

LONGE LINE

3385. The Longe line class will be approved for

A. Yearlings. This class will be approved on or after June 1 through December 31;

B. Two Year Olds. This class will be approved January 1 through May 31.

3386. An exhibitor may show only one horse in the longe line class.

3387. Purpose. The purpose of showing a yearling on a longe line is to demonstrate that the horse has the movement, manners/expression/attitude, and conformation to become competitive under saddle. Therefore, the purpose of this class is to reward;

A. Quality of movement;

B. Manners/Expression/Attitude;

C. Conformation suitable to future performance;

D. The horse should be judged with its suitability as a future performer under saddle in mind. This class should define what it means to be a “western pleasure prospect” or “hunter under saddle prospect.” Because these are yearlings, they are not expected to demonstrate the behavior or quality of a finished show horse, but only that performance necessary for a reasonable presentation to the judge.

3388. Class Format. The class will consist of two parts:

A. A conformation inspection and;

B. A longeing demonstration lasting one and one-half minutes (90 seconds).

3389. Show Management is required to provide a five (5) minute warm-up period which may be suspended upon the consensus of all exhibitors in the class. This warm up period is closed to PHBA class contestants only and is prior to the start of the class.

3390. It is suggested that all yearling longe line classes be held in a one go format only.

3391. The use of a scribe for each judge is strongly recommended;

3392. The longeing demonstration will begin at the sound of a whistle or other audible indicator when the horse has reached the perimeter of his circle. Time will not begin until the horse reaches this perimeter. When the “begin” signal is given, the exhibitor will be allowed 1 and ½ minutes (90 seconds) to present the horse at all three gaits in both directions. At the end of 1 ½ minutes, the signal will be given to signify the end of the demonstration.

Show management has the option of adding a “half-way” signal if they choose;

3393. The conformation inspection will occur prior to the longeing demonstration. Each entry will be walked into the arena to the judge and pause for evaluation individually. They will then trot off straight and around a cone and take a place on the wall inside the arena. All entries will be inspected in this fashion and as the “trot-off” is administered, horses showing evidence of lameness should be excused from the class at that time;

3394. It is recommended that long line classes be shown in splits of no more than 15 horses at a time. Larger classes may also offer a finalists' go-round before the class is placed;

3395. It is recommended that classes for the Amateur and the Open divisions be held separately. It is also recommended the Amateur division be held PRIOR to the Open class. Western and English horses may be combined in each division at the discretion of Show Management. If possible, it is recommended that the Amateur and the Open events be offered on separate days.

3396. Equipment. Horses are to be shown in a halter. Either a regular or a show type halter is acceptable.

A. For the longeing demonstration, the only attachment allowed to the halter is a long line. The long line may not exceed 30 feet with a snap attached to the halter. The long line must hang free from the halter without touching any part of the horse. It is permissible to use a longe whip however, disqualification will occur anytime the exhibitor strikes the horse to cause forward or lateral movement at any time during the longeing demonstration;

B. No other equipment is allowed on the horse during the longeing demonstration portion of the class. Mechanical or retractable long lines are not allowed;

C. For the conformation inspection, a lead shank, such as used in halter or showmanship classes may be exchanged for the long line prior to the longeing demonstration. No lip chains will be allowed.

D. Exhibitors are not to be penalized for using regular halters and plain long lines, nor are they to be rewarded for using show halters and show long lines. Only movement, manners/expression/way of going, and conformation are being judged. The type of equipment used is not to be a consideration in placing the horse as long as the equipment meets the requirements stated above.

3397. Attire. Conventional Western attire is mandatory; except if a prospect is considered to be a Hunter prospect then conventional English attire is suggested.

The type of attire worn by the exhibitor is not to be a consideration in placing the horse as long as the attire meets the requirements stated above.

3398. Gaits. Gaits are to be judged according to the PHBA rules for Gaits for Western Pleasure and Hunter Under Saddle classes.

3399. Conformation & Equipment Inspection. Each horse is to be inspected by the judge on conformation, proper equipment and for evidence of abuse, inhumane treatment, or violation of PHBA rules. Horses will not be allowed to show in illegal equipment or if there is evidence of abuse, of inhumane treatment, or of rule violations. It is mandatory that a horse must be tracked at a walk and jog/trot in the conformation portion of the class prior to longeing. Horses that show evidence of lameness will be excused prior to the longeing demonstration.

