

HORSEMANSHIP CLASSIC

SHOW MANUAL

Chapter 1 – Preamble

The Horsemanship Classic was founded on the belief that true horsemanship extends far beyond winning ribbons.

Great horsemen are not defined solely by technical skill, but by their ability to communicate with their horses through patience, knowledge, respect, and feel.

The Horsemanship Classic exists to develop complete riders by rewarding versatility, teamwork, sportsmanship, and horse-centered training. Every rule, class, and judging decision is designed to encourage riders to become better horsemen—not simply better competitors.

Through a unique team competition format, riders are challenged to prepare for every discipline, support their teammates, and represent their barns with professionalism and integrity.

Above all, we believe that the welfare of the horse, the character of the rider, and the spirit of sportsmanship will always outweigh the pursuit of victory.

Chapter 2 – Mission Statement

Mission

The mission of The Horsemanship Classic is to inspire and develop complete horsemen and horsewomen through fair competition, quality horsemanship, teamwork, and respect for the horse.

By creating an environment that values communication over force, preparation over specialization, and character over ego, The Horsemanship Classic seeks to strengthen the next generation of equestrians while building a supportive and united horse community.

Chapter 3 – Vision Statement

The Horsemanship Classic strives to become the premier youth team horsemanship competition in the United States.

Our vision is to establish a nationally recognized organization where riders proudly represent their teams, trainers, schools, and communities while competing under a unified standard of horsemanship.

As the organization grows, The Horsemanship Classic will continue expanding opportunities for youth, collegiate, and professional competition while remaining committed to the principles upon which it was founded.

Chapter 4 – Core Values

The Horsemanship Classic is guided by five core values that influence every decision made by the organization.

4.1 Complete Horsemanship

We believe a great horseman is versatile. Riders should develop the knowledge, skills, and adaptability necessary to succeed in multiple disciplines while continually improving their understanding of horses.

4.2 Team Before Individual

Every member of a team contributes to its success. Teamwork teaches accountability, leadership, encouragement, and responsibility.

4.3 Sportsmanship

Competitors are expected to demonstrate honesty, humility, integrity, and respect toward fellow competitors, officials, volunteers, and spectators.

4.4 Professionalism

The Horsemanship Classic promotes professionalism both in and out of the arena. Riders, trainers, parents, and volunteers represent not only themselves but the sport of horsemanship through their appearance, conduct, and attitude.

4.5 Horse Welfare

The welfare of the horse shall always take precedence over competitive success. Good horsemanship requires patience, effective communication, and humane training practices.

Chapter 5 – Governance

The Horsemanship Classic is owned and operated under the direction of its President and governed through an appointed Show Committee. The organization is committed to maintaining fair competition, promoting horse welfare, and preserving the integrity of the sport.

5.1 Officers

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Show Manager

5.2 The Show Committee

The Show Committee serves as the governing authority during all sanctioned Horsemanship Classic competitions. The Committee is responsible for:

- Rule interpretation
- Competition oversight
- Division placement review
- Horse substitution approvals
- Rider substitution approvals
- Conduct and disciplinary matters
- Resolution of protests and disputes
- Protection of horse welfare
- Enforcement of competition standards

The decisions of the Show Committee are final.

Chapter 6 – Code of Ethics

6.1 The Horsemanship Classic Code of Ethics

Participation in The Horsemanship Classic is a privilege. Every rider, trainer, parent, official, volunteer, and spectator shares the responsibility of protecting the integrity of the competition and promoting the values upon which the organization was founded. The Horsemanship Classic believes that character is demonstrated not only through competition results, but through the daily actions, decisions, and attitudes of everyone involved. Every participant is expected to uphold the following ethical principles.

6.2 Respect for the Horse

The horse is not a tool for winning—it is a partner deserving of respect, patience, and humane treatment. Competitors and trainers shall always place the horse's physical and emotional well-being above competitive success. Training or riding methods that rely primarily on fear, intimidation, excessive force, or unnecessary punishment are inconsistent with the values of The Horsemanship Classic. The organization encourages riders to develop willing, confident horses through knowledge, timing, feel, consistency, and effective communication.

6.3 Integrity

Honesty is expected in every aspect of competition. Participants shall compete fairly, follow the rules, respect officials, and accept both success and disappointment with dignity. Winning through deception, intimidation, or unsportsmanlike conduct has no place within The Horsemanship Classic.

6.4 Sportsmanship

Competitors shall encourage and respect fellow riders regardless of team affiliation or final standings. True sportsmanship includes:

- Celebrating the success of others.
- Accepting defeat graciously.
- Winning with humility.
- Offering encouragement to teammates and competitors.
- Showing respect toward judges, volunteers, and event staff.

6.5 Professionalism

Every participant represents not only themselves, but also their team, trainer, family, and the organization. Professionalism is demonstrated through:

- Appropriate western attire.
- Respectful communication.
- Positive attitudes.
- Punctuality.
- Preparation.
- Courtesy toward others.

Professional appearance reflects pride in the sport and respect for fellow competitors.

6.6 Team Responsibility

The Horsemanship Classic exists to celebrate teamwork. Every rider has a responsibility to support teammates through encouragement, preparation, and positive leadership. Success is measured not only by individual performance, but also by the willingness to contribute to the success of the team.

6.7 Horsemanship Above Winning

Victory is never achieved at the expense of good horsemanship. The organization recognizes that mistakes occur during competition. A rider who demonstrates patience, effective communication, thoughtful decision-making, and respect for the horse reflects the true spirit of The Horsemanship Classic—even when a performance is not perfect. Likewise, a technically polished performance that relies upon unnecessary force, intimidation, or poor horsemanship does not represent the values this organization seeks to promote.

6.8 Parents and Families

Parents and family members play an essential role in creating a positive competition environment. Families are expected to:

- Encourage all competitors.
- Demonstrate respect toward officials and volunteers.
- Support good sportsmanship.
- Allow riders to learn from both success and disappointment.
- Model the character expected within The Horsemanship Classic community.

6.9 Trainers and Coaches

Trainers are mentors whose actions shape the next generation of horsemen. Every trainer participating in The Horsemanship Classic is expected to:

- Demonstrate humane and ethical horsemanship.
- Place the welfare of the horse first.

- Model professionalism.
- Teach with patience and integrity.
- Encourage learning rather than fear.
- Develop confident riders rather than dependent riders.
- Respect fellow trainers and officials.

