

Head Position: The rider's head should be held erect with the chin up. The rider's eyes should look straight forward.

Back Position: The rider's back should be straight, but not stiff. The rider's shoulders should be square.

Feed and Leg Position: The rider's leg should hang naturally with a slight bend at the knee. The rider's lower leg should be under the rider's body and not flared outward. Flaring of the lower leg shall be penalized. The rider's feet should be parallel with the horse's body with the heels slightly lowered (approximately one inch). The ball of the rider's foot should rest directly over the stirrup iron with even pressure on the entire iron with heel, hip and point of shoulder in line. The rider's foot position should be natural, neither extremely in nor out.

Position in Motion: The rider's position in motion should be natural, coordinated and graceful. The rider should remain almost motionless at all gaits. From the side, a straight line should be able to be drawn perpendicular to the ground through the rider's head, shoulder and ankle. The rider's toe should never be more forward than his knee, thereby keeping his center of balance directly above his feet and ankles. The rider's upper arms should fall naturally from the shoulders toward the hip bones and should be flexible, never clutched to the body, extend forward or spread way from the body. The rider should appear to have a natural flow downward onto the saddle and show no side-to-side movement of upper body. At all gaits, the rider should remain in the center of the saddle and not slip back on the cantle.

Tests: The rider may be required to perform the following tests:

1. Ride without stirrups at a Paso Corto, maintaining the proper position. The stirrups may be crossed over the pommel of the saddle if so desired.
2. Back his or her horse smoothly and under control. The horse's mouth should remain closed and the horse should not throw his or her head.
3. Dismount and mount. To dismount, the rider may either step down or slide down. The size of the rider must be taken into consideration. To remount, the rider shall check the curb chain and girth and adjust them if necessary. The rider shall gather the reins in his or her left hand with gentle pressure. The rider shall stand diagonally facing the front of the horse. The rider shall place his or her left hand in front of the horse's withers without holding the mane, turn the stirrup toward the rider with his or her right hand and place his or her left foot in the stirrup. The rider shall place his or her right hand either on the far side of the saddle at the waist or on the front arch (pommel), and spring lightly up, straightening both knees. The rider shall ease into the saddle and place his or her right foot in the stirrup without looking down.
4. Perform a figure eight (8) at the Paso Corto. The rider shall always turn and face the Judge unless otherwise instructed. The Judge may tell exhibitors whether he or she prefers large or small diameter circles.
5. Move the horse from Paso Largo to Walk on a quiet rein.
6. Answer questions on parts of the horse and tack. (See this Chapter Three, preceding II. English Tack and Body Parts of the Paso Fino). Judge must refer to these illustrations in asking questions.

Procedures: The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until asked to reverse or change gait. Entries will space themselves, maintain the same relative position and avoid bunching up. Entries will be penalized for bunching up or for not working on the rail. The sequence of the gait will be the Paso Corto, Paso Largo, Walk, reverse and repeat. The reverse will be executed toward the center of the ring. A halt will be called at least once during the Paso Corto. Entries will execute the above class requirements and, in addition, Judges are encouraged to call for at least (2) of the tests provided, of the top contestants. Each of the tests is to be performed individually. Judges must select only from tests two (2), five (5) and/or six (6) for Sub-Junior riders. Junior riders may be asked to perform any of the tests. For the safety of the other entries, Judges are required to excuse any rider who is unable to control his or her mount.