



WEST VOLUSIA SADDLE CLUB

Riding Rules 2025

1. Registration for any class or event or presence on the show ground is considered acceptance of these rules.
2. All registration forms for pleasure classes must be completed prior to the close of registration. AM registration will close at the 10-minute gate call for Halter Classes. PM registration will open at 10 am and close at the 10-minute gate call prior to Western Classes beginning. It is the exhibitors' responsibility to fill out all forms completely and correctly. Failure to do so will result in a loss of highpoint awards, no placement in the class or no entry to the class.
3. Neither WVSC, its members, officers, show grounds, their designative representative, agents, staff, guests, nor sponsors will be responsible for any accident/injury or loss which may occur to exhibitors, spectators, horses, or any other animals, vehicles, equipment or property at any show, event, and/or activity.
4. All entrants must show a current Negative Coggins test (1 year) for each horse exhibited, and any other horse brought to the show grounds. It is the horse owner's responsibility to provide a current Negative Coggins on each horse on premises to any State Officer upon request, should they audit any shows held at West Volusia Saddle Club. Foals can show under their mares Coggins papers if the mare is on the property and the foal is still nursing. If the mare is not present, then the foals must have their own Coggins papers.
5. In all situations, a consensus of three (3) board members and/or the Judge will be convened, and a decision will be made by these board members and/or Judge. This decision is final.
6. Appropriate attire and tack is required for all classes and/or events. If you ride English, then helmets are required whenever you are in the ring. In Pleasure all exhibitors must wear boots, hats, and proper attire. Boots are mandatory in all arena events. Lead line class in Pleasure does not require proper attire with the exception of boots. Depending on the Judge, there may be modifications to this rule due to weather, etc.
7. If contestant is a minor, an adult shall accompany them. The adult must be the parent or legal guardian of the minor, no exceptions.
8. No horses permitted in designated spectator areas. Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times. Dogs should be under the supervision of an adult. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs permitted. These rules are City Ordinances and will be enforced. If you violate this rule, you will be asked to leave.
9. Cruel or inhumane treatment of any horse on our grounds will not be tolerated. Participants must always exhibit good sportsmanship. Excessive hitting of a horse at any WVSC event or anywhere on the grounds, at any time, is an automatic disqualification. The Judge and/or Arena Manager and/or Show Committee will approve the decision. Failure to abide by any of the above will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and will be handled accordingly. At the discretion of the Judge and/or Arena Manager, any member, spectator, participant who is abusive to any individual or animal, who shows unsportsmanlike conduct or demonstrates any



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behavior that is disruptive to the show, will be asked to leave the grounds for the remainder of the show. No refunds will be made. Beyond a first warning, said offender(s) will be immediately suspended from all WVSC activities until called before the Board of Directors for determination of return. Repeat offenders will be banned from WVSC until brought before the General Membership and voted on for reentry.

10. All horses must be kept under control at all times. Exhibitors and/or participants will be issued one warning. After that, they will be disqualified.
11. Age attained as of January 1, will determine the age group of the rider for the entire year. If a rider decides to go up an age division, he/she must remain in the age division and if this changes your division level, (i.e.: junior to teen, etc.), you may take your work or meeting points with you, riding points will not convey. Once you move up, you cannot go back.
12. In Pleasure, the highest placing in equitation class will break Highpoint and Reserve ties. Ties at timed events will be broken by slingshot or other tiebreaker as determined by the Arena Manager. Year End ties will be determined by the average barrel time for the show season.
13. In case of rain, the Judge and/or Show Committee will decide if the show is to be continued or cancelled. If the show continues, no refunds will be given. If the show is cancelled, a rain check will be given for the remaining classes. Rain checks are valid until the end of the year. If you scratch from a class, there is no refund. Refunds are only allowed if the horse and/or rider become visibly injured or ill and are approved by the Show Committee. In timed events, three (3) events may constitute a show; in pleasure, 1/2 of classes completed may constitute a show. In the event that any show is cancelled prior to the beginning of the show(s) due to inclement weather, said show(s) will not be rescheduled at all.
14. In Pleasure, all lead line participants will receive an award. In timed events, lead liners will place and will be awarded according to place. Lead Line participants cannot enter any other classes but lead line. An adult must accompany riders in lead line class. Lead liners must be at least two (2) years of age as of January 1 of the current year. Adult is defined as eighteen (18) years or older. Failure to comply will result in a disqualification of said event.
15. The Pleasure divisions are:
 - A. Walk/Trot: This division is for beginners and persons showing and/or have not graduated to canter classes.
 - B. Walk/Trot/Canter: This class is for experienced persons who show at the Walk/Trot/Canter level.
 - C. Walk/Trot Ranch: This division is for beginners and persons showing and/or have not graduated up to canter classes.
 - D. Ranch Horse: This class is for experienced persons who show at the Walk/Trot/Canter level.