6.10 Officials and Volunteers

Judges, committee members, volunteers, and event staff are entrusted with protecting the fairness and integrity of competition. Officials shall:

- Act impartially.
- Apply rules consistently.
- Place horse welfare above competition.
- Treat every participant with fairness and respect.
- Serve as ambassadors for The Horsemanship Classic.

6.11 Commitment to Excellence

The Horsemanship Classic is more than a horse show. It is a community committed to developing skilled horsemen, responsible leaders, and respectful competitors. Every participant is expected to leave each event a better horseman, teammate, and ambassador for the sport than when they arrived.

Chapter 7 – Eligibility

7.1 Purpose

The eligibility requirements of The Horsemanship Classic are established to promote fair competition while ensuring the safety, integrity, and sportsmanship of every sanctioned event. All competitors, teams, horses, and trainers must meet the eligibility requirements outlined in this chapter before participating in any sanctioned competition.

7.2 Rider Eligibility

Participation in The Horsemanship Classic is limited to youth competitors. To be eligible, a rider must:

- Be at least **seven (7)** years of age and no older than **seventeen (17)** years of age.
- Meet all registration requirements established by The Horsemanship Classic.

- Be entered as a member of an officially registered team.

A competitor's competition age shall be determined by their age on **January 1** of the current competition year.

7.3 Team Eligibility

Teams must be registered with The Horsemanship Classic before competing. Each team shall consist of:

- Four (4) riders.
- One (1) designated trainer or coach.
- One (1) to four (4) declared competition horses.

During registration, each rider shall be assigned one declared competition horse. The declared rider-horse pairing shall remain in effect for the duration of the competition unless an approved substitution is authorized by the Show Committee. A horse may not compete for more than one team during the same sanctioned competition.

7.4 Divisions

Teams shall compete in one of the following divisions:

- Foundation
- Competitive
- Elite

The declared division submitted during registration is subject to review by the Show Committee. The Show Committee reserves the authority to reassign a team to a different division when necessary to preserve fair competition. Intentional misrepresentation of a team's skill level, commonly referred to as **sandbagging**, may result in:

- Reassignment to a more appropriate division.
- Disqualification from the competition.
- Suspension from future sanctioned events.

7.5 Horse Eligibility

Any horse, regardless of breed or registration status, is eligible to compete provided it:

- Is physically fit to compete.
- Is presented in a safe and humane condition.
- Meets all event health requirements.
- Complies with The Horsemanship Classic rules.

The welfare of the horse shall always take precedence over competition. The Show Committee may remove any horse from competition if its continued participation is determined to present a risk to the horse, rider, or others.

7.6 Trainer Eligibility

Each team shall designate one trainer or coach responsible for representing the team throughout the competition.

Trainers are expected to:

- Demonstrate professional conduct.
- Uphold the Code of Ethics.
- Promote humane horsemanship.
- Follow all rules established by The Horsemanship Classic.

Trainers may advise and prepare competitors but shall not interfere with officials, judges, or the administration of the competition.

7.7 Authority of the Show Committee

The Show Committee shall have final authority regarding all questions of eligibility. The Committee may request documentation or additional information necessary to verify eligibility before or during competition. Failure to satisfy eligibility requirements may result in denial of entry, removal from competition, forfeiture of awards, or other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Show Committee. The Show Committee reserves the right to deny participation to any competitor who, in its judgment, is unable to safely control a horse or participate in the competition, regardless of age or division.

Chapter 8 – Team Registration & Entry Requirements

8.1 Purpose

This chapter establishes the requirements for team registration, competition entry, and participant declarations. These requirements ensure fair competition, accurate event administration, and consistency throughout all sanctioned Horsemanship Classic competitions.

Only properly registered teams that meet all entry requirements shall be permitted to compete.

8.2 Team Registration

Each team must register before the published event entry deadline. The official registration shall include:

- Team name
- Division
- Trainer or coach
- Barn/facility name
- Four (4) registered riders
- Declared competition horse for each rider
- Horse information for each declared horse
- Rider-horse pairing

Incomplete registrations may be denied until all required information has been submitted.

8.3 Team Name

Each team shall compete under an approved team name. Team names shall:

- Be unique within the event.
- Reflect good sportsmanship and professionalism.
- Not contain offensive, inappropriate, or discriminatory language.

The Show Committee reserves the right to reject or require modification of any team name deemed inconsistent with the values of The Horsemanship Classic.

8.4 Team Roster

Each registered team shall consist of four (4) riders. All riders listed on the official roster are considered members of that team for the duration of the competition. A rider may compete for only one team during any sanctioned event.

8.5 Trainer or Coach

Each team shall designate one trainer or coach who serves as the official representative of the team. The designated trainer or coach shall be responsible for:

- Communicating with event officials.
- Assisting with registration and check-in.
- Ensuring compliance with competition rules.
- Promoting professional conduct among team members.

8.6 Declared Rider-Horse Pairings

Each team shall declare between one (1) and four (4) competition horses during registration. Each rider shall be assigned one declared competition horse before registration closes. Once registration has closed, rider-horse pairings become official and may not be changed except with approval of the Show Committee under the substitution provisions of this Official Competition Manual. No horse may compete for more than one team during the same sanctioned competition. Horse substitutions shall be governed by Chapter 11.

8.7 Rider Check-In

All riders must complete event check-in before the published deadline. During check-in, officials shall verify:

- Rider eligibility
- Team roster
- Verification of declared rider-horse pairings.
- Required documentation
- Division assignment

Failure to complete check-in may result in removal from the competition.

8.8 Team Appearance

The Horsemanship Classic promotes professionalism and team identity. Each team shall present a clean, professional appearance. All teams shall wear coordinated western attire that clearly identifies them as members of the same team. All competitors shall comply with the official attire requirements outlined in Chapter 12.

8.9 Changes After Registration

Once registration has closed, changes to a team's roster or horse declarations shall be permitted only with approval of the Show Committee. Requests shall be considered only in exceptional circumstances, including injury, illness, horse welfare, or other situations determined by the Show Committee.

8.10 Responsibility of the Team

By entering a sanctioned competition, every team agrees to:

- Abide by all rules of The Horsemanship Classic.
- Accept the authority of the Show Committee.
- Demonstrate professionalism and sportsmanship throughout the event.
- Protect the welfare of the horse.
- Promote a positive competitive environment.

Chapter 9 – Competition Structure

9.1 Purpose

The Horsemanship Classic is a team-based competition designed to evaluate complete horsemanship through versatility, teamwork, sportsmanship, and effective communication between horse and rider.

