

ASHLA - Guidelines for Judges & Competitors

The ASHLA class/event is depicted as a stockhorse ridden by a Lady.

Scoring:	Rider's Ability	25 points
	Horse's Ability, Manners & Paces	25 points
	Dress, Gear & General Presentation	25 points
	Horse - Type & Conformation	25 points

Novice Status: (Seniors Only) Must not have won an ASHLA class or ASHLA Novice Award at any Capital City Royals, Canberra Royal or ASH National Show on day of judging. This award can only be won once in a rider's lifetime.

Count Back: In the event of a tie in any placing in an ASHLA event, the Riders Ability section to be used as a countback and if needed, followed by Horse's Ability, Manners & Paces section, Dress, Equipment & General Presentation section then Type & Conformation section.

Rules and Guidelines can be found on the ASHLA judging sheet which is recommended to be used for the ASHLA event.

The Rider

Points are awarded to the rider for her riding ability. Her style and control over her mount and her ability to execute the prescribed pattern. Though a harmonised combination of horse and rider is the ultimate aim, often a difficult horse will be ridden extremely well, this rider is therefore demonstrating a high level of ability and should score accordingly. Alternatively a very well seasoned horse foot perfect of his workout could be ridden by an unbalanced, sloppy or less attractive rider and therefore the score should reflect that.

The Horse Ability

A well trained, obedient horse will obviously score the highest points. Bad behaviour, resistance, malice or giving the rider a difficult or unpleasant ride will surely affect the horse's score. The score may not necessarily match that of the rider score. It should be assumed that the Rider Score and Horse Score should be the same, a true reflection of the performance will often demand they be quite different.

The Workout

The Judge may design their own pattern or select a pattern from the ASHS pattern book. The pattern should test both the horse's training, ability and obedience along with the skill of the rider, their style and control of the performance.

The workout should contain a variety of movements but not be **unduly long**.

This class can show some level of working criteria along with the elements which allow the rider to display style and control .

Saddlery

ASHLA has the highest regard for traditional saddlery of Australian origin though no rider will be excluded from competing no matter what make of saddle. Scoring should

favour the traditional poley stock saddle and standard Australian bridles and breastplates.

It is highly recommended by ASHLA that Judges give a **hands on** close scrutiny of the saddlery.

Recommendations:

- The quality of the saddlery should be a considerable factor when scoring, the emphasis toward the upkeep, cleanliness, softness of leather, harmony of accessories and completeness of tack, not the age
- Traditionally all metal studding on the saddlery should be brass. Points will be lost for tarnished and unpolished brass. Extent of the brass to be attractive and not overpowering to the eye.
- Saddle should consist of Australian stock saddle, clean and well kept, all strapping supple and well oiled. The saddle should fit the horse and rider for size. Girth buckles should be in equal holes on both sides. Correctly fitted breast plate with strap endings through the buckles pointing forward and away from the rider.
- A well fitted Australian stock bridle with plain snaffle bit (no twisted or sharp bits), well fitted in size. Plain leather reins joined with the buckle on the offside rein. Buckles to be the same height on the cheek pieces, throat lash measurement 2 fingers on their side for a correct fit.
- The traditional green and gold ASH saddle cloth is preferred. ASHLA have developed their own green and gold ASH saddle cloth with the ASHLA logo which completes the tack ensemble.
- No whips or riding crops allowed.

The Rider - Turnout Dress Code

ASHLA dress is well documented and always well displayed.

Points can be won or lost with a good eye for detail. Clean, crisp, well fitting clothing is expected. The accessories of the rider's ensemble should match.

- Adult riders may wear an Australian style (not western) felt hat or a helmet approved by the current Australian Standards (compulsory for Junior riders). It is preferred that a helmet be a neutral colour.
- Boots to be clean and well polished, short elastic side Australian style, black or tan. Judge to check under sole for cleanliness.
- Spurs are optional, ladies style, neat design, dummy or non abusive roller spurs can be used.
- Light coloured, white or cream trousers or jodhpurs are preferred. Where required a belt to be worn.
- Standard ASH tie. ASHLA have produced a tie pin to complete the finish of the tie.
- Long sleeved button down shirt, light in colour.
- Long sleeved jumper or knitted vest, ASH green preferred. In extreme heat these may be removed at the judge's discretion.
- Riding rain coat may be used during wet weather.
- Rider's hair to be neat and tidy, netted or in a bun.

It is highly recommended that the judge should inspect the details of the rider's dress, especially those that are hidden from view – boots, belts etc. Judges are encouraged to

use the full 25 points available and make deductions according to errors found. If the tack and rider's presentation is fully correct and satisfying the score will reflect that.

The Horse

As with any ASH led class the accredited judge is encouraged to appreciate and favour the Australian Stock Horse type. The ideal type being of appropriate height and stature befitting a lady rider and complimentary to the lady herself. The horse needs to be thoroughly clean and well presented.

Note: It is not correct to touch the horse when checking for soundness