

2025 Rule Book

Dougherty County Saddle Club Inc.



Georgia Equine Law

Warning - Under Georgia law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to Chapter 12 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP RULES

Memberships

There are two types of membership's available, family, and individual. Family membership includes parents and dependent children under 18. Youth under 18 cannot hold membership without parents/guardians also holding memberships. Youth 18-21 years of age, who are living at home and are fully enrolled in a postsecondary institution and who are claimed on the parents IRS 1040, may be members of the club under a family membership.

Voting

Voting rights belong to members 15 and over.

Exception

Youth members may vote in matters concerning the Youth portion of the club only.

Use of Premises

Non-Show Day use of property is restricted to members in good standing for their personal use. At no time is anyone to use the property for paid lessons or for personal gain. All persons under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

GENERAL SHOW RULES

Dougherty County Saddle Club is governed by USEF guidelines.

Age is determined as of January 1 for the coming show year.

Current Coggins must be presented at time of registration. A copy may be given to the show secretary to be placed on file for the current show season.

Awards will be given for 1st through 6th place in all classes except where noted on the class sheets.

Payment of class fees are expected prior to showing. Member and Non-member fees, as well as class fees are determined each

show year by the board. A blank check must be left at registration. All show fees must be paid by the end of the show. Points will

not be credited if fees are not paid.

All dogs must be on a leash and quiet at all times. Unruly dogs will be asked to leave the grounds.

No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the grounds at any time.

No schooling in any classes for the safety of other riders. Schooling may be done only in the arena during lunch and breaks.

Registration

Riders must be registered two classes prior with the registration desk. Once registered for a class, you are required to pay for that class unless you request removal three classes prior. If an exhibitor does not show in a registered class, entry fee will be forfeited or can be used toward another class for that rider that show day. Scratch/add sheets are available at registration.

Inclement Weather

In case of severe weather, show will be called in advance. In all other weather-related circumstances, the decision will be made by the show committee and will be made by 7:00 am. Members are encouraged to call a member of the show committee on show days during severe weather. If inclement weather advances during the show, the show committee will make a decision based on the conditions.

Pony Classes

Height must not exceed 14.2 hands (58 inches). All ponies will be measured and kept on record for the for current show season.

The entries will be checked to make sure every pony has a height recorded and qualifies before entering the class.

Splitting, Combining or Canceling Classes:

Classes may be combined if insufficient entries warrant. A class of three (3) entries or less will be combined when possible. Points will be kept separate. When needed, due to a safety issue a class may be split, and entries chosen by the judge will be called back to be judged for a final round. Classes which have no entries will be announced at least two classes in advance.

Soundness

The judge shall make an examination and check for lameness of all horses brought into any class. Causes of disqualification will include:

Consistent lameness observable at a trot under all circumstances

Marked head nodding, hitching or shortened stride.

Minimal weight bearing in motion and or at rest; inability to move

Entry numbers

Only members can use their own "permanent" numbers which are assigned annually from DCSC. Member has first right to continue use of assigned number for following year.

Failure by exhibitor to wear correct numbers in a visible manner shall result in a disqualification. Exhibitors may display the numbers on both sides of the saddle pad or on their back.

Exhibitors Assisted in the Arena

Any contestant who is assisted in any manner by another person inside arena or show ring shall be automatically disqualified.

Exceptions

Those events which specifically state otherwise, assistance is necessary for safety of exhibitor or horse and determined by the judge.

Equipment Failure

In cases of faulty or broken equipment or loss of shoe, the competitor must continue or be eliminated.

Fall of Horse or Rider

A fall from a mount will result in disqualification. A fall will be considered when the horse's shoulder touches the ground or when a rider comes in contact with the ground. There may be circumstances where the judge may overrule the rider being disqualified or not at his/her discretion.

Entering Arena Promptly

Two minute gate call will be strictly enforced.

Tack / Class Holds

Tack holds and class holds must be declared to show announcer two classes beforehand.

Secured to the Saddle

No exhibitor at any time may be tied, buckled or fastened in the saddle in any manner or by any means on DCSC grounds.

