



## Halter Guidelines for the ILR-SD

Halter classes will be judged based on the conformation of the animals in the class as viewed from the front, rear and the side while in motion and at rest. The overall conformation & balance will be considered as well as evaluation of the smoothness of gait while in motion. Fleece consideration is 10% of the judge's evaluation. Fleece characteristics to be evaluated would include luster, handle and fineness.

### **Definitions:**

**Conformation:** the form or outline of an animal to include the relationship of form to function. Conformation is the Key to an animal's method of progression. Proportions of the body conformation as compared to the limb conformation may determine whether or not there will be any interference of the limbs during progression.

**Body type:** an inherited characteristic of an animal or breed that best fits it for a specific function.

**Balance:** the common denominator of function, type and conformation.

**Axial alignment:** as viewed from the top, a line drawn thru the withers down the center of the back to the tail head should divide the body into separate halves.

**Body balance:** A line drawn from the point of the elbow through the center of the stifle should be parallel to the ground. Also, vertical lines drawn from the front of the stifle to the front of the hip and the point of the elbow should be perpendicular to the ground and divide the body into equal thirds.

The head and neck act as a balance arm for the body and should be proportional to the length of back.

**Conformation of the limbs:** the animal should be observed from a distance as well as up close, and at rest and in motion. The limbs should be proportional to the height, depth and length of the body. The gait can be evaluated by studying the feet as they leave the ground, during flight and as they land. As viewed from the front and the rear, a vertical line from the point of the shoulder and from point of the hip should bisect the limbs. Front legs: as viewed from the side, a vertical line dropped from the center of the elbow should bisect the limb and the back of the heel. Rear legs: as viewed from the side, a line from the point of the hip should line up with the back of the hock, run down the back of the cannon bone and land just behind the heel of the foot.

### **Forelimb Conformation Faults:**

Base Narrow (feet too close)

Base Wide (feet too wide)

Toed In (dishing)

Toed Out (splay footed)

Backward deviation of the knees (calf knees)

Forward deviation of the knees (Buck knees)

Inward deviation of the knees (winging)

Outward deviation of the knees (dishing)

Lack of shoulder angulation (post legged)

Camped under in front – limb below the elbow is too far behind perpendicular line

Camped out in front – limb below the elbow is too far in front of perpendicular line

Abnormal fetlock/pastern angulation – too vertical or too much slope

#### **Rearlimb Conformation Faults:**

Base Narrow (rope walking)

Base Wide (feet too wide)

Toed In (pigeon toed)

Inward deviation of the hock (cow hocked)

Excess angulation of the hock (sickle hocked)

Excessively straight leg (post legged)

Camped under behind (leg too far forward of vertical line)

Camped out behind ( leg too far behind vertical line)

Abnormal fetlock/pastern angulation – too vertical or too much slope

#### **Conformation of Top Line:**

Top line should be level as viewed from wither to hips and parallel to the ground.

The rump should have a slight slope with the base of the tail (tail set) near the front of the hip bone.

Animals should exhibit normal external reproductive organ development.

## **General Comments**

1. Judges will be asked to give oral reasons for all halter classes. In classes with multiple judges, only one judge will be asked to give oral reasons and the judges and show management can define a plan to facilitate this.
2. All first and seconds in each class return to be placed for Grand and Reserve Champions and the entire champion class be placed by the judges and awarded points, however, ribbons/awards need only be given to the Grand and Reserve.
3. Points awarded for the championship group be based on the total number of animals in the entire fleece and sex division, and these points be awarded in addition to the class awarded points.

## **Age Divisions:**

1. It is our recommendation that show management determine the age divisions appropriate for their part of the country to provide exhibitors with classes that will optimize the number in each class to maximize points and competition.
2. Suggested age divisions include:
  - i. Juveniles – 5-12mths – may be divided into two divisions as needed based on number of entries or logical separation of entries by age. Ie/ junior juvenile, senior juveniles
  - ii. Yearling – 13-24mths - may be divided into two divisions as needed based on number of entries or logical separation of entries by age.ie/ junior yearlings, senior yearlings.
  - iii. Two-year olds – 24-36mths may be divided into two divisions as needed based on number of entries or logical separation of entries by age
  - iv. Mature – 37mths or more. may be divided into two divisions as needed based on number of entries or logical separation of entries by age  
Show management may combine or divide classes as needed to optimize points and evenly distribute ages of entries.
3. All mature animals would show in the show assigned class, but points would be awarded to “producing mature animals” (animals with ILR registered offspring) and “non-producing mature animals” (animals without ILR registered offspring).

## **Approved ILR-SD Halter Classes:**

Suri

Silky

\*\*Combined Classic and Light Wool – may be split if necessary

\*\*Combined Medium and Moderate Heavy – may be split if necessary

Extreme Heavy

Miniature Llamas

Working Non-Breeders

## Fleece Non-Breeders

Animals may show in only one approved halter class and points will be recorded for ILR-SD members. ILR-SD sanctioned shows are not required to offer all halter classes and if they choose to combine classes, classes may be combined or split as needed to achieve adequate numbers for optimal points based on the demographics of the show. The goal of combined classes is to compare animals of similar phenotype and fleece characteristics and keep the competition comparable for all competitors.

Animals may also show in any optional specialty classes, however, no points will be assigned for optional classes.

