THE CONFORMATION STANDARD

The Purpose of the Conformation Horse Class

The purpose of conformation classes is to preserve the ultimate, ideal conformation of stock-type horses by selecting individuals in the order of their overall resemblance to the WCHA Conformation Standard. The selection should be based on the most positive combination of balance; structural correctness, which includes movement; quality, including an attractive profile with appropriate gender and breed type; and finally muscling.

Pillars of Judging the Conformation Horse

When judging, every horse in the class will be assessed in alignment to the WCHA Conformation Standard. BALANCE is the single most important trait to consider when selecting the most desirable individual in any class. This is determined because the best-balanced horse will encompass the highest overall levels of structural correctness, quality, and muscularity.

The duty of the judge is to compare each individual based on which horse exhibits the highest combination of balance, structural correctness, quality with eye appeal and appropriate breed and sex characteristics, and the highest degree of appropriate muscling, keeping in mind that no individual is perfect. The ideal Conformation Horse should never be judged on one single trait, but on the highest combination of all traits.

The most critical point to consider when evaluating balance is viewing a horse from the side profile. First, determine the equivalence of the length of the shoulder to the length of the back, and to the length of the hip. Secondly, observe the proportional and equivalent relationship from the withers to the floor of the chest to the ground, the length of back in relationship to underline and the knee to hock evenness. The final evaluation of balance is the strength of the topline with the withers being at least the same height or higher than the top of the croup, particularly in a horse four years old or older. Moderate exceptions are acceptable when a horse is young and growing.

Structural correctness is the skeletal structure of the horse and is inclusive of all bones being at the proper angles to allow for balance and maximum shock absorbance from concussion during performance. Blemishes on the legs should only be considered if they contribute to a mechanical or structural unsoundness.

As quality is evaluated in each individual, one should analyze the overall look and makeup of both the head and neck. They should be very attractive and eye appealing, as further described later. Each individual should display appropriate gender and breed type characteristics when evaluating quality. The highest quality individuals will help to create the most attractive profiles.

Muscling is the last overall evaluation category when determining the individuals that display the highest combinations of positive traits. The most well-muscled individuals should have the highest combination of quality muscling that appears uniform, athletic, well defined, toned and powerful from all evaluation angles.

Judges Responsibilities

Each judge is responsible for watching and evaluating every horse as they track at the walk and trot. The judge should watch the track from the front, rear and then the side view after the horse turns left around the cone at the trot. The judge will allow an exhibitor up to a maximum of 3 opportunities to trot their horse around the cone.

The judge is responsible for examining the bite on every horse in all age groups of mares and stallions.

Judges will also inspect all stallions 2 yrs old and older for proper dissention of two testicles.

The judge's responsibility is to walk 360 degrees around every horse during individual inspections.

Every judge shall be courteous to all exhibitors and attempt to evaluate each horse at that horse's best when set up squarely, whenever possible.

The judge will analyze each horse from a positive assessment of the traits described above in pillars of judging, and further, in the WCHA standard.

After individual inspections of each horse, the judge will begin to group horses into categories for placings where horses have a similar analysis of positive characteristics. These groupings will vary in size and in the number of groups assessed by the judge, based on class size and depth of quality exhibited, on a class-by-class basis. Examples of groupings assessed by the judge are described as: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Average, Poor, Very Poor and Extremely Poor. After the judge has assessed appropriate groupings for the class and grouped the horses within the class, the judge will then arrange their individual placings, from the groupings described above, after an individual assessment of any faults viewed.

Faults, further described below, fall into three categories: minor, major and severe.

- **Minor faults** assessed by the judge, may move a horse's placing, within the grouping they have been placed into, depending on the faults present in the other horses within that grouping. If a horse has several minor faults, they may move to the grouping below.

- **Major faults** assessed by the judge should move the horse from the original grouping to a grouping below, again based on the faults seen in the other horses in the grouping(s) below. The greater the number of major faults seen, the further the horse moves down in groupings.

- **Severe faults** assessed by the judge will move that horse to the bottom of the class, within the final grouping and can only be placed higher than other horses with one or more severe faults but that have not been disqualified.

The World Conformation Horse Association's Standard

The ideal Standard for the World Conformation Horse Association is a horse of stock-type that is first and foremost balanced, as well as structurally correct, attractive, high quality, and well-muscled. This horse should be symmetrical from head to tail, with eye appeal that is a result of the blending of an attractive head, refined throat latch, well-proportioned long trim neck, long sloping shoulder, deep heart girth, high wither, short strong back, long hip and croup. These characteristics should be coupled with straight, structurally correct legs and feet that are free of major deviation. The ideal Conformation Horse should appear athletic and be uniformly well-muscled throughout with a well-defined and muscular forearm, chest, shoulder, stifle and gaskin.

