camper hookup space. If you are staying at the host hotel, then you would enter, Red Roof Inn – from show information page
61. 615-594-2770 – if staying on-site, you can enter your cell phone number here, but if you are staying at the host hotel, then you would enter their number from the show information page, 615-893-0104 and you can enter your cell number here as well for a backup number. (These numbers are important, so that, in case of an emergency with your horse, you can be contacted immediately)

62. You can mark the appropriate box for payment of your show fees and enter the necessary information in this section. From the show information page provided for this example, no credit cards are accepted. You do not have to send payment when sending your show entry form and other required documents unless it is so specified on the show information page. You can wait until you arrive at the show and leave an open check for your show fees. Per the show information page, an open check is required before the back number is issued.
63. You can either mail or fax your show entry form and the other documentation that is required in this section to the Show Secretary listed on the show information page. Christina Earl's address and fax number is listed, as well as, her home number and her e-mail address. If you have any questions, you can call her at her home or e-mail her. PLEASE do not mail AND fax your show entry form and documentation, do one or the other, NOT BOTH.
64. READ completely before signing.
65. READ completely before signing.
66. Sign your name as the Rider/Driver/Handler of the horse for which the show entry form has been completed
67. Print your name
68. The Owner/Agent must sign their name here
69. The Owner/Agent must print their name here
70. If the horse listed on the show entry form was trained by a professional trainer, then he/she must sign here. If you, the owner, trained the horse listed on the show entry form, then you must sign here. (It does not change your amateur status if the trainer or you signs here)
71. Whoever signed on line 70. must print their name here.
72.  Yes, Check the appropriate box for whoever signed on line 66.

## **8. Tack**

A curb chain or curb strap is permitted, but shall not be cruelly tight. Except for Schooling classes in the Classic Fino, Paso Performance and Paso Pleasure divisions, metal is not permitted in, under, over or attached to the cavesson nosepiece except for necessary buckles. No metal decoration is allowed on brow bands.

In (1) Schooling classes, or (2) three and four year-old horses in Amateur Owner classes that are not Schooling classes, headgear can be any training headgear not considered cruel or inhumane by the Judge or show committee. In a Schooling class in the Classic Fino, Paso Performance, and Paso Pleasure divisions, metal may be used if covered in a nosepiece or under the chin, but it must not be considered cruel or inhumane by the Judge or show committee and be sufficiently covered to ensure comfort to the animal. In all classes where English tack is designated, saddles may be of any English-type except that forward seat jumping saddles are prohibited unless a jump is required in the class. If a saddle pad is used, it will be conservative in color and conform to the shape of the saddle. Stirrups for classes requiring English tack must conform in overall shape to commonly regarded English tack. Except as provided in the next sentence, bridles must be leather, but not rawhide except in Schooling classes where rawhide is permitted, Colombian- or English-type headstalls, flat, rolled or braided. Goatskin bridles with white or cream-colored reins matching the bridles may be used. Cheek pieces may be 3/8- to 5/8- inch with a matching, plain or stitched, cavesson and matching browband. The browband and cavesson nosepiece may not exceed one inch in width. Dropped nosebands, tie-downs, and martingales are prohibited. Headstalls may have a throatlatch with a pisador. The pisador may be rawhide. Throatlatches may tie rather than buckle. Reins may be leather, flat, rolled, or braided. Nylon or other natural or man-made fiber reins may be used (hereafter referred to as “nylon”). In all classes, nylon reins may be used, but they must be the same color as the headstall. Combination leather/nylon buckle-back reins may be used. Snaps that attach the reins to the bit or bosal may be used in all classes. An English breast strap or breastplate not exceeding one inch may be used. No silver, vinyl, or reflective vinyl is allowed on headgear, breast straps, or breastplates. In all classes where Western tack is designated, entries shall be shown with stock saddle, but silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. The headstall shall be of the Western-type customarily used with a stock saddle. Horses under the age of five years may also use a snaffle or bosal. A horse five and over must use a curb bit. Cavessons and nosebands are prohibited. Breastplates are permitted. See specific class descriptions and appointments concerning tack. Bits are required in all classes except Schooling classes or other classes as specified. Bits may be of any humane approved type, as per *The Guide to Paso Fino Tack*. However, shanks cannot exceed six inches, upper shank of bit from mouthpiece to where bit attaches to bridle cannot exceed three inches. All bits with shanks must have a curb strap or curb chain attached and used for leverage. The length of a shank shall be measured in a straight line from the mouthpiece to the end of the shank.

### **Tack Stall**

A tack stall is generally used to keep tack, feed, hay grooming supplies, and personal apparel necessary for the show. If you bring multiple horses to a show, you might consider another “tack stall” to be used as your feed room. This will help keep the tack room clean and hay free. Also, it would help keep your muck bucket(s) and rakes out of your tack room as well. You may even find that you use it for a changing room. If this is the case you might want to purchase some type of stall curtain for privacy. There are many companies who design and make custom stall drapes. If you have a tight budget, you can find pretty sheets, curtains or even shower curtains to hang. Do I need one? Depending on how many horses you bring, this can be optional. If you only have one and have easy access to your trailer then you might consider doing without and save a few dollars. If you have multiple horses, it will be a must.