Preliminary Eliminations

If there is a preliminary elimination each horse must be ridden in the finals by the same rider who rode it in the elimination.

Stallions

No one under the age of 18 may show a stallion.

Animal Welfare & Humane Treatment

DCSC strongly advocates the humane treatment of all horses. DCSC recognizes that when the welfare of the horse has the highest priority, secondary benefits including fair competition and true recognition of athletic abilities of the horse are enhanced. DCSC has taken a firm stand to ensure that the horse shown at DCSC events will be treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

No person on the show grounds may treat a horse in an inhumane manner.

Inhumane treatment includes, but is not limited to:

- Placing an object in a horse's mouth so as to cause undue discomfort or distress
- Tying a horse in a manner so as to cause undue discomfort or distress in stall, trailer or when lounging or riding
- Letting blood from a horse
- Use of inhumane training techniques or methods
- Use of inhumane equipment, including but not limited to, saw tooth bits, hock hobbles, tack collars, or tack hackamores
- Any item or appliance that restricts movement or circulation of the tail
- Intentional inhumane treatment which results in bleeding

Upon a report or discovery of inhumane treatment, show management shall immediately investigate the incident and conclude if behavior has been inhumane. If inhumane treatment has been found, person exhibiting the inhumane treatment will be forced to leave the show grounds and will be placed on probation. If there is a second offense, person will not be allowed to show at any DCSC events.

The standard by which conduct, or treatment will be measured is that which a reasonable person, informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and exhibition procedures, would determine to be cruel, abusive and inhumane.

ELIGIBILITY FOR YEAR-END AWARDS

Eligibility for Year End Awards

Year End Awards will be given for Performance and H/J with the exception of the 4-H, payback classes, championship (to include all payback) and fun classes. Awards will be determined at a later date based on availability.

To be eligible for year-end awards, you must meet the following:

- For Performance classes and H/J Classes you must participate in a minimum of one more than half of the number of shows for your discipline.
- Volunteer a minimum of one hour at every show that you participate in OR have paid the non-working membership fee. Volunteer areas have been split up by 1-hour increments. You may have others volunteer for you. However, we must know that on show day.
- Attend three meeting.
- Attend two workdays (working concessions at designated Deep Dixie shows will count as a workday)
- Volunteers will be needed for concession (2-3 at all times, includes a cook) and at Registration. The Performance ring will need an announcer, ring steward, and two gate keepers. The Hunter/Jumper ring will need an announcer/steward and two gate keepers. The Dressage shows will need a scribe, gate person, score keeper and show day secretary. The Running shows will need an announcer and gate keeper.

POINT SYSTEM AND YEAR-END AWARDS

Point System and Placements

Point

Placements: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th

<u>Exhibitors</u>	1-3	4-7	8-12	12 or More
1st	4	6	8	10
2nd	3	5	7	9
3rd	2	4	6	8
4th	0	3	5	7
5th	0	2	4	6
6th	0	1	3	5

ANNOUNCER'S RESPONSIBILITY

A competent adult announcer will be required at all DCSC shows. Any approved person 18yrs or older may act in this capacity. The announcer must assemble the class promptly to eliminate long delays of the show. The Announcer will:

- Notify the judge when the number in the class is complete.
- Be aware and watchful for safety issues in and around the arena.
- Call a halt to the class if a safety issue arises.
- Enforce a two-minute gate call.
- Call classes to the arena two classes in advance.
- Will be informed of any tack holds or any cancellations and announce them in advance of the class.
- Is responsible for good communication between the judge, ring master and announcer.
- Be familiar with the rules and regulations of DCSC.

RING MASTER

A competent adult ring master will be required at all DCSC shows. Any approved person 18 or older may act in this capacity. The ring master is selected to help, not advise the judge. He/She will refrain from discussing, or seemingly to discuss the horses or the exhibitors with the judge. The ring master has charge of the activity in the ring under the direction of the judge. The ring master must act as a mediator between the judge, the exhibitor and the announcer.

