

Matters to Consider Before Judging Equitation Classes

1. Saddle Seat Equitation is judged 50% on the rail and 50% on the pattern when a pattern is used. (UPHA is 60% - 40%)
2. An off pattern does not eliminate a rider in Saddle Seat Equitation.
3. If possible, choose your tests after you have the opportunity to view the quality of the riders.
4. Ask about the ring size, the location and size of the judge's box/center ring and the location of gate entrance and exit to know how to design your pattern.
5. Use patterns that help demonstrate good horsemanship. (Try not to make them so difficult that it hurts the riders)
6. Be aware of the horse difficulty.
7. Be aware of the position of your line up compared to your pattern.
8. Be aware that horses don't always want to leave the other horses for the pattern and might drift or slow down if passing the line up.
9. Consider whether the pattern has time for the riders to leave the ring, and do the pattern one at a time.
10. Make sure that the pattern is clearly written, addressing any questionable areas. Check age division for appropriate tests.
11. Know your pattern inside and out. Keep a diagram of it in front of you or draw it on your judging pad.
12. Be comfortable with the scoring system for the rail and pattern work, especially when judging numerous riders such as at districts, regionals or finals, and nationals.
13. Reward good horsemanship and showmanship. We want riders who understand how to make their horse

look its best, not riders who just sit and think only about their position.

14. Part of the entire picture is understanding collection, headset and suitable speed. This should be rewarded.
15. Be aware that in some classes a minimum number of rides are required.
16. Be aware that in some classes equitation patterns have a specific time that they are to be posted.
17. Don't ever give the impression you don't care about equitation classes. They are important and should be judged as any other class.
18. Judges are not to talk to riders in Saddle Seat Equitation classes. You may, of course, answer questions about any pattern.
19. Decide if the riders are to work the pattern numerically, down the line up, or in the order you have them ranked from the rail.
20. No markers are to be used to set a pattern in Saddle Seat Equitation. The riders should find their own spots as part of the pattern.