Unlike traditional horse shows that focus on individual performance, The Horsemanship Classic challenges each team to prepare every rider to successfully compete in multiple disciplines while sharing responsibility for the team's overall success. Every competitor contributes equally to the final team score.

9.2 Team Competition

Competition is conducted between teams. Each team shall consist of:

- Four (4) riders
- One (1) to four (4) declared competition horses.
- One (1) designated trainer or coach

Each rider shall compete using the horse assigned to that rider during registration. Two or more riders may be assigned to the same declared competition horse. Rider-horse pairings shall be verified during official check-in before class assignments are drawn. Once class assignments have been drawn, riders shall compete only with their declared horse unless an approved substitution is granted by the Show Committee.

9.3 Competition Classes

Each sanctioned competition consists of four classes. The official classes are:

- Pleasure
- Reining
- Trail
- Classic Dash

Each class is designed to evaluate a different aspect of horsemanship while encouraging versatility and well-rounded rider development. Detailed class specifications are provided in Part III of this Official Competition Manual.

The Classic Dash is a rotating speed event selected by The Horsemanship Classic for each competition. Approved events may include barrels, pole bending, figure eight, stakes race, Texas barrels, arena race, speed trail, or other approved patterns. The selected event shall be announced by the Show Committee before each competition.

9.4 Random Rider Draw

To promote complete rider preparation and eliminate specialization, class assignments shall be determined by random draw. Prior to the start of competition, each rider shall draw one official assignment card. Each assignment corresponds to one competition class. Once assigned:

- Class assignments may not be exchanged.
- Riders may not redraw.
- Teams may not alter assignments.

Each rider is expected to be prepared to compete in any class.

9.5 Order of Competition

The order of classes shall be determined by the event schedule. Unless otherwise announced by the Show Committee, all teams shall compete in the same sequence for each class. The Show Committee reserves the authority to adjust the competition schedule when necessary due to weather, safety, facility conditions, or other unforeseen circumstances.

9.6 Team Scoring

Each class is worth a maximum of twenty-five (25) points. Each rider receives an individual score. The team's final score is determined by combining the scores earned by all four riders. Maximum possible team score: **100 Points**. The team with the highest overall score shall be declared the winner.

9.7 Equality of Contribution

Every rider contributes equally to the team's final result. No class carries greater point value than another. No rider's score shall be weighted differently than another. The Horsemanship Classic recognizes that complete horsemanship requires proficiency across multiple disciplines rather than specialization in a single event.

9.8 Competition Integrity

The integrity of the random draw and team competition format is fundamental to The Horsemanship Classic. Any attempt to manipulate class assignments, substitute competitors without authorization, falsify eligibility, or gain an unfair competitive advantage may result in disciplinary action, including disqualification.

9.9 Official Authority

Questions regarding competition structure or interpretation of this chapter shall be decided by the Show Committee. The decisions of the Show Committee shall be final.

Chapter 10 – Competition Divisions

10.1 Purpose

The Horsemanship Classic recognizes that riders and teams develop at different rates. Competition divisions are established to provide fair, competitive, and educational opportunities for participants of varying experience and skill levels. The objective of the division system is to encourage growth while maintaining competitive integrity.

10.2 Official Divisions

The Horsemanship Classic recognizes the following competition divisions:

- **Foundation Division**
- **Competitive Division**
- **Elite Division**

Each division is intended to group teams of similar ability while promoting a positive and challenging competitive experience.

10.3 Foundation Division

The Foundation Division is designed for teams that are developing fundamental horsemanship skills and gaining competition experience. Competitors in this division are expected to demonstrate basic proficiency while continuing to build confidence, consistency, and communication with the horse.

10.4 Competitive Division

The Competitive Division is intended for teams that have developed solid horsemanship skills and are prepared for a higher level of competition. Teams competing in this division are expected to demonstrate increased precision, consistency, versatility, and confidence across all four competition classes.

10.5 Elite Division

The Elite Division represents the highest level of competition within The Horsemanship Classic. Teams competing in the Elite Division are expected to demonstrate exceptional horsemanship, professionalism, versatility, and sportsmanship while maintaining the highest standards of communication and partnership with the horse.

10.6 Division Declaration

Each team shall declare its intended competition division during registration. The declared division is subject to review and approval by the Show Committee.

10.7 Division Placement

The Show Committee reserves the authority to assign or reassign a team to the division it determines most accurately reflects the team's demonstrated ability. Division placement may be based upon:

- Previous competition results.
- Demonstrated skill level.
- Prior experience.
- Competitive history.
- Other information deemed relevant by the Show Committee.

The purpose of division placement is to preserve fair and meaningful competition for all participants.

10.8 Advancement

As riders and teams improve, they are encouraged to advance into increasingly competitive divisions. The Horsemanship Classic promotes continuous learning and personal growth. Advancement reflects the development of horsemanship, teamwork, and competitive readiness.

10.9 Competitive Integrity

Entering a division that does not accurately represent a team's ability for the purpose of obtaining an unfair competitive advantage is considered sandbagging. Sandbagging is contrary to the principles of sportsmanship and fair competition.

10.10 Penalties for Misrepresentation

If the Show Committee determines that a team has intentionally misrepresented its competitive ability, it may impose one or more of the following actions:

- Reassignment to the appropriate division.
- Disqualification from the competition.
- Forfeiture of awards or prizes.
- Suspension from future sanctioned competitions.
- Additional disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Show Committee.

10.11 Division Commitment

To be eligible for division year-end awards, a team shall remain in the same declared division throughout the official competition season. Teams may not change divisions during the season unless approved by the Show Committee under exceptional circumstances. A team that changes divisions during the season shall forfeit eligibility for year-end awards unless otherwise approved by the Show Committee.

Chapter 11 – Horse Eligibility

11.1 Purpose

The Horsemanship Classic welcomes horses of all breeds and backgrounds while promoting the highest standards of horse welfare, safety, and humane treatment.

The purpose of this chapter is to establish the eligibility requirements for horses participating in sanctioned competitions and to ensure that every horse competes in a safe, healthy, and humane condition.

11.2 Eligible Horses

Any horse may compete in The Horsemanship Classic regardless of:

- Breed
- Registration status
- Bloodlines
- Color
- Sex

Eligibility is determined by the horse's ability to safely participate in competition and meet the standards established by The Horsemanship Classic. The Horsemanship Classic values horsemanship above pedigree and recognizes that excellent horsemanship can be demonstrated with any horse.