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16. In Pleasure, in order to compete for day end and year end highpoint awards you must show in no less than Four (4) out of 5/6 division classes, one of which must be Showmanship/Ground Handling or Grooming and Conditioning.
17. In Pleasure, there is no class/division size; however, in a class with less than three (3) entries, the Judge may combine classes.
18. If you are participating in a series or for end of day in timed or pleasure events, it must be same horse, same rider combination for the series or end of day. There are exceptions such as death, illness, or sale of horse. You must discuss this with the Board of Directors prior to the start of the next show you enter to see if you qualify and for approval of the change.
19. A forty (\$40.00) dollar fee will be applied to all returned checks. A returned check fee plus the amount of the check must be paid in full by cash or money order. If you are utilizing an open check, please make sure it is closed prior to the end of the last class of that show. An open check must be signed at the time of registration. If you fail to close it out, WVSC will fill it out based on the classes entered and mandatory insurance of \$5.00 for each rider. When paying by check, you must present a valid driver's license. If you bounce a check, you have 30 days to pay or be sent to collections. If a person does not make good on a bounced check, they will not be allowed to show at WVSC until the balance is paid in full. Any checks by this person will no longer be accepted.
20. No unauthorized person shall be in the ring or office without permission.
21. Pleasure contestants will be disqualified from their class for not being in the ring when time is called and gate is shut or not allowed to enter. Contestants will receive a three (3) minute gate call. Tack changes will be allowed but must be written on registration and class forms.
22. Divisions for Timed Events:
 - A. Lead Line: two (2) & older, must be led with a lead rope by a person eighteen (18) years of age or older.
 - B. Small Fry: eight (8) & under, may have up to 2 spotters in arena during each event for Verbal Assistance Only, no spotter shall be permitted to cross the timer line or physically assist the participant & horse in patterns.
 - C. Junior: nine (9) to eleven (11).
 - D. Teen: twelve (12) to fourteen (14).
 - E. Intermediate: fifteen (15) to seventeen (17).
 - F. Senior: eighteen (18) to thirty-nine (39).
 - G. Senior Pro: forty (40) and older.
23. In timed events, once your division begins, you cannot be added to the class. You must sign up for the class prior to or during the division before yours.
24. In timed events, you should be on time for your class. Your name will be called two (2) times, a maximum of three (3) minutes. If you are not there to run, you will miss your class.



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25. Tack and Equipment- No training gear is allowed in Pleasure with the exception of the schooling classes. In any class, the Judge or Show Committee shall have the authority to require removal or alteration of any piece of equipment which is illegal, unsafe, or inhumane. Tack and equipment must be in good shape. In timed events, you will not be allowed a re-ride for faulty equipment or if your horse falls.
26. In timed events, there will be no running of the gate/alleyway. If a rider runs the gate/alleyway it will be an automatic disqualification.
27. In timed events, if the timer malfunctions, a re-ride is allowed. If the rider is penalized in the re-ride class, they are allowed to run again, one time.
28. In timed events, any horse having difficulty entering the arena through the in gate may be allowed to use the out gate. At the discretion of the Arena Manager the horse and rider may continue to use the out gate as an entrance. If you choose to utilize the out gate, you must start your pattern from in front of the in gate. If you fail to do this, you will be disqualified.
29. In timed events, if the timer is not working, two (2) stopwatches will be utilized, and an average will be given accordingly. In the event the timer malfunctions or stops, the rider will be given a re-ride.
30. In timed events, a five (5) second penalty will be added to the rider's time for knocking over any cone, barrel, pole or basket, etc. You are permitted to hold up a barrel, pole, or basket. Hitting your horse with a flag or stick during an event that uses this prop, or if the flag is not placed in the bucket, or the barrel or bucket is not upright, will result in a disqualification. Jackpot riders knocking over any barrel will result in automation disqualification.
31. In timed events, the in gate will not be opened until the last rider has exited the arena.
32. In timed events, entries will not be accepted after the first rider in that age group in that event has been called.
33. In the event of a tie, there will be a runoff or a coin toss, whichever is agreed to by the contestants. The Arena Manager is the final decision maker.
34. No cantering/loping or running except in the show arena or practice arena. No horseplay. Cantering/loping is permitted on lunge line.
35. All protests regarding incidents and/or violations/concerns at a show and/or event must be presented to the Board in writing via hand delivery or U.S. Mail to (WVSC, P.O. Box 186, Lake Helen, Florida 32744), within thirty (30) days of the date of the incident to be reviewed and resolved by no less than five (5) Board members.
36. Anyone who utilizes the use of the tractor or works the gates must be eighteen (18) years or older. Closed toes shoes are required.