#### **Set up (common components):**

1. Saddle Rack(s) or stand(s)
2. Bridle hangers
3. Totes for grooming supplies
4. Clothes bags and a place to hang them.

There are many custom and premade setups for tack rooms. They are in a wide range of prices and sometimes colors. Go to Schneiders, State Line Tack, Jeffers or any type of company which sells equine related products. Many times they have their own line or suggestions on where to purchase these items.

## **9. Grooming**

**General Requirements** - A bridle path is acceptable but not to exceed 4 inches. Generally, the muzzle and ears are clipped as well as any long hair which may be found around the face, jaw, and the chin. The long eyelashes may also be trimmed. To have a “clean” look on the hoof, clip a bit of the hair around the coronet band and blend into the rest of the leg. (This may take some practice so if you have a horse you are not showing; you might want to start with that one!) Also, clipping the fetlock hair will also give it a neater appearance. A good cleansing shampoo is all you need for a bath. If you have a gray or white horse, wash with the inexpensive shampoo first then follow with a bath in “bluing” shampoo to make the white stand out. After washing, squeegee the excess water, use Mane and Tail for conditioner, and apply Show Sheen (or the equivalent). It will make grooming easier the next day as it has a “sheeting” action, making it easier to brush off dust and dirt. Brush into the coat to ensure even coverage. For white socks, apply extra. (You want all the protection you can get on white hair)

**Grooming for the class** - Brush thoroughly, spray with Grand Champion or any other product which will make the horse shine (do not spray the area where the saddle will go). When dry, brush with a finishing brush. Apply hoof black or clear and allow to dry. Comb the mane and tail, removing all shavings, dirt, and debris. Apply WD-40 (only on the long hair, not on the body of the horse) to the mane and the tail. Part the tail down the middle combing the hair to each side, then apply WD-40. Use sparingly as you will spread it throughout the tail when you comb it. Use baby oil on the muzzle and around the eyes to emphasize the features.

**Restrictions (glitter, etc)** - Any type of tail or mane extensions are prohibited. Glitter is only allowed on the hooves when the horse is shown in the Costume Class. Otherwise, hoof black and clear are acceptable.

The Paso Fino horse shall be exhibited in the most natural way possible. No artificial appliances, make-up or glitter that changes the appearance of the horse is permitted. Normal grooming preparations are allowed, including the use of black or clear polish on hooves. All horses must be in good condition. The color of a horse or the color of the horse’s eyes will not be a consideration in judging a horse in any PFHA class. If a horse is shown unshod, hooves will be neatly trimmed to a short natural length, not to exceed four inches. If a horse is shown shod, the length of the hooves is not to exceed four and one-half inches, including shoes. All four feet must be shod with flat shoes that do not affect the way a horse travels or how a foot breaks over. All four feet must have the same type of shoe of the same material, weight, and thickness, although front and back hooves may be shod in different sizes. Each shoe cannot exceed 10 ounces. Weighted shoes and pads are prohibited. However, toe and/or side clips drawn from the same shoe (an integral part of an otherwise flat saddle plate shoe which does not exceed 10 ounces in weight) that in no way affects how a horse travels or breaks over are allowed. Manes, forelocks, and tails should retain their full status; a short area, not to exceed four (4) inches in length may be clipped from the mane to accommodate the bridle. Horses under one (1) year of age will not be penalized for having clipped manes or tails. Soreing of a horse is prohibited. Any physical evidence, including but not limited to scars or blisters, of training with heavy shoes or artificial devices or soreing shall cause the horse to be excused. Any evidence that the hooves have been trimmed too closely, which is a practice recognized as soreing, shall disqualify the entry for the remainder of the show. The exhibitor and owner are each responsible for a horse’s condition, and they are presumed to know all rules of the Association, including the penalty provisions of these rules. Every owner and exhibitor shall, upon request of Show Management, permit examination of a horse for determination of the presence of prohibited surgery or foreign drug or substance. Refusal to comply with such request shall:

- Constitute grounds for disqualification of the horse from further participation at the show or from further approved events pending hearing of the Association’s Hearing Committee,
- Bar the horse from participation in future approved events or shows for such period as determined by the Association Hearing Committee and
- Constitute grounds for suspension of Association membership of the owner and trainer.

