

## **Australian Stock Horse Classes and Events**

### **Led**

The objective of Led ASH classes is to provide opportunities for Members who currently own or breed Australian Stock Horses, to compare their horse's conformation, temperament and movement. The aim of Led ASH classes is to promote good conformation, movement and temperament, as well as good horsemanship and showmanship skills. The horse should show the qualities and type that define the breed. The horse's body should be balanced in accordance with the size of the horse, and it should possess a calm temperament and good nature.

### **Hack**

Hack classes are for ridden horses. A hack must have abundant presence and quality and be well schooled. It is the horse, not the rider, that is judged in Hack classes and it is assessed on behaviour, conformation, movement and responsiveness to the rider. The Judge looks for a calm, supple and obedient horse that moves freely forward in all paces. Hacks should be fluent and flowing in their movement. In Hack classes, the Judge will be looking for a horse which is forward moving, balanced and rhythmic in all its paces. It must be well conformed and present an overall picture of balance and quality.

### **Working**

Working classes are to show the ability of a horse to manoeuvre at all paces, with control and obedience. The horse should be light on its feet, well balanced and responsive, with no resistance to the bit, no anticipation or disobedience. All fast work asked for must be executed in a fast manner (subject to ground conditions).

### **Station Horse (also known as Station Hack)**

In Station Horse or Station Hack classes, the Judge is looking for a horse that a station hand would use around a station. The horse should be able to work stock and allow the rider to carry a raincoat, open a gate and crack a stockwhip. The horse should have athletic ability, an excellent temperament and be able to complete the activities in a relaxed and calm manner. The horse should be able to walk at a good pace on a light rein in competition. The pattern could include: walk, trot, canter, gallop, lead changes, stop and back up. If the following items are available they could be included in the working pattern: gate, raincoat, stockwhip. The judge may request part of the pattern to be ridden one handed.

### **Pleasure Hack (also known as Pleasure Horse)**

The horse must be ridden in a plain bridle with a snaffle bit. The rider must not wear spurs or carry a whip and the reins are held in one hand only. Emphasis should be placed on temperament, obedience, conformation and comfortable riding qualities. The winner of a Pleasure Hack or Pleasure Horse class is not eligible to compete in championship classes.

### **Challenge**

An ASH Challenge is usually run over a number of sections, with prizemoney and ribbons awarded to the winner and placegetters of each section. The committee conducting the event will be responsible for selecting which sections will be contested. A minimum of two sections must be contested. Hack, Working, Time Trial and Cattle Work sections are commonly used. Scores from each section are added together, with the exception of the Time Trial score, which is deducted from the total score to give an overall score. The overall winner is the horse that receives the highest overall score at the conclusion of all sections. Winning a section of a Challenge does not change the horse's competitive status for that event, ie, Working, Hack, Campdraft, etc.

### **Futurity**

A Futurity is designed to showcase the ability and temperament of young Australian Stock Horses. The Futurity is a contest held over four sections - Led, Hack, Working and Time Trial. Horses are allocated a score in each section and these scores result in an overall score for the event. Horses must record a score in each section to be eligible for an overall score.

Branches and Management Councils may conduct Futurities for young horses. The Committee conducting the event will be responsible for selecting:

- Series of payments
- Nomination fees and due dates
- Age of eligible horses
- Judges
- Patterns

The National Futurity is a contest usually held in conjunction with the annual Australian Stock Horse Society National Championships. It has been designed to showcase the ability and temperament of the Society's three year old horses. The entry fee consists of a series of payments made within specified dates well in advance of the commencement of the event.

For more information regarding the National Futurity refer to the [ASHS Event Rules and Regulations page](#) or contact the Sports Department ([events@ashs.com.au](mailto:events@ashs.com.au)) at Head Office.

### **Maturity**

A Maturity is designed to showcase the ability of Australian Stock Horses developing in education. The Maturity is a contest held over five sections - Led, Hack, Working, Time Trial and Cattle Work. Horses are allocated a score in each section and these scores result in an overall score for the event. Horses must record a score in each section to be eligible for an overall score.

Branches and Management Councils may conduct Maturities for horses developing in education. The Committee conducting the event will be responsible for selecting:

- Series of payments
- Nomination fees and due dates
- Age of eligible horses
- Judges
- Patterns

The National Maturity is a contest usually held in conjunction with the annual Australian Stock Horse Society National Championships. It has been designed to showcase the ability and temperament of the Society's 4yr old horses. There are no prerequisites for nomination of a horse for the National Maturity, other than the horse must be four years of age. Nominations are taken along with nominations for other classes in the National Championships programme.