

Reining Newsletter

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WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP



Flawed leg position #1. The leg is positioned too far forward, the knee is too high, and the foot is too far forward. This is a common mistake made by riders who are not aware of the correct leg position. The leg should be positioned so that the knee is directly over the hip and the foot is directly under the knee. This is the correct leg position for a Western Horseman.

Flawed leg position #2. The leg is positioned too far back, the knee is too low, and the foot is too far back. This is a common mistake made by riders who are not aware of the correct leg position. The leg should be positioned so that the knee is directly over the hip and the foot is directly under the knee. This is the correct leg position for a Western Horseman.

Flawed leg position #3. The leg is positioned too far to the side, the knee is too high, and the foot is too far to the side. This is a common mistake made by riders who are not aware of the correct leg position. The leg should be positioned so that the knee is directly over the hip and the foot is directly under the knee. This is the correct leg position for a Western Horseman.

Flawed leg position #4. The leg is positioned too far to the side, the knee is too low, and the foot is too far to the side. This is a common mistake made by riders who are not aware of the correct leg position. The leg should be positioned so that the knee is directly over the hip and the foot is directly under the knee. This is the correct leg position for a Western Horseman.

Flawed leg position #5. The leg is positioned too far to the side, the knee is too high, and the foot is too far to the side. This is a common mistake made by riders who are not aware of the correct leg position. The leg should be positioned so that the knee is directly over the hip and the foot is directly under the knee. This is the correct leg position for a Western Horseman.

Flawed leg position #6. The leg is positioned too far to the side, the knee is too low, and the foot is too far to the side. This is a common mistake made by riders who are not aware of the correct leg position. The leg should be positioned so that the knee is directly over the hip and the foot is directly under the knee. This is the correct leg position for a Western Horseman.

WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP is the ONLY ridden western class where the RIDER is judged as well as the horse and not the horse only. (This class has its similarities to Equitation classes minus the jumps) This class is divided into **two** sections, first the rider is required to ride a prescribed pattern of maneuvers at walk, jog and lope, back up turn on hindquarters, or forequarters and side passes may also be included to up the degree of difficulty. The riders are judged on accuracy of executing this prescribed pattern showing their ability to keep the horse working with a cool, calm and willing attitude at all times and their ability to do so with as little resistance or fuss and be able to correct an incorrect response of the horse s quickly and effectively as possible. Basically the rider is judged on his ability to get the horse to execute the required maneuvers with minimum resistance and maximum correctness. Cones or

markers are used as points of pattern gate, or maneuver change. The pattern is handed out prior to the class or with entry forms and must be ridden **EXACTLY** as per the written pattern. Remembering the horse /rider are judged from the minute they enter the arena so it is important to always be attentive to what your horse is doing at all times even when you may be standing in line.

The second part is either all the competitors or just the finalists (judge's prerogative) to enter the arena to do rail work i.e., walk jog and lope in both directions. This is judged on manners obedience and way of going.

In both sections the rider is also judged on seat position.

Both scores are then added up and this result will give the final placing of the Western Horsemanship class.

The correct western Horsemanship leg position is as follows:

The rider must be in a balanced position; the foundation of a correct seat is correct leg position. The correct leg position will put your legs in the right place for correct and effective cues (aids).

Weight must be deep on the heels with the toe pointing forward with the ball of the foot resting lightly on the stirrup, with the stirrup hanging alongside the cinch which will give you a shoulder hip ankle straight line. With your but tucked under you i.e. sit on your jeans pocket and not perched, your upper body must be straight and not leaning forward or back. Arms must be hanging loosely alongside your body, with soft relaxed shoulders and arms. Hand/s must be holding the reins just in front of the pommel horn with a flat straight line to the horse's mouth.

This position is very much the basic western body position with a slight variation per discipline.