

HUNTER & EQUITATION DIVISIONS

by Andrea Neumann

Hunter and Equitation classes are designed to promote correct basics, balanced riding, and good horsemanship. While both take place over similar courses, the focus of judging differs between the two.

At the Western Canadian Pony Classic, Hunter and Equitation classes are offered in a progressive format, allowing riders to develop confidence and skills from introductory levels through higher fence heights.

Turnout

Correct, traditional presentation is encouraged. The horse should be clean and well-groomed with hooves neatly finished. Braiding is optional, but customary.

Tack

- Plain English tack with simple cavesson
- White, shaped saddle pad
- Martingales permitted over fences only

Attire

- Conservative hunt coat or tidy schooling attire
- Light-coloured breeches
- Tall boots or paddock boots with half chaps
- Approved helmet with harness fastened



Photo submitted by: Karen Chomey

Judging

Hunter and Equitation classes are judged subjectively. A calm, smooth round that suits the level is always preferred over speed. The goal is to make the round look easy, quiet, and polished. The best rounds look smooth, balanced, and effortless.

Hunter Classes are judged subjectively on the overall quality of the horse and round, including:

- Rhythm and consistency
- Jumping style and form
- Manners and way of going
- Balance and suitability for the division

Equitation Classes are judged on the rider, with emphasis on:

- Correct position and balance
- Effective and appropriate use of aids
- Accuracy and control
- Overall effectiveness of the ride

Courses & Class Format

Hunter and Equitation competitions share similar fence types and course layouts. Courses are designed to be flowing and inviting, encouraging correct pace and fundamentals.

Courses typically include:

- Natural-style fences (rails, boxes, simple fillers)
- Comfortable distances and straightforward lines
- An even, forward rhythm

Classes offered may include:

- Hunter Over Fences – judged on the horse
- Hunter Equitation Over Fences – judged on the rider with position and effectiveness considered
- Hunter Under Saddle – judged on the horse - walk, trot, and canter on the flat only
- Stake / Feature Classes (where offered)



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Divisions Offered at The Western Canadian Pony Classic

Hunter and Equitation classes are offered at the following levels for Junior and Senior riders:

- Trot Pole
- Crossrails
- 2'
- 2'3"
- 2'6"
- 2'9"

NOTE: Riders may compete in a maximum of two consecutive Hunter divisions at this competition.

Championships:

Champion and Reserve Champion awards are based on points earned within each division, in accordance with the prize list requirements. To be eligible for Champion and Reserve Champion awards, exhibitors must compete in the full division as listed in the prize list.



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