The head should be short with a wide, flat forehead, small, refined muzzle, gender related jawline and have large, soft eyes. The ears should be small, short and

well-positioned on the head while showing alert expression. The head should be gender specific with a stallion having a defined jawbone, a mare having a reasonable sized jawbone that is not emphasized, and a gelding having a reasonable sized jawbone that is slightly larger than a mare, but less than a stallion.

The neck should begin with a clean, defined throatlatch. The neck should be lean and long in relation to the balance of the individual, cylindrical in shape, and blend smoothly into the shoulder. The crest of the neck should be narrow and clean across the top. The bottom of the neck should originate high out of the chest, and the top of the neck should tie into a prominent wither.

The shoulder extends from the point of the shoulder to the wither and should be long—sloping at a 45-degree angle or less, well-defined, tie smoothly and set back well into the wither, thus easily allowing for a full extension of a stride.

The overall topline should appear strong and be reasonably smooth, and level or higher in height at the top of the withers to the croup. The wither should be prominent and be the highest point on the horse's back and positioned above the heart girth area. The heart girth should be deep and proportional to the length of leg. The back and loin should be strong and short. The back should be significantly shorter when compared to a relatively long underline and should tie smoothly into the croup. The croup should be long and smooth turning, with a well -placed tail set.

The legs should be correctly aligned and square under the body. They should be free of blemishes with adequate size of bone and feet, and have sloping pasterns that correspond with the angle of the shoulder. This allows for maximum shock absorbance from concussion during performance.

Front Leg from Front View: A straight line should run from the point of the shoulder through the center of the forearm, knee, parallel to the cannon bone, with the line ex- tending through the center of the fetlock, pastern and toe of the hoof.

Front Leg from Side View: A straight line should run through the center of the radius in the forearm, knee, cannon bone, and fetlock with the line extending straight to the bulb of the hoof.

Back Leg from Rear View: A straight line should run from the end of the hip through the center of the hock,

Back Leg from Side View: A straight line should run from the top of the tail head, straight down to the point of the hock, parallel to the cannon bone, with the line extending straight to the bulb of the hoof. Muscling should be well-developed, defined, and in size relationship to the skeleton, frame and size of the individual.

Chest: When viewed from the front, the chest should be proportional in width to the rear, tie high into the neck, and be very deep (greater than 8 inches in a horse that is two years or older). The chest muscling should have obvious definition with an inverted deep "V".

Forearm: The forearm should be bulging and well-defined, tie high and smooth to the chest and shoulder, and then blend deep and smoothly to the knee.

Shoulder: The shoulder muscle should be bulging and well-defined, and tie smoothly into the barrel.

Stifle: The stifle muscle should be very wide and most importantly be the widest point when viewed from the rear. There should be a significant amount of bulge, tone, and definition of the stifle muscle, as well as be long and low- tying when viewed from the side and rear. The stifle muscle from the side should be equivalent to the length of the shoulder and to the length of the back, excluding the extra muscle that extends beyond the end of the hip and tail head.

Gaskin: The gaskin muscle should be bulging and defined on both the inside and outside. The gaskin muscle should tie high and smooth into the stifle, and blend in low and smooth to the hock joint.

GROUPING GUIDELINES and DESCRIPTIONS

NOTE: Refer to the WCHA Conformation Horse Standard for descriptions of categories for Balance, Structural Correctness, Quality with Breed and Sex Characteristics and Muscling, and their respective faults

OVERALL Grouping Descriptions: Overall assessment from the profile/side of Balance, Structure, Quality, and Muscling

Excellent: Ideal in all categories of Balance, Structure, Quality, and Muscling

Very Good: Near ideal in all 4 categories; excellent or ideal in Balance, Structure, and Quality, and above average in Muscling

Good: Above average in all 4 categories; excellent or very good in Balance, Structure, or Quality, and average or above in other categories

Average: Average or acceptable in all 4 categories; excellent, very good, good, or above average in 1 or 2 categories, and average or above in 1 or 2 other categories, and 1 category with below average (minor fault)

Below Average: Below average in all 4 categories with no faults; excellent, very good, good, or above average in 2 categories, and poor or worse (minor or major fault) in 2 other categories, and no worse than very poor (1 minor fault) in 1 category; excellent or very good in 3 categories, and extremely poor (major or severe fault) in 1 category

Very Poor: Very poor (minor faults) in 2 or more categories; excellent, very good, good, or above average in 1 or 2 categories, and 2 or more minor faults, and/or 1 or 2 major faults in 1 or 2 other categories, or 1 severe fault