## **10. Attire**

Bellas Formas - Official Paso Fino Show Costume  
Classic Fino - Official Paso Fino Show Costume  
Paso Performance - Official Paso Fino Show Costume  
Paso Pleasure - English/Plantation Style or Western Type

Specialty Classes:

- Versatility - English/Plantation Style and Safety Headgear required
- Western Pleasure - Western Type
- Paso Trail - English/Plantation Style or Western Type and Safety Headgear if a jump is required
- Costume - Costume of rider must be Latin American or Spanish related, but no specific country of origin need be identified.
- Country Pleasure - English/Plantation Style or Western Type
- Paso Pleasure Driving - English/Plantation Style or Western Type
- Adult Equitation (eff. 9/1/08) - Official Paso Fino Show Costume

**Official Paso Fino Show Costume** – The attire shall be a long sleeved bolero jacket and full length riding pants or jumpsuit which covers the boots. The bolero jacket and pants or jumpsuit must be conservative in color and trim. THE EXHIBITOR MUST WEAR A LONG SLEEVE SHIRT OR LONG SLEEVE BLOUSE-(Rule Clarification 04/03; Rule Book 9/1/08). A matching or contrasting cummerbund is optional. Sequins, glitter, or other similar reflection adornment is not allowed on any part of the Official Paso Fino Show Costume. Male riders shall wear an unadorned tie. The exhibitor must wear a Spanish type felt, leather, or suede hat with a round, flat crown and with a flat or slightly rolled brim with a matching or contrasting hatband.

**English/Plantation Style** – The attire shall consist of a long sleeved shirt, full-length trousers, tailored jacket or vest, hat, and riding boots. Boots are to be English type, rounded toe with some heel. Riders that use English tack cannot wear chaps. Sweater vests are not allowed. A tie is optional. Women riders may wear skirts, culottes, or gaucho pants that are long enough to cover the knees while seated in a saddle along with knee-high boots. Hats are straw type, usually cream or black. Sequins, glitter, or other similar reflective adornment is not allowed on any part of the pleasure attire. Jeans and baseball-style hats are prohibited. NO PART OF THE OFFICIAL PASO FINO SHOW COSTUME SHALL BE ALLOWED EXCEPT FOR RIDING BOOTS. (Effective 9/1/08 – NO PART OF THE OFFICIAL PASO FINO SHOW COSTUME SHALL BE ALLOWED EXCEPT FOR RIDING BOOTS, JUMPSUIT, OR PANTS.)

**Western Type** – The attire shall consist of a Western type hat, long sleeved Western type shirt, full-length trousers, and Western boots together with chaps, shotgun chaps or chinks. A jacket or vest is optional.

Blunt spurs can be used for English or Western classes, respectively, and a riding crop not exceeding 30 inches in length may be used.

### **Attire Tips**

If you are going to wear a sports coat in pleasure, it will fit much nicer if it has a split in the back. A tie-tack or other clip helps stop the "tie over the shoulder" look during the largo. Pants need to be longer when riding than when walking. Measure them with the rider ON the horse. Front pants pockets- cut them out, sew them up for a neater appearance.

No matter what division in which you show, the pants legs need to be long enough to cover the boot. If you can't get access to a horse at the time of the fitting, straddle a chair as if you were in the saddle. For pleasure

clothes, male or female, you can find many bargains at thrift stores or consignment shops. Make sure that if you wear a vest that it is long enough so that it reaches the top of the pants when you ride. There are many places which tailor make clothing for the show enthusiast (for all the divisions). It can be a bit pricy but the clothing is well made and durable. There are even color wheels to match your clothing to the color of your horse! For the tuxedo, you might want to check with bridal shops during clearance time, go to the local thrift or consignment store and even check your local paper. The internet is always an option but make sure there is an adequate return policy just in case it isn't the proper fit.

## **11. Ring Etiquette**

The ring conduct of any exhibitor shall not be such as to affect adversely the exhibition of any other exhibitor's horse in the ring. Horses should be spirited, display refinement and beauty, but must be obedient. Anyone not controlling his mount shall be excused from the ring.

In all mounted classes, the riders shall space their mounts in such a manner so as to avoid bunching up and shall maintain such relative positions during such class demonstrations. After a class has been pinned and the Judge's card turned in, any non-placing horses shall be excused from the ring. Non-winners of ribbons in any class should remain in the ring until excused. The placement of the class shall be called starting with honorable mention, seventh-place, and proceeding sixth-place through first-place. The first-place horse shall have the option of making a victory ride once around the ring.

No exhibitor may withdraw a horse from a sanctioned competition after it has commenced, or remove the horse from the competition grounds, without permission of the competition secretary. An exhibitor who has entered the ring may request permission of the Judge to exit the ring before judging is completed. If an exhibitor voluntarily removes a horse from the ring without the permission of the Judge, except in deference to safety, the Show Committee will disqualify the exhibitor and all of his or her entries from all future classes at that competition and all prizes and entry fees for the entire competition will be forfeited.

In saddle classes, a rider may only ride one horse in a class. Even in classes with individual work, for example, the Paso Trail class, one rider cannot show two different horses. In addition, in any saddle class, riders cannot be changed in the middle of the class.

