



Standardbred Pleasure &  
Performance Horse Association  
of Western Australia Inc.

70 Tulloch Way  
Darling Downs WA 6122  
Telephone (08) 9399 8967

# HARNESS RULES for STANDARD BRED SHOWING

Version 1 (January 2004)

## STANDARD BRED HARNESS/CARRIAGE

Show organisers are encouraged to include events, specific to Standardbred animals.

The purpose being to nurture their integration into the mainstream of Show Carriage Driving. From time to time many nice Standardbred animals have had successful carriage driving show careers. Standardbreds competing in open or mainstream show events will obviously be judged in accordance with the guidelines of the class entered.

The use of a handler is to be encouraged/required for Standardbred classes. (For novice horses only)

To be eligible for Standardbred specific classes, the animal should have, at some time, been registered with the Australian harness Racing Council. Standardbred includes Pacer and Trotters.

The **Vehicle** normally used in these classes, will be a Spider. Any variation to this should be clearly stated in the Show Schedule.

A **Whip** is not mandatory. The standard trotting whip is not acceptable in any show classes. And the usual carriage-driving whip is difficult to use when driving in a Spider. If a driver wishes to carry a whip, it should be a standard bow top or drop thong type, and applied in the same way it is used in show classes – never striking the animal with the stick (drivers need to be aware, it is unacceptable to ever strike the animal with the reins).

The **Harness** normally used, is usual racing harness, *with the exception*; hobbles, overchecks, under checks, tail ties, ear plugs, bandages or brushing boots etc. are *not* to be used. And full blinkers *must* be fitted, as this is a standard show requirement (insurance).

The **Dress** of the driver should be the same as for mainstream show classes (no apron). Ladies obviously will wear slacks rather than a skirt. Racing colours are *not acceptable*.

The **Workouts** need to display all aspects of carriage requirements, including halts, extensions and serpentines. A rein back should not be asked for in standardbred classes.

A judge should be looking for an animal:

That displays good manners (bucking and rearing and refusing to go forward not acceptable).

That works willingly, demonstrating impulsion whilst not pulling unduly.

That is able to demonstrate the ability to maintain an even rhythm.

That carries itself in a nice outline, with a degree of rounding, not above or below the bit and not over bent.