Extremely Poor: Extremely poor (severe faults) in 2 or more categories; very good, good or average in 1 or 2 categories, and multiple minor faults, and/or 2 or 3 major faults in 1 or 2 other categories, or 1 severe fault

BALANCE

Excellent: Ideal in all aspects and considerations of Balance

Very Good: Near ideal in all but 1 aspect of Balance, with 1 aspect being above average

Good: Above average in all aspects of Balance; excellent or very good in 1 or 2 aspects of Balance and above average or average in other aspects of Balance

Average: Average or acceptable in all aspects of Balance; excellent, very good, good, or above average in 1 or 2 aspects of Balance, and average in 1 or 2 other aspects, and 1 aspect below average

Below Average: Below average in all aspects of Balance with no faults; excellent, very good, good, or above average in 2 aspects, and poor in other aspects, and no worse than very poor (1 minor fault) in 1 aspect; excellent or very good in all but 1 aspect of Balance, and extremely poor (major or severe fault) in 1 aspect of Balance

Very Poor: Very poor (minor faults) in 2 or more aspects of Balance; excellent, very good, good, or above average in 1 or 2 aspects of Balance, and 2 or more minor faults, and/or 1 major or severe fault in Balance

Extremely Poor: extremely poor (major or severe fault) in 2 or more aspects of Balance; very good, good or average in 1 or 2 aspects of Balance, and multiple minor faults, and/or 2 or more major or severe faults in 1 or 2 other aspects of Balance

STRUCTURAL CORRECTNESS

Excellent: Ideal in all aspects and considerations of Structure, including Tracking

Very Good: near ideal in all but 1 aspect of Structure and Tracking, with 1 aspect being above average

Good: above average in all aspects of Structure and Tracking; excellent or very good in 1 or 2 aspects of Structure and above average or average in other aspects of Structure and Tracking

Average: average or acceptable in all aspects of Structure and Tracking; excellent, very good, good, or above average in 1 or 2 aspects of Structure, and average in 1 or 2 other aspects, and 1 aspect below average

Below Average: below average in all aspects of Structure with no faults; very good, good, or above average in most aspects, and below average in 1 or 2 aspects of Structure and Tracking

Very Poor: very poor (minor fault) in all aspects of Structure and Tracking; excellent, very good, good, or above average in 1 or 2 aspects of Structure, with 1 minor fault in Structure and/or Tracking

Extremely Poor: extremely poor (major or severe fault) all aspects of Structure and tracking; very good, good or average in 1 or 2 aspects of Structure, and multiple minor faults, and/or 1 or more major or severe fault in Structure and/or Tracking

QUALITY- BREED & SEX CHARACTERISTICS

Excellent- Ideal in all aspects and considerations of Breed and Sex Characteristics (Quality)

Very Good– near ideal in all but 1 aspect of Quality, with 1 aspect being above average

Good- above average in all aspects of Quality; excellent or very good in 1 or 2 aspects of Quality and above average or average in other aspects of Quality

Average- average or acceptable in all aspects of Quality; excellent, very good, good, or above average in 1 or 2 aspects of Quality, and average in 1 or 2 other aspects, and 1 aspect below average

Below Average- below average in all aspects of Quality with no faults; excellent, very good, good, or above average in 2 aspects, and below average in other aspects of Quality

Very Poor- very poor (minor fault) in all aspects of Quality; excellent, very good, good, or above average in 1 or 2 aspects of Quality, and 1 minor fault in Quality

Extremely Poor- extremely poor (major or severe fault) in 2 or more aspects of Quality; very good, good or average in 1 or 2 aspects of Quality, and multiple minor faults, and/or 1 or more major or severe fault in Quality

MUSCLING

Excellent- Ideal in all aspects and considerations of Muscling

Very Good– near ideal in all but 1 aspect of Muscling, with 1 aspect being above average

Good- above average in all aspects of Muscling; excellent or very good in 1 or 2 aspects of Muscling and above average or average in other aspects of Muscling

Average- average or acceptable in all aspects of Muscling; excellent, very good, good, or above average in 1 or 2 aspects of Muscling, and average in 1 or 2 other aspects, and 1 aspect below average

Below Average- below average in all aspects of Muscling with no faults; excellent, very good, good, or above average in 2 aspects, and below average in other aspects of Muscling

Very Poor- very poor (minor fault) in all aspects of Muscling; excellent, very good, good, or above average in 1 or 2 aspects of Muscling, and 1 minor fault in Muscling

Extremely Poor- extremely poor (major or severe fault) all aspects of Muscling; very good, good or average in 1 or 2 aspects of Muscling, and multiple minor faults, and/or 1 or more major or severe fault in Muscling

FAULTS

Minor Faults in Balance:

- Moderate slope to the shoulder

- Slightly long in the back

- Slightly weak in the loin

- Slight steepness to the croup

- Slight rounding of the croup

- Slight weakness or dip behind the withers

- Slightly shallow in the heart girth

- Shorter legs or longer legs than depth of heart girth

- Slightly low from withers to croup

- Slightly disproportionate with the shoulder, back or hip being different lengths when viewed from the side

Major faults in Balance:

- Steep shoulder that obviously impacts proportionalism

- Long back that obviously impacts proportionalism

- Weak loin that obviously impacts strength and levelness of topline

- Short croup

- Steep croup

- Weakness behind the withers

- Shallow heart girth

- Very short or long legs in relation to the heart girth

- Very unlevel from withers to croup

- Very disproportionate, with the shoulder, back or hip being greatly different in lengths when viewed from the side

Severe faults in Balance:

- Extremely steep shoulder that visually greatly impacts the horse's proportionalism and/or causes clearly visible, consistent, improper function of the front leg

- Extremely long back, weak loin and weakness behind the withers that is very likely to impact function and greatly impacts the horses proportionalism

- Extremely short and/or steep croup that visually greatly impacts the horse's proportionalism and very likely impacts function and/or causes clearly visible, consistent, improper function of the hind end

- Extremely unlevel from withers to croup where hip is 3 inches or greater higher than the wither

Minor Faults in Structural Correctness:

- Steep shoulder that allows for some depth of chest, but not at the proper 45-degree angle

- Long back that is longer than the shoulder or hip lengths when viewed from the side

- Weak back that is less than 2 inches from the top of the withers to the back, but still shows weakness

- Front legs from the front where there is a slight deviation of the knee joint to the inside or outside of a straight line

- Front legs from the front where there is a slight deviation of the knee joint to the inside or outside of a straight line

- Front legs from where the fetlock joint is slightly deviated to the inside or outside of a straight line

- Front legs from the front when the hoof is deviated to the inside or outside of a straight line, but not severe enough to interfere when tracking

- Front legs from the side when knee is slightly forward of a straight line and can lock into a straight line

- Front legs from the side when the knee is only slightly behind the vertical or slightly calf kneed

- Front legs from the side when the pastern has some angle from the pastern joint to the hoof, but not enough angle to give proper concussion

- Rear legs from the rear when the point of the hock is to the inside or outside of a straight line running from the point of the hip

- Rear legs from the rear when the hooves are deviated to the inside or outside of a straight line from the point of the hip

- Rear legs from the side when the hock joint itself (only looking at the hock joint) that is slightly outside the boundaries of ideal which vary from 140 to 160 degrees

- Rear legs from the side when the pastern joint has some angle, but lacks the correct angle to give proper concussion

Major Faults in Structural Correctness:

- Steep shoulder that only allows for 4 or less inches of depth of chest

- Long back that gives the appearance of being much longer than shoulder length and hip length when viewed from the side

- Weak back that gives the appearance of being much more than 2 inches from the top of the withers

- Front legs from the front when the knee joint is obviously to the inside or out- side of a straight line

- Front legs from the front when the fetlock joint is obviously deviated to the inside or outside of a straight line

- Front legs from the front when the hoof is severely deviated to the inside or out- side of a straight line possibly causing interference when tracking

- Front legs from the side when the knee is forward of a straight line and can never come close to locking into a straight line

- Front legs from the side when the knee is anywhere behind a straight line or referred to as calf kneed

- Front legs from the side when the pastern is directly above and runs straight from the pastern joint to the hoof with little or no angle

- Rear legs from the rear when the point of the hock is obviously to the inside or outside a straight line running from the point of the hip

- Rear legs from the rear when the hooves are obviously deviated to the inside or outside of the straight line from the point of the hip

- Rear legs from the side when the hock joint itself (only looking at the hock joint) is anything greater than a 160-degree angle or less than 140 degrees

- Rear legs from the side when the hind pastern is directly above and runs straight from the pastern joint to the hoof with little or no angle

Severe Faults in Structural Correctness

- An extremely steep shoulder which significantly impacts length of stride, and/or that impacts the position of the front leg, where it is consistently and obviously misaligned impacting proper function

- An extremely long and/or weak back that is obviously so weak it would likely impact function

- Front legs from the front or the side with obvious and consistent deviation from proper alignment such that the fault greatly impacts movement and correct function of the leg. These severe faults can include; sub-luxated front ankles and severely sub-luxated knees, severe bench knees, severe calf knees, severely in-set knees, severely deviated cannon bones to the inside or outside of the knee

- Hind legs from the side or rear with obvious and consistent deviation from proper alignment such that the fault greatly impacts movement and correct function of the leg. These severe faults can include; severely bowed hocks, severely inset hocks, severe set to the hock, less than 110 degrees, severe straightness to the hock at 180 degrees or greater, sub-luxated hind pasterns

Front Leg Alignment

#16 in the illustrations is ideal alignment from the side. Ideal because it utilizes the total column of bone, tendon, muscle and ligaments to absorb the concussion all the way down to the fetlock that is at the correct angle and used as a shock absorber. And, "the line of concussion comes down the leg to the bulb of the heel, not at the middle of the foot".