JUDGES

Designation as a DCSC judge is a privilege, not a right, to individuals whose equine expertise and personal character merit the honor, as well as his/her individual conduct as a member, exhibitor, or judge. Additionally, his/her ability must be exemplary; is subject to continual committee review; and such designation is revocable by DCSC board with or without notice. Approved judges must have demonstrated their ability to judge a variety of disciplines and breeds. Prospective judges holding other breeds and association judge's cards will not be given preference over other prospective judges showing the same ability to judge a variety of disciplines and breeds.

Horses shown within the previous three (3) months by a judge or member of the judge's immediate family may not be shown to that judge. These specific areas of disqualifying conflict of interest are not exclusive and judges are ineligible to judge another's horse in other situations not designated by the rule. If a judge cannot exercise an objective opinion, free from possible prejudice, bias or other outside influence because of a connection with an owner, exhibit or anyone else connected with the horse, or for that matter, if such connection would appear to others to be of possible bias, whether or not the judge feels he or she would be affected, a judge must disqualify him or herself.

Judges shall not solicit an assignment under any circumstances.

Judge's Attire: Judges should maintain a proper professional appearance in accordance with USEF/AQHA guidelines.

Prior to the show

All invitations to judge will be confirmed by return of the DCSC judging contract. The judge's fee will be set in the judge's contract before the show.

Upon arriving at the show, judges should immediately report to registration. Upon reporting to, the judge will provide all necessary patterns to the Show Secretary. The Show Secretary post all patterns at that time.

A judge who is delayed in transit to a show should make every effort to call the contact numbers provided on the judge's contract to avoid unnecessary delay and confusion of the show management and exhibitors.

Judge's Responsibilities at a Horse Show

Judges will be provided with a DCSC rule book and are expected to know the rules of DCSC and are responsible for their own interpretations.

The judge has absolute control of the ring and authority over all persons in it. A judge shall dismiss from competition any unruly horse or person whose actions threaten to endanger other exhibitors or their entries.

Exhibitors shall not approach the judge for any reason during the time that the show is being judged. All contact will be made through the ring master or show official. An exhibitor must request permission to inspect the judge's score card.

Judge's Conduct and Integrity: Judges should not accept invitations to social functions held immediately before a show when the host and/or guests are likely to be exhibiting them. On the day of the show, judges should not visit the grounds, discuss the merits of the horses to be judged, or talk at length with those who may be exhibiting under them. Smoking should not be done while judging. Smoking is permissible between classes provided it does not delay judging. No judge shall at any time use strong or abusive language while judging a show. No judge shall judge a DCSC show while intoxicated.

Complaints

To make a formal complaint against a judge, such complaint must be in writing and signed by the complainant and contain specific facts for the complaint. The complaint must be delivered to the President of DCSC within two weeks after the show. If an urgent complaint takes place during a DCSC show, a group of three board members that are in attendance during the show will handle the complaint and resolve the matter in a timely manner as not to delay the show.

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CLASS DESCRIPTION AND RULES

HALTER

Horse is to be led into the ring and shown at a walk and trot at the direction of the judge. Class is to be judged on conformation of the animal to its breed characteristics.

Attire:

All exhibitors must dress according to the requirements of the breed they are showing.

Equipment:

Properly fitted halter with lead is mandatory. Silver and bling will not be cause for placement.

COLOR HALTER

Horse must be registered as a color breed or be eligible for registry as a color breed.

SHOWMANSHIP

This class is to be judged strictly on the exhibitor's ability to show in a halter class. The horse's conformation will not be judged; however, the horse should be clean and neat in appearance.

It is mandatory that the judge provide a pattern which will be posted 1 hour prior to the class.

Attire:

All exhibitors must dress according to the requirement of the breed they are showing.

Equipment:

Properly fitted halter with lead/bridle is mandatory. Silver and bling will not be cause for placement.

HUNTER UNDER SADDLE

Hunter should be suitable to purpose. Horses should move in strides, reaching forward with ease and smoothness over the ground with relaxed, free flowing movement, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of proper cadence, the quality of movement with consistency of the gaits a major consideration.

