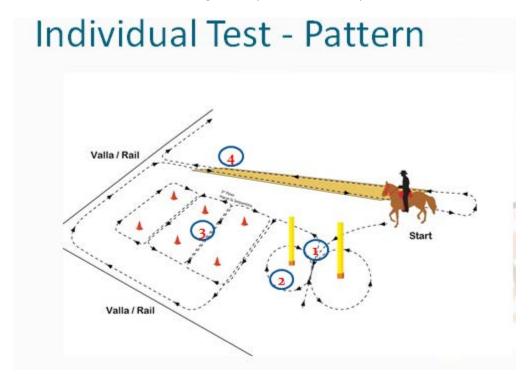
#### **Class Procedures**

All exhibitors must maintain horses at a Corto or Fino while being judged.

Participants shall enter the arena to the right, close to the rail and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. Participants should maintain their horses on the rail. The rail should not have any obstacles that may prevent the continuous movement of participants, including personnel and/ or judges. At the discretion of the Judges, the participants will be ordered to complete various circles in one direction until instructed to reverse to be evaluated clockwise. The reverse will be executed toward the center of the ring returning to the rail in the opposite direction. The turn should not exceed an area of three meters. The rider should maintain their horses in gait during the reverse. Judges will observe the rider's skills, focus, handling and ability to maintain the horse in gait during its movement on a straight line as well as during the turns. Participants will then be asked to line up their horses in a predetermined area of the arena where they will wait to be asked to go over the sounding board one by one in both directions and exit to the Holding/ Line up area where they will wait for their individual tests.



Regardless of where the participants start from, participants shall approach the Figure Eight from in between the sounding board and the Figure Eight poles. After completing the Figure Eight and Back, the participants shall exit the figure eight in a straight line from the middle of the two poles and head towards the Serpentine test. After completing the serpentine, the riders will head to the rail in a straight line and proceed to the sounding board. The sounding board test must be completed in both directions. Not performing the tests in the sequence established herein shall be penalized with the corresponding loss of points. Participants must maintain the horses in gait at all times.

Each participant will perform individually in order the following mandatory tests:

- 1. Figure Eight
- 2. Halt and Back
- 3. Serpentine
- 4. Sounding Board

#### 1. Figure Eight

Participants shall execute three Figure 8s around the poles (two in one direction and one in the opposite direction). The start and end of each figure 8 will be in the center (midpoint) of the two poles. Participants shall enter the figure 8 from in between the sounding board and the first figure 8 pole to cross over the midpoint to the second pole and complete two figure eights in one direction, followed by a straight line (towards the entry point) from one pole to the next and then complete one more Figure Eight in that direction. At the completion of the last Figure Eight, participants will halt in between the two poles facing the judges. Participants that turn in circles around one of the poles during the Figure Eight test to show off shall be disqualified in classes over 9 years of age. Younger ages shall be penalized. Participants shall be penalized if they enter the Figure Eight incorrectly or, perform more or less than three figure eights in the manner described herein.

During the Figure Eight test, the Judges will evaluate the softness of the hands on the reins, the use of aids balancing the body on the horse during the turns, and the rider's ability to maintain the horse in gait throughout the test. Participants shall be penalized if the rider opens and widens the position of the hands and arms while turning (except in classes of youth 12 years old and under), using a leading rein on/or close to the horse's neck, using excessive aids (kicking, slapping the reins, etc.), if their mount veers off track during the turns, or does not maintain gait during the test.

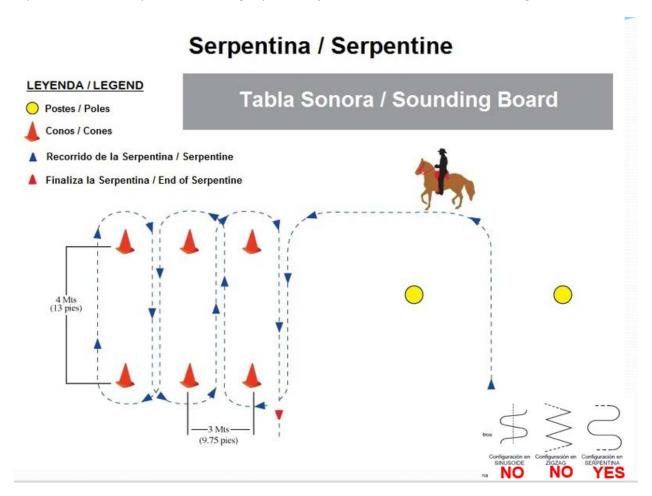
## 2. Halt and Back

Once the figure eights are completed, participants must halt in the middle of the two Figure Eight poles and back their horses a minimum of 4 steps and a maximum of 6 steps. Judges will evaluate the smoothness of the command to halt, the rider's seat (relaxed natural seat, balance, and proper position), the way the rider guides the horse backwards with subtle commands, and in a straight line using even diagonal steps until halting the horse to complete the back. After completing the required back, the participant must come to a full stop and command the horse to move forward with softness, focus and determination. This is accomplished with the use of the proper aids and the rider's balance on the horse. After completing the halt and back, the rider should head in straight line in between the poles towards the serpentine.

## 3. Serpentine

After completing the "Halt and Back" test, participants must perform a Serpentine in an area designated for such. This test allows the Judges to evaluate the riders' use of aids and the ability to maintain their horses in gait, with cadence and flexibility during the straight lines and turns. The serpentine test

consists of alternating straight-line movements and half circles turns. During the half-circle turns, the horse's body should bend toward the center of the circle. During the transition from straight lines to half-circle turns, the horse must not move over the tangent, in zigzag or sinusoid patterns (Refer to diagram below). The serpentine pattern will be marked with three rows of cones to ensure that the test is performed correctly. The use of bright yellow objects is recommended (refer to diagram below).



# 4. Sounding Board

The board shall be placed at ground level. If this is not possible, then there must be access ramps. Once the serpentine test is completed, participants must go over the sounding board in both directions with the horse centered in the middle of the board and straight tracking throughout. Participants must traverse the sounding board in one direction, come off completely (in any direction) and return in the opposite direction. Not performing the test in the manner reference above shall be penalized. The Judges shall evaluate the rider's ability to maintain the horse in gait, the ability to keep the horse in a straight-line trajectory over the sounding board. Participants shall be penalized for not maintaining their horses in gait; or allowing the horse to move sideways (not straight) over the sounding board; or allowing the horse to step off (one leg) the sounding board. Participants in categories of 9 years of age and older shall be disqualified for turning on the sounding board or stepping more than one leg off the

sounding board. Participants in categories under 9 years of age shall be penalized for turning on the sounding board.

# **Additional Test/ Work Offs**

Judges may request optional tests/ work offs between two or more participants.

- 1. Reverses Four Calls for Reverse
- 2. Parallel Comparison
- 3. Circles (three circles around the poles in one direction, reverse towards the pole and 3 circles around the poles in the opposite direction).
- 4. Dismount and Remount (can only be requested for participants 13 years of age and older). Riders must follow the procedure outlined.