Comparing the other illustrations:

- #17 is a horse that's over at the knee which is easy to identify. Yes, a fault but because the knee is made to bend forward it is not as bad as

- #18 that is backwards, a fault termed calf-kneed.

- #19 is a horse that is too straight in the pastern and you can see that the line of concussion comes down the leg to the middle of the hoof right where the navicular bone is located. That is the primary reason a straight-shouldered, straight pasterned horse gets navicular disease, because he absorbs most of concussion right through the center of the foot where the navicular bone is located.

- # 20 is a horse that is camped under in front. Number 21 is camped out.

- # 22 is a horse that has small cannon bone in relationship to the rest of his leg.

- # 23 is a horse that is "tied in" below the knee.
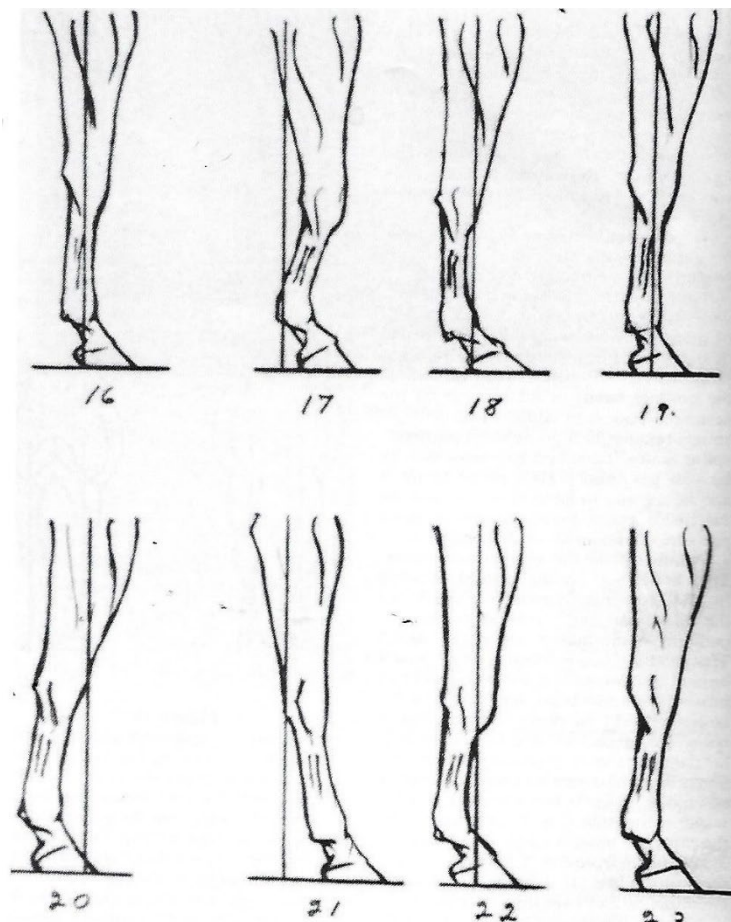
Viewing From the Front:

A horse's front legs support 65% of his total body weight so correct alignment is critical to maintain soundness.

- # 6 is ideal alignment from the front.

- #7 is a horse that is base-wide, this horse has excessive pressure on inside of knee and will be prone to splints.

- #8 is the pigeon-toed horse. #10 is a horse that's wide and most likely not much of an athlete. #11 is a horse that is base narrow.

- # 12 is off-set at the knees and base wide.

