



American Sidesaddle
Association
Lighting the way aside.



Above: Balanced dressage rider using back to drive horse. Relaxed hand position. Straight back with eyes forward.

Sidesaddle in the Show Ring

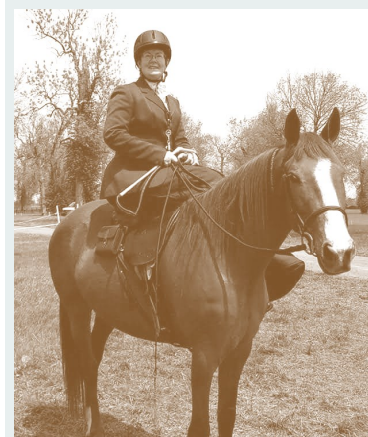
Guidelines for the Judge and aside participant.

INTRODUCTION:

The resurgence of interest in the use of the sidesaddle has found many competing in the show ring, either in special sidesaddle classes, or competing against riders in regular classes. This is a summary of information on aside riding, to assist both the participant and the judge.

JUDGING:

The horse is being judged in pleasure and performance classes, so in reality, the rider and the style of the saddle has little bearing on the placing of the class. The horse ridden aside should perform all gaits, transitions and movements in the same manner as a horse ridden astride. The same is true with obstacles, jumps, patterns, etc., to be displayed in performance classes. The aside rider may cue her horse with a whip, cane or crop to replace the right leg and should be judged as an astride rider would be judged in the use of similar aids.



For additional information on sidesaddles and riding aside contact: The American Sidesaddle Association
www.AmericanSidesaddleAssociation.com 7044 Potts Hill Rd., Brainbridge, OH 45612



EQUITATION/HORSEMANSHIP:

The aside rider follows the same rules and guidelines as the astride rider with the exception of the right leg is now on the left side of the saddle. This is reversed if an off-side sidesaddle is used. For safety and security, the top leg should rest over the upper horn and hang straight down and rest on the side of the horse's neck. The toe of the boot should be pointing downward, but might be level on shorter riders. With

the modern sidesaddle the right thigh should appear level so that the knee is not higher than the hip. Hands should be held as appropriate for the horse's head carriage and may need to be on either side of the thigh or slightly above the thigh to avoid interfering with control of the horse. Tradition does not call for a riding post for the aside rider, but if the class dictates a rising post, the aside rider should conform.

Left– Relaxed leg position with weight centered throughout right thigh. Left leg in natural position and not crammed against the leaping horn.



Above: Formal hunt attire

HUNT SEAT:

The aside hunt seat rider will wear the same attire as her astride counterpart with the addition of the safety apron. Breeches need to match the color of the apron. In USEF appointment classes a hunting top hat with veil, hunt canteen, stag horse handled hunt whip and other appointments will be used to meet the formal attire requirements of the class. Tradition makes a riding post optional for the aside rider but the choice to post or not should be maintained for the entire class. A modern hunt seat sidesaddle must be used.

SADDLE SEAT:

The aside saddle seat rider will wear the same attire as her astride counterpart with the addition of the apron. The saddle seat apron is usually longer and may be fuller than the hunt apron so that the jodhpur pants are completely covered. In some cases, a skirt is accepted. Tradition makes a rising post optional for the aside rider, but the choice to post or not, should be maintained for the entire class. A modern English style sidesaddle must be used. English pleasure and hunt seat style sidesaddle may be used.

STOCK SEAT:

The aside stock seat or western rider will wear the same attire as her astride counterpart with the use of the apron or chap apron, instead of chaps. Modern stock seat or western style sidesaddles must be used.

PERIOD COSTUMES:

Many sidesaddle classes are judged as costume classes or require a certain period attire to be worn. Leaving the right seam open on a period costume skirt will allow it to drape safely around the horns. Velcro closures add more to the safety. Usually the costume is part of the judging criteria while the performance, behavior and manners of the horse are still the main criteria being judged.



The performance and tack should be consistent with the individual style of attire.