

Costume Requirements

Turn Out & Best Presented Classes

The Turnout class is very much a traditional event where the complete picture of the horse, rider, saddlery and clothing is judged. There is a long-accepted standard as to what is traditional and expected as correct turnout.

When taking into account the total picture the horse is judged as in a hack class, the rider as in a riding class, with the horse and rider fastidiously groomed, clothing and saddlery correct, clean and well fitted, with all presenting an overall pleasing picture.

In judging these classes points are allotted for the following categories:

- Conformation and soundness
- Manners and paces
- Riding ability
- Costume of rider
- Saddlery
- Overall general appearance of horse and rider

Conformation, soundness, manners, paces and rider ability judged during the Workout.

At major Shows (i.e.-Royal etc.) the Turnout classes are usually judged by more than one Judge, with each officiating in one or a combination of the above categories.

There are several different categories of Turnout classes.

1. Formal – adults only
2. Formal – Saddle Hunter (horse and pony)
3. Semi-formal – children
4. Best Presented – adult and children – Exhibits judged standing still

The major difference in each of the above categories being the costume of the rider. In major events the riders costume may be judged with the rider unmounted.

Turnout: This is judged as stated above and includes the horse rider, saddlery and clothing and competitors can be required to work.

Unity Class: This is an individual class usually held in an enclosed arena, judged by one or more judges, who scores the unit within listed categories. This class may run all morning with competitors fitting their turn in between other classes.

Best Presented (informal – sometimes this may be called Best on Parade): This is judged standing in a line. Shows must state exactly which category they want i.e. Turnout, Best Presented etc. and it is up to their horse committee to clarify this.

Note: - A Turnout class takes longer to judge than a Best Presented class.

Traditional Requirements for Costume

Hack Formal – Adults only

A current, approved safety helmet is required. A hairnet is appropriate for ladies, with no hair touching the collar, and preferably in a neat bun.

A collarless white shirt with stud holes at the front and the back of the neckband. The studs connecting the neck of the shirt and the stock should be gold topped with the flat piece at the back and placed through the shirt hole and attached to the loop of the stock. The shirt cuffs should be doubled and lightly starched with holes for cuff links.

Plain gold cuff links, with a chain link (not a rigid bar).

White starched stock, of Swiss Marcella fabric, neatly tied (not ready tied) in a hunting stock knot. The knot should be square with the flaps each side neat and fastened with gold safety pins to the shirt. The stock should pass right over left for ladies and left over right for gents (same as the buttons on the riding coat).

A plain gold stock pin, just visible above the vest, placed horizontally, also attaching the stock to the shirt.

Waistcoat, of woollen Tattersall check – must not have a false back and should be barely visible under the lapel of the coat, with all the buttons above the waistline fastened.

The riding coat should be of woollen Cavalry twill fabric, dark in colour (black is most popular although deep navy is acceptable), single vent at back, the lapel edges handpicked with a buttonhole in the lapel. In “Memorial” events, a flower, preferably white, should be worn on the lapel. The coat lining preferably black or discretely matching the coat colour. The third button on the coat is done up with the button level with the waistline. The coat should fit well and not be too tight. It should fit neatly across the shoulders, give a nice clean line down to the waist with the single vent starting either at the waist or just below. The general rule for the length of the coat is to have the skirt finish at about the same length as the main knuckle of the fingers when the arm is straight by the side and should be just long enough to cover the back of the saddle when the rider is mounted. The coat should have three buttons on each sleeve and the buttonholes should be able to be undone. The sleeve length should finish at the rider’s wrist when the rider’s arm is in the riding position.

Breeches should be woollen cavalry twill wool blend or a good quality stretch fabric are also acceptable - beige, yellow or cream in colour with handpicked stitching along the thigh and knee seam, with matching suede or doe skin knee strapping. The breeches to have an opening below the knee, fastened by small buttons, with only three buttons visible above the top of the boot and the boot garter strap sitting between the second and third button.

Black leather top boots, highly polished with garter straps stitched and lined with a colour matching the strapping on the breeches. The soles of the boots should be leather and stitched to the uppers.

