

SCHOOLING SHOW ETIQUETTE



design by:



Having fun and staying safe while learning the ropes in preparation for rated shows is the goal of the schooling show. With that in mind, MOHJO presents these guidelines for schooling show exhibitors.

It is important to remember that you are being judged not just on your riding but also on your presentation.

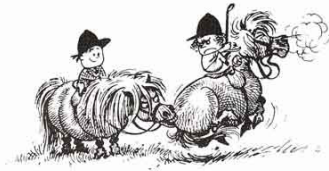
Riding Attire

- Every rider must wear an ASTM-approved helmet, preferably black. The chin strap must be fastened properly.
- Hair should be worn neatly over the ears in a hairnet. (Riders with shorter hair may find it necessary to use bobby pins or barrettes to keep their hair from escaping the helmet.)
- Girls in jodhpurs may wear their hair in two braids; ribbons may be worn on the braids but must not obscure the rider's number.
- A polo shirt or turtleneck (with a conservative sweater, if the season calls for it) or a show shirt and hunt coat is appropriate.
- Refrain from wearing anything too form fitting or revealing. (The USEF rule book calls for shirts with collars and sleeves in the show ring.)
- Tuck in your shirt and wear a belt.
- Riders may wear breeches with tall boots or half-chaps or jodhpurs with paddock boots. (Jodhpur straps and garters are recommended for children wearing jodhpurs and paddock boots.)
- Boots and half-chaps should be polished each day at the show.
- Black gloves are always appropriate (and can help camouflage unwanted hand movement).
- Crops should not exceed 18 inches in length.

Horse Turnout

First impressions mean a lot when you walk into the ring. A clean horse and tack represent your barn in a positive manner and show respect for the sport.

- Horses should be groomed thoroughly or bathed to remove stains before entering the ring.
- Everyone needs to get into the wash rack for the same reason, so keep bathing in the wash rack and chatting in the aisles.
- A neatly pulled mane and carefully trimmed ears and muzzle will show your horse to advantage.
- Tack should be cleaned after each use. (This includes the bit, which shouldn't be green!)
- Tack should be conventional and appropriate for the division: A fitted white fleece show pad is the correct choice for the hunter ring, whereas square pads are permitted in the jumper ring. Flash nosebands are not appropriate for hunters.



Etiquette and Safety

Safety is the number-one concern at any show — followed closely, of course, by having a great time! — but courtesy to others also goes a long way toward a positive show experience. Following these tips will help you ride safely and courteously.

- When riding in the schooling area during a show or in the main ring on schooling day, remember that the proper way to pass another horse head on is left shoulder to left shoulder.
- Don't block traffic: Never walk two horses side by side or stop along the rail.
- When jumping, communicate in a loud, clear voice where you are going: "Heads up outside line!"
- By the same token, be aware of what others are doing and listen for others as they "call" jumps.
- Excessive use of the stick is frowned upon.
- Use good judgment: If your horse is misbehaving, leave the ring.
- Never sit or stand on a jump, or hold or touch a standard or pole, while horses are jumping.
- Know the correct distance for placing poles away from a jump. If you are using a ground line, make sure its placement is correct.

In The Office

- Take all necessary information (number of stalls, how you are splitting the cost, etc.) with you to the office.
- Make sure your horse's show name is correctly spelled and see that the correct rider is listed for each division. Is your entry form legible?
- Entry forms should be faxed before the show, but if this is not possible, be sure to turn in your forms before you begin schooling your horse.

At The Gate

- State your number and class or division to the gate staff ("419, Low Hunter, first trip"). Judges do not have class lists, only judges' cards, so informing the gate person as you enter will help ensure that you are judged on the correct card.
- Sign up ("post") for jump order. At most shows you may post two classes ahead. If you are not in the jump order, you will be placed last in the order. If you are already in the jump order, stay out of the schooling area until your group is called. This will give the riders ahead of you room to prepare.
- Don't keep everyone waiting. Be at the gate when it's your turn to go — and if you decide not to ride ("scratch"), let the office and gate staff know ahead of time.
- Be courteous to the gate staff — remember, they are there to help you.



In The Show Ring

- Make just one courtesy circle before starting a course. A second circle may be counted as a refusal.
- If you have a refusal, go back to the jump. You are allowed three refusals, after which you will be excused.
- Please exit promptly if the announcer tells you that you have gone off course.
- If you fall off in the ring, leave on foot.

This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only. Good judgment on the part of exhibitors and trainers is the key to safe showing.