An exhibitor is entitled to request suspension of judging for a period not to exceed five minutes in aggregate (but no more than two times in a class) in order to repair broken equipment, replace a shoe or rectify a similar condition. The exhibitor must go to the center of the ring for any such emergency which will constitute a request for time-out. Time shall be taken from the moment the exhibitor goes to the center of the ring, except in the event of a horse casting a shoe, in which case, time shall start (after weighing has concluded, if applicable) when the farrier or his assistant touches the shoe or enters the ring, whichever comes first. No more than three (3) minutes will be allotted to find a shoe. Two attendants are permitted in the ring to assist an exhibitor during a time-out. If at the expiration of the five minutes the repair has not been made, the contestant may proceed as is or be eliminated. The steward or judge shall be held responsible for timing unless an official timer is present.

A rider is considered to have fallen when he is separated from his horse that has not fallen, in such a way as to necessitate remounting or vaulting into the saddle. A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground or an obstacle and the ground. In all classes except Western and Equitation (in which specific rules prevail), the fall of horse and/or rider shall not disqualify the entry unless due to bad manners of the horse. Bad manners are deemed to be those deliberate actions of a horse such as kicking, rearing, bucking, etc. If a rider falls off due to a horse tripping, stumbling or stepping on an object (stone, etc.) this is not deemed bad manners.

## 12. Summary of Points and Awards

The Association provides High Point Horse of the Year awards in numerous categories, as well as other Association awards as described herein. The purpose of these awards is to encourage participation by its members at approved shows and to stimulate interest in the Paso Fino breed. Awards may be offered in any division or section in classes recognized by the Association. The Board of Directors will determine the classifications in which Association sponsored awards will be offered.

The following are eligible to compete for Association sponsored awards:

- all PFHA registered horses, the owners of which are members in good standing with the Association;
- riders who are members in good standing with the Association.

Points earned during the entire show year count toward a horse's or individual's lifetime points. All classes recognized by the Association will have points awarded to the entries placing first through sixth in regular classes and first through fourth in Championship classes unless the class is specified as non-pointed. If a horse is disqualified, it is not to be placed, regardless of the number of horses in the class, but counts as an entry in the class. Points shall be awarded at all Association sanctioned shows and the Association's National show according to the placement of the horse and/or rider as follows:

	<u>National Show</u>	<u>All Breed Show</u>	<u>Any USEF Show</u>	<u>All Paso/Local Show</u>
First	12	6	12	6
Second	10	5	10	5
Third	8	4	8	4
Fourth	6	3	6	3
Fifth	4	2	4	2
Sixth	2	1	2	1

Points awarded in Championship classes shall be double the points shown above. Classes shall conform to the list and specifications in these rules. In any show or class in which points are awarded to a horse and/or rider and that horse and/or rider is subsequently disqualified, then each horse and/or rider that placed below the disqualified horse and/or rider, including a horse and/or rider receiving an honorable mention award, shall be moved by one placement and shall be awarded points according to the new placement. The points received by a horse that placed in an Open class at a show at which a separate class would have been permitted under these Rules, but was not offered, will be recorded as awarded in the appropriate separate class.

Ownership of a horse may be transferred during the show year without affecting the horse's points. A horse will not be eligible to receive points under its new ownership until entry requirements in Chapter Two, Section II., A. and B., are met. All awards shall be presented in the name of the recorded owner(s) shown in the Association records at the time the award was earned.

The Society of Merit awards shall consist of horses and riders who achieve one of the awards listed in this part. Association registered horses and riders in the Costume class may accumulate points toward the Title of Proficiency, Legion of Merit and Supreme Merit awards.

The following awards shall be offered:

1. **Title of Proficiency (T. O. P.)** - An appropriate award shall be presented to a horse or Costume class rider who has accumulated at least 500 show points in recognized classes in any Association sanctioned shows.
2. **Legion of Merit (L. O. M.)** - An appropriate award shall be presented to a horse or Costume class rider who has accumulated at least 1,000 show points in recognized classes in any Association sanctioned shows.

3. **Supreme Merit** - An appropriate award shall be presented to a horse or Costume class rider who has accumulated at least 1,500 show points in recognized classes in any Association sanctioned shows.

The Association offers annual awards for all classes at the National show. A horse that wins any class at the National show shall be the National Champion of that respective class for the designated show year; if thereafter such horse competes in the Division Championship class at that show and is awarded First place, the horse shall then be the Grand National Champion of that Division for that year. Plaques will be presented to the horses and/or riders having the highest total number of points during the show year in each and every pointed class recognized by the Association. All awards for three-year olds and younger will be designate by year, e.g. 2006 Filly, and so on. The horse that accumulates the highest total number of points at the Association's National show shall be awarded the title of High Point Horse of the (year) PFHA Grand National Championship show along with an appropriate award attesting to the achievement. Costume and Amateur Adult Equitation class points do not count in the point total for High Point Horse of the National show or High Point Horse/Gelding of the Year awards.

