

Guidelines for presenting a horse in hand

Before this section of the competition begins there will be a demonstration to show participants the way the judges expect a horse to be presented. Competitors will be given 15 minutes to familiarise themselves with their nominated horse.

Gloves and hard hat conforming to one of the following standards must be worn.

Acceptable helmets carry EN1384 or BSEN1384 and another standard such as those listed:

- PAS 015 (1998 or 2011) and must have BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC mark
- VG1 01.040 (2014-12) and must have BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC mark
- ASTM F1163 (2004a or 04a onwards) and must have SEI mark
- SNELL E2001 and must have official Snell label and number
- AS/NZS 3838 (2006 onwards) and must have SEI global mark

Hats bearing **only** the EN1384 or BSEN1384 standard are not accepted

Purpose

The overall purpose of the in-hand discipline is to present the horse in a way that makes the horse look and act in the best possible way both standing still and moving. The horse will be shown in a bridle (ideally with a snaffle bit) and reins (ideally which are not bulky but slender and easy to hold in the hand). The handler must behave discreetly in order to let the attention be concentrated on the horse.

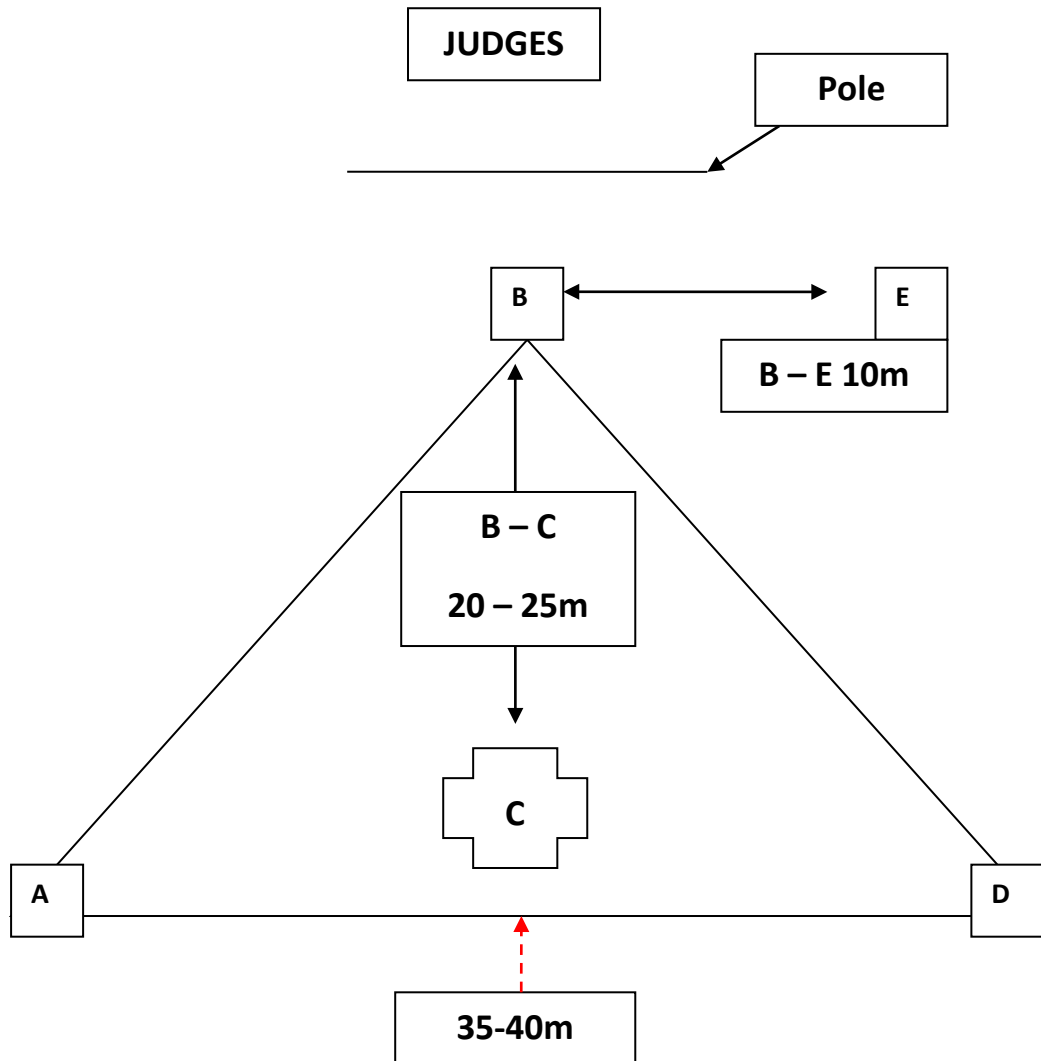
A horse will be presented to the judges on the triangle. The longest side of the triangle must be 35-40m between D and A. The distance between B and C is recommended to be 20-25m.

