

## Junior Handler

The object of this event is to show competency in correct handling of the horse on the ground and that the horse has been trained to lead from the shoulder. It is judged on the way the rider presents themselves and their horse to the judge. A crop or dressage whip may be used in this class. Horse is unsaddled, with bridle on. Rider holds reins in cavalry hold in right hand, with the slack of reins and dressage whip in the left hand at waist height, and stands on the near side of horse (left side). **Rider must be at or very close to the horse's shoulder. Do not go in front of this spot** and do not pull horse along. **Horse should be going forward into the bridle – use dressage whip** to tap the horse if required to maintain active walk and trot.

At the start, all handlers and horses go around in a clockwise circle to be called in by the judge to line-up. Line-up to the right of the previous horse. Leave a good distance between horses in the line so that the judge can walk through horses safely. When in line, the rider must keep the horse standing square and attentive – do not let the horse go to sleep. The rider should also stand straight, paying attention. As the judge walks between the horses in the line, looking at each one, the rider stays on the same side of their horse as the judge, and is facing the judge. You can use the following technique.

From your left hand, lift up your pointer and middle fingers above the reins. Bring this hand under the horse's chin and grasp the right rein just below the bit. Release the right rein from your right hand, so that each hand just holds one rein. Swivel on the spot to face down the side of the horse. As the judge walks from one side to the other of your horse, the rider simply steps around the front of the horse to be on the same side, facing the horse's tail.

Assume this position when the judge is approaching your horse, and resume the normal hold when the judge has finished their inspection and has moved to the far side of the next horse.

For the individual workout, the handler will ask the horse to walk forward a few paces in front of the line of competitors and present to the judge with the horse standing square. Make sure the front feet are square - the back feet can be a little apart but the horse must have weight evenly on both back feet. Never make the horse go backwards to get square – take another step and a half forward if required. Once the horse is square, present yourself to the judge and salute by nodding to the judge. (You may have to step forward and turn to see the judge). Never stand directly in front of the horse. Then when the judge nods to you, walk out approx 15 metres, turn to the right, walk 4 steps and halt squarely. (Move your horse forward a little if it has not stopped square) When your horse is square, again step forward and nod to the judge, who will nod back to acknowledge your presentation and indicate you should continue.

Walk another 15 metres and do a **sharp right turn**, then once the horse is straight, go into trot, straight back to where you started. **Trot in a straight line directly at the judge.** The judge will step out of the way as you approach. Continue until your horse is back to where it first presented to the judge, but facing the other way. Stop to the left of the first horse. (The workout is effectively a right-angled triangle). Halt your horse, stand it up square, and salute the judge to indicate you are finished. After the judge nods, lead the horse behind the line-up, and back to your original position.