

**NSBA World Championship Show Independent and Supported Walk Trot Class General Guidelines:**

**Guidelines adapted from AQHA, Equestrians with Disabilities and Special Olympics Summer Sports Rules-  
Equestrian**

- ⊘ Exhibitors are encouraged, but not required to be members of the National Snaffle Bit Association.
- ⊘ Riders or their families do not have to own the horse. The horse, however, must be registered with one of the Alliance breeds, ABRA, AQHA, APHA, ApHC, IBHA, PHBA, PtHA, and POA. The exhibitor must forward a photocopy of the registration certificate with the NSBA World show entry form. Only Geldings or mares may be shown. No stallions are allowed. A horse may be shown only once in each class.
- ⊘ Each participant in the NSBA Independent and Supported classes must be at least 8 years of age and have a diagnosed mental or physical condition as listed below and attested to by a licensed medical physician on the NSBA Special Diagnosis Form ([www.nsba.com](http://www.nsba.com)) which must be submitted with the entry form.
- ⊘ Eligible conditions for participation in the NSBA Independent and Supported classes include: amputation, Arthrogryposis, Asperger's Syndrome, Autism, Batten's Disease, cerebrovascular accident (stroke), cerebella ataxia, Cerebral Palsy, Coffin Lowry Syndrome, Cystic Fibrosis, Down Syndrome\*\*must have negative cervical x-ray for Atlantoaxial Instability, dwarfism, Fragile X Syndrome, Freidrick's Ataxia, Guillan Barre Syndrome, hearing impairment, Hunter's Syndrome , Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis, cognitive disabilities, Microcephaly, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Post Polio Syndrome, Prader Willie Syndrome, Rhett Syndrome, Spina Bifida, spinal cord injury, Tourette's Syndrome, traumatic brain injury, trisomy abnormalities and visual impairments.
- ⊘ Participants in the Independent and Supported rider classes must present a Special Adaptive Equipment form available from the National Snaffle Bit website ([www.nsba.com](http://www.nsba.com)) which must be completed by a NARHA certified Instructor, certified Special Olympic Coach or certified therapeutic riding instructor, indicating the adaptive equipment required for the participant. This must be submitted with the entry form. Riders with a NARHA Equestrian Proficiency Card which may be obtained from NARHA ([www.narha.org](http://www.narha.org)) may present this in lieu of the Special Adaptive Equipment form.
- ⊘ Each exhibiter in an ***independent class*** may have a spotter in the arena. Spotters will not have contact with the horse or rider unless needed to assure safety or directed by a judge or ring steward. The spotter must be 16 years or older. A halter must be on each horse either over or under the bridle for use by the spotter if needed. The spotter must have a suitable lead in case of need. The lead may not be fastened to the bit. Independent classes will be given a five minute warm-up during which exhibitors may be coached.

- Ⓢ The exhibitor in a **supported class** needs the support of one or two side walkers. All Supported riders will have the presence of a leader. Leaders will have contact with the horse using a loose lead attached without a chain to a halter in a manner that does not interfere with reining of the horse. All supported riders must be able to hold reins. A five minute warm-up will be provided during which riders may be coached.
- Ⓢ Once the class has started, unauthorized assistance from horse leaders, spotters and side walkers will result in penalties. Side walkers may not give verbal commands or extra physical prompting, except in case of emergency.
- Ⓢ Classes will be split at 10 horses.

### **Attire and Equipment:**

- Ⓢ Exhibitors will be responsible for providing their own mounting systems.
- Ⓢ Equipment should conform to the needs of the competitor and be suitable for the horse. Adaptive equipment will be allowed as listed on the Special Adaptive Equipment Form which must be submitted with the entry form. Riders may use adaptive equipment without penalty. (Note: Riders may in no way be attached to the horse or saddle.)
- Ⓢ Acceptable adaptive equipment includes: audio communications, bareback pads, boot adaptations, dowel reins, hand holds (flexible and/or rigid), helmets, laces to tie stirrups or leathers to girth or cinch, ladder reins, loop reins, rein handles, rein handle tethers, rubber bands, saddle blocks, wedges, cushions, safety stirrups, seat savers, surcingles, whips (one or two). Other equipment will be considered upon request. Cue cards may be used for hearing impaired athletes. In order for the cues to be universal, they should be designated as follows: 1=Walk, 2=Sitting Trot/Jog, 3=Posting Trot, 4=Canter/Lope, 0=Reverse, Universal Stop Sign=Halt
- Ⓢ English classes - riders must wear a properly fitted and fastened ASTM® approved protective helmet with harness. No equipment is allowed that would in any way affix the rider to the horse or saddle with the exception of light rubber bands. Safety stirrups (Peacock, S-shaped irons or Devonshire) are required if rider is unable to wear boots with a heel. Peacock irons are recommended in all cases. Proper English attire is required as set forth in the NSBA Official Handbook.
- Ⓢ Western classes - riders must wear a properly fitted and fastened ASTM® approved protective helmet with harness. A Western hat may be affixed over the helmet. No equipment is allowed that would in any way affix the rider to the horse or saddle with the exception of light rubber bands. Safety stirrups (covered or other approved safety stirrups) are required if rider is unable to wear boots with a heel. Proper Western attire is required as set forth in the NSBA Official Handbook.
- Ⓢ Bridles must be appropriate to the class entered and meet the requirements listed in the NSBA Official Handbook.
- Ⓢ Halters are required for all Independent and Supported classes. The halter may be over or under the bridle as long as it doesn't interfere with the use of the bit or the reins.
- Ⓢ A lead line must be attached to the halter and not to the bridle. Chains may not be used over or under the nose but may be looped through the bottom halter ring.