Spurs should be plain stainless-steel dummy type sitting level with the seam of the boots and black doubled stitched straps with keeper and buckles matching the boot garter straps. Both the garter straps and spur straps should be done up on the middle holes. The garter strap buckle should sit a little off centre at the knee, directly in line with the buckle of the spur strap.

Gloves fastened at the wrist by a small button, string cotton back and leather palms and matching the colour of the breeches.

Hacking cane plaited or plain pigskin to match the colour of the saddlery. The ideal length should be from the bend in the elbow to the tip of the centre finger of the rider.

No jewellery to be worn and make-up should be subdued. Lapel flower should not be worn other than for a Memorial Turnout and then should be white.

Saddlery - Turnout saddle with short, stitched girth points and Fitzwilliam girth is preferable. The turnout saddle should have double skinned stitched flaps. Stirrup leathers must be supple, they should be double skinned and stitched and should be done up on the middle hole, with the end of the leather passing through the saddle flap keeper finishing at the edge of the saddle flap. The Fitzwilliam girth should buckle up on the fourth hole on each side with the centre strap of the girth buckling one hole lower. The fold in leather of the girth should face the back of the horse.

The bridle should be well fitted, ideally the cheek straps should be done up on the middle holes with the buckles sitting just above the eye. The noseband sits two fingers below the cheek bone of the horse. When the noseband is done up, the buckle should be in the centre hole and should allow a two-finger clearance. The throat lash should allow a clearance of four fingers. The bits must be cleaned and well-polished. When placed in the horse's mouth, an eight-millimetre clearance each side of the mouth must be allowed for. The curb chain should sit flat and be long enough to allow one extra link at one or both ends for adjustment. The curb chain should not come into effect until a 45-degree angle is applied to the curb bit and the curb chain should have a solid leather chain guard. The lip strap should be threaded through the fly-link of the curb chain and should be done up loosely.

Summary of Hack Formal Turnout

Hat:	A current, approved safety helmet
Coat:	Black wool, tailored, dark lining
Shirt:	White collarless, double cuffs, plain gold or silver cuff links matching stock pin
Stock:	White, lightly starched, tied with hunting knot, plain gold or silver tie pin to connect with shirt
Waistcoat:	Tattersall check or similar, wool front & back, lined, bottom button undone
Breeches:	To be made of good quality fabric, light coloured fawn or maize. 3 buttons to appear above top of boots, all obvious stitching should be handpicked on breeches
Boots:	Long black leather, straps to be stitched & sit between 2nd & 3rd button, buckle to be in line with spur strap buckle. The garter strap should be lined with doeskin.
Spurs:	Blunt, sitting on stitching in the ankle area.
Cane:	Plain leather covered to match saddlery. No nobs or flaps allowed
Gloves:	String/Cotton back, leather palms, small pearl at wrist, with attaching crocheted loop
Buttonholes:	Small (white for Memorial Events) worn on right lapel for ladies, left lapel for gents.
Hair:	Long, to be in simple bun or hairnet. Short, off face, in fine hairnet, not to touch collar.
Jewellery:	None
Makeup:	Subtle
Handkerchief:	White linen

General Appearance

The horse should be well presented as for a hack class, well-conditioned, clean and well groomed.

The mane and forelock should be plaited and stitched and the mane plaits in an uneven number. The tail should be either pulled or plaited.

The horse's make-up should be minimal, quarter marks such as checks or shark's teeth are NOT to be applied in turnout events.

False tails are optional and are not to be penalised.

As well as presenting an overall correct, tidy and well-groomed picture, the horse and rider should suit each other in relation to size and display a unified picture when in motion.

In summing up, the judging of and competing in Turnout Classes requires considerable expertise, as there are many fine points to be considered.

The smallest of detail can win or lose a Turnout Class, however the challenge of presenting a traditionally correct horse and rider combinations in today's modern world makes the Turnout Class a prestigious, rewarding and interesting event.

Saddlery

All saddlery must be clean, well-cared for and in good condition.

The saddle – quality supple leather, hacking or dressage style. All 'D's and studs covered. The stirrup leathers and girth should match the colour of the saddle.

It must be a suitable size for the rider and fit the horse, sitting level and close to the horse whilst allowing the centre channel to be clear with no pressure over the horse's wither. The fit should be assessed with the rider mounted. Traditionally the turnout saddle should have three short girth points, however, in recent times, long points with a two buckle girth has become acceptable.

