

**Downeast Border Riders  
Saddle Club  
2010 Show Season Rules**








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# **Downeast Border Riders Saddle Club**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Downeast Border Riders Saddle Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to:

-  Promoting equine-related activities in and around Washington County.
-  Encouraging a working partnership between horse and rider
-  Advocating proper equine care standards
-  Demonstrating exemplary sportsmanship to the youth of Washington County and surrounding areas.
-  Helping the community in a humanitarian way.
-  Creating and participating in programs that are developed for healthful family-related recreational activities.
-  Advising, teaching, training and endorsing through actions and deeds, proper and acceptable behavior and rules of etiquette pertaining to not only the equine world but society in general.

### **NOTE:**

The DEBRSC welcomes trained equines of all kinds, including donkeys, mules and miniature horses. To simplify explanations in this booklet, it should be understood that reference to "horses" includes all equines.

SAFETY of all equines and individuals is of primary concern to us. To help ensure the safety of everyone in the ring, any out of control horses, or insecure riders that are clearly a hazard to the others in the ring, may be dismissed at the discretion of the ringmaster and/or judge.

## Ringmaster Duties

The ringmaster's duties shall consist of:

- ◆ assessing the soundness of any animal to be shown
- ◆ enforcing safety rules including proper dress, headgear and footwear requirements
- ◆ ensuring all classes and events proceed in a timely fashion according to show schedule.

If the ringmaster is under adult age, these responsibilities shall revert to the judge and/or the club officers in attendance. The ringmaster or alternate, in times of unclear or controversial questions, shall refer to the rules and regulations of the club, or may ask for a judgment call from club officers.

## Show Manager's Duties

The show manager's duties shall include:

- ◆ ensuring road signs are in place as early as possible
- ◆ acting as liaison between the judge and participants
- ◆ Ensuring equipment for barrels, pole-bending and other classes requiring equipment is set up and broken down in a timely fashion. (this can mean by making sure that a ring crew is in place and doing the job)

*\* Trail obstacles are the responsibility of the trail class designer*

## Judging

- ❖ Judges will award five places for each class. At his/her discretion, the judge may establish additional placement.
- ❖ No one shall judge more than one Downeast Border Riders Saddle Club show in a season, except under special circumstances (i.e. last minute cancellation of another scheduled judge).
- ❖ Specific Downeast Border Riders Saddle Club show rules shall be followed. In most instances we follow the rules of USA Equestrian; however there are some DEBRSC proprietary rules that must be primarily applied.
- ❖ The show judge's duties shall end with the final horsemanship class. The judge need not be present for the games and timed events.

## General Show Rules

### **(ALL SHOWS, INCLUDING EQUITATION/PLEASURE AND GAMES/GYMKHANA)**

1. The age of a participant on January 1 shall be maintained throughout that year's show season. Youth classes are for children up to and including the age of 17. Adult classes are for riders 18 years of age and older.
2. Approved helmets are mandatory for all participants age 17 and under in all classes. (and are strongly encouraged for everyone)
3. PW riders (5 to 12 years) shall be accompanied by an "**ADULT** coach" or an **ADULT** supervisor. The coach is there to assist the rider. Coach does not lead the horse unless absolutely necessary for correction. Classes are intended for beginner riders.
4. All shows unless otherwise specified are considered "Open Shows." To be eligible for year-end point awards, the participant must be a member of the Down East Border Riders Saddle Club and be a paid-in-full member before the first show they compete in for those points to count.
5. The sequence of classes may only be changed at a club meeting, prior to the scheduled show. There will be no sequence changes on the day of the show, except under extreme circumstances and then only upon approval of the club officers on site.
6. Attire should be appropriate for the class entered. Proper heeled footwear is mandatory, sneakers, including riding sneakers are not allowed. A riding helmet is considered proper attire for English, as is a western hat for Western riding. Protective headgear is optional in western classes and riders shall not be penalized for the use of protective headgear. DEBRSC strongly encourages the use of properly fitted ASTM-approved helmets.
7. On the recommendation of the judge, the ringmaster may disqualify anyone who uses unsafe, severe or inhumane equipment. The ringmaster will have the option of disqualifying an individual or asking for the situation to be corrected. A hold will be placed for not more than 5 minutes to allow for correction.
8. Unruly or disorderly conduct, profanity or unreasonable behavior of any fashion will be grounds for dismissal from the show grounds, and will be at the discretion of the ringmaster or show manager. This is applicable to anyone on the show grounds, including spectators.
9. At the discretion of the judge, ringmaster or show manager, any out of control horse or a horse with obvious physical or behavioral problems will be excused from the class, and possibly asked to leave the show grounds. All horses shall be under control at all times or be subject to expulsion from the show grounds, for the obvious reasons of safety.
10. Any horse in obvious pain or discomfort will be excused from the class.
11. Bosals and mechanical hackamores are permitted. Mechanical hackamores are used one-handed.
12. Direct (two-handed) reining is permitted in Western classes when a bosal or an *unshanked* snaffle bit such as a loose ring snaffle or full cheek snaffle, is being used. (*Argentine or tom thumb snaffle bit must be used one-handed*)- At judge's discretion, rider will have an opportunity to: 1) change the bit; 2) change from direct to neck reining; 3) not be judged.
  - a. **For Games/Gymkhana Shows**, two-handed riding in any bit is permissible.
13. Tie-downs/martingales are not permitted except in game or jumping classes.
14. Crops are permitted in English, showmanship/halter if breed appropriate, lunge line, driving and in games.
15. Only an adult may show a stallion, which must be in-hand or trailered at all times, except when under saddle. Stallions are never to be left unattended.
16. Show number must be visibly displayed on either horse or rider while in the ring.
17. Anyone in deliberate violation of the aforementioned rules may have their membership revoked and/or forfeit show points accrued.

