

Turn Out

Your goal in the show ring is to present a “pretty picture” for the judge. This involves dressing both you and your horse in certain ways to match your discipline. The following sections indicate the basic expectations for both rider and horse for English and Western classes. If you intend to show on a regular basis, you will want to invest in the clothing and equipment that will help you look good for the judge. However, if you only plan to show occasionally at the local level, do your best to look your best by borrowing proper attire from friends and by keeping your eyes open at used tack sales.

ENGLISH RIDING ATTIRE



Helmet:

Everyone: Always wear a properly fitting ASTM/SEI certified helmet with a fitted chin strap in the show ring. Black is preferred.

Ratcatcher:

Women: Pastel colored show shirt; matching choker collar with stock pin or monogram.

Men: white button up collared shirt with dark tie.

Show Jacket:

Everyone: Properly fitted in black, navy, dark green, or gray. Length should be at hips. On extremely hot days, a judge may choose to excuse jackets. When not wearing a jacket, a long sleeve shirt is required.

Breeches:

Adults: Designed to be worn with tall boots, having a shorter leg ending just below the calf, with a Velcro fastening to ensure a smooth fit under boots. Made from stretch fabric with suede knee patches. Khaki, beige, or cream in color.

Jodhpurs:

Children 12 years & under: Full length riding pants in beige or cream; comfortably fitted at the waist and leg to be worn with paddock boots and garter straps. The cuff of the jods is worn over the paddock boot, and the elastic strap at the bottom goes under the boot.

Leather Belt: (optional depending on whether breeches or jodhpurs have beltloops) Black or brown

Garter Straps:

Children 12 years & under: To be worn with jodhpurs under the knees to prevent jods from riding up the leg.

Paddock Boots:

Children 12 years & under: To be worn with jodhpurs; brown preferred but black acceptable; low heel to prevent boot from sliding through the stirrup; lace up or zip front

Tall Field Boots:

Adults: black in color with laces at ankle; height up to back of knee.

Gloves:

Everybody: Specially designed riding gloves that have reinforcements between the first finger and thumb and between the little finger and the ring finger. Black in color.

Spurs: (optional for advanced riders) artificial aid made of metal to aid the riders leg.

Worn on heel of boots with strap color to match boot color.

Hair:

No hair should be showing. Hair should be contained in a hair net under the helmet. Children under 12 wearing paddock boots have the option of wearing hair in two braids.



WESTERN RIDING ATTIRE

Western Hat: Color coordinated with outfit. In mounted classes plan to wear a helmet. All WCHC shows require a ASTM/SEI helmet. Other shows may not require a helmet, but will not penalize you for wearing a hat vs helmet. BE SAFE—WEAR A HELMET

Show Shirt:

Pleasure or Horsemanship:

Women: long-sleeve fitted blouse or slinky top with a collar to be worn with or without a vest or a short jacket

Men: long-sleeve button down collared shirt with scarf in square knot

Showmanship or Halter:

Women: long-sleeve fitted blouse or slinky top with a collar to be worn with or without a vest or a short jacket or blazer type jacket

Men: long-sleeve button down collared shirt with tie or scarf and blazer or sport coat

Show Pants:

Pleasure or Horsemanship:

Women: poly dress style show pants that match chaps

Men: starched jeans and chaps



Showmanship or Halter:

Women: poly dress style show pants

Men: starched jeans or pleated front pants

Chaps (optional at local levels):

Color coordinated with pants and shirt or vest to be worn only in mounted classes

Belt:

Required with western style belt buckle for pants with beltloops.

Not to be worn with pants that do not have beltloops.

Western Boots: color coordinated with chaps or horse's coat

Gloves (optional):

Worn in showmanship, halter and equitation. Color should match shirt or chap color.

Accessories (optional): jewelry, hat band, scarf

Spurs (optional for advanced riders) Must not exceed 1 3/8 inches and be unrowelled.

Hair: Neatly restrained to keep it out of the face.

Color coordinate the clothing with the horse and saddle pad



Horse Turnout

No matter what breed you are showing, your horse needs to be clean and clipped. When bathing your horse, be sure to get all stains off any white markings. Also don't forget to clean out-of-the-way places such as under the tail and between the legs especially if you are going into showmanship where cleanliness is directly judged.

All horses should have any whiskery type hair clipped off their face. Be sure when you are clipping around the eyes, that you are only clipping whiskers, not eyelashes. If your horse has long hair on the underside of the jaw and through the throatlatch, this too needs to be clipped off. On ears, the outside edges of ears should be clipped and hair growing from inside the ear should be clipped even with the

front of the ear. Some people clip the entire ear clean, but this leaves your horse vulnerable to biting gnats and midges after the show. A bridle path needs to be clipped from the poll down the neck a few inches. The length of the clipped bridle path will depend somewhat on breed and the length of your horse's neck. For the average horse, if you lay the ear back along the neck, clipping to where the end of the ear touches is usually far enough.

For most breeds, you will also need to clip all long hair from the fetlocks, pasterns, and coronary band. However, if you have a breed where feathering on the legs is the standard, be sure to leave the feathering long and silky.

There are several styles of manes depending on discipline and breed. Some breeds like the Arabian are shown with a long flowing mane and tail. However, braiding English horses or banding western horses is common practice. In both of these styles, the mane is pulled so that it is only a few inches long. Braided horses also need to have braided tails. For how-to information on braiding or banding there are a number of excellent websites with step by step instructions and pictures.

Showmanship Tack

If the handler is in English attire, the horse is shown in hand with a hunter type or suitable English style bridle and an approved bit. If the handler is dressed in Western attire, the horse is shown with a leather show halter and leather lead shank. Silver on halters is not required in most local level shows, but is expected at higher level shows. Chain shanks may be used either under the chin or over the nose. It is very important that bridle or halter be appropriately fitted to the horse.



Halter Tack

Traditionally halter is a western class, and tack is the same as for a rider doing showmanship with western attire. However, most local open shows, allow for English and Western riders to show as in the showmanship classes.

Western Tack

A properly fitting western stock saddle and western bridle are required. Curb, half-breed, or spade bits are allowed, but shanks should not exceed 8 ½ inches. Curb chains or curb straps should be used with all shanked bits. Chains, but be a flat-type chain link, one-half inch or wider, lying flat against the chin. It must be adjusted to allow entry of two fingers or more between the curb and the chin. No wire or rawhide devices are allowed. If a romal is used, hobbles must be attached to the saddle. Junior horses under 5 years of age may be ridden in a snaffle or bosal.

Except for junior horses ridden in a snaffle or bosal, the rider will be penalized for two-handing. When split reins are used, one finger is permitted between the reins. When using a romal, no finger is allowed

between the reins. Except for speed events, no protective boots, leg wraps, tapaderos, crops, bats, tie-downs, nosebands, or mechanical hackamores are allowed.



English Tack

It is recommended that the bridle be a light show type with a snaffle, Pelham, Kimberwick, or full bridle. Nosebands should be made entirely of leather. Double reins or converters are required on Pelham or full bridles. Breastplates and martingales are optional in classes over fences, but are prohibited in flat classes. Dropped, figure 8, or flash nosebands are prohibited. A crop or bat not to exceed 30" is allowed, but excessive use will lead to penalties. English saddle should fit the horse and style of riding (ie hunter pleasure, saddle seat..)

