

ASHBA ACADEMY GUIDELINES



These updated guidelines provide standardization of this growing and important division for our breed. This publication is intended to be a source of information for those responsible for organizing horse shows. More detailed information on the new ASHBA Academy Guidelines can be found at Saddlebred.com.

THE EXHIBITOR

The exhibitor entries are limited to riders enrolled in a lesson program. Once a rider shows in regular performance classes, they are no longer eligible to show in Academy classes.



THE HORSE

Horses must be regularly used as lesson horses, they should be plain shod (exception may be made if corrective shoeing is needed, one pad and/or wedge is allowed for the comfort of the horse). Horses may cross enter regular show classes at the same show.

TACK

Horse to be tacked with saddle consistent with style of riding. Horse may wear a Full, Pelham bridles or a snaffle bridle with martingale. A martingale on a leverage bit is prohibited.



ATTIRE

To be appropriate for the style of riding/driving. Riding suits and jackets are prohibited. Chaps and western hats are prohibited. Roweled spurs are not permitted. All riders should wear protective headgear that meets or exceeds ASTM standards.

JUDGING

Exhibitors are judged on their skill to effectively control the horse and to show the horse to its best advantage. The horse is NOT to be judged. Correct leads and diagonals are to be considered. Horses should not be asked to back, to perform an extended trot, or a hand gallop.



The American Saddlebred Horse and Breeders Association recognizes the need for providing standardized guidelines for the academy division, promoting a level playing field, helping judges understand academy criterion, and encouraging lesson programs at more stables. The ASHBA Riding Program Council was instrumental in the development of these new guidelines and continues to promote the American Saddlebred at all levels of competition and industry involvement.

READ THE COMPLETE ACADEMY GUIDELINES AT SADDLEBRED.COM