## **Show Ground Rules**

1. Professionalism and good sportsmanship is to be displayed at all times.
2. Any questions or concerns with a ruling of the judge or judges will be directed to the secretary's booth and must be in written format, signed by complainant. The secretary will bring the issue to the attention of club officer(s) in attendance at the earliest possible convenience. Please do not approach with your complaints any club officer or board member who is participating in the show.
3. Please respect our neighbors. No horses or children allowed in the cemetery.
4. Any horse prone to kicking must display a red ribbon in its tail.
5. Entrants must register individually. If two entrants are to ride the same horse, each entrant must register separately and be issued a separate number. A rider showing two horses must have an entry number for each horse.
6. Rules and courses for trail classes, etc. will be posted at the secretary's booth.
7. No gait faster than a trot on the show grounds, except in the practice ring or show ring.
8. Classes may be split at the discretion of the judge. The minimum number of riders for a class is one.
9. No abuse of animals will be tolerated at any time on the show grounds.
10. Spectators attend at their own risk. Caution is advised at all times. Adults must accompany and supervise children. Please keep strollers away from the arena fence. Children should not be allowed to run near the ring or in the vicinity of any horses, cars, trucks or trailers. Neither the DEBRSC nor the fairgrounds will be held responsible in the event of injury, theft or other such incident.
11. All dogs must be leashed and remain quiet.
12. PLEASE utilize the warm up ring before the show, not the main ring.

**Please no cantering on the track.....please use the warm up ring**

## Point System

Points are awarded to the horse and rider according to their placing and are totaled at the end of the show season. Trophies and ribbons for champions, and ribbons for reserve champions will be awarded for those classes designated as point classes for the show season. Point Divisions are as follows:

Divisions: PW – 12 & under; Youth 17 & under; Adult 18 & Older

Youth Showmanship

Adult Showmanship

Pee Wee equitation

Pee Wee Pleasure

Obstacle driving cones(hitched or line driven)

Open Pleasure driving

Open driving reinsmanship

Walk Trot English equitation

Youth English equitation

Adult English equitation

Walk trot English pleasure

Youth English Pleasure

Adult English Pleasure

Youth English Command

Adult English Command

Open Walk trot command

Walk trot western equitation

Youth Western Equitation

Adult Western Equitation

Walk Trot Western Pleasure

Youth Western Pleasure

Adult Western Pleasure

Youth Western Command

Adult Western Command

Parade Class \*\*Open to all - Walk-trot only (Pee Wee riders, ride inside cones)

Pee Wee Trail

Walk Trot Trail

Youth Trail

Adult Trail

GAMES – Three age divisions – Jr. 12 & under, Youth 13-17, Adult 18 & older

Single Pole

Straight Barrels

Clover leaf Barrels

Pole bending

## **Class Descriptions**

Showmanship -- Open to all ages, English and Western combined. English exhibitors are to lead their horses into the ring in an appropriate bridle. Western exhibitors lead their horses into the ring in a western halter and lead, silver optional. All tack should be well fitting and clean. The class will be judged on the appearance of the animals (grooming, finish), the appearance of the exhibitors and their ability to present their horses. Entrants will be asked to show their horse individually and at the walk and trot. PW riders may enter youth showmanship with their coaches.

Halter - Horses to be judged on their conformation, structural correctness, balance, style, and beauty, best befitting their breed. Emphasis is placed on the most desirable characteristics that enhance the horse's ability to perform. Open to breeds as specified on class list.