The winner of the association's **Overall High Point Horse of the Year** shall be the horse that accumulates the highest number of total points in all recognized classes at Association sanctioned shows during the course of the show year, not including the National show. Points won in classes where the points are awarded to the rider do not count toward the High Point Horse of the Year or High Point Gelding of Year awards.

The winner of the association's **High Point Gelding of the Year** shall be the horse that accumulates the highest total number of points in all recognized classes at Association sanctioned shows during the course of the show year, not including the National show. If the horse was gelded during the current show year, points earned before gelding will not be counted.

The winner of the association's **High Point Amateur Owner of the Year**, shall be the Amateur Owner who accumulates the highest total number of points in all recognized Amateur Owner classes at Association sanctioned shows during the course of the show year, not including the National show.

The winner of the association's **High Point Senior Amateur Owner of the Year**, shall be the Senior Amateur owner who accumulates the highest total number of points in all recognized Amateur Owner classes at Association sanctioned shows during the course of the show year, not including the National show.

The winner of the association's **High Point Specialty Horse of the Year**, shall be the horse that accumulates the highest total number of points at Association sanctioned shows during the course of the show year competing in Specialty classes.

The Association will, from time to time, present special awards to registered Paso Fino horses and/or members of the Association in recognition of their promotion of the Paso Fino breed.

- **Top Ten Sires and Dams Awards** - A special ribbon and certificate shall be presented to the Top Ten Sires and Top Ten Dams of the year. Recipients of these awards will be determined by the Association year-end show points, including the National show, of all the Association registered offspring of Association registered sires and dams. Sires and dams shall be eligible to receive this award for five years after their death. The Top Ten Sires awards will be announced in the annual stallion issue of the official Association publication, Paso Fino Horse World, and the Top Ten Dams awards will be announced in the annual mare issue of the official Association publication, Paso Fino Horse World.
- **Top Ten Gelding Awards** - A special ribbon and certificate shall be presented to the Top Association registered geldings of the show year. Recipients of these awards will be determined by the total number of show points earned by each gelding at Association sanctioned shows during the course of the show year, including the National show. If the horse was gelded during the current

show year, points earned before date of gelding will not be counted. Points won in classes where the points are awarded to the rider do not count toward Top Ten Gelding awards. The Top Ten awards will be announced in the annual gelding issue of the official Association publication.

**Crediting of Points** - In a show that does not offer Schooling classes, a schooling horse may compete in the regular appropriate class and still retain its schooling status, and any show points awarded to such horses shall be computed and credited as points awarded in the appropriate Schooling class.

**Accumulation of Points** - Points accumulated in Amateur Owner classes and resulting Championship classes are awarded to the horses. In shows not offering Amateur Owner classes, the Amateur Owner may compete in the regular appropriate class and any show points awarded to such Amateur Owner shall be computed and credited as Amateur Owner points in the appropriate class if requested in writing by the Amateur Owner. The said written request shall be submitted with the show results and the class placing, with notation by the Show Secretary, when the Show Report and results are transmitted to the Association office.

**For eligibility in showing at the PFHA Nationals, a rider must have accumulated twenty (20) points per horse per class per division within the respective show year.**

### **13. How Can Your Paso Fino Earn You \$ Money \$ at Nationals!!**

Your Paso Fino can give you more than just companionship and ribbons at shows, it can earn you money\$\$\$.

There are several ways to earn money at our Grand National Championship Show with your wonderful Paso Fino through programs established by the PFHA. These programs are the Stallion Service Auction and the Breeder's Sweepstakes, Fabulous Fino Futurity and Geldings for Gold.

The **Stallion Service Auction** is a program run in conjunction with the **Breeder's Sweepstakes** program. PFHA members nominate their stallions to participate in the Stallion Service Auction. This means that PFHA members may elect to bid on one of the stallions participating in the auction through a silent bid for a minimum of 50% or \$500 of the listed stud fee (whichever is greater). Only offspring of the participating stallions are eligible to show in the Breeder's Sweepstakes. The proceeds of the Stallion Service Auction are put in escrow for the Breeder's Sweepstakes yearling class that will occur in three years (yearling foals). The stallion owner and winning bidder receive a free nomination to the Breeder's Sweepstakes. However, anyone can breed their mares to one of the participating stallions and nominate the resulting offspring, filly or colt, to participate in the Breeder's Sweepstakes by paying \$200 plus that year's class entry fee. It doesn't matter if no one actually bid on a stallion that participated in the auction. As long as the stallion was listed for bids, the offspring are eligible for the class by paying the necessary fee. The Breeder's Sweepstakes held during the 2003 National Show paid out almost \$30,000!