- # 13 is the 'bench-legged" horse. This horse will likely have soundness problems if stressed.
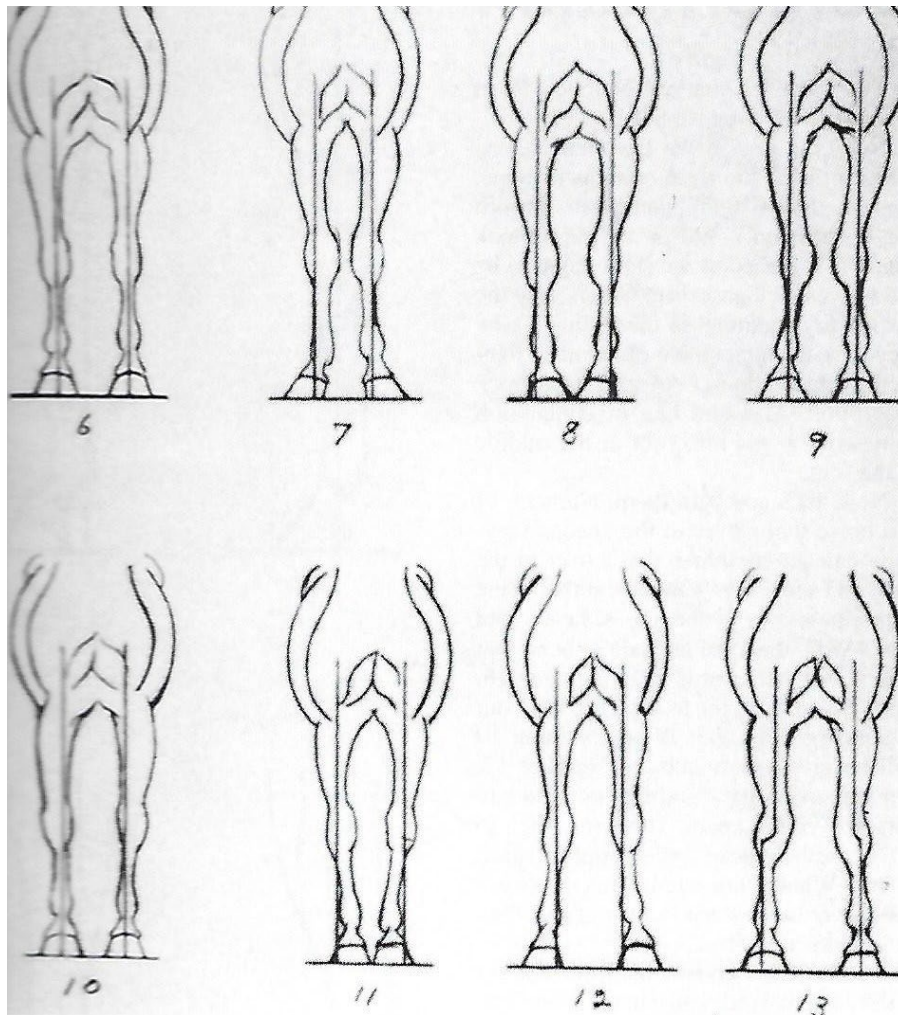
Minor Faults in Quality, Gender or Breed-Type Characteristics:

Long Head

Small bulge between the eyes

Narrow between the eyes

Small eyes

Long ears

Offset ears

Pin Ears

Small nostrils

Slightly thickened throatlatch

Slightly shorter neck in relation to the back and hip

Slightly thick neck

Somewhat low tying neck

Somewhat thickened crestline

Maior Fault in Quality, Gender or Breed-Type Characteristics:

Very long head, Roman nose

Pig eyed

Very narrow between the eyes

Large bulge between the eyes

Very Long Ears

Floppy ears

Very Poorly set ears or ears with bad expression

Very thickened throatlatch

Much shorter neck in relation to the back and hip

Very thick neck

Very low tying neck

Very wide and thickened crestline

Severe Faults in Quality

An excessively poorly conformed head that severely detracts from the overall quality, eye appeal and/or breed or sex characteristics of the horse, due to any combination of the traits listed below:

Excessively long head

Excessively Roman nosed

Extremely Pig eyed

Excessively narrow between the eyes

Excessively Long Ears

Extremely Floppy ears

Extremely Poor set ears or ears with bad expression

An excessively poorly conformed neck that severely impacts overall proportionalism, eye appeal, proper balance point for back and hip in motion, and/or depth of chest, as a result of any combination of traits listed below:

Extremely deep and thickened throatlatch

Extremely short neck in relation to the back and hip, 3 vertebrae or greater shorter than back or hip

Extremely thick neck

Extremely low tying neck

Extremely wide and thickened crestline

Minor Faults in Muscling:

Chest muscling that appears to have an inverted V, but lacks the depth of high-quality muscling

Chest muscling that appears more than 6 inches in depth from the neck/chest junction, but lacking true high-quality depth of chest

Shoulder muscling that is proportional in length when viewed from the side, but not equivalent to the back and stifle

Forearm muscling that has definition, but lacks the bulge of high-quality muscling

Forearm muscling that ties in and blends into the chest and knee, but lacks the bulge and definition of true high-quality muscling.

Stifle muscling that appears to have definition, but lacks the bulge and width of true high-quality muscling.

Stifle muscling that appears shorter when viewed from the side in comparison to the back and chest, but is still proportional.