11.3 Horse Welfare

The welfare of the horse shall always take precedence over competition. No competitor, trainer, parent, or official shall knowingly permit a horse to compete if doing so would place the horse's health, safety, or well-being at risk. The Show Committee may excuse or remove any horse from competition if it determines continued participation is not in the horse's best interest. The decision of the Show Committee shall be final.

11.4 Fitness for Competition

Every horse entered into competition shall:

- Be physically fit to compete.
- Be free from obvious signs of illness or contagious disease.
- Be capable of safely performing the required class.
- Be presented in a condition that reflects responsible care and management.

The Show Committee reserves the right to inspect any horse before or during competition.

11.5 Horse Soundness

Any horse determined by the Show Committee to be unsound, injured, or otherwise unfit for competition may be withdrawn from the event. Whenever possible, the Show Committee may consult with an event veterinarian before making a determination regarding a horse's fitness to compete. Horse welfare shall always take precedence over competitive results.

11.6 Declared Competition Horses

Each team may declare a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of four (4) competition horses. A declared competition horse may be assigned to one or more riders on the same team. During registration, each rider shall be paired with one declared horse. Rider-horse pairings become official when registration closes and shall remain in effect throughout the competition unless modified by approval of the Show Committee. A horse may not compete for more than one team during the same sanctioned competition.

11.7 Rider-Horse Substitutions

Rider-horse pairings may be changed only with approval of the Show Committee and only under exceptional circumstances, including:

- Horse illness or injury.
- Rider illness or injury.
- Horse welfare concerns.
- Equipment failure preventing safe competition.
- Other circumstances approved by the Show Committee.

Approved substitutions shall not be permitted to obtain a competitive advantage. The Show Committee's decision shall be final.

11.8 Humane Treatment

Every horse shall be treated with respect, patience, and humane horsemanship before, during, and after competition. The following conduct is prohibited:

- Abuse or neglect.
- Excessive or unnecessary force.
- Deliberate mistreatment.
- Conduct that places the horse at unnecessary risk.
- Any action determined by the Show Committee to be inconsistent with the welfare of the horse.

Violations may result in disciplinary action, including removal from competition, disqualification, suspension, or other penalties deemed appropriate by the Show Committee.

11.9 Medications and Prohibited Substances

All competitors shall comply with applicable medication and prohibited substance rules adopted by The Horsemanship Classic. The organization reserves the right to adopt, amend, or reference recognized equine medication standards to protect horse welfare and ensure fair competition.

11.10 Authority of the Show Committee

The Show Committee shall have final authority regarding all questions relating to horse eligibility, horse welfare, substitutions, and fitness for competition. Its decisions shall be made with the safety of the horse, rider, and participants as the highest priority.

11.11 Horse Condition & Presentation

Horses shall be presented in a clean, well-groomed, and properly conditioned manner appropriate for competition. Tack shall be clean, serviceable, and correctly fitted. Excessively poor condition, neglected grooming, or equipment that compromises the horse's comfort, safety, or welfare may be grounds for corrective action or disqualification at the discretion of the Show Committee.

Chapter 12 – Equipment & Attire

12.1 Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish equipment and attire standards that promote safety, professionalism, fairness, and the western traditions of The Horsemanship Classic. All

competitors are expected to present themselves and their horses in a manner that reflects pride in the sport and respect for fellow competitors.

12.2 Equipment

Permitted Equipment: Competitors shall use western tack and equipment that is clean, safe, properly fitted, and appropriate for the class being performed. Acceptable western equipment includes, but is not limited to:

- Western saddles
- Western bridles
- Snaffle bits
- Curb bits
- Bosals
- Mecates
- Split reins
- Romal reins
- Breast collars
- Back cinches
- Protective leg boots
- Bell boots
- Spurs
- Protective boots or wraps

The Show Committee reserves the authority to prohibit any equipment determined to be unsafe, abusive, improperly fitted, or inconsistent with the principles of humane horsemanship.

Prohibited Equipment: equipment designed to inflict unnecessary pain, create an unfair competitive advantage, or compromise horse welfare is prohibited.

Examples include:

- Sharp or altered spurs
- Illegal training devices while competing
- Equipment determined to be abusive
- Unsafe or damaged tack
- Any equipment prohibited by the Show Committee

12.3 Western Attire

All competitors shall wear clean, neat, and professional western attire appropriate for competition. Required attire includes:

- Western shirt with sleeves.
- Western jeans or western competition pants.

- Western boots.
- Cowboy hat or approved equestrian helmet.

Clothing shall be clean, in good repair, and appropriate for a family-oriented sporting event.

12.4 Prohibited Attire

The following attire is prohibited during competition:

- Tank tops.
- Sleeveless shirts.
- Athletic shorts.
- Cut-off clothing.
- Clothing displaying offensive language or graphics.
- Clothing deemed unsafe or unprofessional by the Show Committee.

The Show Committee may require any competitor whose attire does not meet these standards to correct the issue before competing.

12.5 Team Identity

The Horsemanship Classic is a team competition. Each team shall wear coordinated western attire that clearly identifies its members as belonging to the same team. Team identity may be demonstrated through coordinated colors, matching shirts, jackets, vests, logos, or other approved apparel. The purpose of coordinated attire is to promote team unity, professionalism, and recognition throughout the competition.

12.6 Safety Equipment

Protective equipment that enhances rider safety is encouraged. Approved equestrian helmets may be worn in any class without penalty. No competitor shall be penalized for choosing to wear protective safety equipment that complies with recognized equestrian safety standards.

12.7 Equipment Inspection

The Show Committee may inspect any equipment before or during competition. Unsafe, damaged, or improperly fitted equipment may be prohibited from use until corrected. The safety of the horse and rider shall always take precedence over competition.

12.8 Responsibility

Each competitor and trainer is responsible for ensuring that all equipment is:

- Safe.
- Properly fitted.

- In good repair.
- Appropriate for the class being contested.
- Compliant with all applicable rules.

Failure to comply may result in corrective action or disqualification.

Chapter 13 – Competition Procedures

13.1 Purpose

This chapter establishes the official procedures governing the operation of all sanctioned Horsemanship Classic competitions. These procedures are intended to promote consistency, fairness, safety, and professionalism while ensuring an organized and efficient competition experience for all participants. All competitors, trainers, parents, officials, and volunteers are expected to comply with these procedures.

13.2 Arrival and Check-In

Each team shall complete official check-in before the published deadline.

During check-in, the Show Committee shall verify:

- Team registration.
- Rider eligibility.
- Verification of every declared rider-horse pairing.
- Division assignment.
- Required documentation.
- Any approved substitutions.