### **Show Order for Halter Classes:**

Classic, suri and silky are descriptions of fleece characteristics and the other classes consider fleece coverage, a halter class order should be:

1. Suri
2. Silky
3. \*\*Combined Classic and Light Wool – may be split if necessary
4. \*\*Combined Medium and Moderate Heavy – may be split if necessary
5. Extreme Heavy
6. Miniature Llamas
7. Working Non-Breeders
8. Fleece Non-Breeders

Judges have the discretion to move animals out of the exhibitor assigned fleece divisions if the animal does not fit with the rest of the animals in the class.

Miniatures and non-breeders may be placed anywhere in the show schedule at show management discretion.

**Division Combinations:** In the event that a class has only one entry, age groups may be combined to offer a minimum of two per class to allow for points to be awarded. Alternatively, animals may be moved into the age appropriate class in the next sequential fleece division. Sexes may not be combined.

### **Descriptions of each fleece division:**

1. Suri
  - a) Fiber exhibits a distinct locked architecture with luster
  - b) Fiber hangs straight down from the midline on the back
  - c) Consists of locks that form close to the skin
  - d) Fiber exhibits independent movement
  - e) Fiber exhibits a cool, slick handle
  - f) Fiber exhibits no crimp
  - g) Fiber exhibits loft
  - h) Coverage may vary from light to heavy
  - i) Ideally entries exhibit the majority of these criteria

## 2. Silky

- a) Fiber exhibits a very soft or silky handle
- b) Fiber may exhibit some wave or crinkle but not crimp
- c) Fiber may exhibit some loft
- d) Fiber may exhibit luster
- e) Guard hair is nearly indiscernible
- f) Coverage may vary from light to heavy
- g) Ideally entries exhibit the majority of these criteria

## 3. Classic

- a) Abundant guard hair visible on the body and neck of the animal, with short and minimal “downy” undercoat
- b) The presence of a guard hair “mane” on the back of the neck.
- c) A natural change in the fleece at the level of the elbow/stifle, with the fleece below this point being very short.
- d) Natural windows of short fleece – brisket, belly, flank.
- e) Minimal Fleece on legs/head with characteristics like guard hair, not the downy undercoat.

## 4. Light Wool

- a) Most will have double coat with moderate density but short length
- b) Fleece coverage should rapidly decline below the elbow/stifle, and be very short below the knee/hock
- c) Most animals will exhibit obvious guard hair that is longer than the undercoat.

## 5. Medium Wool

- a) Animals may be double coated with moderate density and length.
- b) Front legs may exhibit coverage extending down the leg with minimal coverage below the knee.
- c) Rear legs may exhibit coverage extending down the leg with minimal coverage below the hock.

## 6. Moderate Heavy Wool

- a) Animals will exhibit even neck fleece that blends into body fleece of moderate density and length.
- b) Front legs will exhibit coverage down to the knees, potentially down to the toes with a decline in coverage below the knees.
- c) Rear legs will exhibit coverage down to the pastern on the back of the legs with minimal coverage on the front of the legs.

## 7. Extreme Heavy Wool

- a) Will exhibit abundant neck and body fleece
- b) Front legs will exhibit coverage down to the toes maintaining heavy coverage below the knees
- c) Rear legs will exhibit dense coverage down the back of the legs along with fiber on the front side of the legs

## 8. Working Non-Breeder:

- a) Gelded males or Spayed females meeting the fleece descriptions for Classic, Light Wool or Medium Wool.

9. Fleece Non-Breeder

- a) Gelded males or spayed females meeting the fleece requirements for Suri, Silky, Moderate Heavy or Extreme Heavy Wool.

10. Miniature

1) Miniature Llama Criteria

- a) Miniature Llamas are to be judged utilizing the same criteria as that of standard Llamas: correctness in conformation, movement and balance.
- b) When deciding a tie between two equally proportionate Llamas, credit should be given to the smaller Llama for the age. To aid the judge, it is recommended that Llamas enter the show ring in reverse order, oldest first.

2) Miniature Llama Fiber Divisions

- a) Fiber classes are to parallel those of the standard Llama
- b) Show Superintendents may choose which classes are offered
- c) Fiber classes may be combined if entries in individual classes are insufficient to provide competition.

3) Miniature Llama Breeder Classes

- a) Male classes are for intact males.
- b) Female classes are for fertile, breeding females.
- c) Under no circumstances will male and female classes be combined.
- d) Age Divisions:
  - (1) Juvenile: 5 to < 12 months
  - (2) Yearling: 12 to < 24 months
  - (3) Two Year Old: 24 to < 36 months
  - (4) Mature: 36 months and older
  - (5) At the Show Superintendent's discretion, age divisions may be combined if there are fewer than three (3) Llamas in any age division; that is, if there are only three juvenile females they may be combined with yearlings.

4. Miniature Llama Non-Breeder Classes

- a) There are no sex divisions for non-breeders.
- b) Males must be gelded or have had a vasectomy.
- c) Females must be spayed or are non-reproductive.
- d) A veterinarian certificate of breeding status is required.
- e) Age Divisions:
  - (1) 18 to 36 months
  - (2) 36 months and older

**“Working Non-breeders”** – classes shall consist of llamas that meet the requirements of the published fleece criteria for Classic, Light/medium fleece on animals plus they shall have a phenotype suitable for athletic activities.

**“Fleece Non-breeders”** – classes shall consist of llamas that meet the requirements of the published fleece criteria for Suri, Silky, Medium/Heavy and Extreme heavy fleece.

**Production Classes** – pending in committee and waiting Governing Board approval

**Best of Show** – pending in committee and waiting Governing Board approval