Gaskin muscling that has definition, but lacks the bulge of high-quality muscling

Gaskin muscling that ties in and blends into the stifle and hock, but lacks the bulge and definition of true high-quality muscling.

Major Faults in Muscling:

Chest muscling that appears as a wide flat or no V

Chest muscling that appears to be less than 6 inches from the neck/chest junction to the floor of the chest when viewed from the front

Shoulder muscling that appears to be less than half the length of the back or hip when viewed from the side

Forearm muscling that has very little bulge or definition

Forearm muscling that fails to tie in high with blending to the chest or knee

Stifle muscling that appears more narrow than the top of the hip when viewed from the rear giving an appearance of being "apple butted"

Stifle muscling that appears flat with very little definition

Muscling that from the point of the hip to the end of the buttock appears to be less than half the length of the back or extremely short with no length when viewed from the side

Gaskin muscling that has very little bulge or definition

Gaskin muscling that fails to tie in high with very little blending to the stifle or hock

Severe Faults in Muscling:

Muscling so devoid of quality, length, width, and definition, in the shoulder, forearm, hip, stifle and/or gaskin that balance, proportionalism, depth, width and/or squareness of the horse are severely impacted. A severe fault in muscling is a horse so inadequately muscled that strength, endurance, speed and/or longevity in activity would likely be impacted due to any combination of the faults listed below:

Extremely flat and light chest muscling that gives no separation through the chest

Shoulder muscling from the side that appears to be a third of the length of the back or hip

Forearm muscling with no bulge or definition

Completely flat appearance to the stifle muscling that is much narrower than the top of the hip

Muscling that from the point of the hip to the end of the buttock that appears to be a third or less in length than the back or shoulder

Gaskin muscling that has no bulge or definition

DISQUALIFICATION

1. Lameness – Obvious Lameness is:

   a. Consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances; Marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride;
   b. Minimal weight-bearing in motion and/or at rest and inability to move.

2. Parrot/Monkey Mouth – defined as no occlusal contact between the upper and lower central incisors.

3. Cryptorchid – Cryptorchidism in a stallion that is 2 years of age or older where there is evidence of only one testicle present.

4. Incorrect Pattern – Any horse that does not continuously trot around the cone and remain trotting a minimum of 2 horse lengths past the cone will be asked to re-track that portion of the pattern, with a maximum of 3 attempts. If the horse does not remain in the trot around the cone, as described, after 3 attempts they will be disqualified.

5. Horses who Pace or Rack while tracking. Also, any individual who displays a consistent lack of control of the limbs, most regularly, the hind limbs while tracking. This type of track is commonly associated with neurological disorders.

   a. Exception: Contestants in all Youth Divisions, Intermediate Non-Pro Division and Limited Non-Pro Division that do not complete the prescribed pattern are not to be placed over any contestant that completes the pattern correctly, but will not be disqualified.

5. Setting Up/Inspection – All contestants that do not get their horse set up and standing still for inspection long enough to allow for proper inspection of all four sides.

   a. Exception: Contestants in all Youth Divisions, Intermediate Non-Pro Division and Limited Non-Pro Division that do not get their horse set up and standing still for inspection long enough to allow for proper inspection of all four sides are not to be placed over any contestant that completes the set up and inspection, but will not be disqualified.

CLASS PROCEDURE

a. Only the exhibitor and the horse are allowed to be in the lineup to move into the show pen to be judged. There will be no trainers, parents or grooms with the exhibitor or horse once the exhibitor is lined up to show.

b. Each exhibitor and horse must complete the prescribed pattern. The pattern is as follows: Horses will walk to the judge one at a time. As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the right (left of the horse) to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed approximately 50 feet away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and continue trotting until it reaches the next cone.

c. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear. All stallions and mares will be inspected for parrot mouth or monkey mouth. All stallions 2 years of age or older will be inspected for cryptorchidism.

d. Any horse that does not continuously trot around the cone and remain trotting a minimum of 2 horse lengths past the cone will be asked to re-track that portion of the pattern, with a maximum of 3 attempts. If the horse does not remain in the trot around the cone, as described, after 3 attempts they will be disqualified.

e. Loose horse – Any horse that becomes detached from its handler and is no longer under control may be disqualified, however the rules of the event and decision of show management will take precedence. If the initial horse exhibiting poor mannerisms causes other exhibitors to lose their horse, only the initiating horse may be disqualified.

f. Disruptive horse – Any horse that is disruptive, a danger to the exhibitor, other exhibitors or horses may be disqualified at the judge's discretion.

