

TWH ACADEMY PROGRAM

Purpose: To create a fair and enjoyable division for beginner riders to compete.

Horse Eligibility:

1. All horses must be Registered Tennessee Walking Horses
2. The horse must be regularly used in a lesson program.
3. Horses may be owned or leased by the rider, horse and rider need to be in active in a lesson program.
4. Only mares and geldings will be allowed in Academy classes regardless of the age of the rider.
5. Horses may also enter in regular amateur and open classes while still being eligible for Academy classes.
6. Horses appearance should be neat and clean with ears, legs, face, and bridle path correctly clipped.

Rider Eligibility

1. Lessons students of any age are eligible for Academy classes
2. Academy classes are open to riders in their 1st and 2nd years of showing. After 2 years, a rider is no longer eligible for Academy competition.
3. Riders may participate in Non-Academy (other youth/amateur) classes without losing their Academy eligibility as long as they are within the 2 year limit.

Attire

1. English:
 - a. jodhpurs or breeches in good condition (with tie downs)
 - b. A long sleeve button down shirt with vest and tie
 - c. Paddock or jodhpur boots
 - d. Helmets are required in Academy classes**
2. Western:
 - a. Jeans or dark riding pants
 - b. Button down shirt or western show shirt for girls
 - c. Cowboy boots
 - d. Helmets are required in Academy classes**

- Gloves are optional
- Whips are permitted with English attire
- Spurs are permitted with English or Western attire
- A mixture of English and western attire or tack is not permitted
- **Ear pieces/Communication Devices are not allowed in Academy Classes**

Judging Guidelines

- Riders are allowed to use two hands in western tack regardless of horses age or bit used.
- Academy should be judged on the combination of horse and rider.
- Consistency, Riders Position, Manners of the horse, and Overall appearance of the team are to be judged.
- Riders are required to back in the lineup
- Judges are encouraged to give riders feedback in the lineup to help participants learn/improve performance.

Shows are encouraged to offer classes that will fit the need for their area. Classes can be divided into various age groups and adult classes can be offered where there is a need. Also, classes can be divided into Academy Pleasure, Academy Equitation/Horsemanship and Academy Showmanship. (Showmanship and Equitation/Horsemanship classes will follow the general rules found in the TWHBEA Versatility Rule Book). Patterns are not required in Equitation/Horsemanship classes but can be used.