The saddle should be secured with an appropriate girth, buckling evenly on both sides, with sufficient holes to allow the girth to be loosened or tightened.

Stirrup leathers must be supple with the end of the leather passing through the saddle flap keeper without extending beyond the saddle.

The stirrup irons should be stainless steel, English type with the stirrup bars roughened (rubber treads may be marked down in formal classes but are allowed in informal and children's classes)

A saddlecloth (numnah) is optional and should blend with the colour of the saddle (brown or black) being unobtrusive as possible.

The bridle – quality plain supple leather, finely stitched and matching the colour of the saddle. The width of the bridle straps may vary to suit the horse's head, however, the fit must be correct. The buckles attaching the headpiece should be level with each other, sitting comfortably around or just above the horse's eye. All connections to the bits should be by stud billets.

The snaffle bit, or bit and bridoon, (both are acceptable for flat showing classes), should fit the horse's mouth with the curb chain having adequate adjustment sitting flat in a block leather cover with lip strap.

It is generally considered that the bridle should be of flat leather, however in Junior Turnout Classes, a raised brow and noseband may be acceptable on a pony. Coloured or metal brow bands are not acceptable.

Important considerations when selecting saddlery are

Correct Fit: Ill-fitting gear can create problems with the horse, for example too tight or small will exert uncomfortable pressure on the head of the horse while a saddle sitting too low on the wither or unevenly on the back will cause soreness.

Purpose: Style or type of gear should be determined by the proposed use for example, led novice, open or turnout classes. If necessary be guided by a reputable person who understands your level of expertise and competition needs. Upgrades are easier than taking on unnecessary financial burdens.

Quality and care: Careful selection of good quality saddlery followed by regular attention paid to the cleaning and dressing will determine the amount of use you will enjoy from your saddlery. The cleanliness, suppleness and good order of saddlery is paramount when being assessed in competition. (See turnout classes above)

Appearance

Saddlery for competition should be selected to be compatible with and complement the appearance of the horse e.g.: colour and style to add to the overall visual appeal. A flat brow band and cavesson noseband may neaten a not so dainty head while a plain headed horse may be improved by the use of decorative brow bands, studs etc.

Saddlery's purpose is more than anything else, functional. Selection should be based on this aspect with comfort of the horse and rider taken into consideration with the points above.

Martingales, any kinds of gadgets (bearing, side, running or balance reins etc.) any kinds of boots or bandages, any form of blinkers are forbidden in competition.

Numerous gadgets (for training) are available; all should be treated with caution and only used by experienced people. Most are meant to be used whilst the horse is lunged or in hand NOT when being ridden and definitely NOT in the Show ring.

Unsafe, cruel, ill-fitting or unsuitable gear or saddlery must be replaced or removed at the request of the Judge, Ringmaster or a Show Official. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

Saddle Hunter Turnout – Formal

Hat:	A current, approved safety helmet
Coat:	Tailored, dark in colour or tweed, brass or silver buttons not allowed
Shirt:	White collarless, long sleeves
Stock:	White, lightly starched, tied with hunting knot, pin to connect with shirt
Waistcoat:	Check or plain, bottom button undone
Breeches:	Light coloured fawn or maize, buttons optional
Boots:	Long black leather
Spurs:	Short & blunt with black leather straps
Hunting Crop:	To be carried
Gloves:	String & leather to blend with breeches
Buttonholes:	Purple Violets worn on right lapel for ladies, left for gents
Hair:	Fine hairnet to be worn
Jewellery:	Not allowed

The Formal Hunter Turnout class is very much a traditional event which is judged on the correct Turnout of Horse, Rider and Saddlery. No Workout is required and judged without the Rider dismounting.

