



Pleasure and Performance Divisions: Establishing a clear difference.

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Objectives

- ▶ To define and present the key differences between the pleasure and performance divisions.
- ▶ To review judging criteria and percentages for these divisions

General Parameters – All Classes

- ▶ Special attention shall be afforded to the rhythmic consistency and smoothness of the Paso Fino gait.
- ▶ While style of execution may vary with horses, any style of execution that reduces smoothness and consistency shall be penalized.
- ▶ A horse shall be excused for failure to perform any gait prescribed in a class.
- ▶ Any tendency to mix gaits, the loss of even cadence or lack of smoothness, as evidenced by an up-and-down or side-to-side movement of the horse's croup or of the rider shall be penalized.
- ▶ Horses that fight the bit, flatten their ears, or swish their tails shall be penalized

General Parameters – All Classes

- ▶ In all qualifying gaits, light contact on the reins is required.
- ▶ Horses requiring undue restraint or “holding” in gait or collection shall be penalized.
- ▶ In no gait should the horse go “strung-out” behind, squat down in the rear, jut out his nose, lug or work behind the headgear.
- ▶ Exaggerated leg action (excessive fold, over-reaching, unnaturally high front leg action, etc.) is not desirable.
- ▶ The ideal Paso Fino horse should track straight; however, some slight winging or paddling is acceptable and should be penalized only if it is severe or a result of conformation faults.
- ▶ In all classes and all gaits, the Paso Fino horse should give the appearance of naturalness and ease combined with a degree of pride and elegance that is characteristic of the Paso Fino breed.



History



Paso Performance Division

Paso Performance Division

► Qualifying Gaits

► Collected Walk

- Evenly spaced, four (4) beat gait
- Cadenced, straight, brisk, animated, and rhythmic
- Executed with collection, style, and brilliance

► Collected Paso Corto

- Evenly spaced, four (4) beat lateral gait
- Moderate forward speed and extension
- Smooth, supple, cadenced, animated, and brilliant
- Horse is well collected

► Collected Paso Largo

- Evenly spaced, four (4) beat lateral gait
- Smooth, balanced, collected, bold, and animated

Paso Performance Division

► Class Procedures

- Exhibitors shall enter the ring to the right on the rail at a collected Paso Corto and circle the arena counterclockwise
- The sequence of gaits shall be collected Paso Corto, collected Paso Largo, Collected Walk, reverse and repeat
- Traverse the sounding board when available
- Additional tests may be called for at discretion of judge(s)

* **Note:** In the performance division, the Collected Walk represents 10% of the class. Performance horses should not be asked to stay in the Collected walk for a long period of time. The intention of this gait in this class is to bring down the horse to perform the reverse.

Paso Performance Division

Judging Criteria	Percentage	Reward	Penalize	Not Acceptable
Collected Paso Corto	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Precision and consistency of gait - Fluidity - Maintains high headset - Collection - Agility - Energy - Power - Animation - Brilliance/ Stylish - Intensity of movement - Smoothness - Quickness of Stride - Elegance - Elevated Demeanor/ High Energy - Brio - Balanced - Propulsion (driving from the rear) - Symmetrical - Excellent Conformation - Boldness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over animation that compromise fluidity of movement - Excessive pulling on the bit - Low execution of Gait - Anxiety - Resistance - Lack of symmetry - Unbalanced - Over of behind the bit - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uncollected - Lazy attitude/ lack of brio

Paso Performance Division

Judging Criteria	Percentage	Reward	Penalize	Not Acceptable
Collected Paso Largo	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consistency of gait - Fluidity of gait - Definitive change of speed and extension from Corto - Collection - Eagerness to move out - Maintains degree of collection - Maintains higher headset - Maintains same level of energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change in degree of collection - No extension or change in speed - Rough Transitions - Loss of energy - Tendency to become "light" on the front 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uncollected - Lazy attitude - Becomes strung out
Collected Walk	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintains Collection - Style - Four (4) beat lateral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trotting at the Walk 	

Paso Performance Division

Judging Criteria	Percentage	Reward	Penalize	Not Acceptable
Appearance, Conformation, Manners and Way of Going	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Style, Spirit, Presence- Obedience, Manners- Excellent Conformation- Balance- Willingness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lack of Style- Resistance- Conformation defects	
Sounding Board	10%	Validation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Consistency of Gait- Tracking- Energy, Style		

Paso Performance Division

Positive Factors

- ▶ Maintenance of balance and form
- ▶ Even cadence
- ▶ Collection
- ▶ Straight tracking
- ▶ Smooth and willing transitions between gaits
- ▶ Demonstrable difference in speed and extension between Corto and Largo

Penalizing Factors

- ▶ Loss of form
- ▶ Loss of cadence
- ▶ Loss of collection
- ▶ Uneven tracking
- ▶ Rough or unwilling transitions between gaits
- ▶ No definite difference in speed and/or extension between Corto and Largo



Paso Pleasure Division

Paso Pleasure Division

► Qualifying Gaits

► Flat Walk

- Smooth, evenly spaced, four (4) beat gait
- Flat-footed and smooth with mild collection
- Head carriage is natural and relaxed
- Horse should appear more relaxed with slow forward speed, loose reins with some drape to show willingness to let down.

