

AGMA JUDGING RULES AND JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS

Flat Walk is a true, bold, and four-cornered, with fore legs moving straight in an elevated arc, and with a pronounced and cadenced head motion. The rear legs should follow through close to the ground, comfortable and over striding the front tracks. Stiff legged front or rear leg motion and irregular gait, especially when entering the ring, are typical of the movement of a sore mule and the judge must immediately excuse any mule exhibiting this type of motion from the ring.

2. Running Walk is the same general motion as the flat walk, but with additional speed. The mule shall exhibit a smooth gliding, overstepping, four-cornered gait with the greater stride and accelerated head motion. The running walk should be a free and easy gait. Mules exhibiting an exaggerated, hesitating way of going, are not in form. Twisting the hocks or stiff-legged rear leg motion shall also be considered a deviation from the true running walk and a mule exhibiting these ways of going should be penalized.

3. Canter is to be smooth and straight on both leads, not walking behind, but cantering on both ends with a rolling, rocking chair motion, comfortable in hand. Exaggerated "pumping" of the mule at the canter is not considered good form.

4. Judging Considerations: The Walking Mule should move freely in each gait and proceed in a smooth fluid, rhythmic manner, with a pronounced and cadenced head motion. At all gaits, the mule should be flexed at the poll with muzzle slightly tucked. Stiff front or rear leg motion, stumbling bucking knees, lack of rhythmic timing, pointing, or favoring a particular leg, necessity for excessive pumping or bumping of the mule, or any tendency to rack, pace, or other deviation from the true walk are not considered good form and shall be penalized in judging.

Racking Mule Gaits:

1. Show Walk is a smooth collected showy, four beat gait.
2. Slow Rack is a relaxed four beat gait showing style and grace.
3. Fast Rack shows the same style and action as the Slow Rack but with speed. Form should not be sacrificed for speed.
4. **Style Rack** is an accelerated version of the slow rack emphasizing showiness and pride.
5. **Judging Considerations:** In each of the first three gaits the Racking Mule must be collected and presented well, and the rider must be relaxed and smooth in the saddle. At no time should the mule exemplify a gait with animated hock action. The Racking Mule must exhibit good conformation and be free of blemishes and unsoundness. The Racking Mule should not exhibit an exaggerated head nod in the Show Walk or Fast Rack. It should not exhibit an exaggerated hock action with the rear legs, but its stride should be long and natural. The front leg action should exhibit a curved, rolling motion rather than the legs following a straight line commonly termed "pitching or pointing".

Gaits Other Than Walking and Racking:

All mules must exhibit a saddle gait other than a trot, running walk, or a rack. This would include those mules who exhibit a foxtrot, paso finch gait, single foot, and stepping pace. Classes should be divided into slow gait & fast gait or slow gait & favorite gait.

Gaited Mule Classes:

All the following classes, including the Walking Mule, Racking Mule and Gaited Mule classes can again be divided into Amateur, Youth, Ladies, Gentlemen's, Amateur Ladies, Amateur Gentlemen's, or Open classes. In addition, it is recommended that class lists specify Western or Saddle Seat tack and attire in each class.

1. Walking Mule Division:

- a. 4 Years and Younger Walking Mule Class: Two Options:

- (1) Mules perform two gaits: the flat walk and the running walk both directions of the arena Mules to be backed at the judge's discretion.
- (2) Mules perform two gaits: flat walk, running-walk and (canter optional) both directions of the arena Mules to be backed at the judge's discretion.
- (3) Exhibitors are expected to show in Saddle Seat attire unless specified on the class list. To increase entries, the Show Secretary may choose to allow both types of attire and tack.

b. **5 Years and Older Walking Mule Class: Two Options**

- (1) Mules perform two gaits: the fiat walk and the running walk both directions of the arena Mules to be backed at the judge's discretion.
- (2) Mules perform two gaits: the flat walk, the running walk and (canter optional) both directions of the arena Mules to be backed at the judge's discretion.
- (3) Exhibitors are expected to show in Saddle Seat attire unless specified on the class list. To increase entries, the Show Secretary may choose to allow both types of attire and tack.

2. Racking Mule Classes:

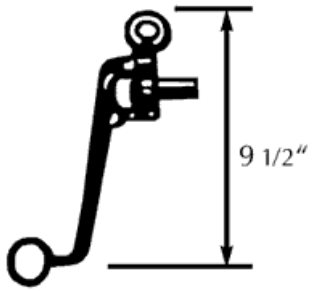
- a. **Style Racking:** for any age or sex racking mule (unless separated on class sheet). Mules will be asked for three gaits, Show Walk, Show Rack, and the Style Rack, both directions of the arena. The style rack should show more animation and speed than the Show Walk.
- b. **Speed Racking:** Mule to perform three gaits, the Show Walk, the Show Rack, and the Speed Rack, both directions of the arena. Credit shall be given to the most consistent mule that shows excessive speed. A mule that breaks gait shall be penalized.
- c. **Racking Mule Class:** Mules to perform two gaits; the Show Walk and the Show Rack. Entries may show in Saddle Seat or Western attire at the discretion of the Show Secretary who must specify on the class description. Exhibitors are expected to show in Saddle Seat attire unless specified on the class list. To increase entries, the Show Secretary may choose to allow both types of attire and tack.

3. Gaited Mule Under Saddle Classes:

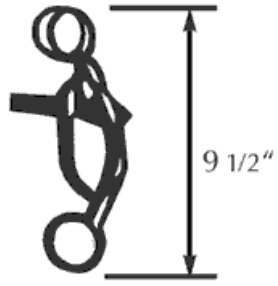
- a. **Gaited Mule English Trail Pleasure:** For any age gaited mule, to be shown in the Saddle Seat attire and tack and can perform two or three gaits including slow gait, favorite gait, and the (canter, optional). Class can call for two or three gaits, including the slow gait, favorite gait, and (canter, optional). The class description must indicate if this is a two or three gait class. The mule should be ridden on a looser rein and display a smooth ground covering stride that is suitable for the trail. The mule should easily turn to the outside of the ring when asked to reverse.
- b. **Gaited Mule Western Trail Pleasure:** For any age gaited mule, to be shown in the Western attire and tack and can perform two or three gaits including slow gait, favorite gait, and the (canter, optional). Class can call for two or three gaits, including the slow gait, favorite gait, and (canter, optional). The class description must indicate if this is a two or three gait class. The mule should be ridden on a looser rein and display a smooth ground covering stride that is suitable for the trail. The mule should easily turn to the outside of the ring when asked to reverse.

Bits: Gaited bits are recognized as any standard Walking Mule bit. Severe bits are discouraged and bleeding from the mouth or muzzle is reason for disqualification. These bits are curbs with a solid or broken mouthpiece. A description of a legal Gaited Mule bit for Mules 5 years and older and Mules 4 years and younger includes:

- (1) A 9 ½ length shank to be measured as indicated. Shanks are measured from the very top of the metal to the very bottom of the metal, including the rings to which the cheeks and reins are attached. Shank may be fixed or loose.
- (2) With regard to mouthpieces, nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece. Solid or broken mouthpieces may have a port no higher than 3 inches. Smooth round, rubber, wrapped copper wire, twisted wire, double twisted wire, Tom Bass ports are acceptable. Bits featuring mouthpieces with cathedral, donuts prong edges or rough, sharp material shall be cause for elimination.
- (3) Gag bits with shanks are acceptable.



SWIVEL



WELDED