Rider

- A current, approved safety helmet
- A collarless white shirt with stud holes at the front and back of the neckband. The studs connecting the neck of the shirt and the stock should be gold topped with a flat piece at the back and placed through the shirt hole and attached to the loop of the stock. The shirt cuffs should be doubled and lightly starched with holes for cuff links plain gold cuff links, preferably with a chain.
- White starched stock, preferably of Swiss Marcelle fabric, neatly tied (not pre-tied) in a hunting stock knot. The knot should be square with the flaps each side neat and fastened with gold safety pins to the shirt or with ties around the body. A plain gold stock pin, just visible above the waistcoat, placed horizontally, also attaching the stock to the shirt.
- Waistcoat, mustard colour or Tattersall check, must be woollen and not have a false back. It should be barely visible under the lapel of the coat, with all the buttons above the waistline fastened.
- The Riding coat should be black and made of woollen Cavalry twill fabric, with a black lining. It should have a single vent at the back. The lapel edges should be handpicked. It is traditional to wear a neat bunch of three (3) violets and one (1) leaf in the buttonhole. (Ladies on the right; Gentlemen on the left) it is also correct to wear your Hunt Club Colours (collar) but ONLY if the rider has been presented with them. Hunt Buttons are also acceptable. The riding coat must also have three buttons for a Lady and four buttons for a Gentleman in the front. The coat must also have three proper buttonholes on the cuffs.
- The Hunter Turnout coat should not have waist buttons at the back. Unless wearing Hunt Buttons all buttons should be plain black. All the buttons above the waistline should be fastened.
- Breeches should be made of a wool blend or of good quality stretch fabric. They should be beige, yellow (banana) or cream in colour with handpicked stitching along the thigh and knee seam, with matching suede or doe skin knee strapping. The breeches are to have an opening below the knee fastened by five small buttons, with only three buttons visible above the top of the boot. The boot garter strap should be sitting between the second and the third button.
- Long Black leather boots with garter straps stitched and lined with a colour matching the breeches
- Gentlemen may wear black boots with brown tops, but they must have pale leather boot garter straps.
- Spurs should be plain stainless-steel dummy type, sitting level with the ankle seam of the boots, and have black double stitched spur straps with keepers and buckles matching the boot garter straps.
- Traditional cotton string hunting gloves matching the breeches are correct for Hunter Turnout.
- Traditional hunting whip with a string cracker attached. It must be carried correctly by the rider, with the bone handle pointing down towards the rider's knee.
- The rider should carry in their riding coat pocket a small coil of string, spare coin, folding hoof pick or small pocket knife, and ladies should have a white linen / cotton handkerchief. No jewellery should be worn.

Horse

- The horse should be of a good Hunter type, well conformed, well presented, conditioned, clean and well groomed.
- The mane and forelock should be plaited and stitched and the mane plaits in uneven number. The tail should be neatly pulled and banded just below the hocks. A pulled tail is correct for a hunter.
- The horse's make-up should be minimal. Quarter marks such as checks, or shark's teeth are Not correct in Hunter Turnout.

- Hooves must NOT be blackened, but should be well oiled (wall, frog and sole) and the chestnut must also be oiled.

Saddlery

- All saddlery must be clean, well-cared for, an excellent fit and in good condition. The leather must also be of matching colour.
- The saddle should be a traditional Hunting / General purpose saddle. It must be a suitable size for the rider and fit the horse well. The saddle should have three short girth straps.
- The girth should be the wide leather three-fold type, buckling evenly on both sides, with sufficient holes to allow the girth to be loosened or tightened.
- Stirrup leathers must be double stitched and supple with the end of the leathers passing through the saddle flap keeper without extending beyond the saddle.
- The stirrup irons should be stainless steel, English type with stirrup bars roughened. (However, black treads may be worn for safety reasons)
- Traditionally, no saddle cloth (numnah) is worn in a Hunter Turnout class. However, an unobtrusive well-fitting sheepskin is optional and should blend with the colour of the horse and the saddle.

Bridle

- The Double bridle should be made of quality plain leather, finely stitched and matching the colour of the saddle. The Hunter bridle will be wider than a Show bridle - generally a hunter has a slightly heavier head. The noseband and brow band should flat, not raised.

Sandwich Box

- The Sandwich Box should be made of finely stitched leather, and contain a silver or pewter tin, complete with two sandwiches. The sandwich box is attached to the 'D' Rings on the side of the saddle.
- Sandwich boxes may also contain a hip flask. (However, traditionally it is the gentlemen who carry the hip flask and offer a drink to the Ladies!)