► Paso Corto

- Evenly spaced, four (4) beat lateral gait
- Smooth, steady, unbroken
- Forward speed ground covering, but unhurried
- Executed with moderate extension and mild collection

► Paso Largo

- Evenly spaced, four (4) beat lateral gait
- Smooth, fluid and rapid
- Mild collection
- Increased extension of rapidness and cadence over Paso Corto
- A definite change of speed must be observed

Paso Pleasure Division

► **Class Procedures**

- Exhibitors shall enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena counterclockwise
- The sequence of gaits shall be Paso Corto, Paso Largo, flat Walk, reverse and repeat,
- Traverse the sounding board when available
- Each rider shall be asked to demonstrate the back from the line up
- Additional tests may be called for at discretion of judge(s)

Paso Pleasure Division

Judging Criteria	Percentage	Reward	Penalize	Not Acceptable
Paso Corto	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Willingness of movement - Consistency of gait - Relaxed fluidity of gait - Moderate extension - Mild collection - Low to Moderate Brio - Smooth - Willing at all times - Non-exaggerated - Relaxed - Quiet - Subdued - Fluid (non-intense) - Balanced - Natural and Relaxed Frame - Light reined - Minimal guidance - Well mannered - Easy to ride 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restrained - Tight Reins - Swishing tail and pinning ears - Bad manners are heavily penalized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over-collected - Over-exaggerated - Rider appears to be fighting with horse - Resistance

Paso Pleasure Division

Judging Criteria	Percentage	Reward	Penalize	Not Acceptable
Paso Largo	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smooth transition - Definitive change of speed and extension from Corto - Mild Collection (still looks relaxed, not forced) - Willingness of movement - Consistency of Gait - Balanced - Natural and Relaxed Frame - Quiet - Easy to handle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restrained - Tight Reins - Swishing tail and pinning ears 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unwilling transitions between gaits - Over-collected - Over-exaggerated - Rider appears to be fighting with horse - Resistance - Poor manners - Driving hard from the rear
Flat Walk	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural frame - Relaxed - Quiet - Willing - Subdued - Should appear more relaxed - Lower/ Relaxed Headset - Slow forward speed (Unhurried) - Loose reins with some drape to show willingness to let down. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tight reins - Restrained - Tail swishing and ears pinned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Animated and collected - Over-exaggerated - Prancing - Rider appears to be fighting with the horse - Resistance

Paso Pleasure Division

Judging Criteria	Percentage	Reward	Penalize	Not Acceptable
Manners, Conformation, and Way of Going	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obedience, Manners - Conformation - Balance - Willingness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tight reins - Restrained - Tail swishing and ears pinned - Conformation defects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rider appears to be fighting with the horse - Resistance - Poor manners - Unwillingness
Sounding Board	10%	Validation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consistency of Gait - Obedience, Manners - Tracking 		
Back	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Straight back - Willingness - Obedience, Manners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tail swishing and ears pinned - Open mouth and fights the bit - Does not back using diagonal pairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refusal to back - Rider appear to be fighting with the horse

Paso Pleasure Division

Positive Factors

- ▶ Consistently displays four beat lateral gait
- ▶ Willingness
- ▶ Relaxed manners
- ▶ Symmetry in movement
- ▶ Smooth ride
- ▶ Maintenance of relaxed frame
- ▶ Relaxed, smooth, and willing transitions between gaits
- ▶ Demonstrable difference in speed and extension between Corto and Largo

Penalizing Factors

- ▶ Inconsistencies in gait
- ▶ Unwillingness
- ▶ Poor manners
- ▶ Asymmetrical movement
- ▶ Loss of smoothness
- ▶ Failure to maintain relaxed frame
- ▶ Rough or unwilling transitions between gaits
- ▶ No demonstrable difference in speed and/or extension between Corto and Largo

Key Differences - Summary

Performance	Pleasure
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The horse should be fully collected and driving itself from the rear with energy and propulsion2. Collected and higher head carriage3. Animated with power, style and brilliance in all gaits4. The horse should show flexion/ agility in all four legs and with symmetry and a balanced lift5. Collected walk6. Criteria 30% Collected Paso Corto 30% Collected Paso Largo 10% Collected Walk 20% On Appearance, Conformation, Manners and Way of Going 10% Sounding Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mild collection. Horse should be controlled with minimal restraint2. Natural and relaxed head position3. Relaxed and natural movement4. Should be fluid, willing, balanced, and free moving.5. Flat Walk6. Criteria 20% Paso Corto 20% Paso Largo 20% Flat Walk 25% Manners, Conformation and Attitude 5% Back 10% Sounding Board



Pleasure Class for Discussion



Performance Class for Discussion

Other Class Samples

► Pleasure

- https://www.usef.org/network/coverage/2018pfhagrand/0_arlza4xr
- https://www.usef.org/network/coverage/2018pfhagrand/0_rgi7ud91
- https://www.usef.org/network/coverage/PFHAGN17/1_zo1hc0xu
- https://www.usef.org/network/coverage/2015pfhagrandnational/0_mpbmskua

► Performance

- https://www.usef.org/network/coverage/2018pfhagrand/0_1msh1vld
- https://www.usef.org/network/coverage/PFHAGN17/1_9qhbbwhg
- https://www.usef.org/network/coverage/2015pfhagrandnational/0_q5p85ole
- https://www.usef.org/network/coverage/2013pfhagrandnationalchampionshipshow/0_lu7uhojd
- https://www.usef.org/network/coverage/2016pfhagrandnationals/1_hglghol0