Failure to complete check-in by the designated deadline may result in denial of entry or other action determined by the Show Committee.

13.3 Opening Ceremonies

Prior to the start of competition, each sanctioned Horsemanship Classic event shall begin with an official Opening Ceremony. The Opening Ceremony serves to recognize competitors, celebrate sportsmanship, and officially open the competition. The format of the Opening Ceremony shall be determined by the Show Committee and may include:

- Welcome by the President or Show Manager.
- Introduction of event officials and judge.
- Recognition of sponsors and volunteers.
- National Anthem or other ceremonial observance, when appropriate.

- Team introductions.
- Opening remarks.
- Official declaration opening the competition.

Following the Opening Ceremony, each registered team shall be introduced individually. Each team shall be represented by its designated **Team Captain**, who shall ride the team's competition horse into the arena. The Team Captain shall represent the team's professionalism, horsemanship, and sportsmanship. Teams shall be announced individually and recognized by:

- Team name
- Hometown or organization (if applicable)
- Trainer or coach
- Barn / Facility name

Teams shall remain in the arena or at a designated location until all introductions have been completed.

13.4 Rider Check-In & Class Assignment

Each team shall complete official check-in before the published deadline. Before the random class draw, event officials shall verify each rider's declared competition horse. At the time of check-in, each rider shall randomly draw one official class assignment card. If all team members are not present at check-in, the team's designated trainer or coach may complete check-in on behalf of absent riders and randomly draw each rider's class assignment. The official conducting check-in shall record each rider's:

- Name
- Competition number
- Assigned class

All class assignments become official once recorded by event personnel. Class assignments are final and may not be exchanged, redrawn, or altered except as authorized by the Show Committee under the substitution provisions of this Official Competition Manual.

13.5 Warm-Up Arena

The warm-up arena shall be conducted in a safe and courteous manner. All riders are expected to maintain control of their horses and demonstrate good sportsmanship. Unsafe riding, excessive speed, reckless behavior, or conduct that places others at risk may result in disciplinary action. The Show Committee may limit the number of horses in the warm-up arena when necessary for safety.

13.6 Competition Order

The official order of classes shall be established by the Show Committee and published before the start of competition. Teams shall report promptly when called. Failure to appear at the

designated time may result in elimination from the class unless excused by the Show Committee.

13.7 Gate Procedures

Competitors shall enter and exit the arena only when directed by the Gate Steward or other authorized event official. No competitor may enter the arena until permission has been granted. Once the gate is closed, the competitor is considered on course unless otherwise directed by the judge or Show Committee.

13.8 Equipment Adjustments

Minor equipment adjustments may be made before entering the arena. Once competition has begun, adjustments shall only be permitted with approval of the judge or Show Committee when necessary for safety or horse welfare.

13.9 Equipment Failure

If tack or equipment fails during competition, the judge may stop the performance when necessary to protect the safety of the horse or rider. The judge and Show Committee shall determine whether the competitor is eligible for a rerun or other relief based upon the circumstances.

13.10 Delays and Interruptions

The Show Committee may delay, suspend, or modify competition due to:

- Weather.
- Arena conditions.
- Horse welfare.
- Equipment failure.
- Medical emergencies.
- Other circumstances affecting safety or fair competition.

The Show Committee shall determine how competition will resume.

13.11 Emergencies

In the event of an emergency involving a rider, horse, spectator, or official, competition may be suspended until the situation has been resolved. The safety of participants and horses shall always take precedence over the competition schedule.

13.12 Awards Ceremony

All competitors are encouraged to participate in the official awards ceremony. Competitors shall appear in clean western attire and demonstrate good sportsmanship while recognizing the accomplishments of fellow teams. Awards shall be presented according to official event results certified by the Show Committee.

13.13 Official Authority

The Show Committee shall have final authority regarding all competition procedures not otherwise addressed within this Official Competition Manual.

Chapter 14 – Conduct, Discipline & Sportsmanship

14.1 Purpose

The Horsemanship Classic is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and sportsmanlike environment for all participants. This chapter establishes the standards of conduct expected of competitors, trainers, parents, officials, volunteers, and spectators while providing the Show Committee with the authority to address conduct that is inconsistent with the values of the organization.

Every individual attending a sanctioned Horsemanship Classic event shares the responsibility of protecting the integrity, reputation, and positive atmosphere of the competition.

14.2 Expected Conduct

All participants shall conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively upon The Horsemanship Classic, the western horse industry, and the sport of horsemanship. The following standards apply to all competitors, trainers, parents, officials, volunteers, spectators, and any individual attending a sanctioned Horsemanship Classic event. Participants shall:

- Demonstrate honesty and integrity at all times.
- Treat horses humanely and with respect.
- Show courtesy toward fellow competitors, officials, volunteers, and spectators.
- Accept judges' decisions with professionalism.
- Support teammates through encouragement and positive leadership.
- Refrain from behavior that disrupts the competition or creates an unsafe environment.
- Follow all instructions issued by event officials and the Show Committee.
- Represent their team and The Horsemanship Classic with professionalism both inside and outside the arena.

14.3 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

The Horsemanship Classic will not tolerate conduct that undermines the spirit of fair competition. Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct include, but are not limited to:

- Abusive or disrespectful language.
- Threatening behavior.
- Intimidation of competitors or officials.
- Harassment.
- Deliberately distracting another competitor.
- Unsportsmanlike celebration intended to embarrass another team.
- Throwing equipment.
- Refusal to comply with official instructions.
- Deliberately damaging event property.
- Any conduct that brings discredit upon The Horsemanship Classic.

The Show Committee may impose disciplinary action whenever unsportsmanlike conduct occurs

14.4 Conduct Toward Horses

Horse welfare is the highest priority of The Horsemanship Classic. No participant shall engage in conduct that unnecessarily endangers or mistreats a horse. Prohibited conduct includes:

- Excessive whipping or spurring.
- Excessive jerking or pulling on the reins.
- Deliberate abuse.
- Striking a horse in anger.
- Riding an obviously lame or injured horse.
- Conduct determined by the Show Committee to be inconsistent with humane horsemanship.

Violations may result in immediate removal from competition.

14.5 Conduct Toward Officials

Officials are essential to maintaining fair competition. Participants shall:

- Treat judges and officials respectfully.
- Address concerns through proper protest procedures.
- Avoid arguing during competition.
- Comply promptly with official directions.

Disagreements shall be handled professionally through the procedures established in Chapter 16.