Lunge Line Class- Three-minute time limit per horse. Gaits at the option of the handler, you have 3 minutes to impress the judge with your horses training and response to your commands.

Lead Line - Open to riders age 4 to 12. English or Western tack. To be shown at a walk. Reins to be held by rider, while the horse is **led by an adult** holding one leadline attached to a halter worn under the bridle. Entrants are not allowed in any other riding classes except Costume Class. This is a participation class only, no placements.

Special Needs/assisted class- riders are to be lead or have someone in the ring that can assist them if needed. Judged on ability of the rider and the manners of the horse. Walk-trot type of class.

Pleasure Driving Judged upon the horse's way of going on the rail, at a walk, pleasure trot and road trot in both directions. May be asked to back. Particular emphasis is paid to the smoothness of gait, suitability to give a good drive, and manners.

Driving Reinsmanship on the Rail - Judged upon the driver's ability to control and present the horse. Turnout should be appropriate for the type of cart horse is presented with. Hat, gloves and apron should be worn, and a whip should be in hand. Horses will be asked to walk, trot and road trot in both directions. May be asked to back. May be asked to work a pattern.

Driving Time Cones (ground driving or cart) – Must maneuver through a pattern of cones. Timed event. Penalty will be assessed for driving off pattern or knocking a cone. (5 seconds per tennis ball knocked off) NO TIME if off course. If a "gate" is missed, the driver may circle and attempt to fix the pattern.

PW W/T Open Pleasure/Equitation– Open to riders 5 to 12. Riders and their horses will be asked to walk/trot in both directions. Horse and rider must be accompanied (but not led) in the ring by an **ADULT**. Horses may be asked to back. Those riding in the PW division may ride

only in PW classes. PW riders may participate in youth showmanship, halter and costume class. Equipment that is fitted to both horse and rider is required (i.e. stirrups must be used)

Walk-Trot: - Open to all ages. Must ride unaccompanied. Riders and their horses will be asked to walk/trot in both directions. Horses may be asked to back. Those participating in the walk/trot class may not enter any canter/lope classes.

Western Pleasure Particular emphasis is paid to the smoothness of gait, free-flowing stride, attitude and a willingness to perform. Horses should be ridden with a reasonably loose rein.(breed appropriate) Riders will be asked to walk, jog, and lope their horses in both directions. May be asked to back.

Western Equitation -- Riders will be judged on their ability to execute smooth transitions and maintain the proper body position and contact with the horse. Emphasis is placed on the ability of the rider to control his/her horse and ride in a confident, collected, controlled and attractive manner. Riders will be asked to walk, jog, and lope their horses in both directions, and may be asked to back. May be asked to perform individual pattern.

Bareback Equitation- same as western or English equitation, and is open to both types of riding. Judged on the rider's ability.

Trail -- Horse & rider are judged on their ability to work through obstacles and maneuvers as indicated. Obstacles/maneuvers may include opening and closing a gate, walking, jogging or loping when indicated, backing or side-passing, crossing a bridge or "water," opening and closing a mailbox, dragging an object, or other obstacles that a trail horse may have to encounter. Scoring to be based on the horse's willingness, ease and grace in negotiating the course. It is also scored on the rider's ability to negotiate the course as instructed. No more than three refusals per obstacle will be allowed. Adult and Youth will have six obstacles. W/T and PW will have three obstacles. Time limit of 60 seconds per obstacle.

English Pleasure - Judged upon the way of going of a horse on the flat, at a walk, pleasure trot, road trot and canter, in both directions. May be asked to back. Particular emphasis is paid to the smoothness of gait, free-flowing stride, attitude and a willingness to perform.

English Equitation -- Judged upon the rider's seat and position, his/her hands and the ability to control and present the horse. Horses will be asked to walk, pleasure trot, road trot and canter in both directions. May be asked to back. May be asked to perform individual pattern.

Command -- This is judged on the rail. Commands will be given by the judge and horse and rider must respond immediately. As horses are disqualified they will be directed to the center of the ring.

Parade Class- Judges the movement and motion of a horse with particular emphasis on animation and ability to maintain a "parade" gait. (lead line and pee wee riders will stay to the inside of cones placed in the arena, walk trot, youth and adult riders will stay to the outside)

Costume Class --This fun class is judged on the most interesting, original or entertaining costume worn by horse and rider. Riders and their mounts will only be asked to walk. This is open to all, and since it is a “Walk only” class, we welcome all divisions in the ring.

Gymkhana Classes Events may include barrel racing, including cloverleaf and straight barrels; pole bending; quarter race; keyhole, and more. Judged on time and course precision.