For example, any member who bred his or her mare to Capuchino during the 2001 show year can enter his or her foal into the Breeder's Sweepstakes class at the 2004 National Show. The following is the three-year process for the Breeder's Sweepstakes eligible entries:

1. the first year you bid then breed,
2. one year later the foal is born,
3. then the following year is allowed for your foal to grow then show at Nationals.

The Breeder's Sweepstakes class is a Bellas Formas class with specific requirements. The following is the procedure for the class:

4. Entry will enter ring at a walk.
5. Entry will walk to judge to be inspected by judge for inheritable traits. (Mouth deformities, reproduction deformities, etc...)
6. Entry will then walk up and down the Fino strip to look for any type of lameness.
7. Entry will proceed to rail and wait for further examination after all entries are present. (It is acceptable to be longeing while waiting.)
8. Entry will be examined while longeing in both directions in gait.
9. Entry will gait in a straight line away from and back to judge.
10. Entry will be squared for overall conformation inspection.
11. Placement is then decided.

The appointments for the Breeders Sweepstakes class are as follows:

- Handler shall wear plain dress pants (may be official Paso Fino costume) with plain colored shirt.
- Hat of either official costume or pleasure style is acceptable, along with boots.
- Horse is to be fitted with plain halter and lead shank at least eight (8) feet in length. (The Columbian Jaquima is acceptable.)
- Horse should be shown groomed and clipped.

The following are some points of consideration for the Breeder's Sweepstakes class:

1. PHENOTYPE - External shape and appearance, standing as well as when performing.
2. CONFORMATION - Any major hereditary faults of the body should be heavily penalized, especially since this is a breeding futurity or sweepstakes class. Example: Pig eyes, mouth deformities, lop ears,

fallen crests, ewe necks, slab sided, goose rumps, rafter hips, base wide or narrow, limb deformities. These are a few of the more common; do not limit yourself to these examples.

3. **EXPRESSION** - The horse should have an alert, excited look to its whole being. One of "controlled spirit".
4. **WAY OF GOING** - This is how the horse moves when it is gaiting - head should be erect; croup area should be quiet without any movement up and down or side to side; tracking - the way the hooves should be landing - the front and back legs are an equal distance apart, no deviation of hoof while in flight; the tail carried quietly with no signs of resistance (swishing or wringing).
5. **EXECUTION** - The hock should be viewed from the side for height elevation, the highest is not always the best. Remember, if there is a pendulum action there is no drive; if there is excellent elevation of hock but croup has movement, actual execution is lost; when viewed from the hind you should see no wavering or twisting of hock in flight or upon placing the hoof on the ground. The foreleg flexion (bend or curl) should move with the ease keeping in mind the flexion is unique to each individual. The foreleg should not be "pulling" or "driving" the horse. Slight foreleg "termino" (padding) is acceptable only if performed in equal amounts in both forelegs. The hind and foreleg should make ground contact in an exact cadence with rhythm and harmony.
6. **FLEXIBILITY** - When turning in a circle is the horse constantly stumbling? Are the hind legs crossing to execute turns or hopping around? Is the horse bending from head to tail in an arc in the direction it is going?

### **The Fabulous Fino Futurity "Ride for the Money" Class**

The Fabulous Fino Futurity program was first introduced to the Association in 2002. In this program, two-year old Fino prospects (i.e., horses that the owner expects to compete in the Fino division) are auctioned at the Annual Fabulous Fino "Ride For The Money" Futurity sale during the National Show. All horses sold through this sale (either to a third party or back to the owner) are automatically eligible to be entered into the Fabulous Fino Futurity class during the next year's National Show. If the horse is sold during the year and before the class, the horse is still eligible for the class and the prize money. Proceeds from the previous year's sale go towards the prize money for this class. At the 2003 Grand National Championship Show, the first place winner of the Fino Futurity class received \$20,000, second place received \$2,000, a saddle and a free breeding, and third place received \$1,000. The 2004 Fino Futurity class is expected to give away approximately \$30,000 in cash along with great prizes to the top three placements.

The Judges for the Fino Futurity class are actually selected by the owners of the horses that are eligible to compete. The owners get to select ten (10) individuals that in his or her opinion carries out integrity, eye for gait, and breed knowledge. With this in mind, the individuals selected by the owners do not necessarily have to be a PFHA Certified Judge as long as they fulfill the guest card criteria as established by PFHA. The PFHA sends a ballot to every owner. The owner then nominates ten judges in which he or she wishes to judge the class then mails the ballot back to the Association office, where the show department tallies the ballots and sends contracts out to the selected judges. This is the owner's opportunity to select the judges he or she believes would officiate the Fino Futurity class the best. What other class is there that you get to select the judge you want?

The judging methods used for the Fino Futurity class have been used at other major breed futurities and seem to be the best of all solution to participant confidence in the judging process. The judging which has been established by the Judges and Stewards Committee to use in the Fino Futurity class is as follows:

- Each judge will mark his/her card individually with no discussion with the other judges.
- After completing their cards the judges will be escorted outside and sequestered from the judging area, then one by one, each judge will stand in the arena as his/her placements are announced.
- Subsequently, the horses that placed will be lined up in front of the judge.