14.6 Parents and Spectators

Parents, guardians, family members, and spectators are expected to contribute to a positive competition environment. They shall not:

- Interfere with competition.
- Harass competitors or officials.
- Enter restricted competition areas without authorization.
- Coach competitors from within the arena.
- Engage in disruptive behavior.

The Show Committee may remove any spectator whose conduct interferes with the safe and orderly operation of the competition.

14.7 Trainers and Coaches

Trainers and coaches serve as leaders and role models. They are expected to:

- Demonstrate ethical horsemanship.
- Encourage learning and sportsmanship.
- Promote respect for officials.
- Protect horse welfare.
- Support all competitors in a professional manner.
- Refrain from behavior that intimidates riders or officials.

A trainer may be held responsible for repeated misconduct by members of their team.

14.8 Social Media Conduct

Participants are encouraged to promote The Horsemanship Classic in a positive and professional manner. Knowingly publishing false information, harassing participants online, or making defamatory statements intended to damage the reputation of competitors, officials, sponsors, or The Horsemanship Classic may constitute conduct detrimental to the organization and may be subject to disciplinary review. Constructive discussion and respectful disagreement remain welcome.

14.9 Authority of the Show Committee

The Show Committee has the authority to investigate conduct occurring before, during, or after a sanctioned event when that conduct affects the integrity, safety, or reputation of The Horsemanship Classic. The Committee may impose penalties in accordance with Chapter 17.

14.10 Commitment to Sportsmanship

Every participant shares responsibility for preserving the reputation of The Horsemanship Classic. True success is measured not only by competitive achievement, but by the character, professionalism, teamwork, and horsemanship demonstrated throughout every event.

Chapter 15 – Judges & Scoring

15.1 Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a fair, consistent, and transparent judging system that rewards complete horsemanship while maintaining the integrity of The Horsemanship Classic. Judges are entrusted with evaluating competitors objectively and applying the rules consistently across all sanctioned competitions.

Every score awarded shall reflect the quality of the performance while promoting good horsemanship, sportsmanship, and horse welfare.

15.2 Official Judge

Each sanctioned Horsemanship Classic competition shall be officiated by one (1) or more judges approved by the Show Committee. Judges shall possess sufficient knowledge and experience in western horsemanship and the competition disciplines conducted at the event. The Show Committee may require judges to complete orientation or certification requirements established by The Horsemanship Classic.

15.3 Judge Authority

The judge has authority over all matters occurring within the competition arena while a class is in progress. The judge may:

- Evaluate all performances.
- Assess penalties.
- Eliminate competitors when required by rule.
- Stop a performance for safety.
- Request equipment inspections.
- Consult with the Show Committee regarding rule interpretations.

The judge's decisions regarding the quality of a performance are final except where a mathematical or administrative error has occurred.

15.4 Judging Standards

Judges shall evaluate competitors according to:

- Accuracy
- Precision
- Horsemanship
- Communication between horse and rider
- Willingness of the horse
- Rider effectiveness
- Correct execution of maneuvers
- Overall professionalism

Judges shall reward correct horsemanship rather than speed, force, or unnecessary showmanship. Horse welfare shall always remain a primary consideration when evaluating every performance.

15.5 Official Score Sheets

The Horsemanship Classic shall utilize standardized official score sheets approved by the Show Committee. Each class shall have its own official score sheet designed specifically for that discipline. Score sheets shall remain official records of the competition.

15.6 Class Scoring

Each competition class is worth a maximum of twenty-five (25) team points. Each rider receives an individual score within their assigned class. The individual rider's score becomes the team's score for that class. Each class contributes equally toward the team's final score. Maximum Team Score: **100 Points**

15.7 Scoring Philosophy

The Horsemanship Classic rewards complete horsemanship rather than specialization. Judges should recognize:

- Effective communication
- Correct fundamentals
- Softness
- Balance
- Accuracy
- Consistency
- Confidence
- Partnership between horse and rider

Minor mistakes should not outweigh an otherwise correct and well-executed performance. Conversely, flashy performances achieved through excessive force, poor horsemanship, or unsafe practices shall not be rewarded.

15.8 Speed Events

The Classic Dash is the only event in which elapsed time determines placement. Knocked obstacles, off-pattern performances, missed obstacles, or other penalties shall be assessed according to the official rules for the selected Classic Dash event. The fastest correct time shall determine class placings.

15.9 Tie Scores

If two or more teams finish with identical overall scores, the tie shall be broken using the official Horsemanship Classic Tie-Break Procedure. The judge shall select one predetermined judging category from the official score sheets before competition begins. That category shall remain confidential until needed. If a tie occurs, the team with the higher score in the predetermined category shall be declared the winner. If the tie remains, the judge shall continue through additional predetermined categories until the tie is broken. If all applicable categories remain tied, the Show Committee shall determine the final procedure.

15.10 Judge Impartiality

Judges shall perform their duties fairly and without favoritism. A judge shall not knowingly evaluate a class in which a conflict of interest exists. If a conflict arises, the Show Committee may appoint an alternate judge or implement another procedure to preserve competitive integrity.

15.11 Judge Conduct

Judges are expected to:

- Conduct themselves professionally.
- Apply rules consistently.
- Treat every competitor equally.
- Protect horse welfare.
- Maintain confidentiality when appropriate.
- Avoid unnecessary discussions regarding placings during competition.

Judges serve as ambassadors for The Horsemanship Classic and shall uphold its values at all times.

15.12 Official Results

Competition results become official after:

- Score sheets have been reviewed.
- Mathematical calculations have been verified.
- Any approved corrections have been made.
- The Show Committee certifies the results.

Once certified, results shall become the official standings of the competition.

15.13 Scoring Errors

If a clerical or mathematical error is discovered before results are certified, the Show Committee shall correct the error. Errors involving the judge's opinion or evaluation are not considered scoring errors and shall not be subject to appeal.

15.14 Authority of the Show Committee

The Show Committee shall have final authority regarding questions involving scoring procedures, official records, and rule interpretation. Questions concerning a judge's opinion shall not be reconsidered except as specifically provided within this Official Competition Manual.

Chapter 16 – Protests & Appeals

16.1 Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a fair and orderly procedure for resolving questions, disputes, and protests that may arise during sanctioned Horsemanship Classic competitions.

The protest process is intended to protect the integrity of competition while ensuring that all participants are treated fairly, consistently, and in accordance with this Official Competition Manual.

16.2 Right to File a Protest

Only the following individuals may submit an official protest:

- The team's designated trainer or coach.
- The Team Captain.
- A parent or legal guardian of a minor competitor.
- The competitor, if eighteen (18) years of age or older.

