

**STANDARD BRED STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Through breeding the perfect racehorse, the characteristics of the breed has altered somewhat with the breed becoming more refined and elegant over the years due to the strong American influence introduced into our breeding program. This has enabled the breed to produce faster times and better performances on the track.

All halter horses should be judged according to the characteristics required of its breed. E.g. A racing proposition, suitable for performance on the racetrack.

A Standardbred should have a well-proportioned body, have a good depth and width of chest, a deep and powerful line of shoulder with an equally proportioned and well-muscled hindquarter and can range from 14 hands to over 16 hands in height. Colors range from black, bay, chestnut, grey and broken colors. The Standardbred should have a neat but strong head with a bright eye, which are well spaced. Body types will vary between stocky and athletic. They should stand wide through the chest and the legs should be straight (not base narrow) and with a good knee and fetlock, as without straight legs racing & soundness would be difficult. The Standardbred should stand over a good amount of ground, with a good length of back. The back should be well muscled with a well-covered and strong wither running nice and evenly into the neck. The Standardbred should have a well-balanced but ground covering trot, with strong movement from the shoulder and equally robust drive from behind, as this is where the power comes from. All movement should be straight and clean. A good strong even length of stride with no wasted action is preferred and the hind legs should track up strongly. Horses should carry a well-rounded outline throughout the workout.

**RIDDEN STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE**

The judging of the breed under saddle should be as that of any Open Hack class. Intermediate Classification is for all horses coming out of the Walk/Trot ring or any horse in the first year’s competing at canter level. These classes are designed for the horses in the process of mastering the gaits, transitions and outlines of an Open Hack. It is expected some of the horses will be quite green but we encourage people to move their horses into this class to gain experience. Horses may be at different levels of education but we encourage you to reward the horses that are capable of displaying even and correct gaits and transitions with a consistent outline. The pacing gait is not desirable at either of these levels.

The Open horse must carry itself correctly in all gaits and must not travel behind the bit. Workouts should include a lengthening at the trot and canter and an in hand gallop can be asked for if desired for the Hunter Hacks. Horses competing at this level are expected to be capable of walk to canter and halt to canter transitions if required. Correct gaits are paramount throughout the workouts.

The ridden horse should display qualities of a show horse and work forward with flare, exuberance but softness and obedience to the rider at all times.

**PRESENTATION GUIDELINES**

**LED HORSE PRESENTATION:**

Judging of a Best Presented class should be on both horse and handler. Horses must be presented with a healthy clean coat, tail and mane with all the finer details of presentation covered. Plaits must be neat and braided or pulled tails. Colts and stallions maybe left unplaited. Ears can be neatened, inner ear hair and all sensory facial hairs must not be removed or trimmed. Female handlers can be dressed in either pants or a skirt with a matching or co-ordinate jacket or waistcoat. A suitable undergarment (blouse, shirt etc) should be worn. Stocks are optional but under no circumstances are see through garments or exposed midribs or cleavages acceptable. Males can be presented in pants, shirt, tie, waistcoat or jacket. Alternatively English ridden attire can be also worn. Hats, gloves and whips/canes are compulsory in a Best Presented class. Footwear should be clean. Bridles should be of a good quality, clean and good fit. All buckles should be clean and shiny, with straps in keepers. Bits should be clean and brow bands to match the handler’s outfit. The overall image should be picture perfect with horse and handler color co-ordinates complimenting each other in every detail.

**HANDLER/RIDER PRESENTATION:**

Please see pages 18-20 of our [Track to Hack Show](#) Guide for all handler and rider presentation guidelines.

**WHISKER REMOVAL RULING**

Any competitor who presents a Standardbred to any class with be rejected entry to the ring if this ruling has been breached. It will be a condition of entry provided on the program that will be signed by the exhibitor that you will abide by any SPPHAWA ruling. No refunds will apply if entry to compete is denied.

