



4083 Iron Works Parkway

Lexington, KY 40511

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ACADEMY PROGRAM

This publication is intended to be a source of information for those responsible for organizing horse shows; for judges and other horse show officials, and for instructors and trainers. The American Saddlebred Horse Association recognizes the need for:

- providing standardized guidelines for the academy division,
- promoting a level playing field
- helping judges understand academy criterion,
- encouraging lesson programs at more stables.

The Academy Program is all inclusive allowing beginners to advanced students a way in which to participate. The academy program also provides an important niche for many lower end horses that need a job and can be put to good use as suitable lesson horses.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Academy Program is to reach out to all students who are obtaining professional instruction and provide them with the opportunity to develop their horsemanship skills and to gain experience while entering competition where they can be recognized for their achievements. The Program educates participants while promoting the American Saddlebred horse and introducing students to this versatile breed. Encouraging high standards of sportsmanship and fair play at all times by all involved at all levels, at all times is paramount. This is deemed essential to ensuring the integrity of the Academy Program and to exerting a positive impact on its growth and the growth of the horse show industry. The American Saddlebred Horse Association (ASHA) supports the spirit of this Program.

Academy Awards

In order for riders to compile points and be eligible for the ASHA Academy Awards, horse shows are encouraged to adhere to the recommended guidelines. The guidelines that pertain to the classes offered can be published in the prize list/premium book. When abbreviated, reference can be made to the full set of guidelines as contained in this publication. The show office or show secretary should have a copy available for all to refer to.



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HORSE SHOW ACADEMY DIVISION GUIDELINES

Academy
The Exhibitor
Entries are limited to beginners and intermediates that have shown in academy classes only.
Once a rider shows in regular performance classes they are no longer eligible to show in Academy classes.
Riders must be participating in a professionally operated lesson program
Riders may not enter any other regular classes at a show (except Stick Horse, Lead Line, Costume)
Rider who has shown in a regular division or in a suit/coat is no longer eligible to show in 1 st Level Academy classes
A rider who has shown & been judged in Walk/Trot/Canter classes is no longer eligible to return to Walk/Trot classes
A rider who has shown & been judged in Walk/Trot classes is no longer eligible to show in Lead Line.
Riders may not show in any performance division at the same show (except driving or in hand classes)
Age of the rider is determined by the age as of December 1 of the previous year
Academy driver may be accompanied in the cart by an experienced adult who is not allowed to coach
Only a 2-wheel cart/buggy is permitted in driving classes.
The Horse
Horses must be regularly used as lesson horses in a professionally operated lesson program.
A horse may be owned or leased as long as that horse is used regularly by others as a school horse.
Horses shown in Academy classes cannot be in show training with a professional trainer.
Horses should be plain shod. (Exception may be made if corrective shoeing is needed or one pad and/or wedge is necessary for the comfort of the horse.)
Hoof blacking is optional; no ribbon braiding allowed.
School horses may cross enter into regular classes at the same show
Any breed horse or pony is eligible; full mane and tail



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Tack
Horse to be tacked with saddle consistent with style of riding
Full or Pelham bridles or snaffle bridle with martingale
Prohibited: martingale on curb bit.
Blinkers or blinders are not allowed in under saddle classes
Attire - To be Appropriate for Style of Riding/Driving
Jodhpurs, breeches, dark pants, long sleeve shirt, with collar, tie, gloves, vest (sweater permissible in very cold weather)
Derbies, riding suits and jackets are prohibited
Chaps and western hats are prohibited
Spurs are not permitted
No logos or stable names are allowed on any rider's clothing or on the horse/saddle pads
All riders age 17 and under must wear protective headgear that meet or exceed ASTM standards.
Protective headgear is recommended for adults
Judging
Exhibitors are judged on their skill to effectively control the horse and to show the horse to its best advantage
Horsemanship/Showmanship/Pleasure classes are judged on the rider's performance ability – how well they show the horse.
Equitation classes are to be judged on rider's basic equitation skills; riding on correct leads and diagonals; conveying impression of effective and easy control.
Horses should not be asked to back, to perform an extended trot or hand gallop
Headers are permitted in the line-up; no towels or whips allowed
The horse is not to be judged
General
When the number of entries warrant further breakdown, shows may choose to offer first year/maiden/novice/intermediate classes
Junior exhibitor classes may be split into appropriate age groups as determined by the horse show organizer.
Advanced Academy/Show Rider Classes



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Classes for experienced riders who are in lesson programs and for those who want to step up in horse show competition or Riders who may have shown some time ago or in other disciplines may enter Advanced classes

Rider may have shown in suit/coat in prior years and is returning to a lesson program after a notably long absence.

Once a rider advances to Advanced/Show Rider has shown and been judged, a return to regular academy classes is not permitted.

When the number of entries warrant further breakdown, shows may offer limit/intermediate/advanced classes

Advanced Academy riders compete in adult, junior exhibitor or combined classes.

ASHA Academy Awards Rules

- Points accumulate between October 1 and September 30 of each year and are tabulated by riding instructors. Points are kept on an official point sheet and must be signed by BOTH the rider and the instructor or youth club advisor.
- The point sheets are to be sent to ASHA by October 31 of the award year for verification.
- One (1) point is given for participating in an academy riding or driving class. One (1) point is given for placing 2nd – 8th in an academy riding or driving class. Two (2) points are given for placing 1st in an academy riding or driving class.
- ASHA membership is required in order for the points to count.
- A bronze medallion will be awarded for earning 15 points in the first year of competition, a silver medallion for 15 points in the second consecutive year, and a gold for 15 points in the third consecutive year.

Note: This publication is subject to revision. You are advised to become familiar with its contents.

Suggestions for improvements to enable growth of the Academy Program are welcome.