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TO QUALIFY FOR END OF THE YEAR AWARDS IN GYMKHANA OR PLEASURE YOU MUST:

1. If you are eighteen (18) years or older on January 1 of this year, you must earn twelve (12) points total. Six (6) must be earned by working shows or attending work parties and the other six (6) by attending meetings. Work points should include two (2) points earned at pleasure shows and two (2) points earned at speed shows.
2. If you are twelve (12) years to seventeen (17) on January 1 of this year, you must have a total of twelve (12) points which can be acquired by attending meetings, work parties, working shows, or a combination of all three. Work points should include (1) point earned at pleasure shows and one (1) point earned at speed shows.
3. If you are eleven (11) years or under on January 1 of this year, you must have a total of six (6) points which can be acquired by attending meetings, work parties, working shows, or a combination of all three. You may have two (2) work points designated to you by anyone (member or non-member) working in your place. This designation must be made on the workers sheet by the designator prior to the start of the event. You may not receive more than two (2) designated points total for the year.
4. You must participate in a minimum of 60% of the shows of your selected discipline. Points from shows where you were eligible for daily highpoint in your selected division are the only points that will accumulate toward year end. One pleasure show constitutes competing in four (4) out of five (5) division classes. In Pleasure, one class must be Grooming & Conditioning and/or Showmanship/Ground Handling. One timed show constitutes competing in three (3) out of four (4) timed classes in your age division.

Pleasure Show Class Specifications

Halter Classes

Western - Horses are to be shown in halter tack only.

English - Horses may be shown in halter or hunt bridle. All breeds may be shown to breed standard.

Grooming and Conditioning - To be judged on overall condition, cleanliness and show of horse. You may position your horse.

Conformation Halter Classes - To be judged on overall condition, conformation, manners, and quality of the horse. Horses will be judged while standing to breed standard. If you place 1st or 2nd in a conformation class, then you are eligible for Grand and Reserve halter for the day. These points also count for year end of the halter awards for pleasure show members. You may position your horse.

All Breed Color Class - To be judged on horse color (paints, pintos, appaloosa, palomino, duns, buckskins, greys, gruellas, etc.) A bay, chestnut, sorrel, brown, black, and/or solid colored horse is not considered a colored horse.

Showmanship/Ground Handling Classes - To be judged on how well you present your horse and how well your horse responds to your handling. There is a pattern in this class, which will either be posted



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by the Judge or as directed to you when you enter the ring for the class. You may not touch your horse in this class.

Riding Classes

Pleasure Class - To be judged on horses' performance on the rail. To be judged 90% on the horse and 10% on the rider on manners, performance and suitability to give a pleasurable ride.

Equitation Class - To be judged on riders' ability/workmanlike appearance, seat and the impression of control on the rail. To be judged 90% on the rider and 10% on the horse.

Horsemanship/Ranch Riding Class - To be judged on the rider and horse ability to perform a pattern, workmanship together, appearance and movement. Pattern will either be posted prior to class or announced by the Judge at start of class upon entering the ring.

Trail - To be judged on how well you and your horse perform the maneuvers and obstacles within the designated pattern.

Jump - To be judged on overall performance of rider and horse. They are judged on movement, ability, seat, and form and must be in English tack. After three (3) refusals, you will be excused. You may not substitute trail for jumping and jumping for trail for daily highpoint.

There is a three (3) try limit for each obstacle. After three (3) tries, please be considerate and move on. You may pass on two (2) obstacles. If you must pass over more than two (2) obstacles, you are disqualified.

Timed Event Class Specifications

Timed Events - Horses run a prescribed pattern for best time. A five (5) second penalty is added for knocking over any prop (i.e.: barrel, pole, etc.) An exhibitor is disqualified if you fail to perform the pattern correctly or step out of bounds or on the line (i.e.: chalk keyhole) or drop a prop, please refer to the rules, Divisions are based on age. Bat's. "Over and under", whips, crops, and spurs are allowed in timed events. Please inquire of the Show Committee if you have any questions regarding rules or specifications.

IN EVERY DISCIPLINE, WE RECOMMEND HELMETS FOR YOUR SAFETY!

WARNING: UNDER FLORIDA LAW, AN EQUINE ACTIVITY SPONSOR OR EQUINE PROFESSIONAL IS NOT LIABLE FOR AN INJURY TO, OR THE DEATH OF, A PARTICIPANT IN EQUINE ACTIVITIES RESULTING FROM THE INHERENT RISK OF EQUINE ACTIVITIES.