3400. Judging Procedures. Judge(s) will be outside the longeing circle. The exhibitor will enter the longeing area and await the audible start signal. When the signal is given, the exhibitor will be allowed 1 ½ minutes (90 seconds) to present the horse. At the end of 1 ½ minutes a signal will be given again to signify the end of the demonstration. Show management has the option of adding a "half-way" signal if they choose. (The signal may be a bell, whistle or announcement.)

A. Once the class has started, a horse warming up prior to their go may only warm up at the walk.

3401. The horse will be scored at all three gaits in both directions. Western Pleasure prospects are to show at the walk, jog, and lope. Hunter Under Saddle prospects are to show at the walk, trot, and canter. Any horse that does not exhibit these gaits in each direction will be disqualified from the class. Additionally, the judge shall immediately excuse any horse who exhibits obvious lameness at any time during the class. (**See Scoring.**) Exhibitors may begin work in the direction of their choice (counter or clockwise).

3402. At the end of 1 ½ minutes, a signal will be given and the exhibitor shall, at the request of show management, retire from the longing area to the far side of the ring. The horses are to stand quietly on the wall while the other exhibitors present their horses.

3403. The horses are to be judged on Movement, Manners/Expression/ Attitude, Conformation suitable to their purpose and use of circle. Judges should evaluate the movement of the horse as defined in the PHBA rules for gaits.

3404. If the horse is playing on the longe line, it shall not count against the horse. The judge will, however, penalize the horse for excessive bucking, or running off, stumbling, or displaying attitudes that are uncomplimentary to pleasure horses. Falling down will constitute disqualification.

3405. Exhibitors are encouraged to exhibit their horse making full use of a 25' radius circle, as they will be scored on this.

3406. An exhibitor may only show one horse in each longe line class. The same exhibitor must show both segments of the class.

3407. The conformation inspection will occur as the horse is walked into the arena prior to the longeing demonstration at which time the judge will evaluate the horse for conformation suitable for future under saddle performance. The judges may not discriminate for or against muscling, but rather look for a total picture, emphasizing balance, structural correctness, and athletic capability.

3408. Scoring. The official PHBA Longe Line Scoring sheet must be used in each approved class by each judge. Use of a scribe for each judge is strongly recommended. The score sheet or a copy will be posted at the end of the class. These sheets will be returned with the PHBA show results. The horses with the highest scores are the winners, scoring will be based on 0-infinity with 70 denoting an average performance. Each evaluated element will receive a score that will be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should also be subtracted. The score reflects the horse's performance on that day. Conformation, Jog/Trot, Lope/Canter and Manners/Attitude will be scored on the following basis ranging from +3 Excellent, +2 Very Good, +1 Good, 0 Correct, -1 Poor, -2 Very Poor, -3 Extremely Poor and the Walk and Use of Circle will be scored on the following basis ranging from +1½ Excellent, +1 Very Good, +1/2 Good, 0 Correct, -1/2 Poor, -1 Very Poor, -1½ Extremely Poor. The judge(s) have the sole discretion to use their own personal preference to break any ties in total points.

3409. The PHBA requires that the score for each individual go be reflected on a component-by-component basis using a scribe and an approved PHBA score sheet. This score sheet represents the judge's report to an exhibitor of how a score was derived, and it is critical that this report to the exhibitor be accurate.

A. The show management is responsible for re-certifying all scores and totals. If errors in tabulation have occurred they should be immediately corrected and new placings announced at the event. Ultimately, the PHBA office will review all score sheets and be responsible for their accuracy in documentation of PHBA points and official paybacks;

B. One key element in accurately describing the scoring of the entire run to the exhibitor is the judge's scribe. It is the show management's responsibility to supply a scribe at each PHBA approved longe line event; however, it is the judge's responsibility to ensure that the scribe is trained prior to the first go of the day. The judge must confirm that the scribe understands the fundamentals of recording both gait scores and penalties. It is recommended that judges verify that the addition of the gait scores and penalties are correct at the completion of each go. As part of the training process for the scribe, the judge should make certain that his/her communications are clear to the scribe. To ensure this clear communication, the judge and scribe should agree upon a method of speaking, so that gait scores and penalty scores are not confused. (Example: A judge will say a number for a gait score and will say "penalty" and a number for a penalty, thus allowing the scribe to place the appropriate score in the appropriate box on the score sheet.) If for any reason a judge does not feel a scribe is competent, he/she may ask show management to replace the scribe immediately. Judges must sign every completed score sheet.

