

## NORTHSIDE RIDING CLUB HACKING EXPLAINED

### **Breed classes**

Breed classes are judged on the horse, which adheres to the breed standards set by each Breed Society.

### **Rider Classes**

A riding competition or rider class is a competition between riders to determine the most correct rider position, application of the aids to the horse in an efficient and elegant manner. The rider should give the appearance that every movement and transition are happening as if by magic.

### **Hack Classes**

Definition of "HACK": a horse kept for common hire or adapted for general work, especially for ordinary riding". The word "hack" is essentially British in origin and denotes a refined riding horse.

In days gone by, a hack was a horse used for hire and later was used as a mount by the English gentry as a status symbol when riding to a hunt or social gathering. It is from this origin that today's "show hack" has developed.

### ***Hack Class Workouts***

The workout may include circles, figures of eights, serpentines, triangles, lengthening of stride at trot and canter, walk through, trot through or flying changes of lead and halt.

### ***Hack Class Presentation***

The aim is to produce and present the horse and rider in the most visually attractive way possible.

By highlighting the best features of the horse and disguising, by natural means, the horse's less appealing features, an illusion of better conformation or beauty can be created. Examples: the use of quarter marks, checker board or other patterns to enhance the hind quarter, use of small plaits to create the impression of longer length of rein; note that English style sewn plaits are now favoured for all levels of showing. The tail either plaited or pulled, then trimmed to a suitable length will improve a coarser outline and balance the hind quarter; false tails are widely used to enhance a horse's appearance.

### **Hunter Classes**

Definition of a "Hunter": A Hunter should be a horse with sufficient bone and substance (without being overweight) to give the appearance of being able to carry their rider for a full day's riding over varying, and sometimes rough, terrain. The hunter should be a bold, powerful and strong workhorse comprising quality breeding and exceptional manners. Today, hunter horses are shown either under saddle or in-hand, with ridden classes divided into either show hunter and/or working hunter classes.

### ***Show Hunter***

A "show hunter" is a hunter horse which is shown only on the flat - either in hand or under saddle. Show hunters are judged on type, manners and style. Whilst an attractive horse is desirable, a plain horse which is of true hunter type should always win over a horse of obvious hack type.

### ***Working Hunter***

A "Working Hunter" is a hunter horse, over the age of four years, who, in addition to the qualities of a show hunter described above, has the ability to negotiate a jumping course of natural fences.

### ***Show Hunter Workouts***

The workout for this class should be free flowing and forward moving, with the horse covering the ground in all paces. All workouts should include, a simple change of rein at canter and a gallop. The horse, when asked to halt, must come down through the paces calmly, obediently and stand still quietly without fidgeting. The expectation of extended trot and flying changes in a Show Hack event, are not expected in the Show Hunter class.

### ***Working Hunter Workouts***

There are three phases involved in a Working Hunter Classes.

#### **Jumping Phase**

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A Working Hunter Class will comprise first of a Jumping Phase, which should include a minimum of 2 natural fences.  
\* 50% of the total marks for a Working Hunter Class will be awarded to the Jumping Phase.

### **Flatwork Phase**

The second phase of a Working Hunter class is a work out on the flat, which should be similar to the workout asked in a Show Hunter Class.

\* 30% of the total marks for a Working Hunter Class will be awarded to the Flatwork phase.

### **Conformation Phase**

The final phase of a Working Hunter class is the Conformation phase, in which horses will be assessed on their conformation. It may be necessary for the horse to be stripped of its saddle for a judge to award an accurate conformation mark.

\* 20% of the total marks of the class will be awarded to the Conformation phase.

### ***Hunter Class Presentation***

All competitors and horses in the hunter ring must be neatly turned out. Riding wear should be conservative without bright colours. Ribbioned browbands, lapel pins, white girths and/or excessive make up are not acceptable in the hunter ring. All clothing and tack should be workmanlike, practical, clean and free from defect. No tack may be worn which in any way conceals an animal's conformation (except for boots of a plain colour which may be worn during the Jumping Phase of a working hunter class only).

### **Awarding of Ribbons**

The hierarchal system of ribboning is;

**1ST PLACE winner in an** Individual class e.g. Ridden Hack ne 15hh ne 15.2hh can go onto compete for Champion which is judged on the best of all winners of Hack classes. Reserve Champion is open to second place getters and they go against those that got first places but did not win Champion.

The champions from various classes can then go in for Supreme, which is the coveted award.

### **Western & Hunter Under Saddle**

All riding for Western Pleasure classes is done with almost no contact with the Bit. The horse is obedient to the lightest lift' or touch of the rein against the neck and contact with the leg and seat. All the critical attributes of the Western Pleasure horse should be present for those entering the Hunter and Trail classes. Horses that will do well should be soft travelling, although the Hunter class will require more contact.

### **Hacking Resources**

Northside Riding Club

<http://www.northsideridingclub.org.au/>

Australian Hunter Horse Association

<http://www.hunterhorses.com.au/>

Show Horse Council of Australasia

<http://www.showhorsecouncilaust.com.au/>

Equestrian Australia

<http://www.equestrian.org.au/>