Wire Cutters

- (Ladies optional). Traditionally it was the gentlemen who carried the wire cutters. They should be encased in a special leather wire cutters pouch, attached to the 'D' rings on the front of the saddle. Some are also secured to the girth strap under the saddle flap.

Spare pair of gloves

- A spare pair of gloves (clean, warm and dry) are nice to change into for the long hack home at the end of a cold and hard days hunting. They should be tucked under the girth straps / saddle flap.

A correctly turned out Hunter and Rider should appear neat, tidy and be prepared for a good day out on the Hunt Field.

Saddle Hunter Informal/Best Presented

Coat: Brass or silver buttons allowed
 Shirt: To match jacket
 Stock: Colour is allowed

Semi-Formal – Adults Only

A current, approved safety helmet

Collared shirt with cuff and tie – plain gold tie bar and cuff links.

All remaining attire the same as required for formal classes although coats may be in different colours such as grey and brown and of different fabrics. Stretch fabric machine finished breeches should not be penalised.

Informal and Children's

A current, approved safety helmet.

Collared shirt with cuffs preferably white or cream – plain gold cuff links.

Tie of a colour to blend in with the clothing, attached to the shirt with plain gold tie bar.

Waistcoat of a discrete check or plain colours, although not too dark and not black.

Riding coat of a wool or wool blend fabric in tweed or plain colour although not too dark and not black.

Jodhpurs should be woollen Cavalry twill, wool blend or a good quality stretch fabric, beige, yellow or cream in colour with handpicked stitching along the thigh and knee seam, with matching suede or doe skin knee strapping. They should fasten on the outside of each ankle coming down over the top of the Jodhpur boots.

Short leather Jodhpur boots, either brown or black.

Gloves and cane as for formal attire.

Spurs should be stainless steel dummy types with straps matching the colour of the boots. Spurs are not essential for riders under twelve years of age.

In assessing costume, it should be noted that jewellery should not be worn and loud colour avoided. All clothing should be colour coordinated, fit well and be well made from good quality fabric.

Children's Turnout

Hat:	A current, approved safety helmet.
Hair:	Long, to be in bun or rolled plait, may be secured with neutral coloured ribbon or with a hairnet; Short, off face, in fine hairnet
Coat:	Tailored riding jacket, not black, brass or silver buttons not allowed, hand picked
Waistcoat:	To match jodhpurs, handpicked, bottom button undone
Shirt:	White with collar
Tie/Tie Pin:	Pin to be in contact with the shirt
Jodhpurs:	Beige or maize
Jodhpur Boots:	Black or brown leather, long boots not allowed. Boots to match saddlery
Spurs:	Seniors and Pony Sections 'A' and 'B' short & blunt. Section Pony 'C', First Ridden and Leading Rein exempt.
Spur Straps:	Leather to match jodhpur boots
Cane:	To match saddlery
Buttonhole:	Not white, small, to be worn on right lapel for girls and left lapel for boys
Jewellery:	None

Best Presented - Informal

Hat:	A current, approved safety hat
Hair:	To be worn in a neat bun or hairnet or plaits with decorative ribbon
Coat:	Any colour or tweed, brass or silver buttons not allowed
Shirt:	With collar, white or coloured with tie.
Tie Pin:	To be in contact with the shirt
Waistcoat:	Optional colour

Breeches: Adults only) or jodhpurs, jodhpurs for children, beige or maize
Boots: Long black (adults only), short leather jodhpurs boots either brown or black.
Spurs: Optional
Cane: To match saddlery
Gloves: Any colour

Summary

In summing up, the judging of and competing in Turnout Classes requires considerable expertise, as there are many fine points to be considered.

The smallest of detail can win or lose a Turnout Class, however the challenge of presenting a traditionally correct horse and rider combinations in today's modern world makes the Turnout Class a prestigious, rewarding and interesting event.

Best Presented Led (In Hand)

In Hand: Canes not to exceed 75cm. Dressage whips are not permitted.
In Hand Stallion: Stallion whips are permitted if the exhibit is a Stallion or colt.
In Hand Brood Mare: Correct to be shown in a double bridle with the curb rein placed over the mare's neck and led with the bridoon rein.