

Kent County Riding Pattern Scoring Criteria Modification

June 2006

The goals of the English/Western Riding Class as stated directly from the 2006 Rules and Regulations: *This class is a competition in the performance and characteristics of a good, sensible, well-mannered, free and easy moving western ranch horse or English pleasure horse. It is for the kind of horse than can get a person around on a ranch, over trails, or on a quiet comfortable, pleasant ride in open country through and over obstacles. The class is neither a stunt nor a race.*

Kent County Horse Leaders have carefully considered the current English/Western Riding Class Rules. We have diligently complied for the past three years and found we need to modify the rules concerning flying lead changes. We believe we have a unique program that warrants a return to the previous scoring criteria for this class.

Our reasons for deciding this modification are as follows:

- One of the main goals of the Kent County Horsemaster Program is to provide an opportunity for youth to learn, advance and utilize their equine knowledge for their entire 4-H career, producing horsemen, not just riders. Therefore, many of our older youth are motivated to work with and bring a young horse to Fair as their experience and skills have allowed them to do so.
- The English/Western Riding Class is 1/3 of the total possible points for 3 of our Combination Awards. We would need to revamp our entire Combination Award format if this class could not be utilized fairly and consistently within our current Horsemaster Program.
- Our arena square footage that is available for setting up the Riding Pattern is 150 x 150 making the pattern set up close to the minimum allowed distance requirements. This minimum distance poses both a safety issue and a training issue with marginal horses.
- Upon reviewing the specific objectives stated in the 2006 Rules and Regulations (see underlined italics above), Kent County Horse Leaders have determined the previous scoring criteria is consistent with current class objectives and our Horsemaster Program.

Rule Modification: When lead changes are made, a flying change is preferred. However, a simple change (drop down change) will not cause disqualification, but should be scored lower after considering the state class objectives.

Kent County Horse Leaders
Executive Committee