

# FREESTYLE CLASS

**We invite all exhibitors to either participate or be a spectator. Part of judging will be on applause. Please read the guidelines below for the class.**

Freestyle provides an opportunity to use maneuvers creatively, but also to expand them to music by means of choreography. Riders are encouraged to use musical scores which permit them to show the athletic ability of the horse in a crowd appealing way.

## General Rules

- Exhibitors are allowed to use two hands (as well as one or no hands)
- Exhibitors will only be judged astride.
- Equipment used in Freestyle must be non-abusive and humane.
- Time Limit. A maximum of 4 minutes including any introductions. The time limit will be from the beginning of the music or from the beginning of the introduction (whichever is first) and will end with the music.
- Costumes. Permitted but not required. Emphasis is placed on performing the reining maneuvers to music.
- Props. Permitted but at no time may hinder the judges' view of the horse. The use of props will not add to the score.
- Show management will reserve the right to rule on music or dress which may be inappropriate or offensive to the spirit and nature of the show.

## Music and Music Media Format (Tape/CD Recordings)

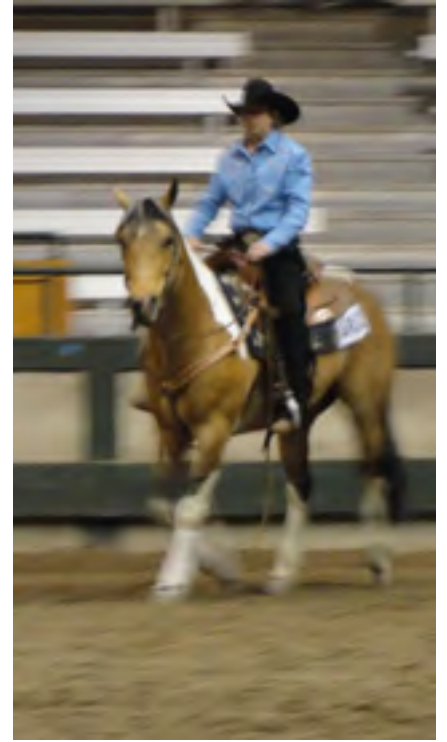
- Any type of music may be selected. The format for the freestyle music should be tape or CD (preferably both for backup purposes).
- It is strongly recommended that music for a freestyle ride be of one genre, style, or theme. Mixing musical genres within one program is not recommended.
- Strict tempo of music in relation to gaits is not required. However, for an effective freestyle, the tempo of the music should match the tempo of the horse's gaits.
- Music that can be interpreted choreographically and create highlights is encouraged.
- Vocals are permitted
- The music may begin before, while, or after the horse and rider enter the arena. (It is advisable to arrange for entrance music as a check that the tape is working.)
- A cohesive musical theme will be scored higher than a disjointed mish-mash of musical selections.
- The music tape/CD should be cohesive. Editing should be fluid and smooth. Choppy or disruptive editing on the music tape/CD will detract from the overall artistic impression.
- The music tape/CD should have only the freestyle ride on it. The tape/CD should be clearly labeled (on the music side of the tape) with the competitor's name, horse's name, and level of ride.
- Always bring an extra copy of the music tape/CD to the competition.
- Written instructions should be submitted with the music tape/CD stating: competitor's name, horse's name, class number, plus a brief, clear explanation of when to push the "play" button at the start of the ride.
- Before giving the music tape/CD to the person who will run the sound equipment during the competition, cue it up so that the music is ready to play when the "play" button is pushed.
- Evaluation of artistic merit should be based on these guidelines and on a broad artistic appreciation, not on mere personal preference



## FREESTYLE CLASS Continued

### Choreography

- The horse should be shown to its best ability. Special strengths can be maximized while minimizing weaknesses. The design of the ride should be commensurate with the ability of the horse and rider.
- Competitors should be careful not to use movements that are clearly above your riding expertise.
- Permitted and compulsory elements may be shown in any pattern, placement, or order.
- A composition that is creative will be scored higher than one that looks like a reworked test set to music.
- The freestyle choreography should utilize the entire arena, not just the rails and diagonals. Creativity in the use of figures and space is encouraged. Movements should be presented clearly enough to be easily identifiable by the judge.
- While riders are encouraged to take chances and increase the degree of difficulty, care should be taken to present movements (in terms of choice and placement) that show off the horse's best technical ability.
- Freestyles are intended to be audience pleasers and should always be scheduled at times chosen for maximum audience participation.



### JUDGING THE FREESTYLE EVENT

- The highest score shall be declared the winner of the class. In the case of a tie, the higher artistic score shall determine the winner.
- Applause will represent 20 percent of the total score
- Choreography and Pattern Chosen - 40 points
  - Rhythm, energy and elasticity
  - Correctness of gaits; impulsion
  - Harmony between horse and rider
  - Submission—thoroughness; absence of resistance.
  - Choreography, use of arena, inventiveness, design cohesiveness, balance, ingenuity and creativity
  - Construction of patterns and combinations of patterns. Logical development and clarity of construction. Balance in use of space and use of gaits.
  - Degree of difficulty
- Music - 40 points
  - Choice of music & interpretation of music – suitability, cohesiveness, editing, phrasing and dynamics
  - Appropriateness of rhythm and tempo to type and gaits of horse. Music selections are from one genre, style, or theme. Cuts and transitions are smooth and create an overall flow of the music. Choreography reflects changes in the music.
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