Protests submitted by spectators or individuals not directly involved in the competition shall not be considered.

16.3 Protestable Matters

The following matters may be protested:

- Rider eligibility.
- Horse eligibility.
- Team eligibility.
- Equipment violations.
- Rule interpretation.
- Administrative errors.
- Mathematical scoring errors.
- Competition procedure violations.
- Alleged violations of this Official Competition Manual.

16.4 Non-Protestable Matters

The following matters are **not** subject to protest:

- A judge's opinion regarding the quality of a performance.
- Class placings based upon the judge's evaluation.
- Scores awarded for style, precision, effectiveness, or horsemanship.
- The judge's interpretation of maneuver quality.

Judging is inherently subjective. The Horsemanship Classic recognizes the judge as the sole authority responsible for evaluating competitive performances. A competitor's disagreement with a judge's opinion does not constitute grounds for protest.

16.5 Filing a Protest

All protests shall:

- Be submitted in writing.
- Clearly identify the rule believed to have been violated.
- Include a detailed description of the incident.
- Be signed by the individual submitting the protest.

Protests submitted after the deadline shall not be considered except under extraordinary circumstances determined by the Show Committee.

16.6 Protest Review

Upon receiving a protest, the Show Committee shall:

- Review the written protest.
- Gather relevant information.
- Interview witnesses when appropriate.
- Review official score sheets, records, or documentation.
- Consult with the judge when necessary regarding rule application, but not to reconsider judging opinions.

The Committee may suspend awards related to the protest until a decision has been reached.

16.7 Decisions

After completing its review, the Show Committee may:

- Deny the protest.
- Uphold the protest.
- Correct an administrative error.
- Modify official results when supported by the rules.
- Issue disciplinary action when appropriate.

The Committee shall provide its decision to the protesting party as soon as reasonably practical.

16.8 Appeals

A decision of the Show Committee regarding rule interpretation, eligibility, or administrative matters may be appealed to the President of The Horsemanship Classic. Appeals shall:

- Be submitted in writing.
- Be filed within seven (7) calendar days following the conclusion of the competition.
- State the specific grounds for the appeal.
- Include any supporting documentation.

Appeals shall not be accepted solely because a participant disagrees with a judge's evaluation.

16.9 Final Authority

The President, or a designated Appeals Committee appointed by the President, shall review all timely appeals. The decision issued following an appeal shall be final and binding. No further appeal shall be available within The Horsemanship Classic.

16.10 Frivolous or Bad Faith Protests

The Horsemanship Classic encourages participants to raise legitimate concerns. However, protests submitted for the purpose of harassment, intimidation, delay, or gaining an unfair competitive advantage undermine the spirit of the organization. The Show Committee may issue disciplinary action against any individual who repeatedly files frivolous or bad faith protests.

16.11 Preservation of Sportsmanship

All participants are expected to conduct themselves professionally throughout the protest process. Filing a protest shall never justify disrespect toward officials, judges, volunteers, or fellow competitors. The protest process exists to resolve disputes respectfully while preserving the integrity, fairness, and sportsmanship of The Horsemanship Classic.

Chapter 17 – Penalties & Disciplinary Actions

17.1 Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish the disciplinary procedures and penalties available to the Show Committee for violations of The Horsemanship Classic Official Competition Manual.

Disciplinary action is intended to preserve fairness, protect horse welfare, maintain safety, and uphold the values of sportsmanship, professionalism, and integrity upon which The Horsemanship Classic is founded.

17.2 Authority of the Show Committee

The Show Committee shall have the authority to investigate alleged rule violations and impose disciplinary action when appropriate. In determining the appropriate penalty, the Show Committee may consider:

- The severity of the violation.
- Whether the violation was intentional.
- The safety of the horse and participants.
- Previous disciplinary history.
- The impact on the integrity of the competition.
- Any mitigating or aggravating circumstances.

17.3 Types of Penalties

Depending upon the nature of the violation, the Show Committee may impose one or more of the following penalties:

- Verbal Warning.
- Written Warning.
- Point Deduction.
- Class Disqualification.
- Competition Disqualification.

- Removal of Horse from Competition.
- Removal of Rider from Competition.
- Removal of Trainer or Coach.
- Forfeiture of Awards or Prizes.
- Suspension from Future Sanctioned Competitions.
- Permanent Expulsion from The Horsemanship Classic.

The Show Committee may determine that no disciplinary action is warranted when appropriate.

17.4 Verbal Warning

A verbal warning may be issued for minor first-time violations that do not affect competition results, horse welfare, or participant safety. A verbal warning serves as educational guidance and does not constitute formal disciplinary action.

17.5 Written Warning

A written warning may be issued when:

- A rule violation has occurred.
- Corrective action is necessary.
- Future violations may result in more severe penalties.

Written warnings shall become part of the official event record.

17.6 Point Deductions

When specifically authorized elsewhere in this Official Competition Manual, the Show Committee or judge may assess point deductions for rule violations that occur during competition. Point deductions shall be applied consistently and in accordance with the applicable class rules.

17.7 Disqualification

A competitor, team, or horse may be disqualified for violations including, but not limited to:

- Competing while ineligible.
- Using an unauthorized horse.
- Falsifying registration information.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Horse abuse.
- Failure to comply with official instructions.
- Unsafe conduct.
- Fraud or deception.

Disqualification may apply to a single class or the entire competition, depending upon the seriousness of the violation.

17.8 Horse Welfare Violations

Horse welfare is the highest priority of The Horsemanship Classic. Any act of abuse, neglect, excessive force, deliberate mistreatment, or conduct determined by the Show Committee to endanger the horse may result in immediate removal from competition. Serious horse welfare violations may also result in suspension or permanent expulsion from The Horsemanship Classic.

17.9 Conduct Detrimental to the Organization

The Show Committee may discipline any participant whose conduct significantly harms the reputation, integrity, or mission of The Horsemanship Classic. Examples include:

- Threatening officials or volunteers.
- Physical altercations.
- Fraudulent conduct.
- Intentional misrepresentation.
- Competing on an undeclared horse.
- Repeated harassment.
- Deliberate interference with competition.
- Serious violations of the Code of Ethics.

17.10 Suspension

The Show Committee may recommend suspension from sanctioned competitions for repeated or serious violations. A suspension may:

- Apply to a competitor.
- Apply to a trainer or coach.
- Apply to a team.
- Apply to an individual horse when appropriate.

The length of suspension shall be determined according to the seriousness of the violation.

