

**Breeders Halter Futurity  
Western Pleasure and Performance Halter Class  
2021 Rules**

**Horses must be 2-5 years old and sired by any stallion that has ever participated in the Breeders Halter Futurity. This is not a Maiden Class. Horses with a show record are not excluded. A current 2021 nomination fee (as per the schedule) is required. Horses will be shown under saddle and in performance halter. Horses will be scored 70% on riding and 30% on conformation.**

**Horses must be shown by the same Exhibitor in both the riding and performance halter portions of the class.**

**Horses may be shown in a snaffle bit, bit, or hackamore. Western Attire and Western Tack are required.**

**The horse should be a pleasure to ride. The horse should exhibit a free flowing stride with natural lift and self-carriage, along with smooth gaits and transitions. Emphasis shall be placed on good movers, manners, and willing attitude as reflected in the horse's ears, mouth, tail, and way of going. This class will be judged on the performance, manners, condition, and conformation of the horse. All horses will be judged at the walk, jog, lope, and back as well as on all transitions.**

**Walk: A natural, flat footed, four (4) beat gait.**

**Jog: A smooth, ground covering, two (2) beat gait.**

**Lope: An easy, rhythmical, clean three (3) beat gait. Horses moving to the right should lope on the right lead and when moving to the left, should lope on the left lead. The horse should lope straight with a natural stride and appear relaxed and smooth.**

**Back: The back should be on command, quietly, willing and easily in a straight line without resistance.**

**At the conclusion of the riding portion of the class, the tack will be removed and horses will be judged on confirmation.**

**Each Exhibitor can have 1 – 2 grooms to assist with tack removal and grooming. All grooms shall be dressed in appropriate western attire. All grooms shall wait at the gate until the Announcer indicates that the Judges have directed the grooms to enter the arena. Wheelbarrows and carts are not allowed. The Announcer shall announce the start time for removal of equipment and grooming. The time limit is 2 minutes. The horse may be shown in a suitable halter or bridle for the halter portion of this class.**

**The halter portion of the class is to evaluate the conformation of the horse as it pertains to being ridden under saddle. The performance halter horse is a horse that is first and foremost balanced, as well as structurally correct, attractive, and athletic. This horse should be symmetrical from head to tail, with eye appeal that is a result of the blending of an attractive head, refined throat latch; well proportioned, trim neck; long, sloping shoulder; deep heart girth; short, strong back, long hip, and croup. These characteristics should be coupled with straight, structurally correct legs and feet that are free of major deviation. The horse should be a balanced athlete that is adequately muscled throughout. Balance is the single most important trait and refers to the structural and aesthetic blending of body parts. Balance is influenced almost entirely by skeletal structure. It is the duty of the judge to compare each individual based on which is the most balanced, eye appealing, and that exhibits the highest combination of positive traits, keeping in mind that no individual is perfect. Blemishes on the legs should only be considered if they contribute to a mechanical or structural unsoundness. Heavy muscling is not credit earning; however, a horse's muscling should be adequate for the athleticism required under saddle.**