



Standardbred Pleasure &
Performance Horse Association
of Western Australia Inc.

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STANDARD of EXCELLENCE for the STANDARDBRED

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JUDGING GUIDELINES FOR THE STANDARDBRED

HALTER

All halter horses should be judged according to the characteristics required of its breed. E.g. a Racing proposition, not a ridden horse.

Does the horse before you display the attributes of the breed?

A Standardbred should have a well-proportioned body and can range from 14 hands and to over 16 hands in height. 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 strong with a good knee and fetlock. **The Standardbred should stand over a good amount of ground; therefore have extra length in the back. (Particularly stallions and mares for breeding purposes.)**

The Standardbred should have a well-balanced trot, with strong movement from the shoulder required for the pulling of a race spider, with no visible evidence of forging or knee knocking, as these can be detrimental to the horse's chances of racing. A good strong even length of stride with no wasted action, in front or **behind**, no paddle or extravagant knee lift, is preferred. If a horse paces and you are not comfortable with that, ask for the horse to be worked out again. A pace should be judged like a trot, length of stride, not a rapid action and cleanness of gait. Feet should be good and even with no extra length in toe or upright heels as both will be detrimental to the horse's soundness.

Some horses may be in race condition therefore should have a sleeker but well muscled body shape. Do not hesitate to ask if this is so or a horses age. More so in junior classes.

Bumps, injuries and scars may also be evident with horses that have raced and should not be discriminated against opposed to a horse that did not make it to the race track and is blemish free. As long as it is not a conformation or breeding fault it should not go against them. For example, most bowed tendons in racing can be contributed to poor conformation or incorrect foot structure. If unsure, once again do not hesitate to ask if the horse has raced.

RIDDEN

The ridden Standardbred should be judged as any normal ridden horse, as this is what we are trying to promote the breed for its versatility. Transitions should be clean with no evidence of pacing. All horses should carry themselves in a nice outline, with a degree of rounding, not above or below the bit and not over bent through all gaits. Standardbreds are generally big moving horses therefore it is encouraged to ask for extensions in some workouts.

PRESENTATION

Halter - Stallions may be left with free flowing manes and tails. All mares and geldings must have plaited manes and/or shaved tails. Plaits, coat condition and cleanliness, handlers attire (hat, gloves and whip compulsory) and horse/ handler overall picture should be considered. No workout is required.

Ridden - All horses must be plaited. Riders to wear English ridden attire and approved helmets. (No bowlers or top hats). **Junior riders must not wear a long boot or gaiters in Junior ridden classes. We would encourage judges to mark down a junior competitor if this occurs. This rule applies to junior rider classes only.**

Harness - Horses must have plaited manes but free flowing tails. Dress for drivers is that for halter classes.