- At this time, the judge will have the opportunity to review his/her placements and make any adjustments deemed necessary.
- The judge will then sign his/her judge's card making these the final and official placements for that individual judge.

After all judges have made their final placements, each horse will be assigned a numerical score using the following: First place = 10 points, 2nd place= 9 points, etc, down to tenth place which will receive one point. All horses left unplaced will receive a score of zero on that particular judge's card. After the numerical scores have been assigned the highest and lowest score from the individual judges for each horse will be discarded and placement of the class will be awarded based on the horse with the highest aggregate score. By using this method it causes each judge's placements to be independent of outside stimulus, which may occur when judges are allowed to confer with each other while judging a class. Also, by asking each judge to stand the public's scrutiny in the arena as his/her placements are announced to the spectators, it gives the judge an incentive to use his expertise. Furthermore by throwing out the high and low score it makes it impossible for a single judge to help or hurt an individual horse.

### **Geldings for Gold**

The Geldings for Gold program offers three classes at the National Show:

- Pleasure Geldings for Gold,
- Performance Geldings for Gold and
- Fino Geldings for Gold.

To be eligible to enter into one of the Geldings for Gold division classes, a gelding must be at least 30 months old and must be qualified generally to compete at Nationals in that division. For example, a gelding must have earned at least 20 points in the Performance division at Regional shows during the show year, in either the open or amateur classes, in order to compete in the Performance Geldings for Gold class. The fee to enter this class is the entry fee, as determined by the prize list, plus \$250. However, the \$250 is paid back in each respective category. All three Geldings for Gold classes are open to the Youth, Professionals and Amateur Owners. This program only awards the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places for each division. The Geldings for Gold program gave away nearly \$7,000 during the 2003 National Show!

The procedures for this class are as follows:

1. There will be three (3) Geldings for Gold classes at the National Show each year -- one Pleasure, one Performance, one Fino.
2. Each class division will be open to all age geldings 30 months and older who have qualified for the National Show by accumulating the required 20 points at sanctioned Paso Fino shows in their respective division.
3. The entry fee for each Geldings for Gold class is \$250 per horse plus the National Show class entry fee with the gelding to be entered and fees paid as you would for any National Show class.
4. There are no refunds on the \$250 entry fee, however, refunds of the National Show class entry fee fall within the existing PFHA rules and will apply to the Geldings for Gold classes.
5. No substitutions of horses is allowed.
6. The judging criteria for the Geldings for Gold classes is based on the existing judging criteria for the three respective class divisions.
7. Only the top three horses will be placed in the Geldings for Gold classes.
8. Twenty-five percent (25%) of all monies raised, sponsorship and entry fees combined, will be set aside. Fifty percent (50%) of that set aside money will be invested for the future of the program, thirty-five percent (35%) will be used for seed money for the following year and fifteen percent (15%) of that money will be used for advertising and expenses. The balance of the monies will be paid out to the top three placings at 50%, 30%, and 20% for first, second and third place, respectively.

9. All sponsorship money, less the 25% for set-aside, will be divided equally among the three class divisions.
10. The entry fees for each class, less 25% for set-aside, will stay with each respective class division, Pleasure, Fino or Performance, and will be divided among the top three placings in each of those divisions at 50%, 30% and 20% respectively.

The 2003 Grand National Championship Show paid out \$20,721 to the first three places of each class plus \$15,750 to the first and second places in the Championship classes. This money comes from paybacks that are received from regional shows throughout the show year. This means that the more members show at the Regional level the larger the pot will be for Nationals. With all of the programs noted above, PFHA paid nearly \$100,000 back to winning members at the 2003 National Show. That's real money!! Start planning now for how you can take advantage of PFHA programs to put money in YOUR pocket during the New Year's National Show!

If you have any questions about these programs, please contact The Paso Fino Horse Association, Show Department.

Write us at:

101 N Collins St  
Plant City, FL 33563

Call us at (813) 719-7777 or

E-mail us at [showmgr@pfha.org](mailto:showmgr@pfha.org) or [showaide@pfha.org](mailto:showaide@pfha.org).

For more details on the Stallion Service Auction contact Robbie Davis at 704-895-4071 or via e-mail at [elporvenir@aol.com](mailto:elporvenir@aol.com).

## **14. Glossary of Terms**

**Agile** - Readily able to move with quick, easy grace, nimble.

**Animated** - Precise movements executed with style and excitement.

**Appearance** - The special beauty and vitality that radiates from the horse as a result of good health, well being and physical fitness.

