**SPORT HORSE IN HAND**

**Attire** - our rules state 'conservative attire'. The unwritten rule that comes from the open division means conservative attire should be a white shirt (or neutral colored shirt) and black, beige (or neutral colored) casual style pants. (showmanship pants are ok) Running shoes are ok, but are personal preference. Also permissible are breeches and boots. Jacket, hat, helmet, vest and gloves are optional. If a whip is used, maximum length is 6 feet. Silver and “bling” attire is not advised in this class.

**Appointments** - snaffle bridles preferred on three-year-olds and up. Stable halters mandatory for under two-year-olds. The reins can be over the horse's neck and braided into the last braid (leading by a leather shank attached to noseband or chain through the bit), or exhibitor can show by holding the reins. All horses are eligible to show this class in a PLAIN stable halter either nylon or leather (preferred). A neutral color is BEST. NO sliver or bling halters allowed.
Braiding is optional.

The pattern used is the TRIANGLE; the judge stands at the top/point of the TRIANGLE. The exhibitor approaches to stand for conformation judging at the top of the TRIANGLE. Conformation judging may be done before and/or after the pattern is completed.
The handler should stand the horse so all 4 legs are visible from profile view and leave the horse to carry its head/neck in a natural position. (Do not “square” your horse, NO POSING OF HEAD AND NECK POSITION IS ALLOWED.)
When proceeding on the MOVMENT portion of the triangle, the handler should walk down the left side of the small triangle (clockwise direction), turn right and show an extended walk across the base of the triangle, turn right again and show a normal walk towards the judge. Continue around the POINT, past the judge and begin the normal trot down the left side of the triangle. It is O.K. to pause before making the turn to the base of the large triangle to ensure both handler and horse are balanced to show the extended trot. Balance again to make the final turn towards the judge and show the normal (working) trot. The judge may want the handler to stand the horse again for further conformation judging, or the judge may excuse the handler in order to complete the score sheet

The judge will excuse you when your showing is complete.

Preparation for this class is important. Practice the pattern as well as random patterns of walking, halting, trotting and extending the gaits. If you remember to walk/run long, not fast, then your horse should mirror your actions. It is acceptable to build to the extended trot over 2-3 strides. If you turn and immediately run hard, your horse will probably blow.

Showing your horse in the OPEN standing position is new to most handlers. Allow the horse to stand with all 4 legs not squared and allow your horse to relax their head and neck position. During the movement portion allow your horse to stretch down and walk or trot longer/not faster when indicated.

