

2023 ASHBA of Ga. NEWS Rules and Regulations

NOTE- Academy judges must READ and COMPLY with the following Academy Division rules.

***Any Academy rider that wishes to participate in the ASHBA of Ga. NEWS High Point Program must ALSO comply with ALL ASHBA of Ga. NEWS High Point Program Rules in order to be eligible for year-end awards ***

ACADEMY DIVISION - GENERAL RULES

1. Academy classes are open to mares and geldings of any equine breed, registered or non-registered, including ponies. Stallions of any breed are prohibited from showing in Academy classes.
2. To show in the ASHBA of Ga. NEWS Academy division, horses and ponies DO NOT have to be currently used in a professional riding program, but they MUST display the characteristics and manners of a horse capable of being used in a lesson environment. However, please NOTE that in order for an Academy horse to be eligible to show at the Academy National Championships, that horse MUST be used in a public or private riding lesson program (per Academy National Requirements).
3. In ALL Academy classes, only the rider, driver or handler is to be judged. The quality and/or soundness of the horse or pony is not to be a determining factor in judging the class. The following Academy divisions will be offered, with age-splits as deemed appropriate by show management:
 - a. Academy Equitation Class – the RIDER is to be judged on their basic equitation posture and skills, including the correct use of reins, aids, diagonals, and leads, at a beginning rider level.
 - b. Academy Showmanship Class – the RIDER is to be judged on horsemanship and showmanship skills, including control of the horse and ability to transition the horse correctly into its proper gaits. Ability to walk the horse and execute correct canter leads will be judged, as well as ability to manage speed, collection and ring placement.
 - c. Academy Driving- the DRIVER is to be judged on his/her ability to manage the horse or pony in the ring and show at the walk and trot (backing is not required). Division is open to any amateur or juvenile driver who has never shown in a formal competitive driving event. Driver may cross enter into Under Saddle Performance classes or other Academy classes. Any show type harness is appropriate and two-wheeled work or show type buggies are allowed (jog carts, roadster bikes, or pleasure driving buggies) with blinder bridles and one-two snaffle bits.
 - d. Academy In-Hand Class – The HANDLER is judged on horsemanship and showmanship, and the appropriate handling and turn-out (based on breed) of the horse is to be considered.
4. SAFETY in the Academy division is paramount. The judge has the responsibility to excuse any rider or horse that is considered unsafe. Headers will be allowed in the ring at judge's discretion (recommended for driving classes).

5. IMPORTANT – All Academy riders ages 17 and under must wear a helmet in the ring.
6. No whips, plastic bags and/or noise devices are allowed in warm up or show ring areas including use of whips or any other attention getting devices when riders are lined up).
7. Riders who have been judged in a Non-Academy class at any show may not return to the Academy Division during that show season.
8. Riders who have cantered in any Academy or Performance class are not eligible to enter Walk/Trot only Academy classes.
9. NOTE- Riders in the Academy division are eligible to cross-enter into 4-H specified classes at 4-H recognized shows as long as they meet 4-H eligibility requirements.

ACADEMY DIVISION – Equipment and Attire

1. Horses may NOT be equipped with any artificial devices in warm-up areas or in the show ring, including tail switches, tail braces, blinkers, or action devices. Tongue ties may be used. Lip cords are not allowed. Hooves may or may not be blackened and braiding is optional. Horses may be shown barefoot, flat shod, or with pads, but soundness is NOT to be considered.
2. Horses may be bridled with a snaffle, snaffle with martingale, snaffle with draw reins, kimberwick, pelham, or full (double bit) bridle. Horses using full bridle, Pelham, kimberwick, or any bit that includes a curb chain or curb strap cannot show with a martingale or draw reins.
3. Horses may wear protective boots and/or leg wraps only if necessary for the safety of the horse and in driving classes. NO weighted boots or action devices will be allowed.
4. Shirt, tie, vest, jodhpurs, riding boots and gloves are appropriate attire for the Academy Rider, driver, and handler. Safety helmets are the only acceptable headgear and are required in all Academy Riding and Driving classes.
5. Hair should be neatly styled and long hair should be pulled back from the rider's face and secured with a bow, ribbon, band, or hair clip, without obscuring back number.
6. If Western Academy classes are offered, riders may use standard western tack and show apparel (shirt, vest, jacket, jeans and chaps) or standard Academy attire may be worn, but safety helmets (not Western hats) are required.
7. No exhibitor shall wear any clothing in which initials or barn logos are visible to the judge. In addition, no saddle pads shall have initials or barn logos visible to the judge.
8. All participants in ANY Academy class (including Leadline) must show with a suitable saddle with feet in stirrups and hands on the reins.
9. In Academy Leadline Walk and Trot classes, each rider will be judged and tied. Entries will enter at a walk, execute a trot, reverse, repeat and line up as requested by the ringmaster.
10. As a safety consideration, all handlers and headers assisting exhibitors in any Academy class with any horse or rider must be 16 years old or older.

ASHBA of Ga. NEWS Academy Division Classes are optionally offered as follows:

Academy Driving (All Ages)

Academy In-Hand (All Ages)

Academy Leadline Walk Only

Academy Leadline Walk & Trot (Age 10 and under)

Academy Equitation Walk & Trot

Academy Showmanship Walk & Trot

Academy Equitation Walk Trot & Canter

Academy Showmanship Walk Trot & Canter

Academy Walk & Trot Championship

Academy Walk Trot & Canter Championship

Academy Equitation Hunt Seat Walk & Trot

Academy Showmanship Hunt Seat Walk & Trot

Academy Equitation Hunt Seat Walk Trot & Canter

Academy Showmanship Hunt Seat Walk Trot & Canter

Academy Equitation Western Walk & Trot

Academy Showmanship Western Walk & Trot

Academy Equitation Western Walk Trot & Canter

Academy Showmanship Western Walk Trot & Canter

Academy Racking