WCHA Standard shown in Colors of our Breed Affiliates

When judging classes with horses of color, no matter the breed, the horse should always be judged based on the WCHA judging pillars and using the WCHA conformation standard. These horses shall never be ranked or discriminated against based on color, in any circumstance. Judges must be aware of not allowing any color to alter their perspective in any way of true conformation and train their eye to properly analyze the conformation standard in all possible color combinations without color bias.

(Below see our WCHA Standard in colors of our Breed Affiliates)
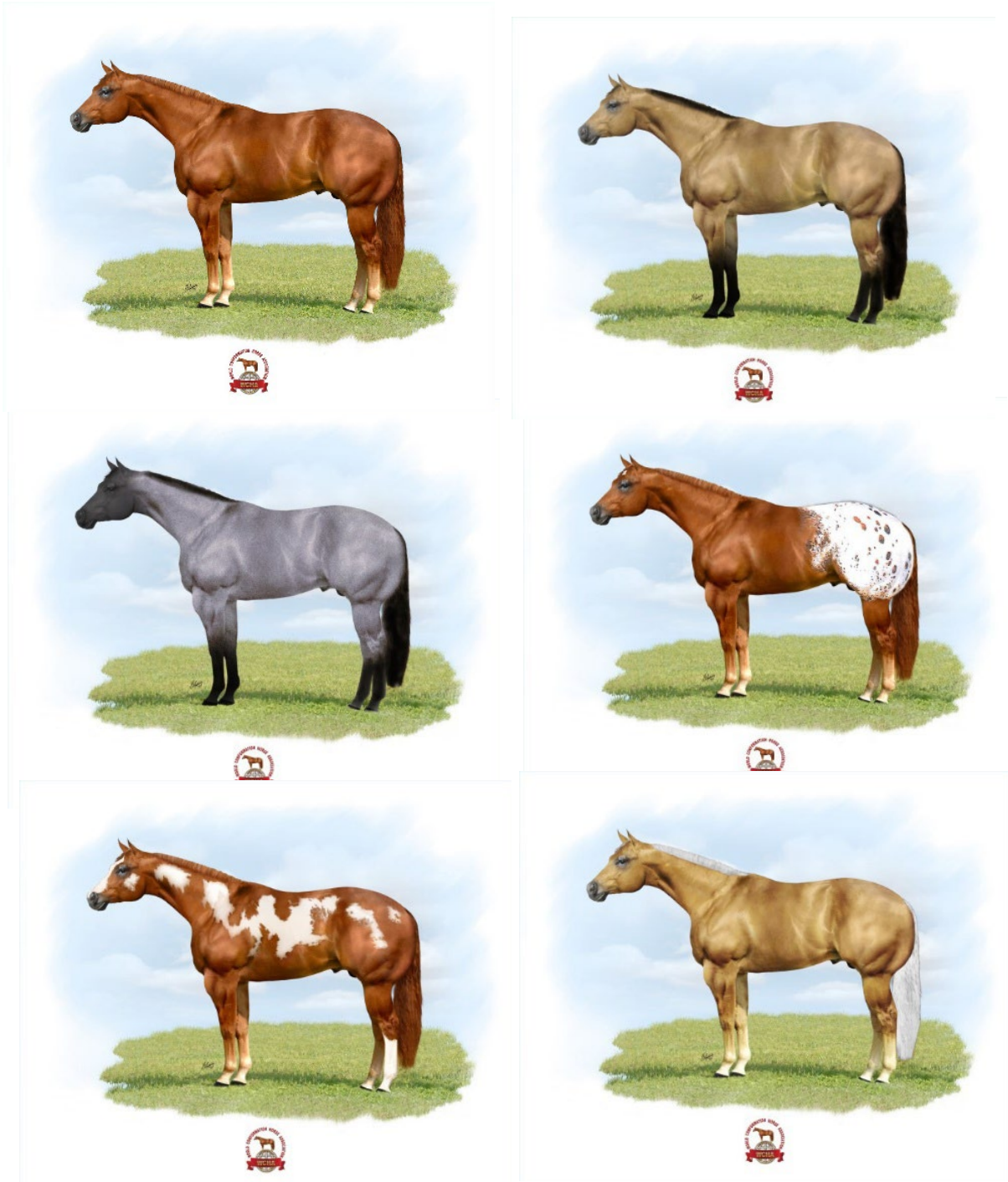
MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

The World Conformation Horse Association's mission shall be to unite for the purpose of stimulating fair and competitive opportunities for enthusiasts of the conformation horse, while protecting the welfare and integrity of the horse through responsible stewardship.

We strive to preserve and promote the value of correct conformation in the equine industry.

We believe that correct conformation serves as the foundation to the horse's ability to successfully perform in any discipline.

We are committed to protecting, preserving, and promoting the conformation standard of the horse and to constantly pursue growth in our industry.

Revised Edition: Falcon/2025