Guide poles exterior to the triangle, if used, should only be used for the junior competitors

Each participant will be allowed the assistance of a 'whip handler' using a lunge whip. The function of the whip handler is to discreetly keep the horse going forward at all times but at the same time not to interfere as to upset the rhythm and balance of the horse. Competitors may instead carry a training whip that is held in the left hand instead of an assistant whip handler

Please be aware that unnecessary punishment of the horse may lead to disqualification in this discipline.

Outline of the Triangle



Guide poles exterior to the triangle circumference, if used, should only be used for the Junior Competitors

Throughout the presentation control over the reins is important whilst also demonstrating 'elegance' in holding the reins. Safety is paramount.

Phase 1. At the signal of the judges the competitor will enter the arena at **A** in walk heading in a straight line towards the judges at **B**. The walk will be purposeful, balanced and at a pace that suits the horse with a regular four beat rhythm. The judges will be noting the position of the competitor in relation to the horse, the use of the rein aids and the free left hand, the competitor's ability to communicate subtly with the horse and to interpret the horse's reactions and respond appropriately to them. It should look easy, effortless and smooth.

Phase 2. On reaching the judges at **B** the competitor will present the horse in front of the judges at halt in an open stance with the near (left) side of the horse nearest to the judges. The stance should be achieved with minimum amount of movements (marked down for multiple adjustments, even if the correct presentation is finally achieved).

This means the near forelimb is positioned a little in front of the off forelimb. Also the near hind leg should be positioned behind the off hind leg. The horse must stand balanced on all four legs, holding the head and neck naturally straight in front.

In front of the judges the handler will step to the front of the horse at approximately one arm's length. The reins are held, one in each hand at a suitable distance (approx. 30 to 60 cm) from the bridle ring.

When positioned the competitor will look towards the judges and give an oral presentation in a clear audible voice presenting the competitor's name, and the age and pedigree of the horse (sire, dam and dam's sire). The positioning of the horse should be achieved as smoothly and swiftly as possible. The judges will be noting the correct positioning of the horse and competitor, the use of the rein aids, the ability to communicate subtly with the horse and to present the horse's details clearly.

Phase 3. At the signal of the judges the competitor will walk the horse in a straight line away from the judges towards and around **C** returning in the same line to **B**. The judges will be noting the position of the competitor, the rhythm and tempo of the walk, the straightness of the line and the smoothness and balance on the turn. Turns should be as small as possible, in good rhythm, and in a curve when making the turn. Also assessed is the ability of the competitor to utilise the rein aids, free hand and communication with the horse.

Phase 4. On reaching **B** the competitor will turn right and trot towards **D**, turning right and displaying extended trot towards **A** and turning right back to the judges at **B**. On reaching **B** the competitor will transition to walk and proceed towards and around **E** returning to present the horse to the judges at **B**. The judges will be noting the position of the competitor, the smoothness of the transitions from walk to trot and trot to walk, the straightness, tempo, rhythm and balance of the trot in the straight line and on the turns. The competitor must be careful to regulate the tempo approaching and through the turns and to achieve controlled extension of the trot between **D** and **A**. The judges will note the fluidity of the transitions, use of the rein aids and communication with and reaction to the horse.

Phase 5: Presentation in halt at **B**. The halt presentation is in the open stance with the off (right) side of the horse nearest to the judges. The stance should be achieved with minimum amount of movements (marked down for multiple adjustments, even if the correct presentation is finally achieved). The competitor should bid thank you to the judges.

At the signal of the judges the competitor will leave the arena in a trot towards **A** in a relaxed manner. The judges will note the positioning of the competitor and the horse, the use of the rein aids, subtle communication with the horse and the straightness and rhythm of the exit trot. Half turn in walk returning to final presentation is judged with the final presentation (phase 5)

Overall Impression: The judges will score the overall presentation – how well the presentation was carried out, was it a balanced efficient performance, how did the competitor handle situations as they arose, was the competitor in control at all times. Throughout the presentation the judges will be looking for the correct way of holding the reins, correct and quiet presentation in the stance on both occasions, and quiet discreet handling of the horse throughout the presentation whilst maintaining the desired gait, and the rhythm, balance and tempo of the gait.

The judges want the handler to present the horse in a manner that shows the horse at its best. In the walk as well as in the trot the horse should be given the opportunity to show its movements as freely as possible. On the turns the handler may reduce speed without the horse losing rhythm. In the standing position the horse should look its best. The judges want a harmonious total impression of the presentation.

The walk of the horse must be calm, natural and rhythmic, clearly exhibiting four-time beat and as free as possible. In trot the horse must show a clear two-time beat movement and show extension as soon as possible after the turn at D.

In all movements the horse should carry its head and neck naturally while being led on a straight line. All turns are made to the right, being as short as possible. During the turns the left hand is kept level with the horse's left eye at a suitable distance from it.

The scores

A maximum of 10 marks will be given for each position (see marking sheet).