

A Guide to Saddle Seat Divisions

| Division | Judging Criteria | Shoeing Regulations |
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| American Saddlebred Country Pleasure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manners and suitability are paramount; animation is less important than in other divisions Gait transitions should be smooth and effortless; a true, flat walk is emphasized Pulling, head tossing, laboring action, going sideways and tail-switching are penalized | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plain shod or barefoot Bands, bars, pads, wedges, lead, or foreign substances are prohibited |
| American Saddlebred Show Pleasure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A show pleasure horse may have less animation than three-gaited and five-gaited performance horses, but high, natural, free-moving action is desirable. More animation is required than in the country pleasure division A true, flat walk is required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific restrictions, but laboring action due to excessive weight or length is penalized. |
| American Saddlebred Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horses should be stylish and well-mannered; emphasis is on performance Performance should be animated and graceful in all gaits Horses may perform an animated park walk instead of a flat walk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No restrictions |
| Arabian Country Pleasure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judged on attitude, manners, performance, quality and conformation A quiet, responsive mouth is paramount High action at the trot is to be penalized | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum length of toe is 4.5" for purebred Arabs; 5" for half-Arabs No part of the shoe may exceed dimensions of 3/8" thick by 1 1/8" wide Foreign material between the pad and hoof designed to enhance action is prohibited. |
| Arabian English Pleasure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judged on manners, performance, attitude, quality and conformation At the trot, horses should show moderate collection without exaggeratedly high action in front, and must not be strung out behind | |
| Arabian Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judged on brilliant performance with proper cadence and balance, presence, quality, manners and conformation Action at the trot should be balanced and cadenced, with impulsion and power from behind, the front airy and light | |
| Morgan Classic Pleasure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judged on manners, performance, gait and conformation; high action is less important than in other divisions. The horse must give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride with emphasis on the walk and smooth transition Horses that do not stand quietly or back readily must be severely penalized | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rim pads are acceptable; full pads are prohibited Maximum combined shoe and pad weight: 16 oz. Maximum foot length: 4.5" |
| Morgan English Pleasure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judged on manners, performance, balance, quality presence, ability to give a good pleasure ride, and conformation Manners are still paramount, but more animation and action is desired | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length of toe must not exceed 5" including pad and shoe |
| Morgan Park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judged on quality, presence, performance, manners and type and conformation More action and animation and less emphasis can be put on manners than in other divisions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length of toe must not exceed 5.75" including pad and shoe |

References:

- <http://www.usef.org/documents/ruleBook/2013/25-SB.pdf>
- <http://www.usef.org/documents/ruleBook/2013/05-AR.pdf>
- <http://www.usef.org/documents/ruleBook/2013/19-MO.pdf>