Attire:

- Hunt seat coat of traditional colors such as navy, dark green, gray, black or brown
- Breeches in traditional shades of buff, khaki, canary, light gray or rust (or jodhpurs)
- Tall boots or jodhpurs boots of black or brown
- ASTM approved headgear is mandatory while mounted. Hunt caps may be worn by adult riders 18yrs or older in flat classes only. Exception: Hunt seat Equitation on the flat
- Gloves and blunted spurs are optional. Hair must be neat and contained.
- Proper attire is required at all times unless otherwise announced by the judge. Polo shirts permitted in the H/J ring ONLY.

Equipment:

- Saddles must be black or brown of traditional hunter or forward seat type. Saddle pads should fit size and shape except when necessary to accommodate numbers on both sides.
- An English snaffle, Pelham, kimberwick and or full bridle, all with cavesson noseband is required.

Optional equipment:

- Crop or bat (maximum length of 30")
- Braided manes and tails.

HUNTER OVER FENCES

Hunter should be suitable to purpose. They are judged on their movement, way of going, manners, and jumping form. The horse should have a long stride with very little knee action, good jumping form with

correct bascule (roundness over a fence), and should be well-mannered. Hunters should be shown over a minimum of 6 jumps or more. Horses may not enter more than 2 consecutive height divisions.

Attire:

Proper attire is required at all times unless otherwise announced by the judge.

- Polo shirts permitted in the H/J ring ONLY.
- Hunt seat coat of traditional colors such as navy, dark green, gray black or brown
Breeches in traditional shades of buff, khaki, canary, light gray or rust (or jodhpurs)
Tall boots or jodhpurs boots of black or brown
- ASTM/SEI-approved equestrian helmet with 3 point safety harness fastened is mandatory for all riders while jumping. (Per USEF rule JP111 #8).

Equipment:

- Saddles must be black or brown of traditional hunter or forward seat type. Saddle pads should fit size and shape except when necessary to accommodate numbers on both sides.
- An English snaffle, Pelham, kimberwick and or full bridle, all with cavesson noseband and brow band is required.
- Bit Converters are illegal.
- Standing martingales are permitted over fences only.

SHOW JUMPING:

A show jumper must have the scope as well as the athletic ability to handle the sharp turns and bursts of speed necessary to navigate the most difficult courses. This event is a timed event and is not judged on style of jumping (as in hunter over fences). Show Jumpers should be shown over a course of at least 8 jumps or more. Horses may not enter more than 2 consecutive height divisions.

Attire:

- Polo Shirts are allowed in the show jumping classes
- Hunt seat coat of traditional colors such as navy, dark green, gray black or brown
- Breeches in traditional shades of buff, khaki, canary, light gray or rust (or jodhpurs)
- Tall boots of black or brown
- ASTM/SEI-approved equestrian helmet with 3-point safety harness fastened is mandatory for all riders while jumping (Per USEF rule JP111 #8).

Equipment:

- Saddles must be black or brown of traditional hunter or forward seat type. Saddle pads should fit size and shape except when necessary to accommodate numbers on both sides.
- An English snaffle, Pelham, kimberwick and or full bridle, all with cavesson noseband and brow band is required. Drop nose bands, figure 8 nosebands are legal.
- Martingales are allowed.
- Boots / Wraps and Bell boots are allowed.

SPORT HORSE

Sport Horse Under Saddle – Refer to USEF Art. AR-13.

WESTERN PLEASURE

Western Style of riding with relatively slow speed of gait, along with calm and responsive disposition. The horse appears to be a pleasure to ride. Horses carry their neck nearly level with their withers with a level top line. DCSC strictly enforces the guidelines set by AQHA / USEF on this style of riding and horses are to be penalized if their poll is carried lower than their withers.

Attire:

- Western Hat or ASTM helmet
- Shirt with long sleeves and collar/ ladies may wear western fitted jackets or fitted western shirt
- Long pants
- Western boots or approved riding boots with a heel
- Spurs, chaps, or gloves are optional

Equipment

- Western saddle with saddle pad
- Leather or nylon open faced bridle without noseband
- Bits: Standard snaffle bits / Bosal's are permitted in any class on a junior horse five years old and under. DCSC will follow USEF
- guidelines concerning western bits.
- Split Reins or Romal Reins are legal. One finger is allowed between split reins, romal reins will be held with no finger split.