**Association** - Paso Fino Horse Association, Inc.

**Balance** - Equalization of weight or proportion, not light or heavy in one area at the expense of another.

**Bolero** - A style of jacket that ends approximately with the rider's waist.

**Boots (Official)** - An English-type riding boot with a rounded toe and walking heel not a Western-type, decorated cowboy-style heel. Laced or zipped paddock boots, lacers, or elastic-sided jodhpur boots are allowable when English tack is required as long as they have a rounded toe, are plain in color, have no fringes or tassels and conform with the heel requirement. Laced paddock boots are not allowed in classes calling for Western attire. In the Paso Pleasure class, they are allowed if other than Western attire is worn.

**Bosal** - The noseband piece of a hackamore.

**Brilliance** - High spirits and dynamic energy that is so abundant it can scarcely be contained — sparkling, in attitude and performance.

**Cadence** - The rhythmic recurrence of a sound; the beat, time or measure of rhythmical activity.

**Censure** - An expression of disapproval: an official rebuke.

**Collection** - The position of a horse in which it is attentive, responsive to the headgear, has its neck arched at the poll and the hocks well under the body so that the weight is shifted toward the rear and the hindquarters are engaged toward the center of gravity.

**Constitution** - the document that describes the overall purposes of the Association and that contains general rules concerning governance of the Association.

**Culottes** - A form of attire worn below the waist that has the appearance of a skirt but that actually has openings for placement of the rider's legs, as with pants.

**Extension** - The total distance which a leg extends forward.

**Family (as defined by USEF)** - For competition purposes the term "family" includes husband, wife, parent, step-parent, child, brother, step-child, sister, half brother and sister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandmother, grandfather and in-laws of the same relation as stated above.

**Flexible** - Capable of moving the muscles so as to cause the full bending of a joint between the bones which allows a supple, fluid motion. Usually applies to neck, spine or leg joints.

**Flexion** - A forward raising of the leg by movements from the shoulder or the hip joint.

**Forehand** - All portions of the horse's body from the withers forward.

**Hackamore** - Bosal rounded in shape and constructed of flexible braided rawhide or leather, which must have a flexible nonmetallic core, attached to a suitable headstall with maximum diameter of three-quarters inch (3/4) at the cheek. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with a bosal, e.g., steel, metal or chains.

**Harmony** - Balanced interrelationships/pleasing relationship of body parts to one another.

**Hindquarters** - All portions of the horse's body that lie behind the flanks.

**Impact** - The contacting or striking of the hoof to the ground.

**Legal entity** - A person other than an individual human being, such as a ranch, farm, partnership, syndicate or corporation.

**Martingale** - A device designed to keep a horse from carrying its head too high or throwing its head, or otherwise to achieve proper headset. This includes a standing martingale or a running martingale.

**Mecates** - The rope tied to the bosal or snaffle bit to form a rein. The excess length may be used as a leadline or to hobble a horse.

**Midsection** - The portion of the horse's body that lies between the forehand and the hindquarters.

**Owner** - The owner of any horse shall be defined as (1) any individual, (2) any member of a farm, ranch, partnership or syndicate, or (3) any stockholder of a corporation. In the case of 2 and 3, above, all persons

wishing to be considered owners by the Paso Fino Horse Association must be listed on the Signature Authorization form for such entity.

**PFHW** - Paso Fino Horse World magazine, the Association's official publication.

**Pisador** - The leadline portion of a hackamore that holds the throat latch of the headstall and serves to lead or tie the horse.

**Presence** - A proud carriage and alert attitude that causes a horse to "stand out in the crowd."

**Proportion** - Balance, symmetry; harmonious relation of parts to each other or to the total horse.

**Refined** - Free of coarseness, heaviness or bulk. Clean and well defined.

**Registry** - The records of the Association that list each horse that has demonstrated entitlement to be labeled of "pure Paso Fino blood."

**Rhythm** - Movement marked by the regular recurrence of related actions.

**Schooling Horse** - A horse that is eligible exhibited in a Schooling class. See Chapter Two, Section IX., for the description of Schooling Classes.

**Side-pull** - A bit-less bridle that allows the reins to be attached to the headstall on the side of the horse's face.

**Snaffle Bit** - A bit described as a Snaffle Bit in the USEF Guide by Ronald J. Rhodes.

**Step** - The forward distance between the footprints of the two corresponding legs, forefeet and hind feet.

**Stride** - The distance between successive imprints of the same foot.

**Supple** - Flexible and fluent in movement without awkwardness or stiffness.

**Symmetrical** - Affecting corresponding parts similarly — harmonious and balanced.

**Synchronous** - Recurring at exactly the same even intervals.

**Tie downs** - Any type of device that serves to prevent the horse from raising its head above a certain level.

**USEF** - United States Equestrian Federation, Inc.

**Way of going** - Individual style typifying the class requirements, as well as symmetry of movements and correct tracking.

**Well-sprung** - Curving outward from the spine and angled toward the (ribs) rear of the horse so as to allow ample room and expansion for the heart and lungs as well as protection for other vital organs.

## Notes