17.11 Permanent Expulsion

Permanent expulsion shall be reserved for the most serious violations, including conduct that demonstrates a complete disregard for:

- Horse welfare.
- Participant safety.
- Fair competition.

- The integrity of The Horsemanship Classic.

Permanent expulsion prohibits participation in all sanctioned Horsemanship Classic events unless reinstated by the President.

17.12 Responsibility of Trainers

Trainers and coaches are responsible for promoting compliance with this Official Competition Manual. A trainer who knowingly permits rule violations, encourages unethical conduct, or repeatedly fails to control members of their team may be subject to disciplinary action independent of any penalties imposed upon individual competitors.

17.13 Responsibility of Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians are expected to support the values of The Horsemanship Classic by demonstrating respect, sportsmanship, and professionalism. Repeated disruptive behavior by a parent or guardian may result in removal from the event grounds and additional disciplinary action affecting the competitor's participation if warranted by the circumstances.

17.14 Immediate Removal for Safety

The Show Committee may immediately remove any rider, horse, trainer, spectator, or other participant whose conduct presents an immediate danger to persons, horses, or property. Immediate removal may occur without prior warning when necessary to protect safety or horse welfare.

17.15 Final Authority

The Show Committee shall have the authority to interpret and enforce the disciplinary provisions of this Official Competition Manual. Any disciplinary action may be appealed only in accordance with the procedures established in **Chapter 16 – Protests & Appeals**.

Chapter 18 – Season Championships & Year-End Awards

18.1 Purpose

The Horsemanship Classic recognizes teams that demonstrate excellence, consistency, sportsmanship, and commitment throughout an entire competition season.

While each sanctioned competition crowns an event champion, the Season Championship honors teams that consistently represent the highest standards of horsemanship, teamwork, professionalism, and horse welfare across multiple events.

Year-end awards are intended to recognize long-term achievement rather than success at a single competition.

18.2 Official Competition Season

The official competition season shall begin and end on dates established annually by The Horsemanship Classic. Only points earned during officially sanctioned competitions conducted within the established competition season shall count toward year-end standings.

18.3 Season Points

Each sanctioned competition shall award season points based upon final team placings within each division. The official season point schedule shall be established by the Show Committee before the beginning of each competition season and published in the annual competition schedule. Only officially certified competition results shall count toward season standings.

18.4 Division Championships

Season Championships shall be awarded separately within each official division. Teams compete only against other teams within their declared division. The team earning the highest number of season points within its division shall be declared the Division Champion.

18.5 Team Continuity

To remain eligible for season championship awards, a team shall maintain its registered identity throughout the competition season. Except as otherwise provided within this chapter, each team shall retain:

- The same team name.
- The same four registered riders.
- The same primary competition horse.
- The same designated trainer or coach.

The purpose of this requirement is to recognize the accomplishments of a consistent team working together throughout the season.

18.6 Approved Substitutions

The Show Committee may approve substitutions only under exceptional circumstances, including:

- Horse injury or illness.
- Rider injury or illness.
- Family emergency.
- Relocation.
- Other circumstances determined by the Show Committee to be beyond the team's reasonable control.

Approved substitutions shall not automatically disqualify a team from season championship eligibility. The Show Committee shall determine continued eligibility based upon fairness, competitive integrity, and the spirit of the competition.

18.7 Division Changes

Teams shall remain in their declared division throughout the official competition season. A team may not voluntarily change divisions after the season has begun. If the Show Committee determines that a team's declared division no longer reflects its demonstrated ability, the Committee may require advancement beginning with the following competition season. In extraordinary circumstances, the Show Committee may approve an in-season division change. The Committee shall determine whether previously earned season points remain valid.

18.8 Season Tie-Breaking

If two or more teams finish the season with identical point totals, ties shall be broken using the following order:

1. Most first-place team finishes.
2. Most second-place team finishes.
3. Highest combined team score earned during a single sanctioned competition.
4. Lowest combined penalty points accumulated throughout the season.
5. Decision of the Show Committee.

The decision of the Show Committee shall be final.

18.9 Championship Awards

The Horsemanship Classic may recognize season champions through awards including, but not limited to:

- Championship Belt Buckles.
- Reserve Championship Belt Buckles.
- Championship Banners.
- Trophies.
- Jackets.
- Scholarships.
- Prize Money, when offered.

- Custom Awards approved by the organization.

Awards may vary from season to season.

18.10 Special Recognition Awards

In addition to championship awards, The Horsemanship Classic may recognize individuals or teams whose actions exemplify the organization's core values. Special awards may include:

- Sportsmanship Award.
- Horsemanship Excellence Award.
- Horse Welfare Award.
- Coach of the Year.
- Team Spirit Award.
- Most Improved Team.
- Volunteer Recognition Award.
- Ambassador Award.

The Show Committee may establish additional awards that promote the mission and values of the organization.

18.11 Presentation of Awards

Whenever practical, season awards shall be presented during the official Year-End Championship Banquet or Awards Ceremony. Recipients are encouraged to attend in appropriate western attire and represent The Horsemanship Classic with professionalism and good sportsmanship.

18.12 Responsibility of Champions

Championship titles carry responsibilities beyond competition. Season Champions are expected to serve as ambassadors for The Horsemanship Classic by:

- Demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship.
- Promoting humane horsemanship.
- Encouraging fellow competitors.
- Representing the organization with professionalism.
- Supporting the continued growth of the sport.

Championship recognition reflects not only competitive achievement but also character, integrity, and leadership.

18.13 Final Authority

The Show Committee shall have final authority regarding all matters relating to season standings, championship eligibility, year-end awards, and recognition. Questions not specifically addressed within this chapter shall be resolved in accordance with the principles of fairness, sportsmanship, and the mission of The Horsemanship Classic.

Closing Statement

The Horsemanship Classic was founded on the belief that true success in horsemanship is measured not only by ribbons or championships, but by the partnership between horse and rider, the character of the competitor, and the integrity demonstrated both inside and outside the arena.

Every sanctioned competition is an opportunity to strengthen horsemanship, build lasting friendships, encourage teamwork, and promote respect for the horse. The rules contained within this Official Competition Manual exist to preserve those values and ensure that every competitor has the opportunity to participate in a fair, safe, and professional environment.

As The Horsemanship Classic continues to grow, this Manual shall serve as the foundation upon which future generations of horsemen and horsewomen are developed. Every rider, trainer, parent, official, volunteer, and supporter shares the responsibility of protecting the traditions, principles, and vision of the organization.

Together, we are building more than a competition.

We are building a community dedicated to excellence in horsemanship.