TRAIL

Class will be judged on performance of the horse over obstacles with emphasis on manners, response to the riders' aid and attitude. Horse will be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching obstacles. It is mandatory that the judge provide a pattern which will be posted 1 hour prior to the class.

Attire:

- Western Hat or ASTM helmet
- Shirt with long sleeves and collar/ ladies may wear western fitted jackets or fitted western shirt.
- Long pants
- Western boots or approved riding boots with a heel
- Spurs, chaps, or gloves are optional.

Equipment:

- Western saddle with saddle pad
- Leather or nylon open faced bridle without noseband
- Bits: Standard snaffle bits / Bosal's are permitted in any class on a junior horse five years old and under. DCSC will follow USEF guidelines concerning western bits.
- One finger is allowed between split reins, romal reins will be held with no finger split.
- Suggested Obstacles but not limited to:
- Gate, poles, logs, backing obstacles, wooden bridge, mailbox, square
- Unacceptable Obstacles:
- Tires, animals, hides, moving bridges, flames, dismounting, ground time

ACADEMY CLASSES

Academy classes are for riders in their first two years of showing at a trot. Exhibitors in academy cannot show in any lope/canter classes. Academy exhibitors may show under Western, Hunt seat or Saddle seat. Attire will not be judged, however, regulation helmets and boots are required.

Attire:

Schooling attire is permitted in Academy Classes.

Equipment:

Schooling equipment is permitted in Academy Classes.

BEGINNER PLEASURE CLASS

Beginner Pleasure class is restricted to riders who have not won a 1st place in any canter/lope class in the preceding year. Beginner Pleasure exhibitors may show Western, Hunt Seat or Saddle Seat.

Attire:

Exhibitors will wear the attire required by their discipline.

Equipment:

Tack requirements will fall under the discipline being ridden.

WALK ONLY CLASS

Walk Only Class is open to all ages. Exhibitors may show Western, Hunt Seat or Saddle Seat. Walk Only exhibitors are to show

at the walk only, both ways of the ring. in this class cannot enter any Trot/Jog or Lope/Canter classes. Side Walkers are permitted in the arena but no lead lines are to be attached to the bridle. Rider must be able to control the horse at the walk, halt, and back-up.

Attire will not be judged, however, regulation helmets and boots are required.

Attire:

Schooling attire is permitted in Walk Only Classes, regulation helmets and boots are required.

Equipment:

Schooling tack is permitted in Walk Only Classes.

GREEN HORSE

Horse must be in its first 2 years of showing.

Attire:

Rider should wear proper attire for the discipline shown.

Equipment:

Proper equipment is to be used for the discipline shown.

Training equipment is not permitted.

LEAD LINE CLASS

Exhibitors must show in a saddle that fits the rider. Stirrups and stirrup length must fit the rider. Horse must be in a bridle. Halter can be worn over bridle or lead line attached to the bit. Regulation footwear and helmets/western hat must be worn. Schooling attire and schooling tack are permitted in these classes.

Saddle Seat:

English style of riding where horses will be judged on the animation of gaits especially the trot, as well as manners and responsiveness to the rider's aids.

Attire:

- Suit coat of conservative solid colors must be worn, such as black, navy blue, brown, dark green gray. Day coats are permissible.
- Kentucky jodhpurs
- Jodhpur Boots black or brown
- Derby style hat or fedora (Black, navy or brown)

Equipment:

- Cutback Saddle
- Full Bridle with brow band and cavesson
- Snaffle Bit, Curb bit with Bradoon or Pelham bits are preferred. Refer to USEF rule book for more information on legal bits.

Georgia Equine Law

Warning - Under Georgia law, an equine activity sponsor or equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to Chapter 12 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

Dougherty County Saddle Club Inc.

2025 Officers

President- Carol Rathel

Vice President –Amanda Nichols

Treasurer – Trisha McDaniel

Secretary – Linda Appleman

Parliamentarian – Open

2025 Board Members

Norma Karst

Billy Hodges

Harry James

Trey Gilmore

Mary Druckenmiller