

## STANDARD BRED STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

Through breeding the perfect racehorse, the characteristics of the breed has altered somewhat with the breed becoming more refined and elegant over the years due to the strong American influence introduced into our breeding program. This has enabled the breed to produce faster times and better performances on the track.

All halter horses should be judged according to the characteristics required of its breed. E.g. A racing proposition, suitable for performance on the racetrack.

A Standardbred should have a well-proportioned body, have a good depth and width of chest, a deep and powerful line of shoulder with an equally proportioned and well muscled hindquarter and can range from 14 hands to over 16 hands in height. Colours range from black, bay, chestnut, grey and broken colours. The Standardbred should have a neat but strong head with a bright eye, which are well spaced. Body types will vary between stocky and athletic. They should stand wide through the chest and the legs should be straight (not base narrow) and with a good knee and fetlock, as without straight legs racing & soundness would be difficult. The Standardbred should stand over a good amount of ground, with a good length of back. The back should be well muscled with a well covered and strong wither running nice and evenly into the neck.

The Standardbred should have a well-balanced but ground covering trot, with strong movement from the shoulder and equally robust drive from behind, as this is where the power comes from. All movement should be straight and clean. A good strong even length of stride with no wasted action is preferred and the hind legs should track up strongly. Horses should carry a well rounded outline throughout the workout.

Conformation faults (resulting in bowed tendons etc) should be noted but if a horse has blemishes resulting from training or racing it should not be discriminated against as opposed to a horse that has been bred purely for the show ring or did not make the track. Please do not hesitate to ask if a horse has been prepared for racing or raced.

## RIDDEN STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

The judging of the breed under saddle should be as that of any Open Hack class. Horses may be at different levels of education but they must be capable of displaying even and correct gaits and transitions with **no pacing**. A horse must carry itself correctly in all gaits and must **not** travel behind the bit. Workouts should include a lengthening at the trot and canter and an in hand gallop can be asked for if desired. Horses competing at this level are expected to be capable of walk to canter and halt to canter transitions if required. Correct gaits are paramount throughout the workouts.

The ridden horse should display qualities of a show horse and work forward with flare, exuberance but softness and obedience to the rider at all times.

## PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

Judging of a Best Presented class should be on both horse and handler. Horses must be presented with a healthy clean coat, tail and mane with all the finer details of presentation covered. Plaits must be neat and braided or pulled tails. Colts and stallions maybe left unplaited. Ears to be clipped out and all facial hairs removed and muzzles glossy. Chestnuts are to be trimmed back and be smooth and even and along with feet blackened and shined unless a horse has a high percentage of white through the feet or chestnuts then they can be presented with a clear lacquer.

Females can be dressed in either pants or a skirt with a matching or co-ordinate jacket or waistcoat. A suitable undergarment (blouse, shirt etc) should be worn. Stocks are optional but under no circumstances are see through garments or exposed midriffs or cleavages acceptable. Males can be presented in pants, shirt, tie, waistcoat or jacket. Alternatively English ridden attire can be also worn. Hats, gloves (clean) and whips are compulsory in a Best Presented class. Footwear should be clean.

Bridles should be of a good quality, clean and good fit. All buckles should be clean and shiny, with straps in keepers. Bits should be clean and brow bands to match the handler's outfit. The overall image should be picture perfect with horse and handler color co-ordinates complimenting each other in every detail.

Turnout classes should again have the rider and horse presented as a picture. A good quality and clean saddle and bridle along with the rider dressed in jacket, vest, stock or tie, light colored jodhpurs or breeches, approved helmet and gloves. Boots must be clean and shined.

SPPHAWA wishes to thank you for accepting our invitation to judge at our show and we hope we can promote the versatility of this wonderful breed to you during the course of your assignment. Once again thank you and we hope you enjoy your visit to WA.