3410. Judges are to evaluate movement based on the gait descriptions.

A. Walk. The walk will be scored on a scale of +1 ½ to -1 in each direction, with 0 being average. The horse must be walked long enough for the judge to have sufficient time to evaluate and score the walk. Lower gait scores should reflect stumbling in the gait;

B. Jog or Trot. The jog/trot will be scored on a scale of +1 ½ to -1 in each direction. Using a 25' radius, the horse should jog or trot a minimum of 1/2 circle both directions of the ring. Lower gait scores should reflect stumbling in the gait;

C. Lope or Canter. The lope/canter will be scored on a scale of +1 ½ to -1 in each direction. Using a 25' radius, the horse should lope or canter a minimum of one full circle both directions of the ring. Lower gait scores should reflect stumbling in the gait;

D. Use of Circle. Scores for all gaits in both directions should reflect positive, consistent use of the 25' radius of the circle. Extra credit will be given for full, extended use of the circle on a slightly loose line. Lower gait scores should reflect lack of full use of the circle.

3411. Manners/Expression/Attitude will be scored on a scale of +3 to -3 in each direction, with 0 being average/correct. Horses will be penalized for obvious signs of overwork and sourness such as ear-pinning, head-throwing, striking, tail-wringing, or a dull, lethargic manner of going. They will also be penalized for dangerous behavior such as excessive bucking, cutting into the circle, or running off. Additionally, incidental touching the horse with the whip, cross-cantering, balking, backing up on the longe line and excessive urging from the exhibitor should be penalized accordingly.

3412. Conformation will be scored on a scale of +3 to -3 in each direction, with 0 being average/correct. The horse will be judged on conformation suitable to future performance as a Western Pleasure or Hunter Under Saddle competitor. The judges should look for a total picture, emphasizing balance, structural correctness, and athletic capability.

3413. Use of the circle. Consideration will be given to how well or how poorly the horse/exhibitor team uses the 25' radius of the longeing circle. A separate box on the scorecard is available to indicate an overall score (from +1 ½ to -1 with 0 being average/correct) for use of the circle.

3414. Circle Scores. As described earlier, the PHBA has determined that a 25' radius is the appropriate size of circle in which to show a longe liner. It is the judge's responsibility to evaluate the circles and incorporate use of the circle in the gait scores based on the following scale:

A. +1/2 to +1 1/2 points (Good to Excellent Use of the Circle)

1) Horse consistently stays on the perimeter of the circle with slight looseness in the line. Horse turns around on the circle perimeter;

B. 0 points (Average/Correct use of the circle)

1) Horse is only slightly inconsistent in using the 25' radius of the circle;

C. -1/2 to -1 1/2 point (Poor or unacceptable use of the circle)

1) Horse is shown in a circle radius of less than 25';

2) Potentially dangerous slack in the line;

3) Horse pulls exhibitor out of the circle.

3415. Other scoring considerations: This class should be looked upon as a class that defines what it means to be a "pleasure prospect" or "hunter prospect" suitable to become a future performer under saddle. Therefore, attitudes and attributes that contribute to becoming a future performer will be rewarded within the gait scores.

Higher gait scores will reflect:

A. Above average to exceptional manners, expression, alertness, responsiveness, and pleasant attitude;

B. Above average to exceptionally smooth transitions between gaits;

C. Above average to excellent cadence and consistency at all three gaits.

3416. Penalties and disqualifications:

A. Five (5)-point penalties will occur per direction:

1) Failure to walk less than two horse lengths.

2) Failure to jog/trot a minimum of 1/4 (quarter) of a circle.

3) Failure to demonstrate the correct lead for a minimum of 1/4 (quarter) of a circle.

B. Disqualification will occur in the following instances:

1) Evidence of lameness - judge will immediately excuse horse from the arena;

2) Striking horse with the whip during the longeing demonstration that will cause forward or lateral movement;

- 3)** Fall to the ground by horse. A horse is deemed to have fallen when its shoulder and/or hip and/or underline touches the ground;
- 4)** Horse steps over or becomes entangled in the longe line;
- 5)** Improper equipment, evidence of abuse, or other violation of PHBA rules;
- 6)** Failure to show at all three gaits in both directions;
- 7)** Exhibitors shows disrespect towards the judge(s);
- 8)** Any time the horse becomes detached from the handler;
- 9)** Failure to complete trot off for soundness in three (3) attempts.